

# WYOMING STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

## Meeting Minutes

April 14-15, 2022: Dubois, WY

### Agenda:

#### **Thursday, April 14, 2022**

- Call to Order
- Approval of Minutes
- New Business
- Ongoing Business
- Community Participation

#### **Friday, April 15, 2022**

- DFS Update/Report
- Committee Reports
- Announcements
- Adjournment

#### **Present:**

Abbey Kercher  
Adrienne Freng  
Alexandra Bammel  
Brittany Cangialosi  
Dakota Jackson  
Damon DeBernardi  
Erica Wood  
Jennifer Palser  
Lila Konecky  
Logan Christie  
Melinda Cox  
Narina Nunez  
Nicole Hauser  
Nikki Sweets  
Stacy Becker  
Stacy Nelson

#### **Ex-Officio Present:**

Alicia Johnson  
Christina McCabe  
Jen Davis  
Shawn Sitzman

#### **Via Proxy:**

#### **Others Present:**

Brandon Schimelpfenig  
Donna Sheen  
Laurel Wimbish  
Hattie Calvert  
Jen Neely  
Dayna LaTorre  
Cameron Smith

#### **Absent:**

Abigail Henderson  
Chris Jones  
Clarence Thomas  
Gabriel Gerrish  
Janelle Ordiway  
Karen Solomon  
Ronald Howard  
Shad Bates  
Steffany Stephenson

### **Call to Order**

#### **I. Call to Order: Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.**

- a) Roll Call/Introductions
- b) Declaration of Quorum; a quorum was established with 16 members present.

#### **II. Approval of Minutes:**

January 13-14, 2022 meeting held via Zoom; Stacy Nelson motioned to approve the draft minutes; Abbey Kercher seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

#### **III. New Business:**

##### a) Annual Report Recommendations

Damon stated that he wanted to bring up the 2021 Annual Report recommendations and discuss progress made on each recommendation to the SACJJ. The first recommendation brought forth was the recommendation of Community Juvenile

Services Boards (CJSB) funding being restored by the Wyoming Legislature. Funding was restored by the Legislature and Damon requested to the SACJJ that for the upcoming 2022 Annual Report that one of the recommendations be that CJSBs continue to be funded. Adrienne also wanted to state that there will be discussions held with the CJSBs in the upcoming year to discuss moving current services to become more prevention based to comply with the Wyoming Family First Initiative.

The second recommendation was for juvenile justice to continue to be a topic with the Joint Judiciary committee with the Wyoming Legislature. Damon discussed with the SACJJ if they would like for the recommendation to stay or change.

The third recommendation was for data collection within the juvenile justice system in Wyoming. A data collection bill was passed recently by the Wyoming Legislature and has become House Enrolled Act #0004. Damon stated this recommendation could probably be taken off but that discussion will continue to be had regarding updates on the system to be created.

The fourth recommendation was for Wyoming to maintain its non-participation status with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) within the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Damon discussed the importance of getting notification out to non-profit entities about applying for the Non-Participating State (NPS) grant with OJJDP. Laurel Wimbish with the Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center (WYSAC) stated that WYSAC is willing to apply for the NPS grant and partner with the SACJJ on dispersing that funding out to counties.

The final recommendation is funding for mental health services in counties. Donna Sheen brought up the conversation with Sen. Nethercott stating that the Labor, Health, and Social Services committee with the Wyoming Legislature was going to be looking at this topic in the interim.

b) Data Bill Discussion

Damon discussed the Juvenile Justice and Data Collection bill recently passed by the Wyoming Legislature. Within the bill it states that a statewide juvenile justice system will be created and maintained by the Department of Family Services. The bill also discussed that any juvenile that is convicted or is adjudicated a delinquent for a qualifying crime that the presiding court will need to report to this system. The initial update from DFS due on October 15, 2022.

c) 2021 Neal Madsen Award

Erica provided an update on the 2021 Neal Madsen Award. She stated that she has received the plaque from the trophy and engraving company and that it will be presented to Uinta County by Volunteers of America (VOA) and members of the SACJJ. Damon mentioned that he would like to have the Best Practices committee come to the meeting in June 2022 with potential recipients, discuss finalists for the award and then vote on the 2022 recipient at the November 2022 meeting in Buffalo. Eric also mentioned that as VOA is no longer going to be the recipient of the NPS grant if the award should continue to be awarded. Damon stated that he would like the award to continue as counties don't always receive recognition for excellence in juvenile justice work that they do.

d) Open Topic Discussion from Members  
Brandon Schimelpfenig stated that as DFS will be the designated juvenile justice entity per recently adopted legislation that he wanted to discuss the idea of the SACJJ looking at efforts to reform the current Wyoming Juvenile Detention Risk Assessment (JDRA) whether through a subgroup or another avenue. He stated there can be some discrepancy on the utilization of the assessment on when and how it's used in the field. Adrienne stated it might be beneficial for the SACJJ to look the assessment as a whole and seeing if it is the assessment itself that needs reevaluation or if it is more of an education piece that the SACJJ could discuss with law enforcement and the juvenile detention centers. There was also discussion on making the assessment completely electronic. Erica wanted to state that Laurel with WYSAC has added the JDRA to the Reroute data system if the SACJJ and DFS wanted to pursue that as an option. The Data committee agreed to take on the JDRA discussions.

e) Public Comment Period  
No topics brought forth.

#### **IV. On-Going Business – Updates From:**

a) Council Membership – Brandon Schimelpfenig  
Brandon stated that three members have been appointed by the Governor; Brittany Cangialosi (Youth), Lila Konecky (Youth), and Stacy Becker. Youth member Vanessa Duran has resigned from the SACJJ.

b) Governor's Office – Jen Davis  
Jen stated the Governor's Office has been focused on the recent legislation passed and what that means for ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding in the state; also getting that funding distributed throughout the state. She also discussed the Governor's Health Task Force and how they are going to look at the priorities for the task force concerning post-COVID procedures. Jen also stated that 988 will be going live on July 1, 2022 for a mental health and suicide prevention crisis hotline in Wyoming.

c) Budget Report/Grant Update – Brandon Schimelpfenig  
Brandon stated that some funds were moved back into Title 2018 that were previously encumbered but had not been spent yet. He stated that Title II 2018 has \$233.55 remaining and Title II 2019 has a remaining balance of \$7,766.66. Title II 2020 still has the full \$20,000.00 remaining. Brandon stated that he is waiting on a response from OJJDP on Title II 2021. Brandon also stated that Title II 2018, 2019, and 2020 were audited by Wyoming's OJJDP state manager Marisa O'Harris.

d) Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ) - Maureen Clifton and Brandon Schimelpfenig  
No updates.

e) Non-Participating State Grant (VOA) – Craig Fisgus  
Craig was not present for an update. No updates.

#### **V. Community Participation**

a) Fremont County DFS  
Jen Neely, District Manager for Teton, Fremont, Sublette, and Northern Lincoln counties, and Dayna LaTorre, Supervisor for the Lander and Dubois areas, were present to discuss juvenile justice trends in the Fremont county and Dubois areas. Jen stated the

biggest hurdle they face in the Dubois area is accessing prevention services as well as the area being so remote. She stated that the Dubois area is starting to see overflow from the Teton area and along with that come economic and housing issues; another area of need is accessing mental health services for adolescents.

b) Fremont County CJSB

Melinda Cox from the Fremont County Treatment Courts and Hattie Calvert were present to discuss what kinds of services the CJSB of Fremont County funds. Melinda stated that Fremont County used to have a juvenile detention center but that closed and has since become the Day Reporting Center. The Day Reporting Center serves juveniles who would have been expelled or suspended long-term from their local school as well as juveniles who are ordered to detention as a detention alternative. She stated a trend that Fremont County has been seeing is more marijuana citations as opposed to alcohol citations. She also stated the frequency of usage has been trending upwards as well. Fremont County is also seeing a rise in fentanyl-related cases.

**Friday, April 15, 2022**

**VI. DFS Update/Report – Lindsey Schilling**

Lindsey was not able to be present and Brandon Schimelpfenig provided a report on her behalf. One area of note is Christina McCabe wanted to state that the new Ex-Officio from the Attorney General’s office is Cameron Smith; he will be taking over her previous duties for the SACJJ as well as liaison for the CJSB, ICJ and other juvenile justice programs within DFS.

Brandon stated that the Juvenile Justice Data Collection bill was passed by the Wyoming Legislature and signed by the Governor; HB0037. Along with that, Brandon stated that administration is currently drafting up the Job Content Questionnaire (JCQ) for the positions associated with the incoming juvenile justice data collection responsibilities for DFS. He stated that DFS is hoping to have this new position start July 1, 2022. The first update on the juvenile justice data collection from DFS is due to the Joint Judiciary committee October 15, 2022. The first full data report is due to the Wyoming Legislature July 1, 2024.

Brandon stated the CJSB program is being funded once again by DFS. The Wyoming Legislature allocated \$2.25 million for the CJSBs; \$250,000 is an immediate allocation to the 14 current CJSBs and \$2 million is for the upcoming biennium July 1, 2022-June 30, 2024. Brandon stated the CJSB applications will be sent out for full completion today and that they would be due back to him on May 16, 2022 where they would then be sent out to the CJSB review committee to score. Respective allocations to each CJSB will also be sent out with each application. Adrienne asked if MOUs will still be needed for each CJSB as they were working with WYSAC and the Reroute system. Brandon stated that he would check with his administration on if they would still need those MOUs or if they would need to amend them to include DFS.

Brandon discussed the Wyoming JDRA and the efforts being made to revise the assessment and if the SACJJ would like to take on some of those efforts. Brandon stated that he recently had a discussion with the State of Utah and their juvenile detention facility manager. They discussed the Utah DRAT (Detention Risk Assessment Tool) and the benefits of utilizing a tool such as the DRAT as that it is an electronic tool and the criteria for administering the

tool. Nicole Hauser asked if other states had been contacted regarding their detention assessment tool. Brandon stated that he had not and would be contacting other states. The Data Committee advised they would like to take up discussions on revising the Wyoming JDRA.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

- a) Executive Committee – Damon DeBernardi  
Damon stated the Executive Committee met and created the agenda for this meeting. No other updates.
- b) Grants Committee – Damon DeBernardi  
Damon stated that since the NPS grant with OJJDP has not been solicited for the upcoming year yet there are no updates.
- c) Data Committee – Adrienne Freng  
Adrienne stated the Data committee will be taking on revision discussions for the JDRA. Adrienne also stated that discussions will start with the CJSBs to guide them into a direction of prevention services to align with WY Home Matters
- d) Best Practices Committee – Stacy Nelson  
Stacy stated that the committee sent out a survey to all counties, whether through CJSB contacts or the County Attorney, asking to identify two needs in their community regarding juvenile justice; housing and parenting classes were noted in the results. Stacy also discussed Restorative Justice with the SACJJ.
- e) Outreach/Youth Committee – Erica Wood/Dakota Jackson  
Erica stated they received the Neal Madsen Excellence in Juvenile justice award and will be presenting to Uinta County at the next council meeting in June. She also stated that the committee is looking at creating a repository for youth members to increase participation. She also discussed the possibility of a social media presence for the SACJJ. Brittany Cangialosi stated she would like to join the committee.
- f) Legislative Committee – Damon DeBernardi  
Damon stated there are not many updates regarding bills as the major bill regarding juvenile justice data recently passed.

## **VIII. Announcements**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 23-24, 2022 in Evanston, WY.

## **IX. Adjournment**

Melinda Cox motioned to adjourn the meeting; Adrienne Freng seconded the motion; all in favor; meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.