

# WYOMING STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

## Meeting Minutes

June 17-18, 2021: Afton, WY

### Agenda:

#### **Thursday, June 17, 2021**

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

#### **Friday, June 18, 2021**

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

#### **Present:**

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

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

Christina McCabe  
Ashley Gregorio  
Jen Davis  
Jo Ann Numoto  
Maureen Clifton  
Shawn Sitzman

#### **Via Proxy:**

Logan Christie

#### **Others Present:**

Brandon Schimelpfenig  
Craig Fisgus  
Lindsey Schilling  
Debra Hibbard  
Donna Sheen  
Gus Tupper  
Ashlea Berger  
Matt Banks  
Spencer Allred

#### **Absent:**

Abigail Henderson  
Clarence Thomas  
Gabriel Gerrish  
Gary Gilmore  
Janelle Ordiway  
Justice Orum-Eikanger  
Ronald Howard  
Shad Bates  
Steffany Stephenson  
Thomas Rose  
Vanessa Duran

### **Call to Order**

#### **I. Call to Order: Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.**

- a) Roll Call/Introductions
- b) Declaration of Quorum; a quorum was established with 15 members present.

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

April 15-16, 2021 meeting via Zoom; Damon DeBernardi motioned to approve the draft minutes; Stacy Nelson seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

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

- a) Open Topic Discussion from Members

Nicole Hauser brought up the Joint Judiciary interim meeting that Narina Nunez attended in-person. The SACJJ discussed the topics that were brought forth by the Joint Judiciary committee. Narina stated the key things that the Joint Judiciary is interested in are data; how many juvenile go through Single Point of Entry; etc. She also stated that they are interested in the Community Juvenile Services Boards (CJSBs) and what

they do for their communities. She also mentioned that Joint Judiciary is interested in committing to a study of the juvenile justice system in Wyoming with the Council for State Governments (CSG). She said it would last approximately one year and then those results and recommendations would be brought back to the Joint Judiciary for discussion. Nicole asked that if any SACJJ member is approached by a Legislative member to please funnel those discussions back to her so that there can be unified responses sent and no conflicting messages.

- b) Public Comment Period  
No topics brought forth.

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

- a) Council Membership – Brandon Schimelpfenig  
Brandon stated that there are quite a few members with terms that are getting ready to expire at the end of August. Gabrielle Messick, who was a youth member, has resigned from the SACJJ. Debra Hibbard from the Department of Family Services also wanted to add that any youth who is a Chafee candidate (foster care youth after the age of 14) that DFS can provide a stipend for their time on the SACJJ.

- b) Governor’s Office – Jen Davis  
Jen requested topics and concerns from the SACJJ to bring to the Governor regarding juvenile justice. Nicole stated that she would like the SACJJ to be involved in the ongoing juvenile justice discussions with the Joint Judiciary committee. Jen stated she would relay that back to the Governor and the Chairs of the committee and see what their plan is moving forward. Jen asked if there is anything that the SACJJ thought Joint Judiciary should be looking at. Nicole stated the funding being stripped and its impact to counties regarding the loss of those juvenile justice services should be looked at as well as data around the state needing to be centralized.

Jen stated that the Governor’s Office is continuously working on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) plan for Wyoming. She also stated that the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) funding and plan are being rolled out to the public. The Governor’s Health Task Force is continuing to meet. Nicole asked Jen if it was true that the extra ARPA and CARES Act funding is not going to be utilized for social services but rather for oil, gas, and roads. Jen stated that there will be funding that will be allocated to social services and communities.

- 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. Brandon also stated that he has received the solicitation for Title II 2021.
- d) Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ) - Maureen Clifton and Brandon Schimelpfenig  
Maureen stated that there have been a couple appointments from the Wyoming Legislature to the ICJ Council; Senator Lynn Hutchings as the primary representative and Representative Rachel Rodriguez-Williams as an alternate. Adrienne Freng motioned to accept Rep. Rodriguez-Williams as the alternate representative; Damon DeBernardi seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.
- e) Non-Participating State Grant (VOA) – Craig Fisgus  
Craig stated that the juvenile detention centers around the state have resumed normal intake procedures at least for the time being. Craig reviewed Wyoming’s compliance

data with the SACJJ. He also shared that he presented to the Wyoming Independent Living coordinators with Brian DeTavernier from DFS.

## **V. Committee Reports and Committee Work Sessions**

- a) Executive Committee – Nicole Hauser  
Nicole stated that the Executive Committee will be the point-of-contact for Joint Judiciary should any questions come in from them to the SACJJ.
- b) Grants Committee – Nicole Hauser  
Nicole stated there were no updates that were not already provided in Craig's update with the Non-Participating State Grant.
- c) Best Practices – Stacy Nelson  
No updates.
- d) Outreach Committee – Erica Wood  
Erica stated that the committee discussed possible recipients of the 2021 Neal Madson Excellence in Juvenile Justice Award and narrowed the options down to Teton County and Uinta County. Erica Wood motioned to approve Uinta County as the recipient; Adrienne Freng seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.
- e) Data Committee – Adrienne Freng  
Adrienne discussed terminating the MOU with DFS for JJ ROM and pursuing the other option with WYSAC.
- f) Legislative Committee – Damon DeBernardi  
Damon stated that in order to vote on revised bylaws, 2/3 of the SACJJ must be present. Nicole stated that they will most likely have to be voted on by email.
- g) Youth Member Committee – Dakota Jackson  
No updates.

**Friday, June 18, 2021**

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

Lindsey stated that supplemental funding has become available for certain programs within DFS but they have strict rules on how they can be spent. Craig Fisgus asked when CARES Act funding needed to be spent by. Lindsey responded by stating that the original allotment of CARES Act funding needs to be spent by December 2021. She also stated that some additional funding has been received for Adult Protective Services (APS) and that needs to be spent by 2023 and 2025 respectively. Narina Nunez asked Lindsey if anyone has been advocating for keeping the CJSBs in place so that the progress that they have made since their inception is not lost. Lindsey presented a short update on the CJSBs and the proposed budget reductions that were requested of the agency. Adrienne Freng mentioned possibly using CARES Act funding as a bridge until funds rebound for the CJSBs. Lindsey stated that all requests for CARES Act funding need to be submitted in writing with a comprehensive assessment on what they will be used on. Lindsey stated DFS would be willing to partner with the SACJJ on submitting an application for the CJSBs. Lindsey stated that the application would need to be submitted to DFS by June 30, 2021.

## **VII. Community Participation**

### **a) Lincoln County DFS**

Matt Banks, Supervisor for Lincoln County DFS, and Ashlea Berger, Social Services Worker, were present to discuss trends in Lincoln County that DFS is seeing regarding juvenile justice. Matt stated the makeup of cases in Lincoln County is roughly 60% protective services and 40% juvenile services. He stated that Lincoln County is starting to see a lot of population spillover from Teton County with residents moving from California, Texas, and New York.

### **b) Lincoln County Attorney's Office/CJSB**

Spencer Allred, Lincoln County Attorney, stated that last school year there were 70 new kids from out of state. He stated they have been seeing an upward trend of alcohol and truancy offenses in the area. Spencer stated that the CJSB has partnered with the school system in Lincoln County for diversion.

## **VIII. Announcements**

Next meeting is September 16-17, 2021 in Basin, WY. There will also be a Zoom video-conference option for those that are not able or do not wish to travel.

## **IX. Adjournment**

Damon DeBernardi adjourned the meeting via acclamation. Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.