WYOMING STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE
Meeting Minutes
April 15-16, 2021: Via ZOOM due to COVID-19

Agenda:

Thursday, April 15, 2021
- Call to Order
- Approval of Minutes
- New Business
- DFS FFPSA WY Prevention Plan
- Ongoing Business
- Committee Reports

Friday, April 16, 2021
- DFS Update/Report
- Community Participation
- Announcements
- Adjournment

Present:
Abbey Kercher
Adrienne Freng
Alexandra Bammel
Chris Jones
Damon DeBernardi
Erica Wood
Jennifer Palser
Karen Solomon
Logan Christie
Melinda Cox
Narina Nunez
Nicole Hauser
Nikki Sweets
Shad Bates
Stacy Nelson
Thomas Rose

Ex-Officio Present:
Christina McCabe
Hon. Dawnessa Snyder
Jo Ann Numoto
Shawn Sitzman

Via Proxy:
Gabrielle Messick

Others Present:
Brandon Schimelpfenig
Craig Fisgus
Lindsey Schilling
Kayla Burd
Donna Sheen
Gus Tupper
Cari Cuffney
Ronda Myer
Jenny Pragnell
Kim Dyer
Gabe Bartlett

Absent:
Abigail Henderson
Clarence Thomas
Dakota Jackson
Gabriel Gerrish
Gary Gilmore
Janelle Ordiway
Justice Orum-Eikanger
Ronald Howard
Steffany Stephenson
Vanessa Duran

Call to Order

I. Call to Order: Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.
a) Roll Call/Introductions
b) Declaration of Quorum; a quorum was established with seventeen (17) members present.

II. Approval of Minutes:
January 14-15, 2021 meeting via Zoom; Thomas Rose wanted to add more detail to the portion of January's minutes where it discusses the Coalition of Juvenile Justice (CJJ) and the reasoning for the SACJJ's decision to remain a non-member. Thomas motioned to accept the draft January minutes with the amendment discussed; Narina Nunez seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

III. New Business:
a) Joint Judiciary Interim

Narina Nunez stated that the Joint Judiciary Interim Committee is going to be voting soon on whether juvenile justice will be an interim topic. Gus Tupper stated that they are looking at three main areas of focus within juvenile justice; jurisdiction of cases, placement decisions when removing juveniles from their homes, and juvenile data collection requirements. Nicole Hauser stated that she would like to see how the SACJJ could be more involved in the juvenile justice discussions with Joint Judiciary. Thomas Rose wanted to remind the SACJJ of the lobbying special condition stating that the SACJJ is not allowed to lobby for any legislation.

b) Juvenile Justice Priorities
Nicole Hauser stated that in the SACJJ's Strategic Plan it is noted that the SACJJ would need to identify juvenile justice priorities for the state. Nicole did also confirm that the Community Juvenile Services Board (CJSB) funding was eliminated from the DFS budget. She also clarified that the CJSBs themselves were not going away but they will not be receiving funding from DFS. Nicole brought up juvenile justice data collection as a priority and also diverting youth from the juvenile justice system.

c) Review of Bylaws
Damon DeBernardi reviewed the SACJJ Bylaws with the SACJJ. Changes proposed to the Bylaws were to state that "Members shall be 18 years old;" also changing the youth membership age from 24 to 28 at date of appointment by the Governor's Office. Another section to be revised is the section stating that training will be held at least annually, "in the 4th Quarter of the year..." it was discussed to delete the portion stating that the training had to be in the 4th quarter. In Section 10, Damon discussed adding a portion related to the prohibition of lobbying for SACJJ members. In Article V, Section 2 regarding attendance, Damon discussed adding the option to have members attend via video conference or teleconference. Adrienne Freng and Nicole Hauser brought up adding a section under Article IV Conflict of Interest that if a member has a conflict of interest on the Grants Committee while scoring the Non-Participating State Grants with VOA that they will need to disclose that. Thomas Rose motioned to allow juveniles less than 16 on the SACJJ; there was no second; motion failed to carry.

d) Open Topic Discussion from Members
Nicole Hauser brought up the topic of having the next meeting in June in person. The SACJJ discussed the option and agreed to have the next meeting in person. Brandon stated that he will still be organizing a Zoom video conference option for members that do not wish to travel. Nicole also stated that in September the SACJJ would be traveling to Big Horn County and in November the SACJJ will be traveling to Newcastle.

e) Public Comment Period
No topics brought forth.

IV. DFS FFPSA WY Prevention Plan

Cari Cuffney, Senior Policy Advisor with the Department of Family Services, was present to discuss the Prevention Plan that DFS is going to be implementing. She first shared a brief history of the 2018 Family First Prevention Services Act. The goal is to limit unnecessary congregate care placements and a preference for home-like settings. She then discussed the requirements that each state's State Prevention Plan must have in order to be eligible to bill the federal government for prevention services and receive reimbursement. The biggest requirement she highlighted was that that services need to be evidence based and must be supported by the Title IV-E Clearinghouse. In Phase II of the Prevention Plan, she

discussed WY Home Matters which is an initiative that will provide third-party prevention services.

She then extended an invitation to the SACJJ to join the Community Family Support Forum and engage with the community. She also requested the Best Practices Committee to review the Title IV-E Clearinghouse approved services and identify who is currently utilizing these services, populations served, and fidelity practices.

V. On-Going Business – Updates From:

a) Council Membership – Brandon Schimelpfenig
Brandon stated that two new members appointed by the Governor; Logan Christie and Ronald Howard. Brandon also reviewed expiring terms for SACJJ members. Ex-Officio members were appointed: Hon. Dawnessa Snyder from the Wyoming Judicial Branch and Maureen Clifton from DFS to represent the Interstate Compact for Juveniles; also Shawn Sitzman from the Attorney General's Office: Division of Victim Services. Senator Lynn Hutchings was also appointed as an ex-officio from the Wyoming State Legislature.

b) Governor's Office – Jen Davis
Jen was not available to present so she gave her update to Brandon Schimelpfenig to present on her behalf. Brandon stated that Wyoming was accepted into the Governor's Challenge for Suicide Prevention. The effort is supported by the Veteran's Administration and SAMHSA. It is primarily focused on veteran suicide however Wyoming is taking a broader statewide approach. Brandon also stated that HB0038 passed and the agencies will be working on how to implement that throughout the state; HB0038 is Community Behavioral Health Priority Populations.

c) Budget Report/Grant Update – Brandon Schimelpfenig
In Title II 2018, there is a remaining balance of $233.55. In Title II 2019 and 2020, there is a full $20,000.00 remaining. Nicole Hauser brought up the idea of possibly using the Title II funds for other services such as sub-granting funds out to community juvenile service entities for services or data collection efforts. Brandon also asked if the SACJJ wanted to apply for Title II 2021 since 2019 and 2020 still have a full $20,000.00.

Brandon stated that he would check with OJJDP to see if Title II funds are able to be sub-granted to the CJSBs for data collection efforts.

d) Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ - Maureen Clifton and Brandon Schimelpfenig
Brandon stated that the new case management system is going live on May 19, 2021 and that he is currently testing portions of the site out.

e) Non-Participating State Grant (VOA) – Craig Fisgus
Craig stated that the juvenile detention centers are starting to open their doors back up to other counties. He then provided an update on the Non-Participating State grant with the SACJJ.

VI. Committee Reports and Committee Work Sessions

a) Executive Committee – Nicole Hauser
Nicole stated the Executive Committee reviewed the Strategic Plan and progress made on action items. She also stated that the committee will be taking turns amongst themselves on being an outreach contact to community stakeholders.

b) Grants Committee – Nicole Hauser
The VOA Non-Participating State application will be going out to communities very soon.

c) Best Practices – Stacy Nelson
A meeting was held and the Strategic Plan was reviewed and it was stated the committee will need to research what is currently being utilized in best practices in juvenile justice especially around Wyoming.

d) Outreach Committee – Erica Wood
They reviewed the Strategic Plan and had a couple questions regarding certain areas. She stated that the committee was unsure on specifics on how to best recognize communities for best practices in juvenile justice; the process of recognizing communities as well as how in depth the recognition should go.

e) Data Committee – Adrienne Freng
There have been conversations regarding whether to continue with ROM; to add data variables and revise the ROM spreadsheet or if they should pursue the WYSAC option and their data collection efforts.

f) Legislative Committee – Damon DeBernardi
Damon reviewed the statutory authority of the SACJJ. He proposed changes to 14-10-101(f)(viii) to include "Be afforded the opportunity to review..." He also wants to formalize the revisions for the SACJJ Bylaws in between now and the next meeting in June. Brandon and Craig stated they would get clarification on lobbying with their OJJDP representative.

g) Youth Member Committee – Dakota Jackson
Dakota was not present for an update.

Friday, April 16, 2021

VII. DFS Update/Report – Korin Schmidt or Lindsey Schilling

Lindsey Schilling, Senior Administrator for the Social Services Division with DFS, was present to discuss updates with the DFS budget and other items. She stated that the Step 3 budget reductions are being implemented. She stated that the second year of the CJSB funding was not reinstated and that the funding will be eliminated effective July 1, 2021. She also stated that for those CJSBs that notify Brandon that they will not be expending all of their funding by June 30, 2021 that he will be drafting amendments that will extend the terms of the contracts through a designated date. She wanted to clarify that there will be no additional funding but just that the expiration terms will be extended from June 30 to a designated date. She stated that the DFS case management system is in the process of being replaced over the next few years as the current system is over 40 years old. She also said that the Joint Judiciary Interim Committee most likely will be taking up juvenile justice reform as an interim topic. Lindsey also highlighted that the Emergency Rental Assistance Program will be implemented by DFS for rental assistance in Wyoming.

VIII. Community Participation

a) Goshen County DFS
Kim Dyer, Social Services Supervisor, and Gabe Bartlett, Social Services Worker, were present to discuss trends and a general overview of what they are seeing in the Goshen County area. They said that child protection cases are on the rise especially among families with teenagers. Kim stated that group homes are heavily used in their area for placements as opposed to sending kids out of state. The County Attorney has started a Single Point of Entry in the community. One trend that Gabe stated is prevalent in Torrington is juveniles with mental health components and not being able to function in the home and family setting.

b) Goshen County Attorney's Office
No representatives present.

c) St Joseph's Children's Home
Ronda Myer, Executive Director, was present to discuss the types of services that St. Joseph's Children's Home offers. She stated that they are a 61 bed Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) and that they are the only PRTF in Wyoming that can treat juveniles younger than 12. She then discussed the types of services that the juveniles can receive while at St. Joseph's Children's Home including psychiatric services, family/group therapy, and equine therapy among others. The average daily census during 20219-2020 was 45, the median length of stay was 4.7 months, and the average age of juveniles accepted is 12 years old. Some challenges that St. Joseph's Children's Home are facing are barriers to access of services, state budget reductions, increases in needs for services, state focus on high risk/difficult to place kids, and also a 30 visit cap on behavioral health services for youth that was implemented on 01/01/2021.

d) Number 34 – Shad Bates
Shad briefly discussed the types of services that Number 34 provides. He stated that the main types of services offered are Wraparound services among others. He stated that they also provide GPS ankle monitor services.

IX. Announcements

Next meeting is June 17-18, 2021 in Afton, WY. There will also be a Zoom video-conference option for those that are not able or do not wish to travel.

X. Adjournment

Thomas Rose motioned to adjourn the meeting; Adrienne Freng seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.