

**STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE  
(SACJJ)  
Douglas, Wyoming  
November 17-18, 1999  
Minutes**

**Council Members Present:** James Boykin, Pat Crow, Lynn Dickey, Tom Harrington, Kathy Hutchison, Nena James, Chuck Kratz, Steve Lindly, Bob Mayor, Pat Nagel, Narina Nunez, Rick Paul, Val Seidel, Ben Silliman, Thomas Sullins

**Staff Support:** Les Pozsgi, Merit Thomas, Renee Gamino, and Bibianne Bengston, Div. of Juvenile Services

**Others Attending:**

Linda Collins, Div. of Juvenile Services  
Don Keeler, Wyoming Boys' School  
Sharon Guerney-Maier, Wyoming Dept. of Health  
Debra Camp, Wyoming Dept. of Health  
Mary Anne Nelson, Wyoming Dept. of Health  
Charley Whiton, County Commissioner for Sheridan County  
Charlie Scott, Senator of Wyoming  
Michael Bachert, Juvenile Detention Center, Casper  
Donna Messerli, Project Coordinator, County Commissioners' Association

**Unable To Attend:** Carol Crump, John Frentheway, Mark Harris, Patrick Lynch, Sharon Mann, Mike Seabeck, Doreen Thunder

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**Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review:** Bob Mayor, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m., and began with introductions.

**Special Presentation:** Wyo. Dept. of Health, Division of Public Health, Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Section.

- **Best Beginnings program.** Debra Camp, Perinatal Systems Manager, provided the presentation. Best Beginnings is a statewide initiative program funded by the MCH Block Grant. This program ensures all pregnant will women receive services appropriate for a healthy pregnancy outcome.
- **Home Visitations for Teen Parents.** Mary Anne Nelson, Home Visiting/Adolescent Health Systems Manager, presented information about "Home Visiting for Pregnant and Parenting Families". The goal of the program is to improve pregnancy outcomes for first time parents, i.e., low birth weight. The program promotes child health and development, and maternal life course development.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the previous SACJJ meeting, held September 9-10, 1999, in Sheridan, were reviewed. Lynn moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Val Seidel seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Bylaws:** Val Seidel motioned to change the wording of the Bylaws and to add a section on amending bylaws. Seconded by Kathy Hutchinson. Motioned passed.

- Lynn Dickey will write a section on how to amend the Bylaws, and present it at the January 2000 meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Val Seidel presented the Council's and JAIBG financial reports dated October 31, 1999. Val questioned the Medical entry on the JAIBG report. Renee will research this entry and have it corrected. Pat Crow motioned the Council table further action, on the Treasurer's Report, until the Council meets with DFS. The motion was seconded and passed.

- Bob, Val and Renee will meet with DFS, Division of Financial Services, to explain how to read the reports.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Delinquency Prevention/Youth Services.** Narina Nunez and Lynn Dickey.

Narina Nunez motioned to change the name of the Delinquency/Youth Prevention Committee to Delinquency Prevention and Youth Services Committee. Lynn Dickey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- **SACJJ Directory.** The Wyoming Boys' School completed the directory with information provided by Wyoming communities. The directory will list the information by county, including a form to update information. The directory will be distributed to the communities.
- **Prevention Programs.** At the meeting on November 18, 1999, Lynn Dickey will present the Big Brother/Big Sister program, Bob Mayor will present the Boys' Town program, and Renee Gamino will present the Bullying program.
- The "Blueprints for Violence Prevention" brochure, outlining delinquency prevention programs were handed out. Grants and technical assistance are available to communities that would like to implement any of the programs.

#### **Juvenile Justice Committee:**

- **Juvenile Detention Standards, Summary of Public Input.** Juvenile Detention Standards were mailed October 7, 1999. Two responses have

been received, noting concerns regarding visitation, detoxification, and education.

- The Sheriffs' Association is meeting this week and plans to respond.
- Mike Bachert, Juvenile Detention Center, Casper, voiced concerns that the standards need to be specific, therefore, eliminating possible abuse.
- Val recommended the public input deadline be extended to January 15, 2000. Val and Renee will coordinate a follow-up process to contact communities for their input. Council members will be notified with a list of the people to contact in their area of the state.

**Please do not contact your local sheriff's office.**

- **Levels of Care Committee.** The Department of Family Services, Levels of Care Committee reviewed the SACJJ Juvenile Detention Standards and extends its support.
- **Finalize Competitive Award and Appeal Criteria.** The Evaluation Criteria form for the Juvenile Justice Grants is complete. This form will be used by the Grant Review Committee to evaluate JAIBG proposals and other future grants. Thomas Sullins motioned to approve the form. Seconded by Nena James. Motion passed.
- **Collocation/Separate staff Issues.** Chuck Kratz. OJJDP Regulations require separate staff (management, security and direct care staff), for juveniles in an adult facility.

**Judicial Planning Ad Hoc Committee.** Nena James and Bob Mayor. Nena informed the Council that the Judicial Review Reorganization Committee met in October to finalize their recommendations for a circuit court process.

**Report on the Meeting with the County Commissioners.** Bob Mayor, Val Seidel, and Renee Gamino met with the county commissioners to discuss the OJJDP Non-participation Grant.

- Donna Messerli will be the Project Coordinator for the grant.
- The county commissioners' goal is to help counties come into compliance with OJJDP Regulations.
- Bob Mayor contacted Gary Sherman, University of Wyoming, seeking help with the data collection process. Currently, they are unable to help with the process. Bob will contact Gary again.

**Adjourn:** Pat Crow moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m., and will reconvene at 8:30 a.m., on November 18, 1999.

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**November 18, 1999, meeting:** The meeting reconvened at 8:40 a.m.

**Department of Family Services Update.** Les Pozsgi. The Department of Family Services' new director is Kari Jo Gray; originally from Douglas.

**Teen Court Presentation.** Nena James. Teen Court in Wyoming is a program used for alternative sentencing of a person who has attained the age of 13 years of age and is under the age of majority, and has committed a minor offense or violation of any municipal ordinance. Punishment cannot exceed imprisonment for more than six months and/or a fine of not more than \$750.

**Delinquency Prevention/Youth Services Programs:**

- **Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program.** Lynn Dickey. The 100-year-old program has statistics documenting its success. This one-to-one youth development organization matches a caring adult volunteer with a child at risk.
- **Boys' Town Program for Public Schools.** Bob Mayor. The University of Kansas created the Boys' Town model. Boys' Town is a non-profit, relationship-based, residential program for boys; a "Teaching-Family" model.
- **Bullying Program.** Renee Gamino was not able to attend the meeting; however, she provided a program information sheet. The program is designed to reduce and prevent bullying/victim problems in schools.
- **Court Improvement Program.** Les Pozsgi. This is a federal grant given to the Department of Family Services, but housed with the Supreme Court. The grant focuses on foster care issues, termination of parental rights, adoption, etc.

**Pilot Project Update, Douglas.** Rene Biel, Executive Director, Youth Development Services, and Pathfinder Alternative Board member, provided an update on the pilot project. Pathfinder Alternatives focuses on coordinating community-based services for identified at-risk youth. Services include an alternative school program, life skills, counseling and parent support group.

**Pilot Project Update:**

- **Douglas program.** Les Pozsgi. The monitoring team completed pilot site visits. Douglas remains slow with services implementation and has involved 25 youth to date.

- **Wind River Health Promotion program.** Chuck Kratz reported the “After School Program” was budgeted for two years. The school is working with youth grades 3 through 12. The Wilderness program expended budget and is no longer a resource for at risk youth. The program has applied for additional grants, but awards are pending.
- **Youth Experiencing Success in Sheridan program.** Charley Whiton. This pilot project's newest program came from a meeting with the county attorney, creating a truancy component. Once a youth is truant, the program sends a letter to the parent requiring a response within 24 hours. If there is no response, a CHINS petition is filed within 48 hours.

**Public Health Nursing--Violence Protection legislation. Senator Charlie Scott.** Senator Scott explained the Public Health Nursing--Violence Protection legislation (summarized below). A draft of the bill was provided to Council members. The estimated program cost is \$2 million. Various sources of funding are being considered, i.e., Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), tobacco settlement funds. Support and comments regarding the bill can be addressed by contacting legislators or the Legislative Services Office. Steve Lindly moved to endorse the bill sponsored by Senator Scott. Seconded by Chuck Kratz. Motion passed.

- **Summary:** Early brain research indicates threats to the fetus are primarily physical, nutrition or lack of it, certain disease risks, and biochemical hazards like alcohol or drugs. After birth, research shows the brain literally wires itself based on experience. During this period, a relationship with a loving caregiver reinforces the baby's brain to care for others. If a child is exposed to domestic violence or a caregiver's mental illness, it can cause the brain to be inadequately formed, and lead to personalities prone to violence against other people. Subsequent care and treatment can overcome early deficiencies. **Note: This is not the only cause of violent behavior.**

The public health program is the appropriate long-term legislative response to address instances of school violence, and the need for a preventive answer to our growing incarceration rate.

**The meeting adjourned at Noon for lunch and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.**

**CJJ "Who Holds the Keys" workshop review.** Ric Paul. The focus of the workshop was to review the issues of youth being incarcerated in an adult detention facility.

**Legislative Concerns:** Les Pozsgi.

- **FY 99 JAIBG Funding:** To obtain these funds, the State must meet all requirements, including the recordkeeping statute which was proposed last

legislative session. This federal standard would create a database for information associated with juvenile offenders who are adjudicated delinquent for a felony offense. The Council supported this legislation last session. Ric Paul motioned that the Council again endorse the legislation and requested the Department contact Pat Nagel to pursue sponsoring this statute. Motion seconded and passed.

**CHINS/SED Definition.** This item was placed on the agenda at the request of Pat Nagel, who was not able to attend. Les reviewed the issue and suggested further contact with Pat Nagel was appropriate. This was supported by the Council and the Department will contact her. Following that contact, the Council will again review this issue prior to the next meeting by either compressed video or electronic mail.

- **Title 14.** Les informed the Council that it appears a review and revision of Title 14 will be endorsed during this legislative session. The Select Committee on Mental Health Issues has verbalized the importance of this in addressing the issues raised by Protection and Advocacy through the pending lawsuit.

**Bureau of Justice Statistics/Justice Research and Statistics Association (BJS/JRSA) Pre-sessions workshop review.** Narina Nunez and Renee Gamino attended the November 1-3, 1999, workshop. Narina attended the NVIR portion, while Renee attended analyzing and presenting data. The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NVIRS) is a system of reporting crime statistics vs. the national uniform crime reporting system.

**JAIBG Monitoring.** Mary Byrnes. Handout: FY98 JAIBG Site Evaluations – Update, November 18, 1999. Mary updated the Council on the monitoring visits. She recommended the competitive process begin now, as visits will be finished December 14, 1999. Her final report will be submitted to DFS on December 31, 1999.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is January 20-21, 2000. The Council will meet from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., on January 20 and from 8:30 a.m. until Noon on January 21. Laramie was chosen as the location for the next meeting. Ben Silliman volunteered to schedule the meeting room. The meeting schedule for the rest of the year will be set at this meeting.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business and no objections, it was moved the Council adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bibianne R. Bengston