

***Doña Ana County Coalition Against Bullying  
Las Cruces City Hall, Room 2007B  
Executive Committee Minutes from Tuesday, January 2, 2018; 3:30-5:00 PM***

**Members Present:**

Amanda Lopez Askin, Kasandra Gandara, Billy Garrett, Richard Hernandez, Ned Rubin, Aaron Salas, Soña Saiz, Eileen VanWie, Victor Zamora

**Old Business:**

*Introductions* were made. Welcome to new member Richard Hernandez, LCPD Victim Assistance Unit. Ned moved and Soña seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the 12-5-17 CAB Executive Committee meeting; motion passed. The treasurer's report is incomplete as we need to get the financial statement from the *Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico*. We had 47 people at the December 8<sup>th</sup> Conference, with seven of those being CAB members. We believe a small amount of income has been made from the two conferences we had. There should be a more complete treasurers report at the February meeting. Ned reminded the group that we owe a big thank you to Greg Smith, who donated funds he had left over from his election on the City Council. Kasandra noted that other CAB members have donated funds as well. Thanks to everyone who helped make 2017 a successful year.

*December 8<sup>th</sup> Conference Follow Up.* Having discussion to find a common definition of bullying was a good beginning to future dialogue with diverse professionals. It continued with robust sharing of cyberbullying experiences. Reviewing policies that organizations have is a good place to engage professionals about meeting individual needs in their settings. When we have these conference discussions we should preface conversations with guidelines to focus on solutions and not on blaming. The Conference showed that CAB is able to provide space for people to find out what other organizations are doing. Ngage has created a resource manual. If there is not a section on bullying, we could ask to have one added to it. CAB may be able to facilitate the development/revision of policies in schools. We will dialogue with Superintendent Ewing to get ideas for possible discussions later in January. (A thank you letter to Dr. David Rutledge was sent to him and copied to NMSU College of Education Dean Pope-Davis.)

*January 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Celebration Planning.* The annual meeting/celebration will be held at the Sunset Grill (1274 Golf Club Road) from 4-6 pm on Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. The manager Simon Frederick gave a very fair offer for using the Lounge and serving appetizers (veggie and fruit platters, meatballs, chicken skewers, etc.). If participants want an alcoholic drink, they would purchase one at the cash bar. Cost per person (including tax and gratuity) would be \$11.48. Ngage (by Amanda) and UP Coalition (by Ned) will be invited to make a financial contribution to the event. Every time we have a gathering, partners will be asked to help support it. These supporters should be included on programs and other materials we distribute, as well as given time in the program to share information about their organization/agency. Participants will be asked to make a

minimum \$10 donation. Amanda will meet with LCPS Superintendent Greg Ewing to discuss themes CAB would like to have him address in his 20-minute program for the participants. For example, what is his vision for bullying prevention and intervention practices in the LCPS? What revisions to policies would assist in developing that vision? The Las Cruces School Board of Education will be invited to our celebration. We want the annual meeting part of the celebration to be as short as possible (4:30-5:15). Kasandra will give a brief overview of CAB accomplishments and clarify the difference between an individual membership and an organizational partnership. After accepting membership and partnership commitment agreements, the Bylaws will be discussed and voted on. Then there will be election of officers. We will seek more volunteers to place their names on the slate of Executive Committee members. We especially want volunteers for the Secretary and Social Media Coordinator positions. Slate:

Secretary – \*

Partnership Development Coordinator – Jazmine Saenz

Social Media Coordinator –

At-Large Member 1 – Amanda Lopez Askin

At-Large Member 2 – Aaron Salas

At-Large Member 3 – Soña Saiz

At-Large Member 4 – Richard Hernandez

\* (Note from Secretary: I am organizing materials and creating a flash drive with relevant electronic CAB documents/data and will be available to respond to questions the new secretary may have.)

An agenda and written election ballot will be made for the annual meeting and program. The agenda will include the co-sponsors. As people register and sign a commitment agreement, we'll give out an orange bracelet indicating current membership for voting.

### **New Business:**

*Member Commitment.* Everyone present at the Executive Committee meeting signed a CAB member commitment agreement.

*Meeting Schedule 2018.* In June it was decided to have four General Membership meetings/conferences in January (Annual Meeting/Celebration), April, October (National Bullying Prevention Month) and December. While it was decided to have Executive Committee (EC) meetings on the first Tuesday of the month during February, March, May, September, and November, it seems necessary to also have EC meetings in January, April, June, October, and December.

*Fiscal Agent.* The CAB agreement with the *Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico* as our fiscal agent expires in February. They have been very supportive. We will ask to renew the agreement.

*Partnership Reports.*

Richard spoke about his work with the LCPS, Victim Assistance Unit that focuses on domestic violence. He will be speaking about bullying at the *Safe Haven – Weed and Seed* neighborhood facility this week. Amanda offered to assist. Eileen will send the CAB PowerPoint presentation on the basics of bullying prevention to the EC.

Aaron said the caseloads at CYFD in Doña Ana County have been stable and the quality of work has improved because they're able to provide good training. They've redeveloped a safety assessment tool to help in making decisions about custody. Law enforcement intervenes to determine custody. CYFD will move to a new building this summer.

Amanda's schedule hasn't changed much. She will be doing training at New America School soon.

Soña is pleased that the Professional Development for LCPS teachers and staff this week is focusing on social and emotional development. This will include training on mindfulness from Michelle DuVal. LCPS also has "trauma informed practices" that provide a foundation for understanding ways to move away from punitive discipline practices. A few schools are piloting the restorative justice approaches that focus on learning empathy and more within a community.

Ned talked about the work of the Unified Prevention Coalition (UP!). They are providing drug and gambling addiction prevention education in schools and will be working with an association of American Indian tribes that run casinos and will be studying compulsive gambling in New Mexico. There will be a focus on combating the problem among economically vulnerable populations.

Eileen participates with the Student Engagement Group (SEG) at the Lynn Community/Middle School (LMS). The group is addressing concerns identified from a student survey. One of those concerns is bullying. In discussion of truancy and expulsion from school, the SEG developed ideas for a "re-entry" program to support students as they return to school after being expelled and set goals for changes.

Meeting Adjourned 5:10 PM.

**Next Meeting:** Executive Committee February 6, 2018, 3:30-5:00 PM. The agenda will include creating a calendar of events, retreats, workshops, etc. for 2018.