

WYOMING STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

Meeting Minutes

January 14-15, 2021: Via ZOOM due to COVID-19

Agenda:

Thursday, January 14, 2021

- Call to Order
- Approval of Minutes
- New Business
- Ongoing Business
- Review of Strategic Plan and Committee Action Steps

Friday, January 15, 2021

- DFS Update/Report
- Family First and QRTP Presentation
- Community Participation
- Announcements
- Adjournment

Present:

Abbey Kercher
Adrienne Freng
Alexandra Bammel
Chris Jones
Dakota Jackson
Damon DeBernardi
Erica Wood
Gabriel Gerrish
Gabrielle Messick
Janelle Ordiway
Jennifer Palser
Karen Solomon
Melinda Cox
Narina Nunez
Nicole Hauser
Nikki Sweets
Stacy Nelson
Thomas Rose

Ex-Officio Present:

Christina McCabe
Jen Davis
Jo Ann Numoto

Via Proxy:

Others Present:

Brandon Schimelpfenig
Craig Fiskus
Lindsey Schilling
Maureen Clifton
Shawn Sitzman
Donna Sheen
Gus Tupper
Matt Banks
Jen Neely
Erin Weisman
Stacey Dunlay
Lisa Finkey
Trevor Robinson
Sarah Cavallaro
Dan Mayer

Absent:

Abigail Henderson
Clarence Thomas
Gary Gilmore
Justice Orum-Eikanger
Shad Bates
Steffany Stephenson
Vanessa Duran

Call to Order

I. Call to Order: Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

- a) Roll Call/Introductions
- b) Declaration of Quorum; a quorum was established with eighteen (18) members present.

II. Approval of Minutes:

November 19-20, 2020 meeting via Zoom; Melinda Cox motioned to approve the Minutes; Stacy Nelson seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

III. New Business:

a) 2021 Elections

Elections were held for positions in the Executive Committee. Nominations were cast by members of the SACJJ and Nicole Hauser was voted to be the Chair, Damon DeBernardi shall be the Vice Chair, and Jennifer Palser, Adrienne Freng, and Narina Nunez shall be the At-Large members of the Executive Committee.

Nominations were also cast for the Grants Committee. It was voted on that Stacy Nelson, Jannelle Ordiway, Nikki Sweets, Alexandra Bammel, Gabrielle Messick, Gabriel Gerrish, Damon DeBernardi, Adrienne Freng, Thomas Rose, Melinda Cox, and Nicole Hauser will serve on the Grants Committee.

b) Request to join Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ)

Brandon presented the membership request from the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) to discuss and vote on. This is sent to Brandon annually by the CJJ and the dues would be \$5,000.00. Benefits would include all SACJJ members having access to CJJ sponsored trainings. Jennifer Palser stated that she could access most of the trainings CJJ presented at no cost. She also stated that CJJ lobbies and a special condition of the SACJJ's funding is that the SACJJ shall not lobby.

Narina Nunez motioned and Adrienne Freng seconded the motion for the SACJJ to not join the CJJ; all in favor; motion carried.

c) Open Topic Discussion from Members

No topics for discussion were brought forth.

d) Public Comment Period

Gus Tupper from the Berkeley Law: Policy and Advocacy Clinic and Donna Sheen from the Wyoming Children's Law Center were present to discuss juvenile justice reform efforts currently underway between their two organizations. They discussed the issues with using fines and fees as a punishment in juvenile court cases stating that they are inefficient and counterproductive for reforming juveniles.

IV. On-Going Business – Updates From:

a) Governor's Office – Jen Davis

(i) Discussion around SACJJ Membership:

Jen discussed the membership communications and how they are relayed to and from the SACJJ when new applications are received by the Governor's Office as well as renewing applicants.

(ii) SACJJ Internship:

Jen discussed the internship with the SACJJ and it was decided not to move forward with the internship.

b) Council Membership – Brandon Schimelpfenig

Brandon stated that there are currently 25 members and are meeting all membership stipulations. He also stated there are a large portion of member's terms due to expire in August 2021. He stated those members are Abbey Kercher, Dakota Jackson, Damon DeBernardi, Erica Wood, Gary Gilmore, Jennifer Palser, Justice Orum-Eikanger, Melinda Cox, Narina Nunez, Nicole Hauser, Stacy Nelson, and Thomas Rose.

c) Budget Report/Grant Update –

Brandon informed the SACJJ that Title II 2018 has \$323.55 remaining. Title II 2019 has a full \$20,000.00 remaining. Title II 2020 also has a full \$20,000.00 remaining.

d) High Risk, High Need Youth – Craig Fisgus and Damon DeBernardi

Craig and Damon discussed the workgroup that they have been organizing. Craig stated there was an instance where a juvenile was in detention for nine months while awaiting placement which brought the issue to his attention. Craig went on to discuss

conversations he has had with juvenile justice stakeholders in Wyoming regarding the needs of these types of youth. Damon did not have anything to add.

- e) Interstate Compact for Juveniles State Council Membership – Maureen Clifton and Brandon Schimelpfenig (DFS)
Maureen stated with the ICJ State Council, Brandon has been working with the Governor’s Office to get Maureen Clifton and Shawn Sitzman appointed to represent their respective agencies as ex-officios. Christina McCabe with the AG’s office stated that the Judicial representative has been appointed with the Honorable Dawnessa Snyder; District Court Judge for District 2 in Rawlins.
- f) Non-Participating State Grant (VOA) – Craig Figus
Craig stated that COVID cases seem to be increasing at the RJDC in Casper. He then went to discuss the history of the Grants Monitoring System (GMS) and JustGrants which is the new system used to track federal grants. He also discussed the history of efforts to consolidate data sheets with the Community Juvenile Service Boards (CJSB) and his data sheet with VOA. He also went on to discuss the history of juvenile justice funding in Wyoming and also the new data collection efforts being made with the Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center.

V. Committee Reports and Committee Work Sessions

- a) Executive Committee – Nicole Hauser
Nicole will Chair the Executive committee as she is Chair of the SACJJ. Nicole also stated that the 2020 Annual Report was submitted to the Governor’s Office.
- b) Grants Committee – Nicole Hauser
Nicole will continue as Chair of the Grants committee.
- c) Best Practices – Stacy Nelson
Thomas Rose wanted to reiterate his desire to step down as Chair of the Best Practices committee. Stacy Nelson volunteered to be the Chair.
- d) Outreach Committee – Erica Wood
Erica Wood volunteered to Chair the Outreach committee.
- e) Data Committee – Adrienne Freng
Adrienne will remain the Chair.
- f) Legislative Committee – Damon DeBernardi
Damon will remain Chair. Damon stated the language in the bill concerning the elimination of CJSB funding is being reviewed by the committee. He also discussed a few other bills currently on the committee’s radar.
- g) Youth Member Committee – Dakota Jackson
No updates.

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VI. DFS Update/Report – Stacey Dunlay

As Lindsey Schilling was not available to present Stacey Dunlay, Program Manager, provided the DFS update in her absence. She provided and explained the DFS Step 3 budget reductions. They have been reviewed and unchanged by the Joint Appropriations Committee with the Wyoming Legislature. She also briefly spoke on a few other bills currently being tracked by the Department.

VII. Family First and QRTP Presentation – Stacey Dunlay (DFS)

Stacey and Lisa Finkey, Coordinator for the Children’s Justice Project with the Wyoming Supreme Court, presented on the Federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) and the Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP). Lisa started the presentation by briefly summarizing the FFPSA and QRTP to the SACJJ and its statutory standing. She stated the biggest takeaway from the FFPSA is shifting focus from reactive to prevention services for families and the funding connected to those services from the federal government. The services must also be trauma-informed and evidence-based.

VIII. Community Participation

a) Teton County DFS

Matthew Banks, Social Services Supervisor in Teton County, presented on trends that the Teton County DFS office is seeing in Jackson, WY. Matthew stated that there are currently three caseworkers in the office and that the juvenile services caseloads account for roughly 1/3 or 1/2 of the ongoing cases in Teton County. He also stated that about 35-50% of their caseloads are Spanish-speaking only so that sometimes presents a challenge during monthly meetings as well as Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings. He said the biggest offenses that Teton County tends to see with juvenile probation cases are marijuana cases as well as sexual offenses.

b) Teton County CJSB and Teton Youth and Family Services

Sarah Cavallaro, Executive Director for Teton Youth and Family Services (TYFS), presented on the Teton County CJSB as well as TYFS. She stated that the CJSB funds from DFS are used to supplement programs currently in operation such as substance abuse programs and Camp POST Card with law enforcement officers and juveniles. Sarah stated that all of the programs at TYFS are trauma-informed. She then briefly discussed the three program areas of TYFS.

c) Teton County Attorney’s Office

Erin Weisman, Teton County and Prosecuting Attorney, presented on the trends her office sees in the area. Erin briefly highlighted the Teton County Diversion program. She also stated that there are currently six (6) active diversion cases.

d) Region V BOCES: C-V Ranch

Dan Mayer, Executive Director for Region V B.O.C.E.S, presented on the programs they offer and the geographical area that it covers. Region V B.O.C.E.S is comprised of five (5) schools and an Outreach program consisting of C-V Ranch residential school in Wilson, WY; Sunrise day school in Hudson, WY; Hayden Peak Academy in Evanston, WY; Natural Bridge Academy in Glenrock, WY; and Roosevelt day school in Rock Springs, WY. The day school act as a “step up” program for local school districts and for C-V Ranch, the B.O.C.E.S V residential school, they function as a “step down” program. Dan then went into detail on the kinds of services that C-V Ranch and the day schools provide.

IX. Announcements

Next meeting is April 15-16, 2021 via Zoom.

X. Adjournment

Melinda Cox motioned to adjourn the meeting; Thomas Rose seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.