

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

Parkway Plaza
Casper, Wyoming
January 15 - 16, 1998

Minutes

Council Members Present:

Pat Crow, Sharon Mann, Ben Silliman, Ric Paul, Tom Harrington, Steve Lindly, Chuck Kratz, Bob Mayor, Val Seidel, Pat Nagel, Michelle Wempen, Carol Crump, Nena James, Narina Nightingale, Lynn Dickey, Sara Washington, John Frentheway, Kathy Hutchison

Others Attending:

Shirley Carson, Director, Dept. of Family Services
Rob Landes, Field Operations Manager, Dept. of Family Svcs.
Les Pozsgi, Administrator, Div. of Juvenile Services
Merit Thomas, Sr. Management Consultant, Div. of Juvenile Services
Renee Arias, Management Analyst, Div. of Juvenile Services
Mike Bachert, Juvenile Detention Center, Casper
Kelly Mader, Kelly F. Mader & Associates, Inc., Englewood, Colo.

Unable to Attend:

Ron Carson, Mark Harris, Gary Hartman, Patrick Lynch,
Steven McGuire, Jeremy Rose, Doreen Thunder

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Welcome and Introductions: - Pat Crow, Acting Chairperson.

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m.

Minutes: The minutes from the previous SACJJ meeting held on November 13-14, 1997, were approved.

Copies of the OJJDP State Advisory Group (SAG) training report were distributed to the Council.

Conflict of Interest: - Pat Crow.

It was determined by the Assistant Attorney General, Dan Wilde, that because of the existence of Interim Executive Order, 1997-4 of the Executive Department (Code of Ethics) and W.S. 6-5-101 (referred to as the Criminal Statute), it would not be necessary for the Council to develop a conflict of interest statement. Copies of the Governor's Code of Ethics and the W.S. 6-5-101 were provided to the Council.

Strategic Planning Process: - Shirley Carson/Renee Arias.

The Council developed the following Mission Statement:

The Wyoming Juvenile Justice Advisory Council is the statewide resource for the Governor, Legislature, and communities, in the fields of juvenile justice, youth services, and delinquency prevention.

A motion was made to approve the mission statement. This was seconded and passed.

Other discussion:

Pat Crow informed the Council that a required report had been drafted and submitted to the Governor. This report was mailed to the Council at an earlier date.

Mike Bachert, Administrator, invited the Council to tour the Juvenile Detention Center in Casper.

Prioritize Issues List: - Shirley Carson.

Refer to Attachment One of the November 12-13, 1997, minutes.

The Issues List was reviewed with the following additions:

Sara Washington asked that a local high school community/activity center be addressed. The Council determined this request could be considered under the Community Services section of the draft issues list.

Mandatory school attendance and existing legislation, such as truancy as a status offense were additional topics for the draft issues list.

Pat Nagel mentioned that the Council may need to look at the area of education reform and early childhood development (preschool). This could be added to the Education section of the draft issues.

Ric Paul mentioned that Texas developed a report that the Council may wish to review. This report addresses identify youth at-risk in the elementary arena.

Carol Crump said Phoenix has an early intervention program for truancy in the first grade.

Shirley Carson added funding as another issue.

Group break-out session:

Based on the Mission Statement, the Council used the three areas, juvenile justice, youth services, and delinquency prevention, to categorize and prioritize issues.

Juvenile Justice:

Legal issues:

1. Review applicable statutes and ordinances; emancipation, truancy, status offenses, adoption, child support, termination of parental rights, abuse and neglect
2. Constitutional issues
3. Coordination between courts and agencies
4. Judicial education
5. Sentencing options
6. Parental and community involvement

Detention issues:

1. Information regarding what is happening now
2. Available and needed funding
3. Possible types of detention:
boot camps
work/restitution
diversion community services
treatment for violent youth
impact of jailing
4. Aftercare
5. OJJDP requirements
6. Physical and mental health evaluations for detained youth
7. In-state vs. Out-of-state referrals
8. Improvements at WBS/WGS

Youth Services:

With emphasis on early intervention and prevention:

1. Research model continuums and programs
2. Inventory services available in each community
3. Analyze data and compare to model continuum to determine needs
4. Make information available to communities and assist with implementation
5. Assist communities to establish community service boards

Priority to be determined per each communities needs:

1. Adult-youth and youth-youth mentoring
2. Aftercare
3. Independent living
4. Schools
5. Constructive activities for youth based on age appropriateness
6. Pregnancy prevention
7. Alternatives for expelled students
8. Person-to-person counseling (mental health)
9. Services to parents and foster families

Delinquency Prevention:

Inventory:

1. Data and resources
2. Needs assessment
3. Evaluate current programs

Planning and collaboration:

1. Philosophy and strategy
2. Provide resource to community bases boards
3. Coordinate with state and local organizations to promote risk assessments, programs, and collaboration

Funding:

1. Explore and acquire programs and evaluation
2. Prevention efforts to:

Youth
Parents
Others

Identifying the strengths and weaknesses: - Shirley Carson.

Strengths:

- Governor's support.
- Legislative mandate and authority.
- Youth representatives.
- Diversity of background and experience.
- Build statewide support for juvenile justice planning.
- Council will be an educated core group.
- Council can build local support for juvenile justice initiative.
- Promote equitable distribution of funding based on program analysis rather than politics.
- May provide unity of purpose for grant application.
- Statewide inventory of programs and services.
- Identify gaps in continuum of care and ways to fill those gaps.
- Budgetary review.
- State interest(visibility)in the need.
- Good energy and commitment to work on youth issues.
- Openness to cooperation.
- Creative ways to maximize minimal funding.
- Intensity of juvenile problems.
- Small population.
 - can make a difference

Weaknesses:

- Are four meetings per year enough.
- Funding availability only from existing budgets of already in-place state agencies with their own priorities.
- Turf issues among state and local agencies.
- Council has no power to assure cooperation or compliance with requests.
- General lack of awareness at the local level of the existence and mission of the Council.
- Necessity of building database of programs and services from scratch.
- Consensus that statewide juvenile justice planning is needed, may not be there at the local level.
- Is apparent interest in OJJDP something that the Council can sell to the Legislature.
- No money.
- No clear mandate.
- Not rich in technology.
- Rural area limitations.
- Partisanship.

- Limited infrastructure.
- Archaic statutes.
- Multiple court jurisdiction.
- Bootstrap phenomenon.

Situational Analysis:

What is the economic environment of Wyoming and the Council?

- minimal economic growth
- do not have a broad-based state tax structure
- resistance to change
- lack of diversity
- lack of infrastructure
- lowest personal taxes - uncapped potential for additional revenue
- high quality of life

Political Analysis:

Identify the political factors:

- local government, state agencies and federal government
 - mistrust
 - level of dumping
- allocation of funds
 - rural vs. urban
- expected to do more programs or services with the same level of funding
- conservative state

How will technology help or hinder?

- communication enhanced, but not enough (positive)
- internet access--develop SACJJ Web page (positive)
- technology surveys and data (negative)
 - uniformity (data, forms, statistics)
- don't use it to its full capacity (negative)

Determine the Social Factors:

- lack of personal responsibility
- philosophy "the punishment is the solution"
- authority's attitude toward youth
- youth's attitude toward authority
- mixed messages in past, present and future cultures
- moral and value education

- parents' accountability for their son and/or daughter
- pressure on the family/family structure
- parenting skills
- teen and pre-teen pregnancies

Breakout for goals and objectives: The Council decided to have only one goal and three objectives; Delinquency Prevention, Youth Services, and Juvenile Justice.

The goal is to improve the quality of life for Wyoming's youth by working in the areas of delinquency prevention, juvenile justice, and youth services.

Delinquency Prevention:

Objective: Assist communities in developing successful delinquency prevention programs.

Outcome measure: Number of communities assisted.

Strategies:

1. Determine what delinquency prevention programs currently exist in Wyoming and what agencies provide those programs.
2. Identify model prevention programs nationally.
3. Conduct community needs assessment.
4. Share information with communities, especially those communities identified as pilot projects.
5. Recommend funding sources.
6. Develop a Council Web page.
7. Identify statutory obstacles.

Juvenile Justice:

Objective: Assist state and communities in developing a balanced juvenile justice system within Wyoming, which promotes community protection, fair and appropriate placement, accountability and competency development for juvenile offenders.

Outcome measure: The number of counties we assist.

Strategies:

1. Inventory the juvenile justice system in each county.
2. Evaluate the current juvenile justice system and determine the extent to which it meets OJJDP standards.
3. Explore the feasibility of using restorative justice framework as a potential Wyoming model.

Youth Services:

Objective: Assist Wyoming communities in establishing a comprehensive system of youth services with initial emphases on pilot communities.

Outcome measure: Number of pilot projects assisted.

Strategies:

1. Inventory existing youth services programs in the community.
2. Research model programs.
3. Assist communities in developing the juvenile services boards.
4. Review the progress and accomplishments of the juvenile justice pilot projects.
5. Make recommendations of unfulfilled needs and establish priorities for services.
6. Disseminate information to the other communities.

Election of Officers: - Merit Thomas. Term of office is one year.

Chairperson: Bob Mayor

Youth Co-chairperson: Sara Washington

Vice-chairperson: Ben Silliman

Youth Vice-Co-chair: Sharon Mann

Secretary: Chuck Kratz

Treasurer: Val Seidel

Juvenile Justice Workshop: - Renee Arias.

Renee gave a report to the Council regarding the OJJDP training held in Washington, DC. The training addressed the role and responsibility of a specialist relating to the OJJDP programs and helping states meet core requirements of the programs. Attending the workshop provided opportunities to network, develop contacts, and verify available technical assistance.

Status of FY 1995 and FY 1996: - Les Pozsgj.

Refer to the for January 13, 1998, Information Only, SACJJ Status of FY 1995 and 1996 Funding handout.

It is the understanding of the Council that by having established this Council, it would be eligible for the five percent SAG allocation (\$31,000) and the Title V grant (\$100,000).

It was motioned to recommend forfeiting the FY95 money, continue to hold the FY96 money, make application for the \$31,000 and apply for Title V in the amount of \$100,000. The was seconded and passed. Les agreed to write the letter to the Governor regarding the Council's recommendation for the FY95 monies..

Following further discussion, it was motioned that through the Chairman, the Council would ask the Departments of Health and Education for funding, provide them a report and identify a liaison person for their departments. The Council could send them its minutes, statute, and strategic plan. This was seconded and passed.

Committee Assignments: - Renee Arias and Merit Thomas.

Les suggested the Council identify issues that need to be faced throughout the next six months to one year. One of the issues of priority is working toward a detention plan (A cohesive statewide plan that would address detention issues).

There are three standing committees and three sub-committees. The standing committees are Juvenile Justice, Youth Services, and Delinquency Prevention. The sub-committees are the Inventory Committee, Statutory Committee, and the Grant Review/Funding Research Committee. Following is a list of Council members assigned to the various committees.

A motion was made that the Chairman assign those members absent to the various committees. This was seconded and passed.

Juvenile Justice: (This Committee will divide to address the detention center issue.)

Val Seidel, Chair
Mark Harris
Ron Carson
Pat Crow
Steve Lindly
Nena James
Carol Crump
Kathy Hutchison
Chuck Kratz

Youth Services:

Michelle Wempen, Chair
Lynn Dickey, Advisor
Tom Harrington
Doreen Thunder
Sharon Mann
Sara Washington
John Frentheway
Pat Lynch

Delinquency Prevention:

Narina Nightingale, Chair
Ric Paul
Gary Hartman
Jeremy Rose
Steven McGuire
Ben Silliman
Pat Nagel

Sub-committees:

Inventory Committee:

Ben Silliman, Chair
John Frentheway
Gary Hartman

Statutory Committee:

Chuck Kratz
John Frentheway
Ben Silliman

Grant Review/Funding Research Committee:

Pat Crow, Chair
Narina Nightingale
Kathy Hutchison
Val Seidel

Role of youth chair:

- bring forth concerns of all youth assigned to other committees
- bring a report and agenda items to each meeting
- meet with other youth prior to regularly scheduled meetings

Schedule next meeting: - Renee Arias

April 2-3, 1998, Sheridan, Wyoming Girls' School

June 25-26, 1998, Worland, Wyoming Boys' School

September 1998 - Governor's Task Force. A third meeting would be scheduled for September, however Pat Nagel mentioned the Governor has a Task Force on Substance Abuse meeting around that time frame. The Council decided to wait to schedule the third meeting.

Suggested agenda item and scheduling for the April meeting:

By-laws: A motion was made to disseminate by-laws to the Council, have the by-laws as an agenda item in April, and Les will check with the Attorney General's Office to see if by-laws are necessary for the Council. This was seconded and passed.

Scheduling: The committees will meet prior to regularly scheduled Council meetings.

Note: Each committee will let Les know when they will meet before the April meeting. This will be to assist Les in determining funding. It was suggested that conference calls could be used in place of committee meetings.

Wrap-up/Adjourn: - Bob Mayor.

There was discussion on how to address the inventory process.

Pat Nagel suggested lunch be provided at the next meeting as a working lunch.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.