

**WYOMING STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE**

Meeting Minutes

September 16-17, 2021: Basin, WY

Agenda:

**Thursday, September 16, 2021**

- Call to Order
- Approval of Minutes
- WYSAC Presentation
- New Business
- Ongoing Business

**Friday, September 17, 2021**

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

**Present:**

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

**Ex-Officio Present:**

Christina McCabe  
H. Dawnessa Snyder  
Jo Ann Numoto  
Maureen Clifton  
Shawn Sitzman

**Via Proxy:**

**Others Present:**

Brandon Schimelpfenig  
Craig Figus  
Hattie Calvert  
Laurel Wimbish  
Andria Blackwood  
Janelle Simpson  
Donna Sheen  
Steve Hamaker  
Kevin Armstrong  
Bob James  
Jacquelyn Wasser

**Absent:**

Abigail Henderson  
Chris Jones  
Clarence Thomas  
Gabriel Gerrish  
Janelle Ordiway  
Logan Christie  
Shad Bates  
Steffany Stephenson  
Vanessa Duran

**Call to Order**

**I. Call to Order: Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.**

- a) Roll Call/Introductions
- b) Declaration of Quorum; a quorum was established with 14 members present.

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

June 17-18, 2021 meeting in Afton; Narina Nunez motioned to approve the draft minutes; Melinda Cox and Karen Solomon seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

**III. WYSAC Presentation:**

Laurel Wimbish, Manager for Justice Research with the Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center (WYSAC) with the University of Wyoming, presented via Zoom on the Reroute juvenile justice data collection system that WYSAC has been assembling. Laurel stated that the Reroute project started in 2019. She also stated that jail roster information and case

management information is due to be added in the coming months. She stated that Reroute is a web-based data collection system and has two levels of user viewable data; admin level and program level data viewing. She previewed a number of data collection points within the system.

#### **IV. New Business:**

##### **a) OJJDP Grant Submission**

Narina Nunez stated that the Executive Committee of the SACJJ had been forwarded a grant opportunity from the Department of Family Services (DFS) regarding juvenile justice system reform. It was stated that DFS would be the fiscal pass-through for the grant and that the SACJJ would be the manager of the grant. The grant amount would be for \$1,000,000.00 for a grant period of three years. In the grant proposal, it was stated there would be a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an entity to complete a study on the Wyoming juvenile justice system and report back to the SACJJ on its findings. Another piece in the grant proposal would be for data collection efforts and also to study diversion programs in Wyoming; what parts of diversion lead to more success and which parts don't.

##### **b) WYSAC MOU**

Narina Nunez brought up the subject of possibly having the SACJJ enter into an MOU with WYSAC to access reports of the data entered from the counties; similar to ROM. Discussion was had by the SACJJ and it was decided to table to the discussion.

##### **c) Open Topic Discussion from Members**

Nicole Hauser stated that there was an email that was received from the National Juvenile Defender's Center (NJDC) stating that they are working on a state assessment gauging juvenile's access and quality to juvenile defense counsel. This email was requesting support from the SACJJ on a review of the Wyoming State Public Defender's system. Melinda Cox motioned for Nicole to write a response to the NJDC stating support for the review of the Public Defender's system; Narina Nunez seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

##### **d) Public Comment Period**

No topics brought forth.

#### **V. On-Going Business - Updates From:**

##### **a) Council Membership - Brandon Schimelpfenig**

Brandon stated the SACJJ is in compliance with the youth membership ratio as well as all members who reapplied were reappointed by the Governor. He stated that the terms due to expire for members in August 2022 are Chris Jones and youth member Steffany Stephenson.

##### **b) Governor's Office - Jen Davis**

Brandon Schimelpfenig gave an update on Jen's behalf. He stated that ARPA proposals are due to the strike team by October 15, 2021. He also stated that Medicaid will be rolling out more trauma informed practices and providers will be allowed to screen for ACES and be reimbursed.

- c) Budget Report/Grant Update – Brandon Schimelpfenig  
Title II 2018 has been fully expended. In Title II 2019, there is a remaining balance of \$9,288.57. 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  
Maureen stated the National ICJ conference for 2021 will be virtual. Brandon gave an update on the UNITY system stating that there have been a few bugs to work out but overall it is a great case management system. Nicole brought up the idea if the SACJJ were to be terminated, what would the ramifications of that be for ICJ? Maureen stated that WY would be out of compliance with the ICJ Compact stating that if we are a member of the Compact that each states needs a state council and if the National Office for ICJ wishes to do so, may fine the State of Wyoming for non-compliance.
- e) Non-Participating State Grant (VOA) – Craig Fiskus  
Craig briefly reviewed Wyoming’s Non-Participating State status with the Juvenile justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) and the history of Wyoming’s involvement. Craig followed that discussion by stating that the Non-Participating State (NPS) grant application that was completed by VOA would not be accepted by OJJDP due VOA missing the deadline to file documents with the federal grant management system. VOA had been waiting on a response from OJJDP on a certain piece of information which was not obtained prior to the deadline.

Moving forward, Craig stated that Volunteers of America (VOA) would not be applying for the Non-Participating State Grant with OJJDP and that there would be no funding for the next federal fiscal year. Craig stated that he is unsure who the next non-profit will be that will be applying for the NPS funding from OJJDP.

- f) Joint Judiciary Committee – Narina Nunez  
Narina stated that she went to the recent Joint Judiciary meeting and advised the committee on a list of things that the SACJJ has accomplished since their last meeting in June 2021. She also stated it was brought up once more by Sen. Nethercott that she wants to eliminate the SACJJ stating that the SACJJ is not fulfilling its statutory obligation to advise the Governor of juvenile justice issues in the state. She stated that two points of interest made it out of the committee; juvenile justice data collection and structured decision making for out-of-home placements of juveniles.

## **VI. Committee Reports**

- a) Executive Committee – Nicole Hauser  
Nicole stated that they met and discussed the OJJDP grant submission documents and also to discuss the NPS Grant news. She also brought up the Strategic Plan action item of committees providing outreach and training to communities.
- b) Grants Committee – Nicole Hauser  
Nicole stated they met to discuss the NPS applications and what the award outcomes were from VOA.

- c) Best Practices – Stacy Nelson  
Stacy stated that they met and she brought up the idea of changing the name of the committee as best practice sometimes gets confused with evidenced based practices. She also stated that there should be additional resources such as Wyoming 211 added to the websites for the public to access. They also created a three question questionnaire to send out to communities to gauge items that communities are struggling with in their areas.
- d) Outreach Committee – Erica Wood  
Erica stated they had met and created a rough draft of the process for the Neal Madsen Excellence in Juvenile Justice Award. She stated she would be sending it to Brandon for dispersal to the SACJJ as a whole for review. She also stated that the committee is working on creating a plaque and press release in partnership with Craig and VOA.
- e) Data Committee – Adrienne Freng  
Adrienne was not available to present an update. No updates.
- f) Legislative Committee – Damon DeBernardi  
Damon stated that he would be sending out the proposed revisions to the SACJJ's Bylaws for review.
- g) Youth Member Committee – Dakota Jackson  
No updates.

**Friday, September 17, 2021**

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

In Lindsey's absence, Brandon Schimelpfenig provided the DFS update to the SACJJ. Brandon discussed the joint grant application that was discussed in yesterday's portion of the SACJJ meeting under "OJJDP Grant Submission." The award notifications are currently being pushed off until December 2021. Regarding juvenile justice data collection Brandon stated that Joint Judiciary had discussed in their recent committee meeting that currently the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) under the Attorney General's office is statutorily obligated to collect the data but it was also discussed that DCI is not the best agency to house and collect this type of data. Right now it is being discussed whether the Wyoming Supreme Court or DFS would be the most appropriate agency to house and collect the data. Brandon also stated that if juvenile justice data collection were to be moved to DFS then they might consider inserting language in their current case management system update that is currently out for bid. Brandon stated that DFS would have to come back to the Legislature and request additional funds to accomplish this.

Brandon also provided an update on the current bids for the DFS case management system update. He stated that DFS has received 14 proposals from vendors and that each proposal is 350+ pages and that it is taking some time to review each proposal. Brandon also stated the Wyoming Girl's School recently passed their PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) audit with no corrective actions being required. He also updated the SACJJ on the DFS PIP (Program Improvement Plan) stating that the federal partners for DFS have confirmed the plan and DFS is now in the post implementation monitoring period. He also stated the

federal partners are getting ready to remove a couple items off the list for items requiring action as DFS has made significant progress on addressing them.

### **VIII. Community Participation**

#### **a) Big Horn County DFS**

Jacquelyn Wasser, District Manager for Big Horn County DFS, and Bob James, Probation Supervisor for Big Horn County DFS, were both present to discuss trends that DFS is seeing in the Big Horn County area. Bob stated that last year for Big Horn County there were 34 probation cases. He stated that typically juveniles in the area tend to gather in groups and perform delinquent acts and then get caught together. He stated that a typical diversion case is handled by filing the ticket first then having the juvenile complete the diversion program. Bob stated that the closest juvenile detention center is in Rock Springs. Bob also stated that the mental health centers in the area are having trouble keeping therapists and counsellors due to the surrounding area having higher pay and more to do in the area since Big Horn County is relatively small. He also stated that the typical caseload in Big Horn County is 16-20.

### **IX. Announcements**

Next meeting is November 18-19, 2021 in Newcastle, WY. There will also be a Zoom video-conference option for those that are not able or do not wish to travel.

### **X. Adjournment**

Damon DeBernardi motioned to adjourn the meeting; Melinda Cox seconded the motion; meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.