

**SAN ANTONIO/BEXAR COUNTY
JOINT COMMISSION ON TRUANCY
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2014
11:30 A.M.
MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM**

Members Present: Councilmember Rey A. Saldaña, Chair, *Council District 4*
John W. Bull, *Presiding Judge, Municipal Court*
Rogelio Lopez, *Justice of the Peace, Bexar County, Precinct 4*
Jill Mata, *Chief Assistant Criminal District Attorney, Bexar County*
Laura Parker, *Judge, 386th District Court, Bexar County*
Brian T. Woods, *Superintendent, Northside ISD*

Members Absent: Lisa Jarrett, *Judge, 436th District Court, Bexar County*
Jeanne Russell, *Chief Strategist, SA2020*
Leticia Van de Putte, *Senator, Texas Legislature*
Mike Villarreal, *State Representative, Texas Legislature, District 123*

Staff Present: Clarissa Chavarria, *Judge, Municipal Court*; Veronica M. Zertuche, *Deputy City Attorney*; Jo Ann Flores, *Assistant City Attorney*; Fred Garcia, *Court Clerk, Municipal Court*; Norma Morales-Arias, *Court Administrator, Municipal Court*; Victor Vinton, *Administrator, Juvenile Case Management, Municipal Court*; Jed Maebius, *Mayor's Office*

Also Present: Meghan Regis, *Director of Constituent Services, Representative Mike Villarreal*; Minnie Abrego-Sanchez, *Representative of Senator Leticia Van de Putte*; Elizabeth Lutz, *Executive Director, The Health Collaborative*; Tyler Shoosmith, *Director, Family Support Services for NEISD McKinney-Vento Homeless Project*

1. Citizens to be Heard

Item 1 was not addressed.

2. Approval of Minutes of the March 17, 2014 San Antonio/Bexar County Joint Committee on Truancy Meeting

Judge Lopez noted that the minutes of the March 17, 2014 should reflect that six Juvenile Case Managers were assigned to the Justice of the Peace Truancy Court. Judge John Bull moved to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2014 San Antonio/Bexar County Joint Commission on Truancy Meeting as amended. Dr. Brian Woods seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

Chairman Saldaña noted that P16Plus had provided a packet with information outlining the Truancy Problem in Bexar County and Texas as requested.

3. Individual Briefing for Discussion and Possible Action

- a. Briefing on Unaccompanied Youth Task Force Truancy Data [Patricia Julianelle, Legal Director, National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth]

Tyler Shoesmith stated that the San Antonio Unaccompanied Youth Task Force (UYTF) worked with Young People, Schools, Juvenile Justice Providers and Community Members to develop creative strategies to support Unaccompanied Youth. He indicated that UYTF was conducting a three-year project in nine communities whose four Focus Areas were: 1) Juvenile Justice; 2) Food; 3) Shelter; and 4) Health. He listed the Task Force Members and noted that they represented Juvenile Probation, School Districts, the City, and Support Organizations. He stated that the Homeless and McKinney-Vento Basics was a Federal Law that guided support for educational success for Homeless Students across the Nation. He noted that the project fell under the Juvenile Justice Focus Area and indicated that it would explore Homelessness as it relates to Truancy. He reported that students experiencing Homelessness have higher Absentee Rates due to:

1. High mobility
2. Stigma about Homelessness
3. Chronic illness
4. Lack of parental support
5. Unable to navigate Social Support Systems

He noted that Homelessness was caused by: 1) Lack of affordable Housing; 2) Poverty; 3) Health problems; 4) Domestic Violence; and 5) Abuse, neglect, and family dysfunction. He indicated that through Federal Law, the McKinney-Vento Act provides:

- Immediate school enrollment
- Free reduced lunch
- Appropriate school setting
- School of Origin Rights
- Transportation

He stated that the UYTF recommended: 1) Stop Gap Measures; 2) Alternate Routes for Homeless Student Adjudication; 3) District flexibility to serve Homeless Students; and 4) Joint Truancy Commission liaison to UYTF.

No action was required for Item 3a.

- b. Briefing on Subcommittee of School Administrators [Dr. Brian Woods, Superintendent, Northside Independent School District]

Chairman Saldaña confirmed that the next meeting of the Subcommittee of School Administrators would be held on April 24, 2014 at Café College.

Brian Woods reported that nearly all Bexar County School Districts have identified a representative to contribute to the development of a Comprehensive Intervention Plan and the final recommendation of a Uniform Policy on Truancy Prevention. He noted that Victor Vinton would mediate said meeting on April 24, 2014 where common Intervention Measures would be discussed. He added that the Subcommittee would identify current and future data. He indicated that the Goal of the Subcommittee was to identify a broad list of Intervention Measures in which School Districts could operate.

No action was required for Item 3b.

- c. Briefing on Court Proceedings Working Group [Judge Rogelio Lopez, Jr., Chair, Justice of the Peace, Bexar County, Precinct 4]

Judge Lopez stated that the Court Proceedings Working Group determined that an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) was the best option for establishing a Uniform Policy on Truancy Prevention for the City of San Antonio (City) and Bexar County (County). He stated that the ILA was developed and revised based on an existing ILA from another locale. He noted that a Master ILA existed between the City and Bexar County, and Attorneys from both entities used that as a basis for developing the proposed ILA. He indicated that a final review of said ILA would be performed by the Subcommittee on April 21, 2014. He stated that according to the terms of the ILA, the City would manage a Comprehensive Intervention Plan for Truancy Cases to include diversionary efforts. Additionally, they would adjudicate accepted Truancy Cases filed by Public School Districts and Charter Schools in Bexar County. He stated that the City would maintain a Central Filing System for all Juvenile Class C Misdemeanor Offenses, excluding Traffic Offenses. He noted that the County Justice of the Peace Judge may preside over and dispose of cases in which the Municipal Court Judge did not have geographical jurisdiction. He reported that revenue generated by the collection of Legislative Fees for all Juvenile Class C Misdemeanor Cases would be utilized to support the City's Juvenile Case Management Program. He stated that the County would transfer the fund balance of the County's Juvenile Case Manager Fund and revenue derived from said fees to the City's Juvenile Case Manager Fund. He noted that the County would designate a Justice of the Peace Judge to serve as the Truancy Program Liaison. He indicated that the County would make its Case Management System available to Independent School Districts, Charter School Districts, and the City.

Judge Parker stated that Judge Lopez and her met with County Judge Nelson Wolff and all members of the Bexar County Commissioner's Court and were found to be in agreement with the proposed ILA.

Judge Lopez indicated that the ILA would be brought before Bexar County Commissioners within the next 30 days for approval.

Judge Parker noted that the Bexar County Commissioners would meet in May 2014 and would not meet again until August 2014.

Chairman Saldaña noted that a Special Meeting of the Truancy Committee would be held on April 24, 2014 at 7:30 a.m. at the Northside Independent School District Board Room at which time the Final Draft ILA would be considered for approval.

No action was required for Item 3c.

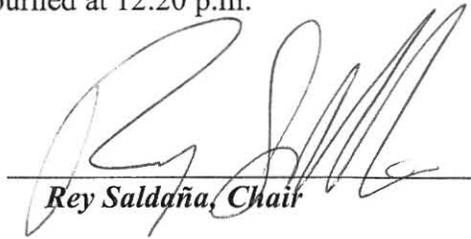
- d. Discussion on the Progress of the Joint Committee on Truancy [Councilman Rey Saldaña, City of San Antonio, District 4]

Chairman Saldaña stated that the development of the ILA was the first major step for the Committee.

No action was required for Item 3d.

4. Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.



Rey Saldaña, Chair

Respectfully Submitted,



Denice F. Trevino
Office of the City Clerk