

Tom Green County Commissioners' Court
February 20, 2004

The Commissioners' Court of Tom Green County, Texas, met in a Special Session February 20, 2004 in the Edd B. Keyes Building, with the following members present:

Clayton Friend, Commissioner of Precinct #1
Karl Bookter, Commissioner of Precinct #2
Jodie R. Weeks, Commissioner of Precinct #3
Richard Easingwood, Commissioner of Precinct #4
Michael D. Brown, County Judge

1. County Judge, Michael Brown, called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM

3. Judge Michael Brown moved to authorize an application to the Bureau of Justice Administration for the Drug Court Discretionary Program for the Tom Green County Courts-at-Law to establish Drug Courts for substance abusing adult offenders; authorize the Concho Valley Community Supervision and Corrections Department to apply for it; and authorize the County Judge to sign all necessary papers. Commissioner Jodie Weeks seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion. (Letter recorded with these minutes)

4. **Becky Harris**, Director of the Roy K. Robb Post Adjudication Juvenile Facility, explained to the Court the alternatives for the education program components needed for the facility in order to attract clients from other counties and to bring the education level to level or above for the clients assigned to RKR. She explained that the ultimate goal is to give the best education possible to the at risk kids assigned to RKR. Ages vary from 12 years old to 17 years old and grade levels from 6 to 12, requiring very diverse curriculum and teaching levels. Ms. Harris expressed the need for qualified teachers in the 4 core subjects. Truancy is part of the delinquency problem, so these kids are below grade level upon entry.

Kenneth Messick, Superintendent, and **Mike Lopez**, Deputy of Strategic Planning from the John H. Wood Jr. Charter School, explained to the Court the difference in operations of a Charter school and a public school. The Hays County Juvenile facility utilized the curriculum administered by the John H. Wood, Jr. Charter School. They explained that their operation is paid for with the ADA (average daily attendance) monies paid by the state and that they do not have the cost of building maintenance and upkeep. They also explained that some of the facilities utilize the "boot camp" method and others do not. Their concept is intervention through education. Public schools discipline alternatives are expulsion or in school suspension. They have found that year round programs are better than the usual school programs with the summers off.

Lane Jackson, Superintendent of Veribest ISD, addressed the Court and pointed out that the Veribest High School has been listed as an exemplary campus by the TEA. They were not aware of the concerns. Veribest has provided computers and an A1 state approved, self-paced software program, at their cost (approximately \$30,000.00), that addresses the variance of the students as well as a full time teacher and aid, as well as ½ time aide and tutors. The loss to Veribest ISD in ADA and Special Education funding would amount to approximately \$250,000.00 per year. Veribest is willing to expand on an already good education and provide the GED program as part of the Court ordered mandate. They are also willing to provide the year round school program and curriculum. They will provide 3 teachers certified in the 4 core subjects or dual certified plus a full time aide. The communication between the County, RKR and Veribest ISD is essential.

Nina Reid, Small Schools Co-op, the Special Ed funds that are generated are divided among the ten co-op schools and are not just generated by Veribest students. RKR students do bring the numbers up. There are currently 10 students at RKR and 2 to be placed. Funding is approximately \$10,000.00 per year per student for special Ed monies.

Russell Gully, President of the Veribest School Board, addressed the court regarding losses of revenue during the history of the RKR facility until this year because the

number of students has not been there. The Boards point of view is to try to recover some of the losses while also providing the best education possible for the RKR students.

Johnny Rodgers, aide, addressed the Court regarding the one on one experiences he has experience and he feels the students needs are being met.

The Court interjected multiple questions and concerns to each of the speakers, but felt they needed more time to study the materials given them and to give more thought and direction to the decision that needs to be made regarding the best interest of the clients at RKR. **Tabled until the February 24, 2004 at the Regular meeting.**

5. Judge Brown announced that Qualified Credentialed Counselor position has been waived until the beginning of the 2005 budget year (October 1, 2004) in order to budget for this position and have the time to seek applications for this position. Thanks were expressed by the Court for the help given by Representative Scott Campbell and Senator Duncan.

6. Judge Brown adjourned the meeting at 4:10 PM.

I, Elizabeth McGill, County Clerk of Tom Green County, Texas do hereby attest that this is an accurate accounting of the proceedings of the Commissioners' Court Meeting that met in Special Session on February 20, 2004.

I hereby set my hand and seal to this record February 24th, 2004.

Elizabeth McGill, County Clerk and
Ex-officio Clerk of the Commissioners' Court

COMMISSIONERS' COURT
TOM GREEN COUNTY



MICHAEL D. "MIKE" BROWN
COUNTY JUDGE

February 20, 2004

C. Camille Cain
Acting Director
Bureau of Justice Assistance
810 Seventh Street NW., Fourth Floor
Washington, DC 20531

RE: 2004-F1489-TX-DC, Concho Valley DWI Court, Adult Drug Court Implementation Program

Dear Ms. Cain:

As the County Judge for the Commissioners Court, on behalf of Tom Green County, I hereby authorize the Concho Valley Community Supervision and Corrections Department as the official representative of Tom Green County authorized to apply to undertake a drug court program or project in whole or in part. This designation is made pursuant to the authority conferred upon me by Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3711, et seq.) and it is effective as of February 20, 2004.

Any additional correspondence concerning this drug court grant should be directed to Concho Valley Community Supervision and Corrections Department. The appropriate contact person at that agency is Fred Reyes, who can be reached at 325/659-6544.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Michael D. Brown
Tom Green County Judge