

# WYOMING STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

## Meeting Minutes

January 16-17, 2020: Cheyenne, WY

### Agenda:

#### **Thursday, January 16, 2020**

- Call to Order
- Approval of Minutes
- New Business
- On-Going Business
- Committee Reports/Work Sessions

#### **Friday, January 17, 2020**

- DFS Update/Report
- Community Participation
- Announcements
- Adjournment

#### **Present:**

Adrienne Freng  
Dakota Jackson  
Damon DeBernardi  
Jennifer Palser  
Narina Nunez  
Nicole Hauser  
Thomas Rose

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

Christina McCabe  
Dani Sullivan  
Jen Davis (Zoom)

#### **Via Proxy or Zoom:**

Gary Gilmore (proxy)

#### **Others Present:**

Brandon Schimelpfenig  
Craig Fisgus  
Pamela Perea  
Korin Schmidt  
Tennessee Watson  
Tim Thorson  
Dale Weber (Zoom)  
Christine Diers  
Lindsey Schilling  
Chris Jones (Zoom)  
Dick Berry  
Kiersti Willms  
Kai-Ley Wilson  
Eric Kent

#### **Absent:**

Clarence Thomas  
Erin Anderson-Swilling  
Justice Orum-Eikanger  
Shad Bates

### **Call to Order**

#### **I. Call to Order: Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.**

a) Roll Call/Introductions

b) Declaration of Quorum; a quorum was established with eight (8) members present.

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

November 14-15, 2019 meeting in Casper, WY; Narina Nunez motioned to approve the Minutes; Damon DeBernardi seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

### **III. New Business**

#### **a) Executive Committee and Grants Committee Elections**

An election was held for the Chair of the Council, Vice-Chair, three at-large members of the Executive committee, and the Grants committee. Nicole Hauser offered to run once again for Chair. Narina Nunez motioned to approve the ballot; Thomas Rose seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Damon DeBernardi offered to run once again as Vice-Chair. Thomas Rose motioned to approve the ballot' Narina Nunez seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

A paper ballot was conducted for the At-Large members of the Executive committee. Nominations were held and Dakota Jackson, Jennifer Palser, Adrienne Freng, and Narina Nunez all cast their names on the ballot. Votes were tallied and Jennifer Palser, Adrienne Freng, and Narina Nunez were approved. For the Grants committee it was discussed amongst the Council to continue with the current members of the committee however since Michael Sorenson recently resigned the Council and left a vacant spot on the committee it was discussed to add Dakota Jackson in his place. Narina Nunez motioned to approve the committee membership; Thomas Rose seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. The Grants committee now consists of Nicole Hauser as Chair, Adrienne Freng, Thomas Rose, Damon DeBernardi, and Dakota Jackson.

Craig Fiskus suggested that there be clarification of rules in bylaws about Committees guidelines and the role pertaining to the committee's participation on grant writing and scoring. Tom Rose motioned to clarify the bylaws to exclude the writer of the grant from the scoring; no second; motion dies. Craig Fiskus will work on the wording for next meeting.

#### **b) 2020-2022 Strategic Plan**

It was discussed that a new strategic plan is needed. The last two plans the Council hired a consultant to assist in formulating the plan. As the group discussed, Adrienne Freng stated she has extensive knowledge on plans. Discussion was made to start the new 2020-2022 Strategic Plan at the April 16-17 meeting and Adrienne will assist in the plan coordination. It was discussed that Thursday afternoon, April 16, will be set aside for the planning.

#### **c) Open Topic Discussion from Members:**

No new topics to discuss at this time.

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

#### **a) CJJ Membership**

It was recently requested by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) to see if Wyoming would like to become a member of the coalition. After discussing the annual dues and member benefits Adrienne Freng motioned for Wyoming to decline membership; Thomas Rose seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

#### **b) Council Membership – Brandon Schimelpfenig**

Caption Sorenson retired in December- Jen Davis and Pamela Perea will be here to discuss the applications at the Governor's office. Erin Anderson-Swilling has informed that she needs to resign and wanting to add a member of her office to come in her place. Pamela Perea will update later.

- c) ROM MOU– Brandon Schimelpfenig  
The MOU is with Social Services Division Senior Administrator Lindsey Schilling and she had some follow up questions before she can pass the MOU to the next steps in the approval process.
- d) Budget Report/Grant Update – Brandon Schimelpfenig  
Title II 2018 has \$2,260.17 remaining. Title II 2019 has a full amount of \$20,000.00. Title II 2020 solicitation has been received by DFS and Category 1 is due 02/14/20 and Category 2 is due 03/30/20.
- e) ROM/Data Collection Update – Brandon Schimelpfenig/Debra Hibbard  
Due date for Quarter 4 was 1/15/20, once all data is received, it will sent out via a secure file transfer to University of Kansas.
- f) Governor’s Office –  
Jen Davis is new to the Governor’s office and has been in the position for about three months now. Jen Davis’s background is in physical therapy. She was with Wyoming Children’s Trust Fund and with Wyoming Citizen Review Panel. The main focus is how to best align services and collaborate with the Councils to learn the needs and functions of each.

Pamela Perea is also new to the Governor’s office. Pamela briefly discussed the process of applications. When the applications come in the Chair gets the applications and the Council gets to review them and vet the applicants. Once the applicants are approved from the Council and Pamela advises the Governor, the applications are then sent to the Governor. Once the Governor approves the applicants the acceptance letters are drafted and sent to the applicants with the SACJJ Chair CC’d on the communication. There is a training by the Governor’s Office next month that all new appointees will join in and the meet and greet after the training. Hopefully within the next couple of weeks the Governor and Pamela should have the applicants approved. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) can freeze the funding for the Council if there are not least 15 members in the Council and as it stands the Council is short three (3) members. Pamela will pass that information along to the Governor. Pamela asked about more youth members. Dakota Jackson has created a flyer for her college to try to get another Youth member for the Council. Jen Davis suggested that the Council reaches out to Rachel Barber about more youth members.

Pamela gave an update on Erin Anderson-Swilling and she is asking if a designee from her agency can attend SACJJ meetings in her place as Erin is wishing to resign from the Council due to work-related scheduling conflicts. The Governor is okay with a designee to sit in as needed. Erin applied as an individual not an Agency. Discussion was held by the Council and it was stated If Erin can not attend then the designee should apply for membership.

- g) Non-Participating State Grant (VOA) – Craig Fisgus  
Craig Fisgus scheduled the compliance visits and stated if anyone from the Council would like to accompany him on a visit to please let him know as soon as possible so that he can let the facility know.

Craig stated the Juvenile Jail Roster has been updated; Vantage designed the Roster for detention and retention data. It does cost more for a new standalone program that

works on any browser and concerns that some of the inmates may have access to confidential information from the roster.

Grant awards have not been dispersed as of yet and Craig stated he is not sure when that will occur so planning the budgets will be impacted since the late date of the award notices has not yet been released.

h) 2018-2020 SACJJ Strategic Plan: Review and Updates

Nicole Hauser stated that the letters to the local service providers thanking them for their work have not been dispersed. Nicole is looking for the old letters and Brandon may have it and will get to Nicole. Also who to send to and migrate the addresses is a task that was too big. It is an option to add to the new strategic plan for next year.

**V. Committee Reports**

a) Executive Committee – Nicole Hauser

No new updates at this time.

b) Grants Committee – Nicole Hauser/Craig Figus

VOA Grant Review:

No other updates at this time.

c) Best Practices – Thomas Rose

No new updates at this time.

d) Outreach Committee – Thomas Rose

-CJSB event update:

The Chair of the Outreach Committee has changed from Thomas Rose to Dakota Jackson. The CJSB Summit Training on ROM and data will be held Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> in Casper. There will be more information at the next meeting in April.

e) Data Committee – Adrienne Freng

No new updates at this time.

f) Legislative Committee – Damon DeBernardi

No new updates at this time.

g) Youth Member Committee – Dakota Jackson

Dakota Jackson created a flyer, it has been approved, and will be sent to the Council for further review.

h) Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ) – Brandon Schimelpfenig

No major updates. Testing will be done on the new data base by the ICJ National Technology Committee..

i) FACJJ – Thomas Rose

Tom Rose was requested to leave the FACJJ and the January FACJJ meeting was indefinitely canceled as of right now. Chair will reach out to see if a different person can participate on Council.

**VI. DFS Update/Report – Korin Schmidt**

Korin Schmidt talked about the Family First program that got passed by the Legislation two years ago. Family First is IV-E funded and for IV-E eligible families. Korin further described the processes in the Family First program. Wyoming has 27-30% penetration rate compared to other states. The requirements for the program are that congregate care placements in group homes and residential treatment centers (RTCs) only use a 14 day placement to promote that children need to be in a home setting not a treatment placement. Wyoming feels this is not in the best interest of our children so the state is forgoing the money for that from the United States Children's Bureau (federal entity for family services). If children are having to be placed in RTC or group home placements there should be a legitimate reason. The second requirement is that the judge has to make a finding on the individual assessments made on the child(ren). The Wyoming DFS system is already set up for this and has the necessary requirements in place.

Wyoming has a year and a half to become compliant with steps needed to meet the federal plan. The opportunity is that there is another way to look at the other state's plans on how it is being geared to recognize abuse happening before a child enters into the system. Family First is working on how to prevent abuse before it escalates. If the state can create a plan to where the children can stay safe at home instead of in a facility then the U.S. Children's Bureau will accept the plan.

**VII. Community Participation**

a) Wyoming Prosecutor Association

A representative from the Wyoming Prosecutor's Association was not available for presentation.

b) Wyoming State Bar

A representative from the Wyoming State Bar was not available for presentation.

c) Wyoming Legislature: Joint Judiciary Interim Committee Update

DFS was called back many times. DFS has been giving assistance dollars to the Tribes from clear back in 2000 so they wanted some clarification and why DFS was doing this and if it needs to continue. After explaining the reasoning there should be an answer to the questions from Legislation soon.

DFS did not get the money requested for WYCAPS. ETS and a consultant will evaluate the requests and which is best funded and best practicality for the State.

d) Laramie County DFS

Kai-Ley Wilson and Kiersti Willms discussed trends in the Laramie County area; 70-80 probation cases; diversion cases are approximately four to ten per month; CHINS cases average one to three a month; ICJ cases averaging four a month; in-home cases average 145 cases yearly; and 39 foster care cases. The intake numbers were 86 in detention; residential treatment are down to 12-20; psychiatric treatment/residential are down to around four; and the crisis center is down to approximately one to two a month.

The struggle in Laramie County is on mental health needs that the state is not able to provide. They are having to go out of state for treatment and the other states are not able to accept Wyoming Medicaid.

e) Laramie County CJSJPB

Dick Berry, Chair of the Laramie County Community Juvenile Services Joint Powers Board (LCCJSJPB), Lt. Eric Kent, Laramie County Sheriff's Office, and Tim Thorson, Administrator for the LCCJSJPB discussed juvenile data at the Laramie County Juvenile Services Center (JSC). The Laramie County JSC has a 16 bed detention center and eight crisis beds. Families have to sign the juvenile in to the JSC and stay in the county to participate in counseling. There were 81 new inquiries to the detention center and eight went to the crisis beds in the past year. In 2019, 39 juveniles were admitted at the crisis center, 13 child protective services (CPS) cases, 16 juvenile probation cases, 14 court ordered cases, and six Youth Alternative cases. About 85% of the referrals stem from DFS in 2019. Tim Thorson discussed the data collection and the troubles that have occurred in getting the data and sharing the data with all involved in the center and anxiously waiting the finalization of ROM Data.

**VIII. Announcements**

a) Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on April 16-17, 2020 in Newcastle, WY.

**IX. Adjournment**

Thomas Rose motioned to adjourn the meeting; Narina Nunez seconded the motion; all in favor; meeting adjourned at 11:06 AM.