

# Wheels of Change Newsletter

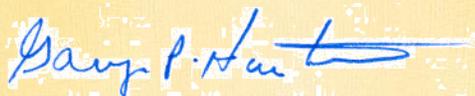
*Chronicling change & challenge in  
Wyoming's Juvenile Justice System*

Judge Gary Hartman, Retired, [ghartm@state.wy.us](mailto:ghartm@state.wy.us)

This is the first monthly newsletter to you who are working in juvenile justice. It is intended as medium to provide information, as a forum for discussion and to keep professionals in this field informed and involved in the changing environment of Wyoming Juvenile Justice.

The information reported here cannot be taken as an endorsement of the content by Governor Freudenthal. Each month, the same format will be used but will include any new items that may be of interest. Please pass this e-mail on to others in your office if you think it may contain some useful items of interest.

Sincerely,



Judge Gary Hartman, Retired

## **In this issue, you'll learn more about**

- Wyoming Community Juvenile Service Boards (CJSB)
- Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI)
- Juvenile Detention and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
- Mental Health
- Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT)
- Wraparound and Family-centered Practice
- Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (YRBS)
- Legislative Matters
- Planning Team for At-risk Children (PTAC)



*If you'd like to respond to one of these articles or contribute your own writing,  
please e-mail [ghartm@state.wy.us](mailto:ghartm@state.wy.us)*

## Detention and the ARRA

Casper moves ahead with construction plans on 24-bed facility; Cheyenne, Basin look ahead

Casper is moving ahead with its plan to construct a 24-bed, hardware secure juvenile detention facility. Cheyenne is working with an architectural firm for a 24-bed, hardware secure facility and Basin has submitted its application to purchase and renovate a building for four staff-secure beds. ARRA dollars figure prominently in the funding of these operations.

## JDAI

Conference in planning stages

DFS and the County Commissioners Association will sponsor a discussion with the Annie E. Casey Foundations' Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative in Casper or Riverton in early 2010. The purpose will be to identify four to eight Wyoming communities in which to start juvenile detention alternative programs. The state has some funding to get these sites up and running.

More information will be shared through this newsletter and other channels as it becomes available.

## CJSB

Sixteen counties on board

Sixteen counties filed letters of intent to form CJSBs and these counties have until December 31 to complete the application. That completed application makes less populated counties eligible for a \$50,000 grant. Larger counties could be eligible for larger grants.

## Mental Health

Changes in Medicaid payments disrupt youth as state, feds work together to solve the problem with providers

There were changes in Medicaid that disrupted the payment levels for several Residential Treatment Centers (RTCs). That list includes St. Josephs in Torrington, Cathedral Home in Laramie, Normative Services in Sheridan, Attention Home in Cheyenne and YES House in Gillette.

The departments of health and family services and the Regional Office of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are working with these and out-of-state providers to correct the situation. Some out-of-state providers treating Wyoming youth also have been determined not to be Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs).

For Medicaid to pay for those psychiatric services, two criteria must be met:

1. The facility must be certified as a PRTF by CMS and,
2. The child must meet the "medical necessity" of needing acute psychiatric care.

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## MDTs

A new project under way with help from the Wyoming Supreme Court

The Children's Justice Project, through the Wyoming Supreme Court has agreed to undertake a project to draft guidelines/rules for the MDT's and facilitators.

## Wraparound

An intensive form of family care

Some DFS offices have begun working with a more intensive form of family case management system called "wraparound."

This unique approach provides a way for a family to define its own needs in a professionally facilitated session and write a plan for services the family feels will be most helpful.

## YRBS

An anonymous polling of middle and high school youth behavior patterns

In coming weeks, the Wyoming Department of Education will release the 2009 Wyoming Youth Risk Behavior Survey, an anonymous polling of middle and high school students about at-risk behaviors such as alcohol use, drug use, wearing a seatbelt and smoking.

For instance, in this year's survey, 41.7 percent of high school students polled said they drank alcohol in the last 30 days. That compares with 42.4 percent of respondents in 2007.

The survey will be available on the Wyoming Department of Education Web site at [www.k12.wy.us](http://www.k12.wy.us).

For more information on the results or the survey process, contact Nathaniel Castellanos at 307-777-6391.

## Legislative Notes

The JJIC takes on a few bills that will impact juvenile justice

The Legislature's Joint Judiciary Committee is working on:

1. A bill requiring the Wyoming Attorney General, in consultation with the county sheriffs, to adopt an objective juvenile detention screening instrument.
2. A bill requiring the Wyoming Sheriffs, in consultation with other stakeholders, to develop and implement uniform standards for juvenile detention facilities.
3. A bill to extend the jurisdiction of Circuit Courts to try City/Municipal misdemeanor violations.

## PTAC

A quarterly look at overlapping issues in juvenile justice

For the last 18 months, the Directors of Health, Family Services Education have been meeting quarterly to examine overlapping issues of juvenile. The Deputy Directors of those agencies meet monthly to set agendas and problem solve.

The group has added Corrections and Workforce Services in recent months.

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