

**MINUTES OF REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL (CJCC) MEETING**

FEBRUARY 16, 2026 AT 12:00 P.M.

Chairperson: Daniel Bryant-Chief Judge-12th JDC

Chief Judge Daniel Bryant commenced the meeting at 12:04 PM:

Present:

12th JDC: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Angie Schneider, District Court Judge, Div. IV, <input type="checkbox"/> Denise LeDoux, TCAA, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daniel Bryant, Chief Judge, Div. III, <input type="checkbox"/> Vicki Moran, TCAA, <input type="checkbox"/> Lori Gibson Willard, District Court Judge, Div. II, <input type="checkbox"/> Andrea Carrillo, TCAA, <input type="checkbox"/> John Sugg, District Court Judge, Div. V, <input type="checkbox"/> Rachel Skinner, TCAA, <input type="checkbox"/> Stephen Ochoa, District Court Judge, Div. I, <input type="checkbox"/> Kaitlan Ruckel, TCAA, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audrey Hukari, CEO, <input type="checkbox"/> Jane Granier, Hearing Officer, <input type="checkbox"/> S. Diane Medina, Court Manager, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sylvia Zamora, Court Supervisor, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amanda Edwards, Project Manager, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maureen Schmittle, Program Manager, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donnell Bryant, Pretrial Supervisor, <input type="checkbox"/> Phil Hefter, Court Services Manager, <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremy Domingo, IT Specialist, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bobbie Shearer, Program Manager
Magistrate Court: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brittany Aguilar, Court Manager, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Katie Lund, Lincoln County Magistrate Judge, Div. II, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melanie Zamora, Court Manager, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. Richard Greene, III, Otero County Magistrate Judge, Div. II, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mickie Vega, Lincoln County Magistrate Judge, Div. I, <input type="checkbox"/> John Secrest, Otero County Magistrate Judge, Div. I, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alyssa Orona, Court Manager; <input type="checkbox"/> Cynthia Herrera, Lincoln County Court Clerk
LOPD: <input type="checkbox"/> Bennett Baur, Chief Public Defender, <input type="checkbox"/> Dayna Jones, District Public Defender, <input type="checkbox"/> Joel Lobo, Otero Managing Attorney, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rachel Sutherland, Lincoln Managing Attorney, <input type="checkbox"/> James Walker, Public Defender, <input type="checkbox"/> Haashir Lakhani, Public Defender, <input type="checkbox"/> Zoe Psiakis, Public Defender <input type="checkbox"/> Shane Brill, <input type="checkbox"/> Michelle Hailey, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Katina Slaughter <input type="checkbox"/> Karina Rodriguez, <input type="checkbox"/> Cynthia Cairns, <input type="checkbox"/> Deena Daniel, <input type="checkbox"/> Kacey Taylor, <input type="checkbox"/> Anthony Spaulding, <input type="checkbox"/> Kelly Deer, <input type="checkbox"/> Steph Guerra, <input type="checkbox"/> KC Quirk, <input type="checkbox"/> Ashley Ventura, <input type="checkbox"/> Lindsey Cerny
District Attorney's Office: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Suggs, District Attorney, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hannah Burleson, Office Manager, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Heitz, Chief Deputy District Attorney; <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Tighe, Chief Deputy District Attorney
Private Bar: <input type="checkbox"/> Erin Atkins, <input type="checkbox"/> Gary Mitchell, <input type="checkbox"/> Jonathan Miller, <input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Van Keulen, <input type="checkbox"/> Todd Holmes
County, City and Village: <input type="checkbox"/> Alan Morel, <input type="checkbox"/> Ira Pearson, <input type="checkbox"/> Pamela Heltner, <input type="checkbox"/> RB Nichols, <input type="checkbox"/> Perry Lawson, <input type="checkbox"/> Gary Freedman, <input type="checkbox"/> Nadia Sikes, <input type="checkbox"/> Ashley Smith, <input type="checkbox"/> Amy Barela
Law Enforcement and Detention: <input type="checkbox"/> David Black, Otero County Sheriff, <input type="checkbox"/> Geraldine Martinez, Tularosa Police Chief, <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Wood, Lincoln County Sheriff, <input type="checkbox"/> Martin Cook, OCDC, <input type="checkbox"/> Ross Castleton, LCDC, <input type="checkbox"/> Sean Jett, Otero County Undersheriff, <input type="checkbox"/> Scott Colvin, LCDC, <input type="checkbox"/> Randy Spear, Capitan Police Chief, <input type="checkbox"/> David Kunihiro, Alamogordo Police Chief, <input type="checkbox"/> Steven Minner, Ruidoso Police Chief, <input type="checkbox"/> Ian Daugherty, LCSO Undersheriff, <input type="checkbox"/> LT Orlando Ayers, <input type="checkbox"/> LT Raymond Brown, <input type="checkbox"/> Capt. Jay Blakeney, NM State Police, <input type="checkbox"/> OCSO, <input type="checkbox"/> Lorena Hemphill, OCDC, <input type="checkbox"/> Johnna Arredondo, OCDC; <input type="checkbox"/> Deputy Reyes, OCSO
Probation: <input type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Casillas, <input type="checkbox"/> S.A. Castro, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Sanders, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Samantha Monroy, <input type="checkbox"/> Sergio Castro, <input type="checkbox"/> Juanita Jaye Arellano, <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew Skinner
Behavioral Health: <input type="checkbox"/> Jeanette Borunda, <input type="checkbox"/> Denise Williams (Kimmie Jordan's Office), <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Bronwyn Neeser (Hive Consulting)
Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Robin Rafkin, <input type="checkbox"/> Darla Goar, <input type="checkbox"/> Genevieve Grant, <input type="checkbox"/> Derek Chin, <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Fletcher, <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew Crecelius, <input type="checkbox"/> Jamie Goldberg, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Veronica Gutierrez, <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Garza, <input type="checkbox"/> Violette Cloud, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg Hillis, <input type="checkbox"/> Francis Valencia, <input type="checkbox"/> Stefany, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Varela

1. DISTRICT COURT

- **Treatment Court Options:** (Judge Schneider)
 - Few weeks ago, in one of my hearings, a new treatment option was presented, Grand Summit Recovery and Workforce Development in Albuquerque. Never heard of it so we reset and asked someone from the center to be a part of the hearing. Jennifer Varela joined us. Here today. She is the Correctional Support Coordinator for the program. At the hearing, were asking questions, stopped and said would love to have you at our CJCC meeting so can more robustly tell us about this program. Sounds incredible. All the different supports and resources they offer. Agreed to do that. Sent email out to everyone.
- **Grand Summit Recovery and Workforce Development:** (Jennifer Varela)
 - Am the Correctional Support Coordinator for GSR. In charge of making sure clients that are here on probation and parole, CCP, pretrial are all in compliance. Communicate with supervising officers, provide update reports, make sure attending hearings and doing UAs. Provide copies of UAs that we do on campus. Is a wrap around program, 6-12 months, ideally would like them to stay for 12 months to get them housing and employment stable. First 6 months are spent in IOP. Believe 6 months works because seen 90 days not be enough. Clients are given extra time in IOP. Currently using the matrix model for IOP. Once graduated from IOP, phased up to the work training program where they are given additional life skills such as time management, difficult boss, things we all encounter. Enrolled in GED courses if needed. Have CNM, comes onsite, teaches GED courses. That way can give them additional education. Other CNM courses also provided as an option or choose to work full time. Must still participate in programming when they go into training program. Still required to meet with therapist, peer specialist and mental health provider the whole 12 months they are here. Difference from an RTC program is that our program is here to teach clients to be independent. Going to have to live on their own eventually. Teaching them independent life skills is a big project of ours. Believe the State said we were the biggest employer of peer specialists in the state of NM. Every client is assigned to a peer specialist who works on additional life skills such as balancing a budget. Some don't know how to make a bed or wash clothes when they come. Teach them those life skills. At the end of the 12 months, goal is to have them in stable housing. Around month 6 start applying for different housing programs. Have a few different programs available to clients. Project Base Housing is open right now. Got a few clients that just moved into that. Having housing options when done with the program. Not just thrown back out on the street. A lot of us who have worked in other facilities know that 90 days isn't enough for someone to get their life back together. Not going to really focus on their recovery. Designed Grand Summit to be more long term. Provide extra support and life skills to get them stable. Really proud of what we do here. Clients aren't having to deal with food insecurity. Have staff that cooks three meals a day here. Clients are taught to cook as well so can feed themselves once graduated. Have afternoon courses that are more fun for them, yoga and art. Really enjoy that. Do a lot of fun activities on the weekend. Also have more structured activities on the weekend. Take them bowling or take them out in the community. Learn to have fun without using. Last weekend went to the zoo. March will be 1 year anniversary. Started with 8 clients. Cooking meals on a hot plate in our makeshift kitchen. Come along way. Right now working on our third building, that will give us 150 beds. Right now house 160 people. All on one campus right now. Are allowed to leave after they program at 12 unless their supervising officer tells them they have a different curfew. If no set curfew then our curfew is 10pm. If working has to be between the hours of 12pm -10pm or on the weekends. UA'd once a week, sometimes twice on surprise. Think that we have something amazing going here and it's working. Have 36 people in our work training program right now. Have another 15 getting ready to do their GEDs.
 - ❖ Judge Bryant: Do two adult treatment courts. Judge Ochoa does Veterans and Judge Schneider does REACH and Competency Division. Employment is an incredible issue to find success. Would like to get the door open for some of our staff, Bobby Shearer and KaeDea Skaggs. To touch base with you guys to try and learn how to create some kind of a

framework for a similar workforce program here to allow us to capitalize on some of the local resources, employers willing to hire and train etc.

- Varela: Welcome anyone who wants to visit and take a tour of our facilities. President of the company says clients can't have a good life on a minimum wage salary. So giving them opportunity for education to get them better employment opportunities is really huge. Have 6 right now who just got their CCSS certification and moving on to working in case management for others in recovery.
- ❖ Greg Hillis: From NMSU-A and curious as to what kind of programs northern NM CNM were offering, see if we might be able to do something similar.
 - Varela: Currently working with CNM's ingenuity program. Come on campus to help with GEDs. Have clients that go to CNM for classes through that program.
 - Hillis: Have a well-established and free GED program that would be available for anyone in our area. Also sometimes get students from GED program that take some college courses that are directly associated with getting employment. Things like welding, lobotomy, medical assisting those kinds of things. One semester class and then get certs and go to work. Like to see what other colleges are doing and how we can help. CNM has more resources.
 - Varela: They do. Not sure if the private colleges are assisting with any outreach resources.
- ❖ Judge Schneider: Questions
 - Have a contract with APPO, State and Federal. Most of clients are here on Medicaid, Presbyterian, Blue Cross. Think the only thing we're not taking right now is Medicare. It is co-ed. Housing is separate. Do sometimes accept couples but are not allowed to be housed in the same area. No cost to the participants. End of this month will be our third building. Most of our clients in the work training program will be moving to. Will be getting their own room. Good way to motivate clients to finish the program. Will have 150 more beds. During the day and during the weekend have CPS, mental health providers, IOP therapist on site until 6PM. After 6PM have 3 full time security officers that work overnight and do bed checks throughout the night. Have availability now. Beds fluctuate daily. Could have 3 today and 12 tomorrow. Just depends on the day. Can accept people on furlough. Working within scoop of practice. Not equipped to handle people with serious mental health issues like schizophrenia. If need higher level of care we won't accept them. If they are bi polar disorder that's fine as long as they are medicated and stable. Have had three graduations so far. Just had one last week. Had multiple discharges that were successful. Had one, worked really hard to get into her own housing. Got her into project based housing. Has own apartment and is working. Graduated program last week which means doesn't have to come back here. Been in recovery for two years. Said this is the furthest she has gotten at any recovery facility. Doing well and really proud of her.
- ❖ Sam Monroy: Questions
 - Referral process can be a couple of weeks. Want case managers to work directly with referrals. That way clients aren't calling me without communicating with their case managers. We have a referral form and release of information that case managers can send with the client's info. Then usually schedule a time and day for a phone interview. If accepted will get a bed date and acceptance letter. Sometimes they're not done with court, kind of try and leave the bed date open for them. Only thing we are not accepting right now are sex offenders. Start looking for housing when they are closer to the training program and getting

them on waiting lists. Haven't had anyone discharged to another county. Would absolutely be open to look for other housing options in other cities.

- ❖ Peter Sanders: Questions
 - In order for us to communicate with APPO they must sign the release of information. That's also so we can send progress reports monthly to their officers. At intake all clients on any form of supervision or parole must sign a release of info. Will get notification immediately if being dismissed or absconded. Our overnight security has access to my probation logs so if client does not come back for curfew their probation officer is notified overnight.
- ❖ Judge Bryant and Judge Schneider: Really appreciate you being here and really great questions from everyone.
 - Absolutely. Apologize colleague wasn't with me but she has the flu. She would be able to give you more information on the clinical side of it because she is the clinical supervisor. My side is compliance, making sure everyone is complying with court. Appreciate the invitation.
- **Legislature:** (Judge Bryant)
 - Three days left in the legislature. Stand-up committee meeting on Friday. Court budget is mostly intact. Legislative committees still need to look at HB 2 before it goes on to the floor for final passage. Folks are reporting to Chief Justice that are expecting bill to go through. Not expecting any unexpected cuts in judiciary budget items. Worked hard on getting the portion of our budget request that dealt with health insurance cost increase primarily because of the shift in coverage to 80/20 to make our employees consistent with other state employees. Some of those have already been restored and they are telling us that they are aware and working on restoring the balance of those before the bill comes out.
 - ❖ Audrey Hukari: Don't have any other updates. We'll wait and see what comes across the finish line later this week.
 - ❖ Judge Bryant: On Friday the bill with revisions was unavailable to us because revisions were being made. Checked several times on Saturday, unable to get my hands on an updated draft. Will keep up that effort.
- **Sentencing Commission:** (Judge Schneider)
 - Jamie Goldberg wasn't going to be able to be here. Wanted me to message about the crime reduction grant application process. Not a whole lot of money but \$328,500 to be distributed across the state. Application is open right now but closing March 27th. If anyone has any ideas for your organization or ideas that involve a collaborative conversation let us know and will organize a meeting for that.

2. MAGISTRATE COURT

- Nothing to report.

3. MUNICIPAL COURT

- No parties from Municipal Court present.

4. LOPD

- Nothing to report.

5. DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

- Nothing to report.

6. PRIVATE BAR

- No parties from the Private Bar present.

7. COUNTY/CITY and VILLAGE

- No parties from the County, City and Village present.

8. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND DETENTION

- No parties from Law Enforcement and Detention present.

9. PROBATION

- Nothing to report.

10. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- No parties from Behavioral Health present.

Meeting adjourned at 12:38 PM