



**STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON JUVENILE JUSTICE**

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

SACJJ Annual Report

Mission

The mission of the State Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice is to provide vision, training, and support for a model juvenile justice system in Wyoming.

Goal

To improve the coordination and effectiveness of statewide and local delinquency prevention, juvenile justice, and youth services programs.

Vision

A Wyoming where children and families will receive education, care, and support to become responsible, successful citizens.

Objectives

Develop prioritized recommendations concerning juvenile justice, delinquency prevention, and juvenile services to be reviewed annually.

To coordinate the implementation of the recommendations.

To provide for the distribution of available funds for delinquency prevention, juvenile justice, and youth services.

November 30, 2021

Dear Governor Gordon, Members of the Wyoming State Legislature, and Wyoming residents:

On behalf of the State Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice I present to you our 2021 Annual Report.

This past year was a blend of virtual meetings and travel to communities across the state. Meeting with stakeholders and community providers across the state remains a highlight of the Council's work.

From our small communities to the larger ones, common themes continue to emerge. The first being that there are so many individuals and agencies across this State that work tirelessly for the youth of Wyoming and their commitment shines through in their presentations. Second, the needs of our youth continue to increase. Communities are doing their very best with limited resources, but it is not enough.

We ask that juvenile justice be a priority of our State; a priority that is adequately funded. The time is now to invest our financial resources into prevention and community-based services.

We remain committed to the youth of our State and look forward to continuing efforts to improve the system. Thank you for taking the time to review our report and our recommendations.

Respectfully,

Nicole Hauser

Nicole Hauser, MSW, LCSW – Chair
Wyoming State Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice



SACJJ Coordinator: Brandon Schimelpfenig

COUNCIL MEMBERS		
Name	District/City	Expiration
Abbey Kercher	1-Cheyenne	8/31/2024
Abigail Henderson	6-Gillette (Youth)	8/31/2023
Adrienne Freng	2-Laramie	8/31/2023
Chris Jones	4-Sheridan	8/31/2022
Clarence Thomas	9-Ft. Washakie	8/31/2023
Dakota Jackson	6-Gillette (Youth)	8/31/2024
Damon DeBernardi	3-Rock Springs (Vice Chair)	8/31/2024
Erica Wood	6-Gillette	8/31/2024
Gabriel Gerrish	2-Laramie (Youth)	8/31/2023
Janelle Ordiway	2-Laramie (Youth)	8/31/2023
Jennifer Palser	4-Sheridan	8/31/2024
Karen Solomon	5-Cody	8/31/2023
Logan Christie	5-Cody	8/31/2024
Melinda Cox	9-Lander	8/31/2024
Narina Nunez	2-Laramie	8/31/2024
Nicole Hauser	2-Laramie (Chair)	8/31/2024
Nikki Sweets	7-Casper	8/31/2023
Ronald Howard	9-Riverton	8/31/2024
Shad Bates	8-Torrington	8/31/2023
Stacy Nelson	7-Casper	8/31/2024
Steffany Stephenson	3-Rock Springs (Youth)	8/31/2022
Vanessa Duran	1-Cheyenne (Youth)	8/31/2023

Ex-Officio Members	
Name	Represents
Christina McCabe	Attorney General's Office
Jo Ann Numoto	Dept. of Education
Jen Davis	Governor's Office
Ashley Gregorio	Dept. of Health
Shawn Sitzman	Attorney General's Office: Div of Victim Services
Maureen Clifton	WY Interstate Compact for Juveniles - Commissioner
Hon. Dawnessa Snyder	WY Judicial Branch - Interstate Compact for Juveniles
Senator Lynn Hutchings	WY State Legislature - Interstate Compact for Juveniles
Representative Rachel Rodriguez-Williams	WY State Legislature - Interstate Compact for Juveniles

2021 Council Activities

January 2021

- January 2021 meeting was held via Zoom
- Elections were held and the following members were selected for various roles: Nicole Hauser - Chair, Damon DeBernardi - Vice-Chair, Adrienne Freng, Narina Nunez and Jen Palser - At-Large members of the Executive Committee. The Council heard from community members regarding fines and fees within the juvenile justice system and their concerns with the practice. It was also at this meeting that the Council received an update on membership requirements for the Interstate Compact for Juveniles State Council. Due to these requirements the SACJJ Ex-Officio Membership was expanded.
- Community Participation: The Council heard from Teton County DFS, Teton County Attorney's Office, Teton County Community Juvenile Services Board, Region 5 BOCES: C-V Ranch, and Teton Youth and Family Services

April 2021

- April 2021 meeting was held via Zoom
- The Council heard from community members regarding Joint Judiciary Committee selecting juvenile justice as an interim topic. The Council discussed ways we can be involved in the legislative process for the interim topic. Council membership, strategic plan, and data collection were also topics of discussion.
- Community Participation: The Council heard from Goshen County DFS, St. Joseph's Children's Home, and Number 34

June 2021

- June 2021 meeting – Afton
- Work session to develop a plan to submit grant proposals to help restore lost funding to the Community Juvenile Services Boards.
- Community Participation: Lincoln County DFS and Lincoln County Attorney's Office

September 2021

- September 2021 meeting – Basin
- The Council received a presentation from WYSAC and the ReRoute system as a viable state data collection tool. Council was also asked to support an assessment of access to and quality of juvenile defense counsel in Wyoming. The Council offered our support of the assessment and to assist in any way that we can. VOA also shared with the Council at this meeting that OJJDP denied their application for non-participating state funding and that VOA made the decision that they will not be applying for this state funding moving forward. Given the importance of this funding to counties around the state, the Council committed to look for another non-profit to apply for future funding.
- Community Participation: Big Horn County DFS

November 2021

- November 2021 meeting – Newcastle
- The Council received a presentation from Byron Oedekoven with the Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police regarding the Juvenile Detention Risk Assessment – history, application, training, and administration. It was determined that the Council's Best Practices Committee will work with WASCOP regarding the assessment and determine if it is a benefit to the youth of our state.
- Community Participation: Weston County DFS

2021 Council Recommendations

Based on community feedback, statewide visits, and participation in the Joint Judiciary Committee, the State Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice has developed the following recommendations:

- **Funding to Community Juvenile Services Boards needs to be restored.** Diversion programs continue to be at risk of ending with lack of funding. The SACJJ submitted a proposal to use ARPA funding to support CJSBs for three years. We urge the Governor's Strike Force to give the proposal serious consideration.
- **Juvenile Justice should remain a topic for the Joint Judiciary Committee.** The Council would also welcome a member of the Joint Judiciary Committee to attend and participate in the SACJJ meetings.
- **Data collection within the juvenile justice system.** Data needs to be collected properly and be able to be accessed by local communities to inform local policies and practices. Funding needs to be given to communities to ensure proper collection of data. The Council would also recommend that until a permanent solution is made regarding data collection – the process, system, etc. – that the system Reroute through WYSAC is implemented and utilized.
- **Wyoming remains a non-participating state with OJJDP.** With VOA of the Northern Rockies no longer managing those funds for the state, it is critical that another agency is identified to ensure our communities receive that funding resource.
- **Funding for mental health access.** Every community visited shared the barriers they experience in regard to access to care.

SACJJ Strategic Plan 2021-2023

Executive Committee	
Objective	Starting with the January 2021 meeting, SACJJ will improve community stakeholder involvement at the full SACJJ meetings. This will be measured by attendance taken at meetings (number of participants, number of different entities present). Goal Deadline: On-going
Actions	<p>SACJJ will continue to develop and implement an approved plan to improve community stakeholder involvement at full SACJJ meetings focusing on increasing both the number of participants in attendance and the different types of entities in attendance. The implementation of this plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Serving as a conduit to the governor’s office, the SACJJ will schedule a public comment period at all of its public meetings in order to understand and be able to share with the governor’s office the concerns of communities. ➤ The SACJJ Executive Committee will appoint an Executive Committee Outreach person who will develop a list of potential stakeholders and invitees. These could include, but are not limited to: community college representatives, local high school students, local Community Juveniles Services Boards, DFS local offices, county attorneys, judges and other stakeholders. This list of invitees will be included within the plan for improved community involvement and be followed each meeting when putting together the invitation list. This list will be merged as appropriate with the current list of invitees held by the DFS coordinator. ➤ The SACJJ Executive Committee Outreach Person will, one month before the quarterly meeting, determine who to invite and send invitations to those individuals. ➤ Personal invitations will be sent to any state and local elected officials by the SACJJ Executive Committee Outreach Person.
Objective	Starting with the January 2021 meeting, SACJJ will work to identify 4-5 priorities regarding the juvenile justice system and develop recommendations and proposals to present to the Governor’s office. Goal Deadline: On-going
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ At every other SACJJ meeting, a priority regarding the juvenile justice system will be discussed. The executive committee will then develop a proposal by the next SACJJ meeting with recommendations to share with the governor’s office and to be included in the annual report.

<p>Objective</p>	<p>In collaboration with the Legislative Committee, the Executive Committee will review the current statute governing the SACJJ. Goal Deadline: June and November 2021, as well as June 2022 SACJJ meetings.</p>
<p>Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ By the June 2021 SACJJ meeting, the SACJJ legislative committee, in collaboration with the Executive Committee, will review the SACJJ authorizing statutes and write a report to be given to the full council detailing any recommended changes to the statutes. ➤ By the November 2021 SACJJ meeting, the SACJJ will have amended the report written by the SACJJ Legislative Committee to include any changes/recommendations and will provide that report to the governor, state agency stakeholders and, if approved by the governor, the Joint Judiciary Interim Committee. ➤ By June 2022, explore ways to leverage our statutory role to be involved in top-level discussions regarding juvenile justice issues in the state.
<p>Objective</p>	<p>In collaboration with the other committees, create a repository of information for the counties on the SACJJ website. Goal Deadline: Initiate in 2022 and then on-going.</p>
<p>Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ By the January 2022 SACJJ meeting, collaborate with the Grants Committee to provide a repository of information regarding grant and other funding opportunities to the website. ➤ By the April 2022 SACJJ meeting, collaborate with the Best Practices Committee to provide a repository of programming best practices, as well as definitions to the website. ➤ By the June 2022 SACJJ meeting, collaborate with the Data Committee to provide access to the ROM data through the website, as well as a report card for the state. ➤ By the September 2022 SACJJ meeting, collaborate with the Outreach Committee to develop and make available a yearly newsletter. ➤ By the November 2022 SACJJ meeting, collaborate with the Legislative Committee to provide links to possible legislative developments regarding juvenile justice.
<p>Legislative Committee</p>	
<p>Objective</p>	<p>In collaboration with the Executive Committee, the Legislative Committee will review the current statute governing the SACJJ. Goal Deadline: June 2021 SACJJ meeting.</p>

<p>Action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ By the June 2021 SACJJ meeting, the SACJJ legislative committee, in collaboration with the Executive Committee, will review the SACJJ authorizing statutes and write a report to be given to the full council detailing any recommended changes to the statutes. ➤ By November 2021, the SACJJ will have amended the report written by the SACJJ Legislative Committee to include any changes/recommendations and will provide that report to the governor, state agency stakeholders and, if approved by the governor, the Joint Judiciary Interim Committee.
<p>Objective</p>	<p>Provide to the SACJJ continued reports on any relevant state and federal legislative developments regarding juvenile justice. Goal Deadline: On-going</p>
<p>Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Monthly, the committee will identify and track any legislation regarding juvenile justice. They will distinguish any legislation that requires comment and develop recommendations to provide to the governor using the approved process. ➤ As part of identifying and tracking legislation, the committee will identify individuals to attend relevant Joint Judiciary committee meetings. ➤ Provide information on federal legislation, as well as the possible impacts on the state’s juvenile justice systems to counties. ➤ When the opportunity exists and with the direction of the governor, provide comment on federal legislation as it relates to juvenile justice. ➤ Identify state statutes regarding juvenile justice that might benefit from review. In collaboration with the Executive Committee, provide recommendations to the Governor for possible changes.
<p>Objective</p>	<p>Review and provide recommendations to the SACJJ regarding the Council’s by-laws on a yearly basis. Goal Deadline: September SACJJ meeting</p>
<p>Action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On a yearly basis, the legislative committee will provide a report to the SACJJ that outlines the review process and any recommendations for changes or additions to the SACJJ bylaws. This report will be presented annually at the September SACJJ meeting.
<p>Objective</p>	<p>In collaboration with the Executive Committee, create a repository of information for the counties on the SACJJ website. Goal Deadline: Initiate in 2022 and then on-going.</p>

<p>Action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ By the November 2022 SACJJ meeting, collaborate with the Legislative Committee to provide links to possible legislative developments regarding juvenile justice.
<p>Outreach/Youth Committees</p>	
<p>Objective</p>	<p>The SACJJ will continue the annual award for “Best Practices in Juvenile Justice” to recognize outstanding communities for their efforts in juvenile justice. Goal Deadline: On-going.</p>
<p>Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ By the April 2021 SACJJ meeting, the Outreach Committee will finalize written guidance to be followed each year on the award eligibility, process for selection, and process for recognition. This guidance will be posted to the SACJJ website. ➤ The SACJJ Chairperson and Outreach Committee will present the award, annually, to the selected county, in collaboration with VOA, at the September SACJJ meeting. ➤ The Outreach Committee, in collaboration with VOA, will ensure a press release acknowledging the award and selected county is released within two weeks of the presentation.
<p>Objective</p>	<p>The Outreach and Youth Committees, in collaboration with the Executive Committee, will develop a proposal that identifies different actions to increase youth membership. Goal Deadline: December 2021 SACJJ Meeting.</p>
<p>Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Outreach and Youth Committees will revisit and revise the list identifying existing youth organizations/clubs/groups, youth councils, as well as the Wyoming Boys’ School and Girls’ School, who may be appropriate outlets for recruitment of youth members to the SACJJ. These committees will also explore ways that youth in the communities could better inform the SACJJ about the youth perspective. ➤ The Youth Committee will explore ways to increase membership such as examining term lengths, economic realities of student members, defining roles and responsibilities, and benefits to being on the council. ➤ The Youth Committee, together with the Outreach Committee, will develop advertising, as well as documents or videos to increase youth interest in the council. ➤ Together with the Executive Committee, the Outreach and Youth Committees will develop a plan, with ideas to present to all SACJJ members for input at the December 2021 SACJJ Meeting.
<p>Objective</p>	<p>The Outreach Committee will develop a proposal that outlines guidelines to maintain and increase contact with community stakeholders in juvenile justice across the state. Goal Deadline: January 2023 SACJJ meeting</p>

<p>Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The guidelines will set out specific steps to be taken when inviting local stakeholders. ➤ The guidelines will outline a process by which to disseminate information to community stakeholders. ➤ Suggestions for consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social Media ○ Yearly meetings with CJSB's and perhaps others ○ Monthly email updates ○ Meet with community stakeholders before each meeting for a conversation about juvenile justice. ○ What types of training/information would be valuable to the communities?
<p>Objective</p>	<p>The Outreach Committee, in collaboration with the Youth Committee, will maintain and provide recommendations for the SACJJ Website. Goal Deadline: Yearly for the June SACJJ Meeting.</p>
<p>Action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Each year for the June SACJJ meeting, the Youth and Outreach Committees will evaluate the SACJJ website and prepare a proposal of suggested changes and enhancements for discussion and review by the full council. If approved, any changes or enhancements will be completed on the website by the September SACJJ meeting.
<p>Objective</p>	<p>In collaboration with the Executive Committee, create a repository of information for the counties on the SACJJ website. Goal Deadline: Initiate in 2022 and then on-going.</p>
<p>Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ By the September 2022 SACJJ meeting, collaborate with the Executive Committee to develop and make available a yearly newsletter. ➤ Possible things to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Highlights from communities ○ Statewide data from ROM Report ○ Best Practices – Innovative programs ○ Information on Award Recipients ○ Recognizing presenters
<p>Objective</p>	<p>In collaboration with the Data, Grants, and Best Practices Committees, develop training and informational opportunities for community stakeholders. Goal Deadline: Initiate in January 2021 and then on-going.</p>
<p>Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ By the January SACJJ meeting, collaborate with the Data, Grants, and Best Practices Committees to identify a plan for training and informational opportunities for community stakeholders for the upcoming year. Each committee will be responsible for developing one presentation a year to be provided to communities and other stakeholders.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop presentations, based on the approved plan, to be distributed to community stakeholders across Wyoming.
Data Committee	
Objective	The SACJJ will work with communities to improve or continue data reporting. Goal Deadline: Initiate in 2021 and on-going.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ By January 2021, the SACJJ will have scheduled training for communities to improve community involvement with the data. ➤ By June 2022, the SACJJ will work with communities to develop annual report cards from community from the ROM tool data. ➤ By June 2022, the SACJJ will have a public interface available for use of the ROM tool. ➤ By September 2022, the SACJJ Outreach Committee will use data collected from the ROM tool in its annual newsletter.
Objective	In collaboration with the Outreach, Grants, and Best Practices Committees, develop training and informational opportunities for community stakeholders. Goal Deadline: Initiate in January 2021 and then on-going.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ By the January SACJJ meeting, collaborate with the Outreach, Grants, and Best Practices Committees to identify a plan for training and informational opportunities for community stakeholders for the upcoming year. Each committee will be responsible for developing one presentation a year. ➤ Develop presentations, based on the approved plan, to be distributed to community stakeholders across Wyoming.
Best Practices Committee	
Objective	In collaboration with the Executive Committee, create a repository of information for the counties on the SACJJ website. Goal Deadline: Initiate in 2022 and then on-going.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ By the April 2022 SACJJ meeting, provide a repository of programming best practices, as well as definitions to the website. ➤ Over the course of 2023, reach out to each of the 23 counties to discuss with stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current programs and identify those that might be best practices ○ Any difficulties in terms of the current system and any recommendations for changes ○ Any opportunities for program evaluation ○ Any ways to bolster or enhance their programs

Objective	The SACJJ will continue to work with communities to reduce the Number of Court Involved Youth by assisting communities with the adoption of effective programs through recommendations, where appropriate, on juvenile justice practices. Goal Deadline: Initiate in 2023.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The SACJJ will develop recommendations concerning establishment of priorities and needed improvements with respect to juvenile justice, delinquency prevention and juvenile services for each county based on conversations that will occur with each county on programming in 2023.
Objective	In collaboration with the Data, Grants, and Outreach Committees, develop training and informational opportunities for community stakeholders. Goal Deadline: Initiate in January 2021 and then on-going.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ By the January SACJJ meeting, collaborate with the Outreach, Grants, and Best Practices Committees to identify a plan for training and informational opportunities for community stakeholders for the upcoming year. Each committee will be responsible for developing one presentation a year. ➤ Develop presentations, based on the approved plan, to be distributed to community stakeholders across Wyoming.
Grants Committee	
Objective	In collaboration with the Outreach, Best Practices, and Data Committees, develop training and informational opportunities for community stakeholders. Goal Deadline: Initiate in January 2021 and then on-going.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ By the January SACJJ meeting, collaborate with the Outreach, Data, and Best Practices Committees to identify a plan for training and informational opportunities for community stakeholders for the upcoming year. Each committee will be responsible for developing one presentation a year. ➤ Develop presentations, based on the approved plan, to be distributed to community stakeholders across Wyoming.
Objective	In collaboration with the Executive Committee, create a repository of information for the counties on the SACJJ website. Goal Deadline: Initiate in 2022 and then on-going.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ By the January 2022 SACJJ meeting, collaborate with the Executive Committee to provide a repository of information regarding grant and other funding opportunities to the website.