

## **New Mexico Parole Board Meeting Minutes December 03, 2024**

Roll Call

Roll Called by Director Roberta Cohen

Board Members Present

### **Meeting Participants:**

Chair: Abram, Chairman of the New Mexico Adult Parole Board

#### **Members Present:**

Ann Murray  
Carol Slavens  
Amy Lopez  
Brandy Castillo  
Colleen McCartney  
Mary S. Jaramillo-Barraza  
Janet Chandler  
Kristine Ring  
Roberta Lucero-Ortega  
Dorothy Pouges  
Caryn Apodaca

#### **Adult Parole Board Staff**

Director Roberta Cohen  
Lola Rael, APB Office Manager  
Katelyn Apodaca, Records Clerk  
Legal Counsel: Rebecca Guay Assistant Attorney General

#### **Other Attendees:**

Haven Scogin (Deputy Director of Re-entry)  
Denali Wilson, ACLU, (De)serving Life  
Eva Buchwald, LCSW, (De)serving Life  
Phoebe Lytle, Staff Attorney, (De)serving Life  
Stephen Taylor, Executive Director (De)serving Life  
Matthew Pettit, (De)serving Life  
Madeleine Wilson, LCSW, Meridian Behavioral Health  
Abby Long, LMSW, Meridian Behavioral Health  
Raoul Valencia, Social Work Intern for the Public Defender's Office  
Gustavo Martinez, Press  
Francine Garica, NMCD Victims Advocate  
Adaline Nuanez-Baca, NMCD Victims Advocate

## 1. Opening Remarks & Roll Call:

- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Abram, who welcomed all in-person and virtual attendees.
  - Roll was called, confirming the presence of board members and other key participants.
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## 2. Approval of Agenda:

- The agenda for the meeting was approved, with an amendment to include a brief update from Ms. Wilson on the draft bill for board member compensation.
  - **Motion to approve:**
  - Janet Chandler -Motion to Approve
  - Colleen McCarney – 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Full Vote all members approved
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## 3. Approval of Minutes (July 31, 2024 Meeting):

- The minutes from the July 31, 2024 meeting were reviewed and approved without changes.
  - **Motion to approve:**
  - Janet Chandler- Motion to Approve
  - Colleen McCarney 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Full Vote All member approved
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## 4. Chair's Report:

### Parole Board's Successes:

**Court-Noted Sex Offender Parole Review:** The Board had caught up on the backlog of 280 hearings and is on track to complete them by March 2025.

- **Serious Youthful Offenders Parole Hearings:** All hearings for 37 individuals affected by a recent state statute have been completed, with more expected.
- The Chairman thanked the Board, Director Cohen, Ms. Duran staff, and various partners (e.g., The Bosses of the Public Defender at the New Mexico Department of Justice, Corrections Re-entry Team, Deserving Life) for their efforts in catching up on these hearings.

**Board Members' Hard Work:** Recognition of members, including Caryn Apodaca, Brandy Castillo, Amy Lopez, for their dedication in handling numerous complex cases.

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## 5. Update on Board Compensation Act:

- **Discussion on Compensation for Board Members:**
    - The Chairman emphasized the ongoing issue of compensating board members for the time spent on administrative duties, such as reviewing files and preparing for hearings, which is currently uncompensated.
    - **Challenges with Per Diem Act:** There was a significant discussion about how the Per Diem Act, designed for reimbursing incidentals, cannot be used to compensate board members for administrative work.
  - **Legal Complications:**
    - **Status as Non-Salaried Public Officials:** If the Board members were to be compensated outside of the Per Diem Act, they would lose their non-salary public official status. This could lead to complications regarding taxes and liabilities, as well as personal financial risks.
    - **Efforts to Amend Legislation:** An attempt to amend the law to provide a compensation structure for the Board was discussed, but feedback from Legislative Council Services and from individual lawmakers indicated resistance to creating carve-outs for specific boards.
    - There were discussions about **alternative approaches**, such as compensating administrative time via scheduled "review blocks" before or after hearings. However, this was not allowed under current state statute, as previously attempted by the former director.
  - **Ongoing Legislative Efforts:** The ACLU staff attorney provided insights into the legislative process and discussed their attempts to create a bill that could compensate the Board's work, but the proposal faced legal and political hurdles.
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## 6. Next Steps:

- **Continued Conversations:** The Chairman and the ACLU staff attorney will continue to meet with lawmakers to push for legislative changes and seek feasible solutions for compensating board members' time.

- **Future Meeting Plans:** The Chairman hopes to bring more positive updates at the next meeting, potentially after the legislative session.

This summary captures the main points discussed, focusing on key updates related to the Board's activities, legal challenges concerning compensation, and steps moving forward. Let me know if you need any additional details or clarifications!

In this extended portion of the meeting, the discussion focused on a variety of administrative and operational matters, particularly regarding board compensation, tax issues, and victim services.

1. **Board Compensation and Taxation Concerns:** There was a discussion about compensation for board members, particularly in relation to per diem payments and the taxation of those payments. It was noted that some members of the board have been uncertain about whether they should be paying state and federal taxes on their per diem, which is intended to cover incidental expenses. Legal advice from tax professionals, including the IRS and state tax officials, confirmed that the per diem payments are considered compensation and must be reported as income. This is a point that several board members were uncomfortable with but was presented as a necessary reality to avoid legal issues.
2. **Liability and Protection for Board Members:** A question was raised about the liability faced by board members when reviewing sensitive materials, such as psychological and case information, and interacting with victims. It was clarified that the state's liability statute provides protections for board members, specifically under the "good faith doctrine." This means that as long as board members act in good faith when making decisions, they are legally protected and would not be personally liable for the decisions made in their official capacity. However, the issue of liability is something that is carefully monitored, and legal protections are in place to shield board members from personal responsibility in such matters.
3. **Scheduling and Compensation for Victim Services:** Another topic discussed was how victim services and their participation in hearings are structured. There was a suggestion that board members should have scheduled time to adequately review files, talk to victim services, and ensure they are fully informed before meetings. The feedback from this discussion suggested that such scheduling issues might be better addressed in board policy rather than statute. Additionally, there were ongoing conversations about the possibility of legislative action to address concerns about compensation for work related to victim services and board-related tasks.
4. **Director's Update and Board Membership:** The director provided an update on the status of board membership. There have been recent changes, including the departure of two board members, bringing the current number of members to 12, with three open positions. The Secretary of Boards and Commissions is accepting applications to fill these vacancies. The director also mentioned staffing challenges, including the management analyst vacancy and funding constraints that have made it difficult to attract

candidates. Nevertheless, the director expressed gratitude for the current team and their support.

5. **Victim Services Presentation:** With a presentation from the Victim Services team, highlighting their work in supporting crime victims in New Mexico. There was a significant increase in victim participation in hearings, and the Victim Services team shared their efforts to support victims, including providing training to victim advocates. The importance of allowing victims to participate in parole hearings and share their statements was emphasized. Chair Anaya also discussed how victims' family members could participate, even if they are not direct relatives in specific cases, and the legal framework for victims' participation, including how to handle cases with multiple charges and how victims can have their voices heard even when the crimes are not part of the "enumerated" list.
6. **Policy Updates and Future Goals:** Finally, the director discussed updates to the executive policies that have not been revised since the tenure of a previous director. These updates are necessary to ensure that policies reflect current laws and best practices, including changes related to leave, pension requirements, and other administrative matters. The director also mentioned plans to continue refining these policies to ensure the board is aligned with the governor's administration and evolving standards.

The meeting ended with a brief discussion about upcoming legislative priorities, and the importance of continuing the work to support victims and implement effective policies moving forward.

### **Closing Remarks:**

The director thanked the board and staff for their support over the past year and expressed commitment to implementing meaningful policies in the coming year, ensuring that the board continues to serve the public and support crime victims effectively. The board was reminded of upcoming opportunities to attend training sessions and participate in further legislative actions.

### **Summary of the Meeting:**

The focus of the discussion was on the **victim and inmate interaction** during parole hearings, the **victim notification process**, and **reentry programs** for incarcerated individuals. Here are the key points discussed:

### **Victim and Inmate Statements in Parole Hearings:**

- **Victim's Right to Speak:** Victims are allowed to address the parole board, but it's important that their statements are directed to the board rather than solely to the inmate. The board wants to maintain control of the hearing and prevent it from becoming an unregulated exchange.
- **Inmate's Right to Apologize:** Inmates are encouraged to make statements of remorse or apology to the board. While some inmates may want to address victims directly, it's

essential for them to speak to the board and not just the victims. This helps maintain structure and ensures the statement is heard by the appropriate parties.

- **Victim Privacy and Health Concerns:** Victims should be informed in advance if health or mental health topics will be discussed, as this could necessitate their removal from the hearing to protect the rights of the inmate.
- **Victim Presence in Hearings:** Victims can participate in hearings, but they have the right to know if their presence will be acknowledged to the inmate. Inmates must be aware of the victim's participation in the process, in line with state law.
- **Confidentiality and HIPAA Compliance:** If discussions involve health or medical treatment, victims may be asked to leave temporarily to ensure confidentiality is maintained. This includes information regarding the inmate's release location, which must be kept confidential for safety reasons.

### **Victim Notification and Support Services:**

- **Victim Notification Process:** There's a clear process for notifying crime victims about parole hearings, involving coordination between the parole board, the District Attorney's Office, and victim advocates. This ensures that victims are aware of the hearing date, the inmate's location, and any conditions imposed after parole.
- **Support for Victims:** Victims are provided with multiple ways to participate in hearings, including telephonic or video participation, letter submissions, or in-person statements. Advocates help victims understand the process and ensure they are emotionally supported throughout.
- **Post-Hearing Support:** After the hearing, victims receive debriefings about the outcome, including details on conditions of parole and the inmate's potential release date. This can include providing information on probation, parole, and support services for the victim, such as safety resources and guidance on seeking restraining orders.
- **Victim Services and Advocacy:** Victim services ensure that family members are notified and given the opportunity to participate. Advocates assist with understanding parole decisions and helping victims navigate the criminal justice system.

### **Conclusion and Victim's Voice:**

- **Importance of Victim Input:** Victim statements and participation are integral to the healing process. In some cases, the ability for victims to speak at hearings can provide a form of closure and allow them to express their feelings in a way that therapy or written statements cannot.
- **Changes in Victim Participation:** More victims are opting to participate through virtual platforms, which has proven effective and beneficial for both victims and their families. This also facilitates communication between the parole board and victims, helping ensure that their voices are heard.
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### **Reentry and Rehabilitation:**

- **Reentry Division and Programming:** The **Reentry Division** aims to reduce recidivism by offering evidence-based programs for incarcerated individuals, including those related to substance abuse and mental health treatment. This division is part of a larger initiative to improve public safety and rehabilitate offenders.
- **Recidivism Rates:** There has been a noticeable improvement in reducing recidivism rates over the years, from 50% in fiscal year 2018 to 35% by fiscal year 2023 39% by fiscal year 2024. Efforts continue to engage individuals in rehabilitation programs both inside the prison system and in the community after release.
- **Ongoing Progress:** Reentry programs and policies are evolving to ensure better outcomes for incarcerated individuals, focusing not only on punishment but also on rehabilitation, treatment, and successful reintegration into society.

## 1. Education Programs and Initiatives:

- **Types of Education:** The system offers various education tracks for inmates, including high school equivalency programs, vocational training, and post-secondary education (associates, bachelors, and even some master's programs).
- **Focus on High School Education:** A significant focus is placed on helping individuals achieve high school diplomas or equivalents. Last year, the system awarded 236 high school equivalency diplomas, up from 184 the previous year and 88 the previous year
- **Post-Secondary Education:** Over 426 inmates are enrolled in post-secondary programs. 48 post-secondary degrees were awarded. There are certifications offered in various fields (e.g., business, legal advocacy), and new scholarship opportunities are expanding to help inmates pursue college degrees.
- **Vocational and Technical Training:** There's a strong push for vocational training in fields like heavy equipment operation, CDL (truck driving), culinary arts, and HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning). These programs provide practical skills that can help inmates find employment upon release.
- **Inmate Access to Education:** Education programs are designed to be accessible, even for those who have limited time left in their sentences. They also offer flexible scheduling, including part-time evening and weekend options to accommodate working inmates.

## 2. Reentry and Support Services:

- **Cognitive and Treatment Programs:** The reentry division oversees not just educational programs, but also cognitive programming aimed at changing criminal thinking and behavior. This is paired with community corrections services, such as housing and mental health resources, to support inmates post-release.
- **Collaboration with External Partners:** There's collaboration with outside organizations, including WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) partners and local businesses, to ensure that inmates have access to real-world training and certifications.
- **Educational Challenges:** The education system faces challenges like ensuring continuity when inmates are transferred between facilities, and the struggle to engage inmates who might not initially be interested in participating in educational programs.

### 3. Importance of Education for Successful Reintegration:

- **Focus on Skill Gains:** Even for inmates with low levels of education, there's a strong emphasis on making incremental progress. Moving an inmate from a kindergarten level to a fifth-grade level is considered a meaningful achievement, as these gains can improve their ability to engage with society and secure employment after release.
- **Long-Term Impact:** The ultimate goal is to provide inmates with the skills they need to successfully reenter society, reducing recidivism and giving them a roadmap for success once they are released.

### 4. Efforts to Expand Educational Opportunities:

- **Challenges in Partnering with Colleges:** One surprising challenge is the reluctance of many colleges to partner with the prison education program. Despite the creation of a formalized program, gaining support from universities and expanding degree tracks has been difficult. There is ongoing outreach to build stronger relationships with academic institutions.
- **Expansion of Technical and Vocational Training:** There's a growing focus on providing technical certifications in fields that have high demand for workers, like CDL and HVAC, to improve employment prospects for released inmates.
- **Inmate Employment After Release:** Successful reentry is often tied to securing employment, which is facilitated by the vocational training and certifications offered within the prison system.

### 5. Future Plans and Potential:

- **Growth in Education Access:** There is hope that part-time educator positions and additional funding will allow for more flexible hours and better access to education for inmates who need it. Additionally, the program is looking into expanding offerings in both post-secondary education and vocational tracks.
- **Continued Development of Industry Partnerships:** The prison system is actively pursuing new partnerships with businesses and industries to provide inmates with training in fields that will allow them to gain employment post-release. Examples include trucking, heavy equipment operation, and HVAC.

### 6. Concerns and Questions:

- **Concerns About Transfers:** There was a question raised about how educational progress is tracked when inmates are transferred between facilities. The system does its best to ensure continuity, though it remains a challenge in some cases.
- **Security and Community Work:** There's discussion about the possibility of involving inmates in community projects or placing lower-security inmates in educational settings outside the prison system. While not currently a focus, this could be considered in the future.
- **Overcoming Stigma and Resistance:** The presentation acknowledges that there is still societal resistance to funding and supporting education for incarcerated individuals. The

push for expanding access to education and ensuring that these individuals are treated as worthy of investment in their futures, continues to be a key focus.

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## Education and Vocational Programs

- **Career Technical Education (CTE)** is being expanded, integrating **vocational training** with **adult education**. This "Integrated Education and Training" (IET) model allows inmates to learn while gaining practical experience in fields like welding, automotive, woodworking, and coding. These programs are designed to improve comprehension by providing a hands-on learning environment alongside traditional classroom education.
- **Examples of Programs:**
  - **Welding simulators** at multiple facilities.
  - **Heavy equipment simulators** and automotive training.
  - **Coding academies** at Western and **woodworking workshops** at Clayton.
  - **Forklift operations, crane operations, wastewater management, and barbering** courses are also expanding.
- These programs aim to align with industry needs to ensure inmates receive certifications that increase their employability upon release.

## Certifications and Online Learning

- The aim is to increase the number of **certifications** inmates can earn, including for fields like **wind energy, recycling, and plumbing**.
- Online learning is being expanded, particularly for **coding** and other technical skills, with programs available via tablets provided to inmates. This helps inmates prepare for jobs that allow remote work, which could be especially beneficial for reentry into the community.

## Focus on Community Needs and Partnerships

- **Local business partnerships** and engagement with **community leaders** help identify areas where there are job shortages, allowing for targeted training programs that meet real workforce demands.
- The **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)** and partnerships with **New Mexico Workforce Solutions** help guide inmates through education programs and offer **post-release support** for up to a year, ensuring a smoother transition back into society.

## Behavioral and Cognitive Programs

- The facility is incorporating **cognitive behavioral programs** to address underlying issues that may contribute to criminal behavior. These programs help inmates address thinking patterns that may lead to recidivism and are being integrated with vocational training and other educational opportunities.

- **Inside Voices Podcast:** Inmates share their stories, discuss personal growth, and speak about the importance of education and mental health, helping inmates connect with one another and learn about services available to them.

### Engagement with Non-participating Inmates

- Acknowledging that not all inmates are motivated to participate in educational or vocational programs, the staff has adopted a more creative and **targeted approach** to reach disengaged inmates. This includes using **advertisements** and **videos** on tablets, podcasts, and social media, to promote programs in ways that speak directly to the needs and interests of the inmates.
- **Advertising** and **targeted messaging** aim to entice inmates to join programs that might improve their lives and prepare them for a successful reintegration into society.

### Graduations and Celebrations

- **Graduations** for completed programs are celebrated, with family involvement, offering recognition for the hard work inmates put into their education. This serves to boost morale and encourages others to engage in the educational process.
- Inmates also participate in self-help programs, such as **Yoga, crochet, mental health first aid, and gardening**. These programs are part of a broader initiative to promote emotional well-being, life skills, and overall rehabilitation.

### Housing and Post-release Support

- **Transitional housing** is provided for inmates upon release, helping them adjust to life outside the facility. The state is working on expanding housing and **behavioral health services** to provide adequate support.
- Partnerships with community service providers and **transitional living guides** ensure that inmates have access to the services they need after release, including healthcare, financial assistance, and employment support.

### Looking Ahead

- The department is continually adapting and improving its programs to better support inmates, focusing not only on rehabilitation but also on community integration and reducing recidivism.
- **Communication and collaboration** are key, with regular **updates** and community engagement efforts, such as the **Inside Voices podcast** and **e-magazines** for inmates. This innovative approach is seen as crucial in building a bridge between inmates and the opportunities available to them for a successful life after incarceration.

In summary, the overarching goal is to equip inmates with both practical skills and the emotional tools to succeed in the outside world, making them better prepared for life post-incarceration, while also reducing the likelihood of reoffending. The initiatives outlined reflect a holistic

approach to reentry, focusing on education, behavioral health, community partnerships, and transitional support.

## **Rising Rooted**

The discussion in the meeting revolves around various services aimed at assisting individuals impacted by incarceration, especially those transitioning back into society. The speakers emphasized the responsibility to provide accessible services tailored to each individual's lived experiences. This includes using both evidence-based practices and emerging modalities that may not yet have broad recognition but have shown to be effective in helping people heal.

The conversation highlights the significance of behavioral health services in reentry programs, especially for individuals who have spent long periods incarcerated and are now reentering society. These people often require assistance not only in terms of mental health support but also with basic life skills, such as navigating a modern world (e.g., using smartphones, grocery shopping, etc.). The importance of providing comprehensive community support is emphasized, as these services can be more critical than immediate mental health treatment for some clients, especially when families are involved.

A key part of the discussion focuses on the role of behavioral health in supporting both the individuals and their families, as reuniting families is often essential for the success of reintegration. It was noted that while it is important to address mental health concerns, sometimes it is equally crucial to focus on practical community support, such as helping individuals with basic life skills. This holistic approach is seen as critical to the success of the reentry process.

Additionally, the discussion addressed the ongoing efforts to expand services into rural areas, as there is a recognition that rural communities face unique challenges, including a lack of access to mental health and behavioral health services. The focus is on reaching at-risk youth, those not yet in detention but at risk of becoming involved in the justice system, and expanding into rural counties to ensure these individuals have access to support before, during, and after their release.

## **Board Comments and Concerns**

The importance of clear communication regarding special conditions for parolees was also raised, as inconsistencies in how conditions are interpreted can create confusion. Clarification on whether an order is a "recommendation" or a "requirement" was noted as important for ensuring proper compliance and understanding.

In conclusion, the meeting highlighted the valuable partnerships between behavioral health services, community support, and law enforcement agencies to better support individuals reentering society, particularly those from rural areas or with long histories of incarceration. The discussion also touched on the technical challenges involved in delivering these services, such as improving access to technology and enhancing communication between various agencies to better serve those in need.

The discussion revolves around a partnership aimed at addressing the needs of people impacted by long-term incarceration, especially as they transition back into society. The focus is on providing services that are accessible, evidence-based, and attuned to the individuals' lived experiences. Here's a breakdown of the key points:

## **Meridian Behavioral Health**

1. **Holistic Service Approach:** The organization offers services that are evidence-based and use emerging modalities, meaning that while they utilize well-established methods (such as Dialogical Behavior Therapy), they also incorporate new, less proven approaches that resonate with individuals and help in their healing.
2. **Community Reentry:** A major initiative focuses on reentry services for those coming out of long-term incarceration, particularly in rural communities. The organization emphasizes the importance of understanding the specific needs of these communities through focus groups and needs assessments. This approach ensures that the services provided are directly aligned with what people in these areas actually need, both for the individual and their families.
3. **Expansion and Targeting Youth:** The recent success of previous funding has led to an expansion of services, particularly for youth who are at risk of entering detention or those already involved in the justice system. By focusing on prevention and early intervention, the initiative aims to help young people avoid the long-term impacts of the criminal justice system.
4. **Support for Families:** A key insight from the program is that successful reentry is not just about the individual but also about supporting the family. Rebuilding family relationships and providing behavioral health support for both the individual and their family members plays a critical role in the overall success of reintegration into society.
5. **Practical Life Skills:** The program also recognizes that many of those being released from prison have never navigated basic aspects of life like using a smartphone or grocery shopping. This realization underscores the importance of providing basic life skills training, as these can significantly impact an individual's success in reintegrating into society.
6. **Collaboration with Meridian and Deserving Life:** The collaboration with organizations like Meridian has been vital for both the clients and their families. It's clear that these partnerships are crucial in providing the necessary resources and behavioral health services.
7. **Challenges in Service Delivery:** There were also discussions about the difficulties in following specific conditions for parole and probation, particularly when the recommendations for treatment or assessments seem to be unclear. This confusion arises from inconsistencies in language (e.g., "recommendations" vs. "requirements") in legal documents and orders.

8. **Technological and Logistical Issues:** Some of the participants raised concerns about technology challenges, particularly in rural areas, which hinder effective service delivery and communication. There is hope that future investments in infrastructure, including broadband enhancements, will improve these situations.
9. **Focus on Rural Communities:** Special attention is given to rural areas, where resources are limited, and individuals returning from incarceration face additional challenges due to geographic isolation and lack of services.

In conclusion, the partnership and services are designed to support individuals in reentry by addressing both the individual's needs and the support structures around them, particularly their families and communities. By combining mental health support with practical life skills training and using evidence-based as well as emerging therapeutic modalities, the program aims to give justice-impacted individuals a better chance at long-term success.

The discussion touches on a wide range of issues concerning the support of individuals who have been incarcerated for long periods, including their reintegration into society, behavioral health needs, family dynamics, and access to necessary services.

### **Key Points:**

1. **Behavioral Health and Reentry Services:**
  - A major focus is on providing comprehensive behavioral health services, especially for individuals reentering society after long incarcerations. Many of these individuals face significant challenges, not just in terms of criminal behavior, but in adapting to life outside prison, which may include basic daily tasks like using technology or navigating public systems.
  - **Emerging and Evidence-Based Modalities:** Services are tailored to people's specific lived experiences, using both evidence-based practices like dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) and newer, emerging strategies.
2. **Focus on Families:**
  - The role of families in reintegration is crucial. It's not just the individual returning to society, but also their family members who have experienced trauma. The partnership with Meridian has been instrumental in providing family support, helping them reunite and communicate better.
  - **CCSF (Comprehensive Community Support):** Many individuals require not only therapeutic interventions but practical support like help with navigating the community, which could include helping with basic life skills, employment, and social reintegration.
3. **Support for Rural Communities:**
  - With the passing of SB64, which emphasized supporting those incarcerated for crimes committed as teenagers, programs like Deserving Life aim to address the needs of these populations, especially those from rural communities. The idea is to expand services beyond urban centers and make them available in rural areas like Otero County, to prevent these individuals from falling through the cracks.
4. **Collaboration and Grants:**

- A key partnership exists between Deserving Lives, Meridian, and other stakeholders, with funding aimed at expanding services into rural areas, focusing on youth at risk of becoming justice-involved, and continuing support for families.
- The expansion grant also allows the teams to help people before their release from detention centers, helping them navigate a successful reentry back into their communities.

**5. Complexities with Parole Conditions and Requirements:**

- There was some discussion around the challenges that parole officers face in managing special conditions like substance abuse treatment and mental health assessments. Some confusion arises around whether these assessments are recommendations or requirements, which can lead to inconsistent implementation. The need for clear guidelines and proper training for parole officers is emphasized to avoid misinterpretations.
- There's a push for clear wording in legal documents related to parole and assessments so that they can be properly followed.

**6. Technology Challenges in Hearings:**

- There were discussions on technological limitations impacting hearings and assessments, especially in remote or rural areas. For instance, some issues with video conferencing and broadband limitations were noted, affecting the ability to conduct hearings and offer services effectively.

- There's a clear recognition of the complexity of the work, as reintegrating individuals into society goes far beyond just addressing criminal behavior. It includes offering holistic support to the person and their family, addressing mental health, physical health, and practical life skills.
- More funding and infrastructure are needed to expand these services, especially in rural communities, and ongoing collaboration with various organizations is essential to meet these needs.
- There's also a strong focus on improving communication and clarifying the roles of parole officers in managing conditions, so that the necessary services are provided without confusion.
- The speaker discusses the productivity of certain facilities, mentioning that while they are efficient, communication could be improved by texting to address issues directly with the facilities. They reflect on a past practice of using community protection as a special condition for supervision, especially in rural areas without intensive supervision. There's some confusion about how this is understood or implemented, particularly regarding the level of care and supervision required.
- The conversation also touches on legal orders, such as no-contact orders related to child abuse cases or domestic situations. The speaker mentions the importance of following court orders, especially regarding child custody and restrictions, although sometimes this information isn't readily available, especially if not part of a court order or restraining order.

- The meeting ends with a comment on public participation, noting that there has been little public involvement but acknowledging the productive discussions that took place. The meeting adjourns with holiday wishes and appreciation for the participants.
- **Adjournment**
- Motion by Amy Lopez
- Second by Member Caryn Apodaca
- Full Vote all member approved
- Meeting adjourned at 1: 36pm.

DRAFT