

WYOMING STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

Meeting Minutes

January 19-20, 2023: Cheyenne, WY

Agenda:

Thursday, January 19, 2023

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

Friday, January 20, 2023

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

Present:

Abbey Kercher
Adrienne Freng
Alexandra Bammel
Brittany Cangialosi
Damon DeBernardi
Erica Wood
Jennifer Palser
Melinda Cox
Narina Nunez
Nicole Hauser

Ex-Officio Present:

Alicia Johnson
Cameron Smith
H. James Causey
Jen Davis
Jo Ann Numoto
Maureen Clifton
Shawn Sitzman

Via Proxy:
Logan Christie
Ronald Howard
Stacy Nelson

Others Present:

Brandon Schimelpfenig (DFS)
Jacob Edwards (DFS)
Debra Hibbard (DFS)
Korin Schmidt (DFS)
Lindsey Schilling (DFS)
Byron Oedekoven (WASCO)
Laurel Wimbish (WYSAC)
Briana Montoya (CJP)
Brooke Benson (BBBS)
Avalon Skinner (BBBS)
Renee Hansen (LCCJSJPB)
Tim Thorson (LCCJSJPB)
Steve Hamaker (BBBS)
Chad Dunlay (DFS)
Amanda Aldridge (DFS)
Kiersti Willms (DFS)

Absent:

Clarence Thomas
Dakota Jackson
Gabriel Gerrish
Janelle Ordiway
Karen Solomon
Lila Konecky
Nikki Sweets
Ruth Ogden
Shad Bates
Stacy Becker

Call to Order

I. Call to Order: Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 1:00p.

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

II. Approval of Minutes:

November 17-18, 2022 meeting held in Buffalo; Narina Nunez motioned to approve the draft minutes; Nicole Hauser seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

III. New Business:

- a) 2023 Elections

Narina nominated Damon for Chair. Damon accepted the nomination. Nicole discussed a possible by-law change for the SACJJ making the Executive Committee a two-year term as opposed to one-year term that it is currently. Discussion was had on the topic. Nicole motioned to approve the current Executive committee list which consists of Damon DeBernardi as Chair; Erica Wood as Vice Chair; and Abbey Kercher, Nicole Hauser, and Melinda Cox as At-Large members; Jen Palser seconded the motion; all individuals on the list approved of their nominations; all in favor; motion approved.

Grants committee discussions were held. Brandon Schimelpfenig read the current list of Grants committee members prior to 2023 nominations. Nicole nominated Brittany Cangialosi for the Grants committee and Brittany accepted the nomination. Narina stated that she would like to stay on the Grants committee. Nicole nominated Abbey for the Grants committee and Abbey accepted her nomination. Melinda advised she would stay on the Grants committee however she would like to get off any other committees. Adrienne motioned to approve the list of names stated which included Brittany, Narina, Melinda, Nicole, Abbey, Adrienne as well Damon being the Chair; Narina and Erica seconded the motion; all in favor; motion approved. Adrienne then motioned for the list of names that were read for the Grants committee nominations be the 2023 Grants committee; Narina seconded the motion; all in favor; motion approved.

b) Legislation

Damon discussed HB009 Juvenile Courts-Concurrent Jurisdiction Clarification that is going to be introduced in the 2023 Legislature. Discussion was had by the SACJJ on the HB. Nicole brought up HB0019 State Indian Child Welfare Act Task Force and Maureen Clifton brought up SF0094 Federal Indian Child Welfare Act Codification. Jacob Edwards from Department of Family Services brought up HB0137 Minors-Sale and Purchase of Cannabidiol Prohibited. Discussion was had by the SACJJ on HB0137. Nicole also brought up HB0108 Sale of THC Vaping Devices and Edibles to Minors Prohibited and HB0065 988 Suicide Prevention. Nicole stated she would put together a list of all the bills before tomorrow's meeting on 01/20/23 so that the SACJJ can review which ones they would support or not support; Damon seconded the idea.

On 01/20/23 Narina motioned for the SACJJ to support House Bills (HB) and Senate Files (SF) mentioned during the meeting as they pertain to juvenile justice including HB0009, HB0019, HB0065, HB0090, HB0186, SF0048, and SF0094; Abbey seconded the motion; all in favor; motioned approved.

c) Child and Family Services Review-Department of Family Services

Debra Hibbard was present to discuss the upcoming federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) that is expected to be a state-led review as opposed to a federally led review. The dates for file reviews have been tentatively set for November 2023, December 2023, and January 2024. During those months, DFS

as well as family services stakeholders will be reviewing three (3) different districts around the state. During these reviews, the reviewers will be looking at case files, conducting family and stakeholder interviews as well as completing a federal online review instrument. Debra then discussed what the review process would look like in-depth.

- d) Open Topic Discussion from Members
No topics brought forth.
- e) Public Comment
No topics brought forth.

IV. On-Going Business – Updates From:

- a) Council Membership – Brandon Schimelpfenig
Brandon stated that Gabi Farmer with the Governor’s office received an application from Chris Jones; Superintendent at the Wyoming Girl’s School. Gabi said that she has not received an application from the Superintendent at the Wyoming Boy’s School, Dale Weber, yet however Dale recently reached out to Brandon stating that he would be submitting his application soon. Brandon also stated that there were a few other applications submitted by individuals for the Executive Committee to review. The Executive Committee did not have any issues with the appointment of the individuals so Brandon stated he would send communication to Gabi for the Governor to move forward with appointments.
- b) Governor’s Office – Jen Davis
Jen stated that the Governor’s Office continues its efforts around supporting mental health in Wyoming. She also stated that the Governor’s Office has created a website providing updates on their efforts regarding addressing mental health. Jen also stated that the Governor’s Office will also be convening another round-table discussion regarding education for mental health services.
- c) Juvenile Detention Risk Assessment (JDRA)
Adrienne provided a brief update on the JDRA and its feasibility moving forward. Adrienne highlighted the data that is being collected by DFS as well as the need for an assessment for detaining juveniles. Adrienne also discussed the plausibility of other options instead of the current JDRA. Discussion was had by the SACJJ regarding the usefulness of the JDRA and the effects if it were to be eliminated.
- d) Budget Report/Grant Update – Brandon Schimelpfenig
Brandon stated that Title II 2019 has been fully expended and Title II 2020 still has \$15,098.45 remaining; Title II 2021 has \$30,000.00 remaining; and Title II 2022 has been awarded in the amount of \$30,000.00 and has the full amount remaining.
- e) Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ) - Maureen Clifton

Maureen had received a request to present on the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC), ICJ, Multiethnic Placement Act (MEPA), and the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). Maureen first presented ICPC detailing that Wyoming is a member of the ICPC Compact and stated that it is the Compact used when transferring children across state lines for the purposes of foster care or adoption. She also stated that the annual dues for Wyoming to be a member of this Compact are \$11,300.00 and mostly go towards maintenance of the ICPC case management system called NEICE (National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise). Next, she presented on ICJ and stated that it is the Compact used when transferring juveniles across state lines for purposes of maintaining probation or parole supervision as well returning juveniles to their home state when they have fled across state lines. She stated the annual dues for ICJ from Wyoming are \$16,200.00 and go towards the case management system called UNITY (Uniform Nationwide Interstate Tracking for Youth) as well as personnel costs with the national office for ICJ. Maureen then discussed MEPA and its purpose which is that any agency that receives federal dollars cannot delay or discriminate against a prospective foster parent, adoptive parent, or a child due to their race, ethnicity, or national origin. Lastly, Maureen discussed ICWA and its purpose which is to keep Native American children within Native American families; especially their respective tribe. Maureen was requested to provide contact information for E. Shoshone and N. Arapaho to the SACJJ and Maureen stated she would contact Jen Neely, District Manager for District 9 and Tribal Liaison for DFS, to obtain that information and once received she said she would send it to Brandon where he would then forward it to the SACJJ.

Friday, January 20, 2023

V. DFS Update/Report

Korin Schmidt, Director for DFS, and Lindsey Schilling, Senior Administrator for the Social Services Division, were present to discuss updates within DFS since the November 2022 meeting. Lindsey started by discussing the upcoming CFSR within DFS and the state of Wyoming. She also discussed the CJSB Reform brief document that was disseminated to the CJSBs and SACJJ. Lindsey then discussed updates on where DFS is at with the WYOSAFE case management system. Jacob Edwards then discussed the juvenile justice data collection system efforts. Lindsey then briefly listed and discussed the legislative bills that DFS is currently tracking including HB0009, HB0019, HB0090, HB0111, HB0186, SF0024, SF0079, SF0111, and SF0135. Lindsey also said that Korin has been keeping track of the budget bill being proposed in legislature. Lindsey discussed the prevention plan for DFS was approved in December 2022. Korin briefly discussed the issue of high-needs children of Wyoming being ordered to the Wyoming Boys School and Wyoming Girls School as the lower-level facilities are becoming strained due to staffing shortages.

VI. Committee Reports

a) Executive Committee – Damon DeBernardi

Damon stated the focus right now for the committee is the CJSB reform and JDRA discussions. Abbey briefly discussed the importance of collaboration between Governor's councils and boards to achieve their respective goals.

b) Grants Committee – Damon DeBernardi

Damon stated there are no updates to report.

c) Data Committee – Adrienne Freng

Adrienne was not present for an update however Damon stated that the committee is focusing on the JDRA right now. Melinda Cox stated she would like to be removed from the Data committee. Jacob Edwards with DFS volunteered to assist the Data committee with juvenile justice data efforts. Adrienne communicated with Brandon prior to today's meeting and stated she would like to remain as Chair.

d) Best Practices Committee – Stacy Nelson

Stacy was not present for an update however Erica Wood stated there were no updates. Jen Palser stated she would volunteer to be the Chair.

e) Outreach/Youth Committee – Erica Wood, Dakota Jackson

Erica stated that they met prior to this meeting and discussed different communities that have received the data transfer agreements from WYSAC regarding CJSB data collection and the Reroute system. The committee is looking at creating a training for new members regarding the Neal Madsen Excellence in Juvenile Justice Award given annually to a community exhibiting exceptional work in juvenile justice in Wyoming. Brittany volunteered to be Co-Chair of the Outreach/Youth committee.

f) Legislative Committee – Damon DeBernardi

Melinda Cox requested to be removed from the Legislative committee. Erica Wood stated she would like to join the committee. Nicole Hauser volunteered to be the Chair of the Legislative committee.

VII. CJSB Reform Discussion

Brandon Schimelpfenig briefly summarized the CJSB reform efforts that have taken place over the past year including the work completed by the reform groups. Those recommendations were compiled and drafted into a report to be given to the Wyoming State Legislature which was then sent out to the SACJJ for comment. Brandon also stated that DFS is putting more emphasis on the CJSBs to provide preventative services through WY Home Matters. Tim Thorson with the Laramie County Community Juvenile Services Joint Powers Board voiced his concerns and asked if a final copy could be sent out to the CJSBs and SACJJ for final review before it is sent to the Legislature. Brandon stated that DFS administration still wants to edit the report a little more and then it will be sent out to the SACJJ and CJSBs for comment before it is routed to the Legislature.

VIII. Community Participation

a) Laramie County DFS

Chad Dunlay, DFS District Manager for Laramie County, Kiersti Willms, Probation Supervisor, and Amanda Aldridge, Social Services Supervisor, were present to discuss trends in Laramie County that DFS is seeing regarding juvenile justice. Chad stated that Laramie County has a new District Attorney and Sheriff. He stated that during the COVID-19 pandemic, probation levels as well as child protection intakes were down but are now starting to return to pre-pandemic levels. Chad also mentioned that the Laramie County DFS office has really emphasized the importance of family-team meetings with each case. He stated that the benefits of these meetings are to maintain a positive relationship with the family as well as listening to the family on what their needs are and providing services in a timely manner. Kiersti discussed data within Laramie County as it pertains to juvenile justice. She said that there has been an uptick in CHINS filings within the past six months and during 2022, Laramie County saw roughly 127 juvenile petitions being filed which includes delinquencies as well as CHINS with approximately 25 of those being dismissed prior to adjudication. Kiersti also mentioned that Laramie County is struggling with being able to provide mental health services for juveniles. Kiersti and Chad then discussed staffing numbers for Laramie County and that they have been struggling to retain staff with the nature of the work.

b) Laramie County CJSJPB

Tim Thorson, administrator of the Laramie County Community Juvenile Services Joint Powers Board (LCCJSJPB), was present to discuss the LCCJSJPB. He mentioned that the community's crisis center director, Jamie Eaton, recently took a position in Torrington and has since resigned as the crisis center director in Cheyenne. He also mentioned recent changes at the District Attorney's office and Sheriff's office. Tim mentioned that he would like to see Laramie County bring back a group home as they are currently lacking that service.

IX. Announcements

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 20-21, 2023 in Douglas, WY.

X. Adjournment

Nicole Hauser motioned to adjourn the meeting; Narina Nunez seconded the motion; all in favor; meeting was adjourned at 12:01p.