

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

Cheyenne, Wyoming
January 11 & 12, 2001

Minutes

Council Members Present: Valerie Seidel, Carol Crump, John Frentheway, Nena James, Chuck Kratz, Steve Lindly, Robert Mayor, Narina Nunez, Ric Paul, William Runner, Ben Silliman

Staff Support: Les Pozsgj, Christian Smith, Cheryl Selby

Guests:

Sharon Guerney, Dept. of Health, Substance Abuse Division
Donna Messerli, Wyoming County Commissioner's Association
DeeAnn Roll, Uinta County Youth Services
Timothy S. Wight, Compliance Monitoring Coordinator OJJDP

Unable to Attend: James Boykin, Susan Lehman, Tom Harrington, Mark Harris, John Lumley, Sharon Mann, Pat Nagel, W. Thomas Sullins

Welcome and Introductions: Valerie Seidel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with introductions by members and guests.

Val advised members that Lyn Hegardt has resigned as the coordinator for the Council and efforts to fill this position have been initiated. Discussion followed about the job description, job title and part time status. This vacancy is posted on the State Web site.

Minutes from the August 24, 2000 meeting were reviewed. Corrections noted regarding attendance at the Lost in the Shuffle conference by Bob Mayor and Chuck Kratz, Juvenile Defense Summit by John Frentheway and the Heartland Conference by Val Seidel.

Budget Review:

The application for SAG monies was submitted last fall but funding has not been received from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Monies for council operation from previous allocation were not fully expended and a portion (\$21,000) will be returned to the Office of Justice. Tim Wight suggested the Council consider requesting a one-year extension. Criteria for extension are unclear but submission should occur 90 days prior to end of award. The Division of Juvenile Services is supporting council operation funding.

Lynn Dickey Memorial Fund presently has \$1128 received through donations received by DFS. Motion, second and approved that this be established as a scholarship in conjunction with Wyoming Community Foundation. Carol Crump to explore this alternative.

Wyoming County Commissioners Association Non-participating Grant project update:

Donna Messerli provided an update regarding the various projects. Request for written report was made and distribution will occur. This report will include contacts by project site for future communication.

Copy of Best Practices Statement from Niobrara County was provided. This generated discussion focusing on placement authority, roles and responsibilities, including payment, for juveniles placed in detention. Statutory concerns exist and the Council endorsed the concept of statute review/revision.

Resistance to the Council's proposed detention standards continues. One issue is the concern that these may promote the necessity for standards focusing on adults within county jails. Commitment to supporting these is not apparent from County Commissioners. Juveniles continue to be placed in adult jails despite resistance from Sheriff's. Programs/facilities are developed but funding costs have not been defined at either a county or state level. The Council remains committed to these proposed standards. Alternatives to detention must be encouraged and utilized.

Council members endorsed preparing a report for legislative consideration that explains the proposed detention standards and identifies barriers to implementation. Similar efforts realized in surrounding states should be noted, to include necessity for funding. These should be prepared as policy recommendations for executive branch consideration with the goal of state level endorsement, to include funding. Other states have successfully faced the problem of detention. Responsibility for detention oversight should be reviewed (Dept of Corrections vs. Dept of Family Services) and process to operationalize standards defined. The Dept. of Family Services continues to develop service standards for other placement providers and will include the proposed detention standards.

Council members strongly supported Wyoming County Commissioners Association continued application for non-participating grant funds from OJJDP. Strong support for this should occur via a letter from the Council to the County Commissioners. Motion, seconded and approved. Also, support to pursue Title V funding for those counties in compliance with OJJDP standards was endorsed.

Donna Messerli indicated that juvenile justice advocates exist within each county and can assist the Council in developing and implementing programs. Motion made, seconded and approved that the Council extend an invitation to these advocates to attend a future meeting.

Staff Support:

Discussion regarding a need for a staff person who will promote Council projects through contacts with local communities, county officials, legislators, etc. This is separate from the need for a coordinator/support position. Other areas of need are marketing, newsletter, and web page. The position description for the coordinator creates problems. Council members would like more of a focus on being a professional liaison with other juvenile justice stakeholders. Narina Nunez offered to develop a new position description. Status of this position was also discussed, i.e., is this a Dept. of Family Services employee or an employee of the Council. Existing salary range is viewed as adequate to gain the skills and expertise desired by the Council. Additional funds may be obtained from the administrative portion of the JAIBG. Motion made, seconded and approved that the Council discuss with Les Pozsgi the alternative of creating a position as a "broker" for the Council.

JAIBG Awards:

Fully using the 99 JAIBG funds was discussed. Motion made, seconded and approved that an RFP be developed to expend the remaining 99 JAIBG funds, including the administrative amount assigned to the State. These should encourage model programs within communities that implement the Council's proposed juvenile detention standards. Such an approach will promote pilot projects that can be replicated across the State. Standards associated with the JAIBG award must be met at the community level, including match. Detention represents one of the JAIBG purpose areas. This may also assist in funding another staff person. Narina Nunez will draft the RFP.

Unused administrative funds associated with the State from the 98 JAIBG award will be returned to the Office of Justice. The Dept. of Family Services has used these funds to support their electronic monitoring program and will transfer \$100,000 to the University of Wyoming to support the developing Statistical Analysis Center.

Grant review committee will explore better utilization of the JAIBG funds at the next Council meeting. This will include 2000/2001 awards.

Second round awards for the 99 JAIBG were discussed. Motion made, seconded and approved to move these awards forwarded using the original award formula.

OJJDP Presentation by Tim Wight: Presentation will be distributed at the Advisory Council meeting on March 28th.

Council adjourned to attend Legislative Education Session on Substance Abuse in the State Capitol.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2001

Meeting called to order by Valerie Seidel, Chair.

Review of topics and discussions from Thursday, January 11th.

Council Membership:

Vacancies need to be filled, especially youth members. The Education Session on Substance Abuse identified a potential youth member: Bunnie Larson. Council members supported paying youth member's per diem funds. DeeAnn Roll expressed an interest in receiving Governor appointment to the Council and voiced appreciation for the opportunity to participate as a guest.

Children In Need of Supervision (CHINS)

CHINS timeline for statutory sunset remains July 1, 2003. Council discussed the need to explore an alternative approach for providing services to these children. One alternative used in other states is Families in Need of Services (FINS). This may represent an option for the Council to explore. Committing resources, including funding, to reviewing other service systems and juvenile codes was discussed. Contracting for this effort may be achieved with funds from the SAG or JAIBG monies. Motion, second and approved that the Council contact other agencies (Child Welfare League of America, Youth Law Center, Office of Criminal Justice) to identify resources available to conduct such a review. If possible, this should occur prior to the March meeting and the information presented at that time.

Reports:

Nena James provided an overview of the presentation provided by Dr. Dennis Embry at the Wyoming State Bar meeting.

Coalition for Juvenile Justice Conference in Florida provided excellent information regarding mental health issues in juvenile corrections.

Election of Council Chair:

Discussion focusing on election for the Council Chair position. Motion, seconded and approved for Narina Nunez as Chair and Val Seidel as Co-chair.

Future Meetings:

Tentative schedule for meetings as follows:

March 28 & 29 - Casper

June 14 & 15 - Laramie

Meeting adjourned.