

WYOMING STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

Meeting Minutes

September 15-16, 2022: Rawlins, WY

Agenda:

Thursday, September 15, 2022

- Call to Order
- Approval of Minutes
- New Business
- Ongoing Business
- Tour of WDOC Youth Offender Treatment Program (YOTP)

Friday, September 16, 2022

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

Present:

Abbey Kercher
Adrienne Freng
Alexandra Bammel
Brittany Cangialosi
Damon DeBernardi
Erica Wood
Jennifer Palser
Lila Konecky
Logan Christie
Melinda Cox

Ex-Officio Present:

Alicia Johnson
Cameron Smith
Jo Ann Numoto
Shawn Sitzman

Via Proxy:

Nicole Hauser
Ronald Howard

Others Present:

Brandon Schimelpfenig
Donna Sheen (WCLC)
Lindsey Schilling (DFS)
Natasha Martinez (GAL)
Ashley Mayfield-Davis
(Carbon Cty. Attorney)
Janelle Simpson (WYSAC)
Kelsey Giroux (WY Families
First)
Jackie Parker (WY Families
First)
Laura Feldman (WYSAC)
Megan Sheets (DFS)
Katrina Price (DFS)

Absent:

Abigail Henderson
Clarence Thomas
Dakota Jackson
Gabriel Gerrish
Janelle Ordiway
Karen Solomon
Narina Nunez
Nikki Sweets
Shad Bates
Stacy Becker
Stacy Nelson

Call to Order

I. Call to Order: Thursday, September 15, 2022 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:

June 23-24, 2022 meeting held in Evanston; Melinda Cox motioned to approve the draft minutes; Adrienne Freng seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

III. **New Business:**

a) Annual Report Recommendations

Damon communicated the current (2021) Annual Report recommendations on the Report that is submitted to the Governor's Office. These included getting the Community Juvenile Services Board (CJSB) funding restored; juvenile justice remains a topic for the Joint Judiciary interim committee; data collection within the juvenile justice system in Wyoming; Wyoming remains a Non-Participating State with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Plan Act (JJDP) with the Office of Juvenile and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP); and funding for mental health access by juveniles. Damon requested from the SACJJ on which topics should be kept for the 2022 Annual Report. Erica stated that the SACJJ could remove the recommendation of funding to the CJSBs being restored as that was accomplished during the February 2022 Legislative session. Damon mentioned keeping juvenile justice a topic for the Legislature on the Report. Data collection with the juvenile justice system in Wyoming was discussed by the SACJJ as a topic and it was recommended to keep that on the 2022 Annual Report. Damon recommended Wyoming continue its non-participation status with the JJDP. Damon also recommended to keep the funding for mental health access by juveniles within the juvenile justice system as a recommendation as well.

Erica recommended adding the topic of having the SACJJ research uniform assessment tools for juveniles as part of CJSB regulations and Single Point of Entry.

b) SRAD Conference

Brandon stated that the SACJJ is invited to attend the 2022 OJJDP SRAD Conference in San Diego, CA on December 13-15, 2022 and opened any interest to the SACJJ. Brittany stated she was interested in attending.

c) High Risk, High Needs Workgroup Update

Jo Ann stated that the group has been meeting to discuss children that are difficult to place with providers. She also stated that some of the students have been becoming more and more violent not just with other students but also staff at the facilities.

d) 14-Day Filing Discussion

Melinda stated that a draft has been implemented by the Wyoming Supreme Court stating that court clerks will have 14 days to file citations from their issuance date and if they are not filed within that 14-day timeframe then they are to be dismissed. Melinda stated that this does not work for diversion cases as a priority. Discussion was held on the topic.

Cameron Smith with the AG's office stated that he brought up the topic with H. Josh Eames and he stated that the intention of the rule is to speed up filing of citations from law enforcement as it was found that some law enforcement

personnel were holding on to citations for a lengthy period of time then filing them all at the same time and putting a strain on the court systems.

e) CJSB Reform Discussion

Adrienne stated a brief summary of discussions regarding CJSBs and the funding being eliminated but then reinstated by the Legislature during the recent 2022 session. She also stated that for ongoing funding to occur for the CJSBs that DFS Director Schmidt will need to present information and data supporting why the program should continue. Adrienne stated the SACJJ should communicate their willingness to assist the communities with gathering that information.

f) Juvenile Assessment for CJSB Funding

Jen Palser stated that Sheridan County CJSB used to use the juvenile assessment that Sheridan County DFS used to use however Sheridan County DFS now uses an assessment that is built into the DFS case management system and that the Sheridan County CJSB cannot have access to the case management system. Deb Hibbard with DFS stated that DFS could share the assessment via a paper version. Adrienne Freng also wanted to mention that the Data Committee has reached out to the CJSBs and communicated interest in helping CJSBs meet some of the new requirements that are going to be active on July 1, 2024 regarding juvenile justice data.

g) Open Topic Discussion from Members
No topics brought forth.

h) Public Comment Period
No topics brought forth.

IV. On-Going Business – Updates From:

a) Council Membership – Brandon Schimelpfenig

Brandon stated Chris Jones and Steffany Stephenson’s terms expired in August 2022.

He also shared all the members whose terms are due to expire in August 2023. Those members included youth Abigail Henderson, Adrienne Freng, youth Alexandra Bammel, Clarence Thomas, youth Gabriel Gerrish, youth Janelle Ordiway, Karen Solomon, Nikki Sweets, and Shad Bates. He also stated that the Governor’s Office has received one application from a youth in Laramie; Ruth Ogden.

b) Governor’s Office – Jen Davis

Jen stated that the Governor’s Office is going to be sponsoring a mental health summit in Casper, WY on October 11th. Jen also stated that the Governor’s Office has partnered with Wyoming PBS to livestream the summit. Jen also wanted to highlight the National Governor’s Association (NGA) Conference. She also wanted to extend an invitation from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) that

the BJA now has a manager within their office to assist with juvenile justice advancement efforts within states and Jen wanted to share that information with the SACJJ.

- c) Budget Report/Grant Update – Brandon Schimelpfenig
Brandon stated that Title II 2018 has been fully expended. Title II 2019 has a remaining balance of \$1,354.99 and Title II 2020 still has \$20,000.00 remaining. Brandon stated that he is waiting on the award notification from OJJDP on Title II 2021. He also stated that the application for Title II 2022 has been completed and submitted to OJJDP.
- d) Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ) - Maureen Clifton and Brandon Schimelpfenig
No updates.

Friday, September 16, 2022

V. Committee Reports

- a) Executive Committee – Damon DeBernardi
Damon stated that the Executive Committee met and discussed the proposed agenda for this meeting. He also stated that the Governor’s Office sent out an onboarding checklist template for boards and commissions and he shared that with the SACJJ and discussed if they wanted to edit the template to fit their onboarding needs.
- b) Grants Committee – Damon DeBernardi
No updates at this time.
- c) Data Committee – Adrienne Freng
Adrienne stated that the Data Committee is meeting next week to discuss the Wyoming Juvenile Detention Risk Assessment (JDRA).
- d) Best Practices Committee – Stacy Nelson
Stacy was not present however Erica Wood presented an update. She stated Stacy put together a survey for the CJSBs and is putting together a table to include best practices that the CJSBs are utilizing.
- e) Outreach/Youth Committee – Erica Wood, Dakota Jackson
Erica stated that they are drafting a handout on how to recruit additional SACJJ members and keeping them engaged in the Council. She also stated that the committee is putting together a list of acronyms as well as youth organizations in each community around the state for SACJJ members.

- f) Legislative Committee – Damon DeBernardi
Damon stated that no new bills from the Legislature have been shared but that there should be some between now and the next meeting in November and for the Legislative Committee to keep an eye out.

VI. DFS Update/Report

Debra Hibbard, Social Services Program Manager, presented in Lindsey Schilling's absence to discuss juvenile justice updates within DFS. Debra stated that DFS has hired an individual to fill the open juvenile justice data analyst position that was recently created by the Legislature; his name is Jacob Edwards. Debra also stated that a Request for Proposals (RFP) is currently being drafted for the juvenile justice data collection system and should be completed later this year. Debra also mentioned that the Department of Family Services is getting a new case management system called WYOSAFE and efforts are currently underway to develop the system with Accenture. She also mentioned the federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) preparation efforts are underway and that the period-under-review (PUR) starts on October 1, 2022; any case that is open from October 1, 2022 to when the CFSR occurs in October 2023 is eligible to be reviewed for permanency, safety, and well-being by DFS.

VII. Community Participation

a) Carbon County DFS

Katrina Price, District Manager for District 2, and Megan Sheets, Social Services Supervisor, were present to discuss juvenile justice trends they are seeing within DFS in the Carbon County area. Megan stated the Carbon County office currently has two trained social services workers and are dealing with some staff turnover right now. She also stated that they have 11 probation cases, 3 CHINS cases, and two voluntary cases. She stated that most of the probation cases are with juveniles who have sexually offended and that the community lacks appropriate services to address those behaviors.

b) Carbon County CJSB and Carbon County Attorney's Office

Ashley Mayfield-Davis, Carbon County Attorney, and Natasha Martinez, Public Defender with the Guardian Ad Litem's Office, were present to discuss services that the Carbon County CJSB provides and trends that the Carbon County Attorney's Office is seeing. Ashley stated that Volunteers of America (VOA) has opened a crisis shelter and diversion services in the Carbon County area as Cathedral Home for Children ceased operation in Carbon County. Ashley also stated that there has been a recent uptick in felony-level cases with juveniles. Ashley stated that the CJSB provides a lot of incentive funding for after-school programs like prom funding as well as traveling sports for youth.

VIII. Announcements

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 17-18, 2022 in Buffalo, WY.

IX. Adjournment

Adrienne Freng motioned to adjourn the meeting; Erica Wood seconded the motion; all in favor; meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.