



Health & Community Services San Juan County

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Human Services Advisory Board held March 9^h, 2026

MEETING MINUTES

Members present: Amy Ray, Trillium Swanson, Diana Porter, Tamela Bresler, Contessa Downey (5/6)

Staff present: Richard Uri, Jami Mitchell, Kari Mc Veigh, County Council liaison for HSAB.

Public: Evyn Hansford and Mary Uri, Joyce L Sobel staff for New Day Recovery Café

Carrie

Meeting called to order at 1:34pm and made the public service announcement.
Introductions were made.

Agenda: Board approved the agenda and added discussing the proposed Levy on the April ballot.

Minutes: The minutes for the February meeting were approved. Contessa Downey will take over minutes for this meeting and future meetings.

Mitchell had no additions to her report: Update: Funding progress for youth prevention. Mitchell is working with Susannah Dunlap and Satya Ray to support LIFRC Youth Prevention using opioid prevention funds. Contracts are still in the works, updating details around the scope of work. Most likely, funding will start in April.

Noted: March 18th Board of Health Meeting, Kira HCS, presenting the matrix and impact for HCS for all of 2025. 11:30-1:30

Uri added the following to his report:

Uri had the opportunity to Officially present to the Board of Health and BHO's to share the impact of Peer Support, and Prevention. Overall take away, all agencies received the information positively with full support. Peer support contract is out for legal review and signing with funds available within the month of March.

Staff: Kari McVeigh, April 28th levy lid lift.

McVeigh explained that the county is facing a 3.7-million-dollar deficit for vital programs offered through the Home & Community Services. The most recent Levy was approved in 2019, since then

the county has cut 4 million dollars by budget review and voting in the 32-hour work week. The 32 hours work week is saving the county 2 million dollars a year.

McVeigh gave an example of the cost for property owners with land assessed at \$850,000 will cost landowner approximately \$22.00 a month.

Guest: Mary Uri & Eryn Hansford on behalf of the New Day Recovery Cafe:

NDRC has been in operation for approximately 3 years supporting clients offering a safe and supportive environment with a welcoming space to be themselves. The café is open Tuesday-Friday: 2-7 PM.

Community engagement and volunteers work together making meals, providing donations of goods to help to keep the café up and running. Positive interactions with the volunteers, members, and general community at large is a reflection on the value of the café in the community.

CHW's attend the café to offer school of recovery classes and hear needs of members and assist in referring to Resource Center programs for additional support.

NDRC has been able to introduce a shower day every Tuesday at the fairgrounds.

Contessa Downey: Heart & Soul Recovery Café (HSRC) open on Tuesday for a walk and talk or sit and sip, Thursday once a month pop up, and Friday's there are two circles, one for Spanish Woman's group and English Speakers. Then a Spanish Men's group on Sunday morning.

Staff Q&A

Richard Uri asked who can attend – Mary Uri replied that anyone can attend, as long as you are not under the influence of drug or alcohol.

New Member Introductions are conducted weekly at the café with full membership offered after 3 visits, and the member agrees to the expectations of the café and existing members.

Richard Uri asked about financial stability. Mary Uri related that funding is potentially at risk from the Recovery Café Network, but funds are also secured through local grants and community donations.

Richard Uri asked Benefits from attending the Café. Mary Uri discussed the variety of wrap around supports members receive at the café. Referencing supports such as; counseling, RNP, dental, medical, transportation, working with the Justice system by teaming up with the local sheriffs department and court system through community courts, and case management through the Resource Centers.

Difference between AA and the Café : home setting environment for a duration of time including a meal "vs" the AA 1 hour meeting. Another difference is that AA recognizes Substance abuse but not equipped to manage mental health and other disorders that need more specific support.

Richard Uri: Speaks to the value of Café model and peer support model to successfully reach community members while seeking support during their personal journey to recovery.

Trillium: What is the difference between Recovery Navigator Program “vs” NDRC – how does that work? Navigator comes to the café once a week to make contact with members to help “navigate” treatment and help hold that space. NDRC is the place holder for members, having a safe calm space to be.

Amy Ray: Is there an online component?

Diana Porter: Not fully an option currently. Attempts were made to support online circles, but it was challenging to navigate.

Staff: Congratulated the Cafés for the work providing a place that is for everyone, with a true sense of belonging and inclusiveness. Bringing members, volunteers, and community together.

Amy Ray: April will be the next meeting for a guest speaker.

Public Comment:

- NA

Next meeting:

April 13th at 1:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25pm