

**SAN ANTONIO/BEXAR COUNTY
JOINT COMMISSION ON TRUANCY
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2014
11:30 A.M.
MUNICIPAL PLAZA B ROOM**

Members Present: Councilmember Rey A. Saldaña, Chair, *Council District 4*
Mike Villarreal, *State Representative, Texas Legislature, District 123*
John W. Bull, *Presiding Judge, Municipal Court*
Lisa Jarrett, *Judge, 436th District Court, Bexar County*
Rogelio Lopez, *Justice of the Peace, Bexar County, Precinct 4*
Laura Parker, *Judge, 386th District Court, Bexar County*
Brian T. Woods, *Superintendent, Northside ISD*
Jeanne Russell, *Chief Strategist, SA2020*

Members Absent: Jill Mata, *Chief Assistant Criminal District Attorney, Bexar County*
Leticia Van de Putte, *Senator, Texas Legislature*

Staff Present: Clarissa Chavarria, *Municipal Court Judge*; Veronica M. Zertuche, *Deputy City Attorney*; Ana Acevedo, *Education Policy Administrator*; Victor Vinton, *Administrator, Juvenile Case Management, Municipal Court*; Rosalinda Diaz, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Meghan Regis, *Representative of State Representative Mike Villarreal*; Minnie Abrego-Sanchez, *Representative of Senator Leticia Van de Putte*

Call to Order

Chairman Saldaña called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Minutes of the August 28, 2014 San Antonio/Bexar County Joint Committee on Truancy Meeting

Dr. Woods moved to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2014 San Antonio/Bexar County Joint Committee on Truancy Meeting. Judge John Bull seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

2. Briefing on Implementation of Truancy Case Management Program [Judge John Bull, Presiding Judge, Municipal Court]

Judge Bull stated that all School Districts in Bexar County had been contacted and were informed about the intervention forums, intervention contracts, and case manager assignments. He spoke of the concerns for the development of a system that could be used to collect data from all schools to help the Truancy System work more efficiently. He mentioned that Northside had a system in place that tracked every child through the entire process. He outlined the current process used: 1) First step was to receive a warning letter; 2) In house intervention by the school; 3) Referred to a Juvenile Case Manager in court; 4) A contract would be prepared; and 5) If the problem still exists, it moves to the filing stage.

He spoke of his trip to Austin where he met with the Legislature concerning an initiative to make Truancy a Class C Misdemeanor for children equivalent to a civil process instead of a criminal process.

Victor Sullivan informed the Committee that the process was working with the School Districts except for two that were using a different filing system. He read a letter from South San expressing their gratitude for everyone's guidance with the new procedures set by Municipal Courts and how it had opened up communication with the parents. He updated the Committee on the progress of the filing system and provided the amount of Diversionary Contracts and filings after contract for some schools. He noted that from August 26th through December 1st of this year; 1,628 cases had been filed through E-Truancy. He added that last year during the same time period, there were 1,704 cases filed. He spoke of the automated system that tracked student absences. He noted that the system would send out a warning notice after a student received three absences, and if seven more absences were received; it would automatically forward it to E-Truancy to file a case. He explained that many cases were referred to E-Truancy, since there was no human element in place to update the current system.

Dr. Woods expressed the need for consistent data from schools across the County. He added that there was a need within each School District to track data for each student from the beginning of an issue to the end. He noted that human intervention to update the system was vital in order to receive accurate data.

Discussion ensued regarding a program that could be used to collect uniform data from all the School Districts. After discussion, the Committee agreed that a program was essential to collect data from the various School Districts. The Committee spoke of the program's funding and what type of data needed to be collected. They decided to create a survey for the School Districts to complete. The survey would assist in identifying the requirements needed for the program. Chairman Saldaña directed Ana Acevedo to prepare a survey on behalf of the Committee for the School Districts to complete. Dr. Woods requested that the completed survey be reviewed by the Committee before its distribution to the schools.

No action was required for Item 2.

3. Briefing and Possible Satellite Court for Truancy [Judge John Bull, Presiding Judge, Municipal Court]

Judge Bull informed the Committee that negotiations with SAISD to rent a vacant building on WW White Road were still ongoing. He reported that the location for the Satellite Court would better cover the Eastern School Districts.

No action was required for Item 3.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

Rey Saldaña, Chair

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosalinda G. Diaz
Office of the City Clerk

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