



**STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON JUVENILE JUSTICE**

2022 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.

December 30, 2022

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 2022 Annual Report.

This past year we were able to travel to communities across the state. Meeting with stakeholders and community providers remains a highlight of the Council's work.

From our small communities to the larger ones, common themes continue to emerge. The first is that there are 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 best with limited resources, but it is not enough.

We ask that juvenile justice be a priority of our State; one 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,

Damon DeBernardi, Chair
Wyoming State Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice





SACJJ Coordinator: Brandon Schimelpfenig

MEMBERS		
Name	District/City	Expiration
Abbey Kercher	1-Cheyenne	8/31/2024
Adrienne Freng	2-Laramie	8/31/2023
Alexandra Bammel	2-Laramie (Youth)	8/31/2023
Brittany Cangialosi	2-Larmie (Youth)	8/31/2025
Clarence Thomas	9-Ft. Washakie	8/31/2023
Dakota Jackson	6-Gillette (Youth)	8/31/2024
Damon DeBernardi	3-Rock Springs (Chair)	8/31/2024
Erica Wood	6-Gillette (Vice Chair)	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
Lila Konecky	2-Laramie (Youth)	8/31/2025
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	8/31/2024
Nikki Sweets	7-Casper	8/31/2023
Ronald Howard	9-Riverton	8/31/2024
Ruth Ogden	2-Laramie (Youth)	8/31/2025
Shad Bates	8-Torrington	8/31/2023
Stacy Becker	1-Cheyenne	8/31/2025
Stacy Nelson	7-Casper	8/31/2024

Ex-Officio Members	
Name	Represents
Alicia Johnson	Dept. of Health
Cameron Smith	Attorney General's Office
Jo Ann Numoto	Dept. of Education
Jen Davis	Governor's Office
Shawn Sitzman	Attorney General's Office: Div of Victim Services
Maureen Clifton	WY Interstate Compact for Juveniles - Commissioner
Hon. James "Mike" Causey	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

2022 SACJJ Activities

January 2022

- Meeting location – via Zoom
- Elections were held and the following members were selected for various roles: Damon DeBernardi - Chair, Erica Wood - Vice-Chair, Nicole Hauser, Abbey Kercher and Melinda Cox - At-Large members of the Executive Committee. The SACJJ heard from community and board members regarding WY Home Matters. The SACJJ learned that Volunteers of America (VOA) would be closing out their sub-grants from the OJJDP Non-Participating State grant.
- Community Participation: The SACJJ heard from Laramie County Department of Family Services (DFS) and the Laramie County Community Juvenile Services Joint Powers Board.

April 2022

- Meeting location - Dubois
- The SACJJ discussed the 2021 Annual Report recommendations. The recommendations were as follows: Community Juvenile Services Boards (CJSB) funding being restored by the Wyoming Legislature, juvenile justice to continue to be a topic with the Joint Judiciary interim committee with the Wyoming Legislature, data collection within the juvenile justice system in Wyoming, Wyoming to maintain its non-participation status with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) within the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), and funding for mental health services in all counties. The SACJJ discussed the Wyoming Legislature Data Collection bill (HB0037). The SACJJ heard from DFS regarding the Wyoming Juvenile Detention Risk Assessment (JDRA).
- Community Participation: Fremont County DFS, Fremont County CJSB

June 2022

- Meeting location – Evanston
- The SACJJ heard on the Utah Detention Risk Assessment Tool (DRAT). The SACJJ discussed how to proceed with the Neal Madsen Excellence in Juvenile Justice Award. A presentation from the Governor's office was received regarding the Safer Communities Act.
- Community Participation: Uinta County DFS, Uinta County CJSB

September 2022

- Meeting location – Rawlins
- Topics that were discussed include 2021 Annual Report Recommendations, SRAD Conference, High Risk, High Needs Workgroup Update, 14-Day Filing Discussion, CJSB Reform Discussion, and Juvenile Assessment for CJSB Funding. The SACJJ heard an update from the Governor's office and a Budget Report/Grant update.
- Community Participation: County Attorney and DFS for Carbon County

November 2022

- Meeting location – Buffalo
- The SACJJ received a presentation from Byron Oedekoven with the Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police (WASCOP) regarding the JDRA – history, application, training, and administration. It was determined that the SACJJ'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: County Attorney and DFS for Johnson County

2022 SACJJ 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 continued.** The Legislature restored funding for communities in the last session, but continued funding must be a top priority.
- **Juvenile Justice should remain a topic for the Joint Judiciary Committee.** Juvenile justice issues and reform should be a priority for the state.
- **Data collection within the juvenile justice system.** A statute for collecting juvenile justice data was passed by the legislature last year. DFS, SACJJ, and other stakeholders are working on a data collection system. Those efforts need to be supported by the Governor's Office and the Legislature.
- **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. To date, WYSAC has expressed an interest in applying for funding and should be supported in their efforts.
- **Funding for mental health access.** Every community visited shared the barriers they experience regarding access to care.
- **Collaboration of advisory groups.** To ensure maximum understanding and access to state resources, we recommend that on an annual basis executive committees of all state advisory groups meet to share information and resources.

SACJJ Strategic Plan 2021-2023

Executive Committee

<p>Objective</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Action</p>	<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.
<p>Objective</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Action</p>	<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>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 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>Action</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.

Objective	Provide to the SACJJ continued reports on any relevant state and federal legislative developments regarding juvenile justice. Goal Deadline: On-going
Action	<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.
Objective	Review and provide recommendations to the SACJJ regarding the SACJJ’s by-laws on a yearly basis. Goal Deadline: September SACJJ meeting
Action	<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.
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 November 2022 SACJJ meeting, collaborate with the Legislative Committee to provide links to possible legislative developments regarding juvenile justice.
Outreach/Youth Committee	
Objective	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.
Action	<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.

Objective	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.
Action	<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 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 SACJJ. ☐ The Youth Committee, together with the Outreach Committee, will develop advertising, as well as documents or videos to increase youth interest in the SACJJ. ☐ 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.
Objective	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
Action	<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?
Objective	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.
Action	<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.

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 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
Objective	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.
Action	<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. ☐ 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.
Action	<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.
Action	<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.
Action	<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.
Action	<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.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ By the January 2021 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.