

**WYOMING STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE**

Meeting Minutes

January 13-14, 2022: Via Zoom

Agenda:

**Thursday, January 13, 2022**

- Call to Order
- Approval of Minutes
- New Business
- Ongoing Business
- Committee Reports

**Friday, January 14, 2022**

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

**Present:**

Abbey Kercher  
Adrienne Freng  
Dakota Jackson  
Damon DeBernardi  
Erica Wood  
Jennifer Palser  
Karen Solomon  
Logan Christie  
Melinda Cox  
Narina Nunez  
Nicole Hauser  
Nikki Sweets  
Stacy Nelson

**Ex-Officio Present:**

Alicia Johnson  
Christina McCabe  
H. Dawnessa Snyder  
Jen Davis  
Jo Ann Numoto  
Rep. Rachel Rodriguez-Williams  
Shawn Sitzman

**Others Present:**

Brandon Schimelpfenig  
Craig Figus  
Byron Oedekoven  
Tennessee Watson (WPR)  
Donna Sheen (WCLC)  
Lindsey Schilling  
Kiersti Willms  
Amanda Aldridge

**Absent:**

Abigail Henderson  
Alexandra Bammel  
Chris Jones  
Clarence Thomas  
Gabriel Gerrish  
Janelle Ordiway  
Ronald Howard  
Shad Bates  
Steffany Stephenson  
Vanessa Duran

**Via Proxy:**

**Call to Order**

**I. Call to Order: Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.**

- a) Roll Call/Introductions
- b) Declaration of Quorum; a quorum was established with 13 members present.

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

November 18-19, 2022 meeting in Newcastle; Stacy Nelson motioned to approve the draft minutes; Melinda Cox seconded the motion; Jennifer Palser then stated that there were a few minor corrections that needed to be made. Jennifer stated that on page 3 of the draft Minutes that there was an error stating that Natrona County RJDC would accept juveniles providing they provide a positive COVID test and Jennifer stated that it should be corrected to state that juveniles don't provide a positive COVID test. Jennifer also wanted to add that

there was a typo in committee reports. Byron Oedekoven wanted to add an amendment stating to please signify his attendance at the meeting within the meeting participants section. Stacey Nelson and Melinda Cox accepted the amendments and motioned to approve the Minutes with the amendments added; all in favor; motion carried.

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

#### **a) Elections**

Nicole Hauser discussed the election process with the SACJJ and also advised that she would not be seeking reelection nor accept a nomination for Chair this year. Narina Nunez nominated and motioned for Damon DeBernardi to serve as Chair; Damon accepted the nomination; Adrienne Freng seconded the motion; discussion was held; all in favor; motion approved. Narina nominated and motioned for Erica Wood to serve as Vice Chair; Erica accepted the nomination; Melinda Cox seconded the motion; discussion was held; all in favor; motion approved.

The Executive committee nominations were then discussed. A Zoom poll was created and sent out for nominations for the Executive committee. Nominations included the following individuals: Narina Nunez, Nicole Hauser, Melinda Cox, Stacy Nelson, Abbey Kercher, Adrienne Freng, Jennifer Palser, and Nikki Sweets. Votes were tallied for the individuals listed and Nicole Hauser, Melinda Cox, and Abbey Kercher were voted to the Executive committee as At-Large members. The Executive committee now consists of Damon DeBernardi as Chair, Erica Wood as Vice Chair, and Nicole Hauser, Melinda Cox, and Abbey Kercher as At-Large members.

Votes were then collected for the Grants committee. Damon would serve as Chair of the Grants committee. Stacy Nelson, Adrienne Freng, Nikki Sweets, Nicole Hauser, and Dakota Jackson all volunteered to serve on the committee; Melinda Cox motioned to approve the committee list; Narina Nunez seconded the motion; all in favor; motion approved.

Committee Chairs were discussed next and Brandon listed the committee Chairs as follows: Stacy Nelson for the Best Practices committee, Erica Wood and Dakota Jackson as Co-Chairs for the Outreach/Youth committees, Adrienne Freng for the Data committee, and Damon DeBernardi for the Legislative committee. All current chairs volunteered to serve again as Chairs of their respective committees. It was also discussed that before the next meeting in April that all committees will meet and decide who their Chairs will be moving forward as it states in the Bylaws that all committees will vote on their respective Chair.

#### **b) WY Home Matters Initiative: Juvenile Justice Workgroup**

Narina Nunez and Donna Sheen discussed a recent meeting held by the Department of Family Services (DFS) discussing certain items that DFS will be trying to accomplish and Narina mentioned that some of those items coincide with what the SACJJ is trying to accomplish.

#### **c) OJJDP Grant Submission Update**

Narina discussed the OJJDP Juvenile Justice System Reform Grant application results and she shared that Wyoming was not a recipient of one of the final awards but that OJJDP did provide feedback on the application. Nicole asked if Brandon could send the

application feedback out to the full SACJJ. Brandon stated that he would send it out via email.

- d) Open Topic Discussion from Members  
Nicole Hauser stated that Gary Gilmore has retired from the WBS and DFS. Narina stated that the Wyoming Youth Justice Coalition led by Donna Sheen is going to be asking the Legislature to reinstate CJSB funding in the upcoming session as well as educate the Legislature on the negative impacts that the elimination of the funding has had on the communities.
- e) Public Comment Period  
No topics brought forth.

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

- a) Council Membership – Brandon Schimelpfenig  
Brandon stated that the Governor’s Office has received two applications. Brandon also stated that there are two SACJJ members with terms that are due to expire on August 31, 2022; Chris Jones and Steffany Stephenson.
- b) Governor’s Office – Jen Davis  
Jen stated the Governor’s Office is getting ready for the legislative session coming up as well as going through the ARPA budget proposals that the Governor submitted to the Joint Appropriations Committee with the Legislature. Jen then discussed what sorts of proposals the Governor’s Office received.
- c) Budget Report/Grant Update – Brandon Schimelpfenig  
Title II 2019 has a remaining balance of \$4,795.55. 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.
- d) Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ) - Maureen Clifton and Brandon Schimelpfenig  
No updates.
- e) Non-Participating State Grant (VOA) – Craig Fiskus  
Craig stated that VOA is currently closing out the sub-grants to the seven counties that were awarded NPS funding. He stated the project period is due to close the end of June 2022. He also stated that VOA is working with the Wind River Intertribal Council and that their funding is due to run until the end of September 2022 but that if Craig continues to work with the Intertribal Council in his new work capacity that he will most likely give the NPS counties another quarter to fully expend their funding.

#### **V. Committee Reports**

- a) Executive Committee – Nicole Hauser  
Nicole stated that they submitted the 2021 Annual Report to the Governor’s Office as well as posted it up on the SACJJ website.
- b) Grants Committee – Nicole Hauser and Craig Fiskus  
No updates.

- c) Best Practices – Stacy Nelson

No updates.

- d) Outreach/Youth Committee – Erica Wood, Dakota Jackson

Erica stated that they arranged a meeting but not everyone could attend so the meeting was canceled. She also stated that Craig provided her information on historical awards for the Neal Madson Award so Erica took that information in to a trophy and engraving business in Gillette for them to create the plaque for Uinta County. She stated that the business is still working on creating the plaque. Karen Solomon joined the Outreach/Youth Committee.

No updates from Dakota regarding youth however Erica stated she is working with Dakota to set up a youth committee meeting before the next meeting.

- e) Data Committee – Adrienne Freng

No updates.

- f) Legislative Committee – Damon DeBernardi

Nicole stated that bylaw revisions for the SACJJ have been approved by the required 2/3 of the SACJJ.

Damon stated the Legislative committee is keeping track of HB0037 – Juvenile Justice Data Collection. Narina motioned to provide a recommendation from the SACJJ to the Governor in support of the spirit of the upcoming HB0037 - Juvenile Justice Data Collection; Adrienne Freng seconded the motion; all in favor; motion approved.

Nicole also brought up SF0013 – Temporary Delegation of Parental Authority. Damon provided details on the Senate file.

### **Friday, January 14, 2022**

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

Lindsey Schilling, Senior Administrator for the Social Services Division, was present to provide an update for the Department of Family Services. She stated that the new child welfare case management system is close to being implemented and that there should be an executed contract in place by April 1, 2022. She also stated that with Legislature starting soon that DFS would be keeping an eye on the DFS budget as well as juvenile justice or child protection related bills being introduced. She stated that the juvenile justice data collection bill is the agency's biggest priority heading into the session but that there is also a Medicaid expansion bill being introduced as well as a bill updating definitions of absenteeism and truancy. Byron Oedekoven with WASCOP also discussed the possibility of the Legislature restoring funding to the CJSBs around the state.

#### **VII. Community Participation**

- a) Laramie County DFS

Kiersti Willms, Juvenile Probation Supervisor, and Amanda Aldridge, Social Services Supervisor, were present to discuss trends that DFS is seeing in the Laramie County area. Kiersti stated that all the juvenile probation officers are also cross-trained in child protection services. She also said that there has been some turnover recently in the

juvenile probation unit and that out of her five workers, there are three new workers. She stated there are roughly 45 delinquencies and 28 CHINS petitions currently. She stated that there has been a huge upward trend in mental health issues with the juveniles. Kiersti stated that foster homes in the area are getting harder to come by for placements.

b) Laramie County CJSJPB

Tim Thorson was not available to present however Kiersti stated that with the loss of funding from DFS that those dollars also were going to Youth Alternatives for services; so with the loss of funding, services from Youth Alternatives to juveniles also decreased.

**VIII. Announcements**

The next meeting will be in Dubois on April 14-15, 2022.

**IX. Adjournment**

Narina Nunez motioned to adjourn the meeting; Jennifer Palser seconded the motion; all in favor; meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.