

# WYOMING STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

## Meeting Minutes

June 18-19, 2020: Via ZOOM due to COVID-19

### Agenda:

#### **Thursday, June 18, 2020**

- Call to Order
- Approval of Minutes
- DFS Update/Report
- Governor's Office Report
- Community Participation
- New Business
- On-Going Business
- Adjournment

#### **Friday, June 19, 2020**

- Strategic Planning Session

#### **Present:**

Abbey Kercher  
Adrienne Freng  
Chris Jones  
Dakota Jackson  
Damon DeBernardi  
Erica Wood  
Jennifer Palser  
Melinda Cox  
Nicole Hauser  
Thomas Rose

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

Christina McCabe  
Dani Sullivan  
Jen Davis  
Jo Ann Numoto

#### **Via Proxy:**

Stacy Nelson

#### **Others Present:**

Brandon Schimelpfenig  
Craig Figus  
Ashley Gregorio  
Donna Sheen  
Lindsey Schilling  
Korin Schmidt  
Holly Law  
Eric Williams  
Ariel Calmes

#### **Absent:**

Clarence Thomas  
Gary Gilmore  
Justice Orum-Eikanger  
Shad Bates  
Steffany Stephenson

### **Call to Order**

#### **I. Call to Order: Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.**

a) Roll Call/Introductions

b) Declaration of Quorum; a quorum was established with eleven (11) members present.

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

April 16, 2020 meeting via Zoom; Melinda Cox motioned to approve the Minutes; Damon DeBernardi seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

### **III. DFS Update/Report:**

Lindsey Schilling gave an update of what Bills impact the SACJJ. She informed everyone about the following House & Rules Act 3 “Qualified Residential Treatment Center” tied to Family First Prevention Act of 2018 which is federally funded. The Department of Family Services (DFS) created a Qualified Residential Treatment Provider (QRTP) program endorsement to add to the license; House & Rules Act 40 “Court Automation Fees” increased court fees and Lindsey stated it has no impact on the Department; House & Rules Act 84 “Select Committee on Tribal Relations” will be a permanent joint committee that can now develop and introduce legislation; and House & Rules Act 41 “Office of Guardian Ad Litem” statute moved the program out of Public Defender office to stand alone.

There was a staff request for the Wyoming Children’s Trust Fund to add two positions. This is a federally funded grant that DFS provides fiscal oversight for WCTF. The Enterprise for Technology Services (ETS) agency requested \$14,000,000.00 in state general funds and \$14,000,000.00 in federal funds for Technology processes. They were asked to consolidate all the agencies requests and prioritize the agencies that needed the funding to improve their systems. DFS was tasked with reducing their budget 7-10% and to have their drafted budget to the Governor by July 1<sup>st</sup>. There will then be another 10% reduction proposal.

### **IV. Governor’s Office Report:**

The SACJJ asked questions about members wishing to be reappointed. Jen Davis stated she will get more clarification on who all has sent their intent to be reappointed. The SACJJ still needs one more Youth member to be in compliance with grant requirements. Jen is looking and reaching out to her contacts and there is a flyer for the colleges but with COVID this has been difficult. The Governor’s office applies for National Governor Institute for learning about Substance Abuse and Incarceration learning collaborative with House Bill 3F1 and DOC. The Wyoming Department of Health is a quality assurance group and were awarded Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) funding. The Governor’s office has been in search for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and distributing to the counties as requested.

### **V. Community Participation:**

#### **a) Uinta County Attorney’s Office:**

Ariel Calmes from the Uinta County Attorney’s Office stated that they current have 27 cases in their system but normally there are around 35. There are eight active child protection and 27 delinquent cases.

#### **b) Uinta County DFS:**

Holly Law, supervisor in the Evanston DFS office, informed the SACJJ that she currently has seven social services workers and two aids which all are all cross trained. Gus who has worked for the State of Wyoming for 19 years specializes in juvenile Probation. His caseload is 18 to 25 cases normally and as of today he has 20. In the Evanston office, there are 5 to 10 cases also CPS cases included. In Lyman and Kemmerer there are no cases at this time. Holly then detailed what sorts of cases they typically see in the area. Holly said that she has great community services with their communities.

#### **c) Uinta County CJSB:**

Eric Williams, Youth Services Coordinator for Uinta County, talked about his Diversion Programs and the results. He does not give citations most get diversion this helps keeps the juveniles records clean and helps cut paperwork for the local law enforcement. He has an 83% succession completion rate. He has a Valley Summer Program to give kids beneficial activity.



## **VI. New Business:**

### **a) CJSB Overview-**

Brandon Schimelpfenig talked about the current counties that are working with CJSB. Albany, Campbell, Carbon, Crook, Fremont, Johnson, Laramie, Lincoln, Natrona, Sheridan, Sweetwater, Teton, Uinta and Washakie Counties all participate. Laramie, Lincoln and Sheridan are Joint Powers Board and they can make financial decisions and not need the courts to make them. These are a group of individuals from local agencies and entities within the designated community. These boards have are required to have designated individuals serving on the board from specified organizations; local Family Services, local education, public health, law enforcement, etc. These boards look at the local juvenile services in the area and allocate their contracted funding where they can improve services. The contracts are normally two years but with current budget reductions; the current contracts have been reduced to one year's worth of funding.

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

### **a) Council Membership –**

Brandon Schimelpfenig informed the SACJJ that they have 17 members and another youth member is still needed. As of August 31<sup>st</sup> there are terms expiring for three members; Adrienne Freng, Clarence Thomas, and Shad Bates. The SACJJ needs a replacement for Clarence with tribal representation and as an elected official.

### **b) ROM MOU –**

Brandon Schimelpfenig informed the SACJJ that the signed and executed MOU was received and they are moving forward on data. The data committee is currently working with specific counties and Craig Fisgus on receiving updates on data sheets and fine tuning the data collection.

### **c) Budget Report/Grant Update –**

Brandon informed the SACJJ that Title II 2019 has \$20,856.65 remaining. Brandon stated this is due to the SACJJ not traveling due to COVID-19 as well as an error being found in 2018. The expenditures were put back into Title II 2019 as opposed to 2018. Title II 2020 has been submitted for the full amount of \$20,000.00.

### **d) Non-Participating State Grant (VOA) –**

Craig Fisgus talked about him not conducting compliance visits due to COVID. He stated that Laramie and Sweetwater County detention facilities are not taking kids from out of the county and detention center in Casper is only taking felony cases, if they are not from a county with rising levels in COVID cases. Campbell County juvenile detention center is open at this time. Craig informed that the OJJDP still has not awarded the 2020 funding and expressed his frustration with the delay.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

Due to the second day of the SACJJ meeting being a Strategic Planning session, the full SACJJ did not need to meet. The Minutes will reflect that Narina Nunez motioned to adjourn the meeting; Erica Wood seconded the motion; all in favor; meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Friday, June 19, 2020

**IX. Strategic Planning Session**

8:00 a.m. – Outreach/Youth Committees

-Previous goals for Outreach Committee: Responsible for raising awareness of juvenile justice issues; public relations with juvenile justice stakeholders as well as the general public; collaborate with Volunteers of America Northern Rockies (VOA); assists in outreach to youth members; planning and organization of the SACJJ's annual community award for best practices.

-Current goals: Same but to add drafting a new letter to counties and possibly meeting with local communities before meetings to help inform about CJSB benefits.

-Previous goals for Youth Committee: Provides an opportunity for youth members to become familiar with their role on the SACJJ; recruit youth members; develop ways to better inform the SACJJ about the youth perspective.

-Current Goals: Continue to search for youth members with flyers and by word-of-mouth. They discussed funding for prospective members to help them with the financial requirement for the meeting. There was also talk about assigning a mentor to the youth members to help them navigate the requirements of the SACJJ.

9:00 a.m. – Legislative Committee

-Previous goals: Ongoing tracking of any relevant state and federal legislative issues; assisting in the development of draft legislation by the SACJJ (as needed); reviews SACJJ's state and federal statutory obligations.

-Current goals: Same with new time frames.

10:00 a.m. – Best Practices Committee

-Previous goals: Promotion of and focus on the four core protections (JJCPA Compliance Monitoring). Be aware of and notify the SACJJ of compliance visits as scheduled by VOA. Identify resources and services around juvenile justice, who is utilizing best practices, and examine how these resources may be leveraged.

-Current goals: Have the SACJJ help with the definition of Diversion and also Balance and Restorative Justice. The SACJJ needs to decide what the definition is and share with the counties. They want to promote collaboration and communication between all the counties and what is working in their areas and what is not. There were discussions about how to help improve the counties' strategic plans and what their continuum of care looks like. They also discussed needing the Governor's priorities and how to achieve them. If a liaison or someone could assist in communicating the wishes from the Governor's office, that would help the SACJJ.

11:00 a.m. – Data Committee

-Previous goals for Data Committee: Responsible for formulating recommendations related to comprehensive, meaningful data collection and analysis. The committee is also heavily involved in the formation and revisions to Juvenile Justice (JJ) ROM.

-Current goals: Take out the funding piece for ROM and to keep the current goals. They discussed creating a list of point-of-contact for each county so that everyone knows who best to contact for juvenile justice data.