

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**SANTA FE COUNTY**  
**DWI PLANNING COUNCIL**

**September 8, 2016**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico**

I. This study session of the Santa Fe County DWI Planning Council was called to order by Chair Thomas P. Starke at approximately 9:00 a.m. on the above-cited date at County Community Services Department Conference Room, 2052 Galisteo Street, Suite B.

II. No quorum was established and the following members present:

**Members Present:**

Thomas P. Starke, Chair  
John Mowen  
Jay Spoonheim  
Christine Wendel

**Member(s) Absent:**

Erica Abeyta  
Richard De Mella

**County Staff Present:**

Lupe Sanchez, DWI Program Coordinator  
Rachel O'Connor, Community Services Director  
Diolinda Roybal, DWI Program Staff

**Others Present:**

Stuart Castle, PIRE (Pacific Institute For Research and Evaluation)  
Maire Claire Voorhees, Santa Fe Prevention Alliance  
Tamara Zawistowski, Citizen

Those present introduced themselves.

III. **Approval of Minutes: August 11, 2016**

IV. **Approval of Agenda**

Theses items were deferred due to lack of a quorum.

**VI. Matters from the Council/Action Items**

- A. Follow-ups from previous meetings**
- B. Announcements**

Ms. Voorhees stated the State Alcohol and Gaming Division reversed the City's denial of a liquor license transfer to Walmart. A press release has gone out noting the AGD found the Prevention Alliance's complaints inadequate. She said the City Council does not feel strongly compelled to appeal the decision. She pointed out there were close to 2,000 police response calls to the location even without the sale of alcohol.

Ms. Wendel asked if the AGD Director was a political appointment and Ms. Voorhees said it was and that person answers to the Director of Regulation and Licensing. She added once granted, licenses are rarely revoked; if a license is endangered the licensee is pressured to sell.

Ms. Voorhees explained the quota system and the closing of borders to further licenses. It would be almost impossible to close the borders at this point. She noted Taos Brewing is seeking to get a waiver to locate within 300 feet of a church. If there has ever been a liquor establishment on the premises it is likely a waiver will be granted.

Ms. Wendel announced the Recovery Celebration would be held September 25<sup>th</sup> at the Friendship Club.

Chairman Starke offered the following announcements:

- NAMI is holding a public information meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup> at Life Link to disseminate information on how district court programs help people to get on with their lives
- Santa Fe Need and Deed will be having a presentation by a homeless person on "Why I panhandle." This will be September 30<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 at Christ Church on Don Gaspar
- Healthcare for the Homeless and St. Elizabeth's want to launch a homeless campus northwest of the city. To this end they are bringing in representatives from San Antonio's Haven for Hope. This will be a public information session at the convention center followed by workshops. The Mayor is in support. San Antonio reduced their homeless population by 89 percent through this program

**VI. Information Items**

- A. Late Night Transportation Issues and Challenges**

Chair Starke stated that Kate Kennedy, co-owner of Skylight has indicated that 1,000 to 2,000 people are released onto downtown streets at 2:00 am when the bars close. This gives rise to a number of issues, among them the dearth of cabs and the long waits for them, a problem especially for women who have nowhere to wait. Ms. Kennedy asked the AGD to allow bars to stop serving at 2:00 but stay open until 3:00 but the request was denied.

Ms. Zawistowski said the wait for a cab is at least 45 minutes.

Mr. Sanchez said there are only around 15 cars in the taxi fleet, along with some shuttles for large parties. Uber drivers are not enthusiastic about picking up drunks in the middle of the night. Santa Fe Pick-Up stops at 5:30 daily and a meeting will be scheduled with the Mayor regarding some kind of shuttle service.

Chair Starke said things like cars left overnight being impounded at a cost of \$1,000, and lack of law enforcement presence incentivize people to drive when they should not.

Rather than finding ways to help get drunk people home, Ms. Wendel suggested promoting personal responsibility. Mr. Sanchez said although it could be viewed as an enabling approach, it is a matter of harm reduction. Ms. Wendel advocated a huge law enforcement presence and getting bar owners engaged.

Ms. Voorhees indicated the Cowgirl has changed its practices and now stop serving early to discourage overservice.

Mr. Mowen stated young people might prefer the non-governmental route; Uber could make a lot of money taking advantage of the situation. Mr. Sanchez said he is working with Uber.

Chair Starke suggested staging solutions through different events. Planning ahead needs to be encouraged. He reiterated that women having to wait for cabs, or waiting in the winter are both problems. Ms. Voorhees said Lyft is a cab service for women but apparently they are not yet operating in Santa Fe.

Mr. Spoonheim asked how arrests can be combined with therapy. Ms. Zawistowski said being arrested can be therapeutic and this has spread to her circle of friends. Ms. O'Connor said 50 percent of those arrested do not re-offend. Ms. Zawistowski described her experience, saying had she seen the cops that were hiding in wait she would not have driven.

Ms. O'Connor said law enforcement makes arrests based on impairment, not BAC. Bars are responsible for overservice but this is not heavily enforced. Public awareness is needed. Chair Starke pointed out that it takes a tragedy to get the public's attention.

Mr. Spoonheim asked if private citizens could be deputized to be part of the law enforcement presence and was told that was not possible.

**B. Strategic Plan**

This item was deferred

**C. Coordinator's Report**

Mr. Sanchez reported on the following:

- He met with Edgewood Police Chief Ron Crowe regarding funds for saturation patrols and checkpoints in exchange for data for the dashboard
- Along with Mrs. Abeyta and Mr. Starke he met with a counselor from IAIA, who will be using Right Turns – College Drinkers Checkup. IAIA will have an awareness program
- Compliance staff attended an ICOTS training, the Interstate Compact that deals with supervision of those adjudicated here that have moved out of state
- The first referral of a domestic violence offender is now being monitored for compliance in conjunction with Peacekeepers in Espanola. UA has yet to be included in the protocol
- Staff distributed cocktail napkins to bars in anticipation of Labor Day and Fiesta
- This weekend will feature a \$1 cab ride home Friday, Saturday and Sunday
- The pre-trial program met with personnel from the County. Pre-trial compliance monitoring could lead to a \$140,000 savings in the electronic monitoring program. The judges seem to be on board and some compliance will be done at the court itself
- He extended kudos to Ms. Zawistowski for her guest appearance on the bi-weekly radio program and said she gave a powerful message. Next Friday will feature Ms. Wendel. Chair Starke suggested having Mrs. Abeyta to share the story of her sister, and Capt. Lamb from the police department who became traumatized by crash reconstruction. Mr. Sanchez said they also want to have treatment providers and those involved in ignition interlock. Other potential guests could be bar owners to discuss best practices, and family members
- There will be a meeting with Rio Arriba on law enforcement collaboration and jurisdiction issues
- There has been press on the Alcohol Taxes Save Lives movement.

**D. Behavioral Health Alliance Update**

Chair Starke spoke of the upcoming bond issue on the November ballot that will request \$2 million for a crisis triage center. Ms. O'Connor said details remain to be worked out but it will emphasize stabilization and referral. It will not be for overnight stays or medical detox but will be staffed by professionals and peers.

**E. Santa Fe Prevention Alliance Update**

Ms. Voorhees stated she and Peter D. made a presentation in Taos on Alcohol Taxes Save Lives, including cancer statistics and polls with voters' sentiments

In reference to the Taos Brewing Company, the waiver hearing will be September 28<sup>th</sup> and the address is 411 West Water Street, which is near Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. Denial is possible if there has never been a bar at the location. The Alliance will be airing radio spots during the special session on alcohol taxes. Ms. O'Connor said there is money in the budget for awareness campaigns.

**VII. Miscellaneous**

**A. Agenda Items for the Next Meeting**

- Further discussion of late night transportation
- Arrest experience of Ms. Zawistowski
- Strategic Plan

**VII. Public Comment**

Chair Starke thanked Mr. Sanchez and those on the program for doing substantive work and moving in a positive direction.

Mr. Mowen thanked everyone for their work on the strategic plan's time line and implementation.

Ms. Wendel thanked Chair Starke for his courageous voice and passionate advocacy.

**IX. Announcements**

Next Planning Council Meeting: October 13, 2016

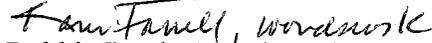
**X. Adjournment**

Having completed the agenda and with no further action to come before the Council, Chair Starke declared this meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Approved by:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Thomas P. Starke, Chair  
 DWI Planning Council

Respectfully submitted by:

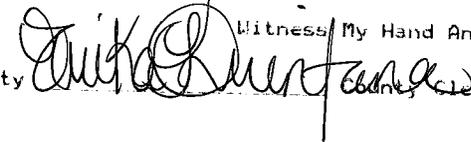
  
 Debbie Doyle, Wordswork



COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
 STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss

DWI MINUTES  
 PAGES: 5

I Herby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
 Record On The 17TH Day Of October, 2016 at 10:08:15 AM  
 And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1807217  
 Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Deputy  Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
 Geraldine Salazar  
 Clerk Santa Fe, NM