

Doña Ana County Coalition Against Bullying
Friday, January 19, 2018 Annual Meeting/Celebration
Sunset Grill, 1274 Golf Club Rd, 4-6 PM

Vice Chair/Treasurer Billy Garrett brought the meeting to order by inviting guests to review the CAB Commitment Agreements and to fill them out for submission, if they wished. He introduced and welcomed elected officials (Greg Smith, Yvonne Flores, Maria Flores, Maury Castro, and Terrie Dallman) and partners (*Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico, CYFD, Ngage, and UP!*) who have been co-sponsors of CAB events. Thank you to the co-sponsors of the Annual Meeting, the *Unified Prevention Coalition* and *Ngage*. Marisol Diaz and Claudia Ocon shared information about their respective organizations.

Billy gave an overview of CAB, sharing selected programs and events shown on the written "Accomplishments 2017." CAB is not a 501(c)3 and has no regular source of funding. It wants to meet the needs of the partners and relies on partners to help support programs. CAB wants input from members, partners, and the community to plan programs that address relevant themes related to bullying prevention and intervention. City Counselor Yvonne Flores thanked CAB members for the work we do.

An overview of the CAB Bylaws was given, beginning with the difference between individual membership and an organizational partnership. Partnerships include an expectation to provide financial or other forms of support for CAB. This can be an in-kind donation or time commitment. Superintendent Ewing gave an excellent example of an in-kind donation by offering the use of school facilities for CAB events. Thank you, Dr. Ewing.

The CAB Executive Committee is made up of nine members. The City of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County are offered a position to be filled by elected officials and designated by their respective governing bodies. Then there are the Secretary, Partnership Development Coordinator, Social Media Coordinator, and four At-Large Members. LCPS Board President Maria Flores suggested there should be a School Board representative on the CAB Executive Committee (EC), realizing the Bylaws would need to be changed. Billy explained that the CAB EC had discussed this idea, but wanted to consider GISD and Hatch schools as well. He suggested that the EC discuss it again and perhaps bring an amendment to the Bylaws next year. CAB Executive Committee meetings are open for anyone with interest to attend.

The slate of members to the Executive Committee for election was introduced. The Chair (Kasandra Gandara) and the Vice Chair/Treasurer (Billy Garrett) will be continuing next year in their two-year commitment. The slate of Executive Committee Members for 2018 were introduced. CAB is looking for someone to assume the Secretary's role. Ned Rubin moved, Dawn Hommer seconded, and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote to elect the following slate of the Executive Committee membership by acclamation:

- Partnership Development Coordinator – Jazmine Saenz
- Social Media Coordinator – Claudia Ocon
- At-Large Member – Amanda Lopez Askin
- At-Large Member – Aaron Salas
- At-Large Member – Soña Saiz
- At-Large Member – Richard Hernandez

At-Large Member - Marisol Diaz

Amanda Lopez Askin moved, Sarah Mata seconded, and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote to accept the Bylaws.

Amanda Lopez Askin facilitated the Celebration portion of the meeting. She shared that CAB began after a county meeting to discuss suicide prevention. CAB is about relations and working together to protect the vulnerable.

Amanda was involved with the selection of Dr. Greg Ewing to become Superintendent of the Las Cruces Public Schools and was pleased to introduce him. She observed that his leadership is based on social justice.

Dr. Ewing was joined by Board President Maria Flores. Ms. Flores shared that she had been a bully and if someone her size could be a bully, anyone could be a bully. LCPS Board is committed to working on policies that work. She gave a “shout out” to Randy Harris for his help with great conversations in our schools. She asked everyone to vote “yes” in the School Bond Election.

Dr. Ewing invited LCPS employees to stand and they were recognized as being critical to student success. He also recognized the LCPD School Officers for the valuable role they play in schools. Dr. Ewing uses the word “leadership” to describe teachers, and will not use the word “managers.” He is trying to de-emphasize testing and will not terminate a teacher for test score results. He identified what LCPS is doing.

School policies for students are the most important. LCPS is developing training for administrators so that all are on the same page and know what to do in dealing with bullying issues. Filling out a form does not need to be the first thing done to report a bullying incident. “It can simply be giving us notice.” It’s important to have courageous conversations in schools. Randy Harris will be taking *Great Conversations* into selected schools. (Randy was introduced to the group.) LCPS wants to pair up social workers with teachers to provide support.

Efforts to address school climate have begun in the high schools. Middle Schools will be next. All of the comprehensive high schools have International Welcome Centers to support immigrant students. The high schools also have rooms labeled as “Safety Rooms” and training of people to facilitate them is ongoing. These facilitators need to know how to find resources for students that use these rooms.

Dr. Roberto Lozano has been hired to be Chief Officer of Equity, Innovation and Social Justice. An important goal is to help integrate *Restorative Justice* practices in the schools. A task force has been formed to prepare Restorative Justice Centers in the middle and high schools. In the morning, these centers are staffed by teachers and in the afternoon therapists staff them. Students who have been suspended from their home school for violation of school rules attend Cross Roads High School. The goal is to give treatment and support so they may return to their regular schools. A question being asked, “Is mandatory suspension worthwhile?” In tandem with the School Board, we are working to get resources to principals. Dr. Ewing answered a few questions from the group.

Two door prizes were given out and guests were thanked for coming.