

**San Miguel County Detention Center  
Citizen Advisory Committee**

**Mission**

We the members of the San Miguel County Detention Center Citizen Advisory Committee (SMCDCCAC) work for the best interests of the inmates of the San Miguel County Detention Center, their families, the staff and administration, and the surrounding community

**Minutes for regular meeting of March 12, 2009**

The minutes of Feb. 11 were approved, with the note that the date is incorrect.

**1. Facility report:** The first telemedicine conference as part of Project ECHO will be held next week, and thereafter on a weekly basis. This would be a good feature for the Optic to cover. Value Options is accepting applications for funding for enhancement of existing programs. Patrick is working on an application, especially for a detox program. The application should be supported by other agencies. The San Miguel Health Council has written a letter of support and the Citizen Advisory Committee will do likewise.

**2. Legislature 2009:** No information has been available on the capital outlay requests. At Las Vegas days at the legislature, staff from the Detention Center were present with documents on all programs, including the Adult Reintegration Center.

**3. Detainee advocacy:** We were provided with much more detail than we had heard before about procedures for contact with inmates. Classification after arrival will determine the housing situation of an inmate. The prisoner will determine the list of who can visit, which is limited to three adults. Normally only one visit per week is allowed, and that visit must be scheduled in advance. Money orders can be mailed to the inmate, but only by a person on the visitor list. Most daily needs, if not provided by the Detention Center, are available for purchase. Soft cover books can be sent by mail. All mail, incoming and outgoing, is inspected and logged. Renee will provide us with a package of orientation materials with policies on correspondence, visitation, etc. We will see if the most essential points might be reduced to one page.

Tom Clayton from the District Attorney's office gave us additional information about how we can help to smooth the path for prisoners and deal with any systemic problems in the justice system. We will get insight into the process from attending the high profile inmate advocacy meetings held weekly at the Detention Center. We regret that we have learned of these meetings only in the last two months. Renee can tell us the correct procedures for any inmate and his or her status, and Tom can give us information on the progress of a case. If we find that a public defender is consistently not working for the interests of the defendant, we should inform the state bar.

**4. Discussion of tasers:** John Lujan reported on the training program that he and Antonio Padilla attended. They had a tour of the Taser International facility, hands-on training, considered a number of scenarios, and were subjected to a full-length shock. The Detention Center has one taser and the two officers who have been trained are certified to train others. Patrick does not plan to have other members of staff trained in the use of the taser. The

presentation before the County Commission will not involve a demonstration of the use of the taser. It was suggested that a memorandum of understanding be developed between the Citizen Advisory Committee and the Detention Center concerning work on developing a policy for the use of the taser.

**5. Next meeting:** This will take place April 8, 2009 at 1 p.m.

Robert E. Pearson