

**WYOMING STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE**

Meeting Minutes

November 18-19, 2021: Newcastle, WY

Agenda:

**Thursday, November 18, 2021**

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

**Friday, November 19, 2021**

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

**Present:**

Abbey Kercher  
Adrienne Freng  
Alexandra Bammel  
Chris Jones  
Damon DeBernardi  
Erica Wood  
Jennifer Palser  
Karen Solomon  
Logan Christie  
Melinda Cox  
Narina Nunez  
Nicole Hauser  
Ronald Howard  
Stacy Nelson

**Ex-Officio Present:**

Ashley Gregorio  
H. Dawnessa Snyder  
Jo Ann Numoto  
Shawn Sitzman

**Via Proxy:**

**Others Present:**

Brandon Schimelpfenig  
Craig Fisgus  
Byron Oedokoven  
Walter Ko (Teton Truth)  
Lindsey Schilling  
Raegin Duvall

**Absent:**

Abigail Henderson  
Clarence Thomas  
Dakota Jackson  
Gabriel Gerrish  
Janelle Ordiway  
Melinda Cox  
Nikki Sweets  
Shad Bates  
Steffany Stephenson  
Vanessa Duran

**Call to Order**

**I. Call to Order: Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.**

- a) Roll Call/Introductions
- b) Declaration of Quorum; a quorum was established with 12 members present.

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

September 16-17, 2021 meeting in Basin; Stacy Nelson motioned to approve the draft minutes; Narina Nunez seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

**III. New Business:**

- a) JDRA Discussion – WASCOP, Byron Oedekoven  
Byron responded to questions from the SACJJ regarding the fidelity of the Wyoming JDRA, where it was based off of, and some other questions. Byron started off by stating that the JDRA discussion first started around 2009 when the SACJJ started to ask about juvenile detention rates in Wyoming and any forms associated with them. It was then

enacted by Wyoming Legislature in 2012 that a form be created and that a select committee also be created tasked with developing the form to aid in decision making on whether or not to place a juvenile in detention. The committee researched forms used by California, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico and, Colorado. The decision was made to ultimately follow through with a “Wyoming version” of the Missouri form. Collection of the assessments is completed by respective Department of Family Services (DFS) personnel who then send them to Brandon Schimelpfenig with DFS. Training is conducted by WASCOP. Byron also explained the override process should a juvenile score lower on the form but needs to be detained or vice-versa. Nicole Hauser stated that ongoing reports regarding the JDRA will be tasked to the Best Practices committee of the SACJJ.

b) 2022 SACJJ Meeting Dates/Locations

Nicole Hauser discussed calendar dates with the SACJJ. There was then discussion had amongst the SACJJ on where to hold the meetings based upon recent previous locations. Cheyenne was proposed for January 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022; Buffalo was proposed for April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022; Evanston was proposed for June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022; Rawlins was proposed for September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022; and Dubois was proposed for November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Due to weather considerations during April and November, it was decided to flip the location for April to Dubois and November to Buffalo.

Final locations and dates for 2022 were finalized as follows: January 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> in Cheyenne; April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in Dubois; June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> in Evanston; September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> in Rawlins; and November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> in Buffalo; Narina Nunez motioned to approve the 2022 dates and locations; Stacy Nelson seconded the motion; all in favor; motion approved.

c) Annual Report Recommendations

Recommendations for the 2021 Annual Report were discussed amongst the SACJJ. Key discussion topics were to remain a Non-Participating State (NPS) with the Juvenile justice Delinquency and Prevention Act (JJDP) and also try to identify the non-profit entity that might be applying for the next funding cycle’s grant cycle for the NPS grant with OJJDP. Restoring funding for the CJSBs was also discussed.

d) Open Topic Discussion from Members

No topics brought forth.

e) Public Comment Period

No topics brought forth.

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

a) Council Membership – Brandon Schimelpfenig

Brandon stated the SACJJ is doing well with membership and also stated that there are two members whose terms are due to expire in August 2022; Chris Jones and Steffany Stephenson. Narina asked if the two youth members that had applied were given notification about their applications. Brandon stated that he would check with the Governor’s Office to see if there have been any updates.

- b) Governor's Office – Jen Davis  
Jen was called to an emergency meeting and apologized that she was not able to present however she provided an update to Brandon Schimelpfenig to present to the SACJJ. He stated that the Governor's Office is still working through ARPA proposals and to let her know if the SACJJ has any questions.
- c) Budget Report/Grant Update – Brandon Schimelpfenig  
Title II 2019 has a remaining balance of \$7,399.79. Title II 2020 still has the full \$20,000.00 remaining. Brandon stated that he currently waiting on a response from OJJDP on Title II 2021.
- d) Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ) - Maureen Clifton and Brandon Schimelpfenig  
Brandon stated that UNITY is still running smoothly. Brandon also stated an advisory opinion from the National Office for ICJ on what to do if a holding state's judge refuses to take action on a requisition request for runaway or delinquent youth if there is no active missing person request in NCIC. The advisory opinion stated that "when a home state judge has entered a requisition for the non-voluntary return of a youth, the holding state judge cannot refuse to take action on the requisition under the ICJ based on the fact that there is no active missing persons record for the youth in NCIC."
- e) Non-Participating State Grant (VOA) – Craig Fiskus  
Craig stated Campbell County has not deviated much from operations from the previous update Craig provided in September. He also stated Laramie County JSC has resumed taking out-of-county juveniles. Sweetwater County is currently not taking out-of-county juveniles as they are currently managing active COVID cases within the facility. Natrona County JDC will accept out-of-county juveniles provided they don't give a positive COVID test. He also reiterated that he will not be conducting compliance monitoring due increased budget constraints from the NPS grant.
- f) Joint Judiciary Committee – Narina Nunez  
Narina stated that during the recent Joint Judiciary meeting that they had got so far behind that a presentation from the SACJJ was not needed.

## **V. Committee Reports**

- a) Executive Committee – Nicole Hauser  
Nicole stated that they met as a committee in October and set the November meeting agenda. They will refine the 2021 Annual Report.
- b) Grants Committee – Nicole Hauser and Craig Fiskus  
No updates.
- c) Best Practices – Stacy Nelson  
Stacy stated that she apologized and they did not have a meeting. Stacy did stated that they would be taking on updates regarding the JDRA for the SACJJ.
- d) Outreach Committee – Erica Wood  
Erica stated that they did not have a formal meeting but that she did receive feedback from a majority of council members regarding revisions to the procedure for awarding the Neal Madson Excellence in Juvenile Justice Award. She stated that she drafted up

the procedures and that she would be sending it out to the SACJJ to review before finalizing.

- e) Data Committee – Adrienne Freng  
No update as Adrienne was not present.
- f) Legislative Committee – Damon DeBernardi  
Damon stated that the committee will be drafting up a letter to the Governor stating that the Council supports the intent of the Joint Judiciary committee juvenile justice data collection and reporting bill; 22LSO-0111. Damon stated that he sent out the highlighted changes to the bylaws and requested if all SACJJ members could review the changes. Damon motioned to draft up the letter of support regarding the intention of 22LSO-0111; Narina Nunez seconded the motion; all in favor; motion approved.
- g) Youth Member Committee – Dakota Jackson  
No updates as Dakota was not present.

**Friday, November 19, 2021**

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

Lindsey provided an update regarding the recent Joint Judiciary committee meeting and proposed legislation. She discussed highlights of 22LSO-0111 and what DFS' involvement will look like for that bill. She also discussed a bill coming out of Joint Education and the topic of habitual truancy and absenteeism regarding neglect and CHINS petitions; 22LSO-01-03.

**VII. Community Participation**

a) Weston County DFS

Raegin Duvall, Supervisor for the Weston County DFS office, was present to discuss trends the local office is seeing. Raegin stated there is one worker for Weston County that is assigned child protection and juvenile probation cases. She stated that the cases filed in district court that are then assigned to DFS probation have been trending up in the recent years. She stated that marijuana and alcohol offenses have been trending up with juveniles in the area. She stated a need of Weston County is for the area to establish a structured Single Point of Entry (SPOE) and also Outpatient treatment services.

b) Weston County Attorney

A representative from the County Attorney's office was not present to provide a presentation.

**VIII. Announcements**

**IX. Adjournment**

Narina Nunez motioned to adjourn the meeting; Abbey Kercher seconded the motion; all in favor; meeting was adjourned at 9:39 a.m.