

WYOMING STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

Meeting Minutes

January 18-19, 2024: Cheyenne, WY

Agenda:

Thursday, January 18, 2024

- Call to Order
- Approval of Minutes
- New Business
- Ongoing Business
- Committee Reports

Friday, January 19, 2024

- DFS Update/Report
- Community Participation
- Announcements
- County Highlights
- Adjournment

Present:

Abbey Kercher
Adrienne Freng
Alan Stuber
Alexandra Bammel
Dakota Jackson
Damon DeBernardi
Dylan Pierce
Erica Wood
Erika Sanchez
Jennifer Palser
Kassidy Thomas
Logan Christie
Melinda Cox
Narina Nunez
Nicole Hauser
Ruth Ogden
Stacy Becker

Ex-Officio Present:

Christina McCabe
Jacob Edwards
Shawn Sitzman

Via Proxy:
Brittany Cangialosi

Others Present:

Brandon Schimelpfenig (DFS)
Korin Schmidt (DFS)
Lindsey Schilling (DFS)
Laurel Wimbish (WYSAC)
Amanda Aldridge (DFS)
Kiersti Willms (DFS)
Jeff O'Holleran (Laramie Cty.
DA)

Absent:

Chris Jones
Dale Weber
Lila Konecky
Patricia O'Brien
Ronald Howard
Stacy Nelson

Call to Order

I. Call to Order: Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 1:00p.

- a) Roll Call/Introductions
- b) Declaration of Quorum; a quorum was established with 18 members present.

II. Approval of Minutes:

November 30-December 1, 2023 meeting held in Casper, WY; Adrienne Freng motioned to approve the draft minutes; Erica Wood seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

III. **New Business:**

a) 2024 Elections

Nicole Hauser nominated Logan Christie for the Chair position and Logan accepted the nomination; Erica Wood seconded the motion; all in favor; motion approved. Nicole Hauser nominated Erica Wood for Vice-Chair and Erica accepted her nomination; Abbey Kercher seconded the motion; all in favor; motion approved. At-Large members of the Executive committee were discussed and it was stated that Nicole Hauser and Melinda Cox desired to remove themselves from the Executive committee. Abbey Kercher expressed her desire to stay on the Executive committee. Stacey Becker and Ruth Ogden expressed their desire to join the Executive Committee as At-Large members.

Nicole Hauser motioned to approve the list of Executive committee members as presented; Damon DeBernardi seconded the motion; all in favor; motion approved. The Executive committee is listed as follows; Chair: Logan Christie, Vice-Chair: Erica Wood, At-Large: Abbey Kercher, Stacey Becker, and Ruth Ogden.

Discussion was then held for the Grants committee and Adrienne Freng expressed her desire to remain on the committee as well as Narina Nunez, Damon DeBernardi, Abbey Kercher, Nicole Hauser, Melinda Cox, and Logan Christie as Chair. Brittany Cangialosi was not physically present however she expressed her desire through her proxy to be removed from the Grants committee. Erica Wood motioned to approve the list as presented; Abbey Kercher seconded the motion; all in favor; motion approved. The Grants committee is listed as follows: committee chair Logan Christie, Adrienne Freng, Narina Nunez, Damon DeBernardi, Abbey Kercher, Nicole Hauser, and Melinda Cox.

b) 2023 Annual Report Discussion

Logan stated that the 2023 SACJJ Annual Report was sent to the Governor on 12/31/23 and said that the Executive committee is currently working on scheduling a date with the Governor to discuss the 2023 Annual Report and recommendations contained within.

c) 14-Day Requirement-Updates

Logan discussed the 14-day requirement with the SACJJ. This requirement is concerning the requirement for juvenile citations to be filed with the local court within 14 days otherwise the citation is dismissed.

d) Legislation

Nicole stated that the information contained within this presentation would be covered under the Legislative committee update during "Committee Updates."

e) Collaboration with other Wyoming Councils

Abbey stated that the Outreach/Youth committee drafted up a letter to be sent out to various Wyoming boards and councils detailing why the SACJJ would like to collaborate with them. Abbey sent out the letter to be dispersed amongst the SACJJ for review.

f) Open Topic Discussion from Members

Jacob wanted to discuss updates regarding the data system currently being implemented by the Department of Family Services called the Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS). Jacob briefly discussed the history surrounding the need for the system and how the responsibilities shifted for the system in 2022 from the Division of Criminal Investigation with the Wyoming Attorney General's Office to the Wyoming Department of Family Services. Jacob stated that things are progressing smoothly with the vendor and integrating the JJIS into the soon-to-be new DFS case management system; WYOSAFE. Jacob stated that the proposed go-live date for the JJIS is July 1, 2024.

Jacob also wanted to mention that he has started a grant resource for areas interested regarding areas that have applied and been awarded grants in their area pertaining to juvenile justice so that other areas may view this resource and just be aware of juvenile justice funding opportunities. Erica Wood mentioned putting this resource on the SACJJ website. Adrienne Freng hesitated on posting this type of information to the SACJJ website or elsewhere due to the fact that funding opportunities and information are constantly changing and by the time the information is accessed the funding information might have changed from its original source.

Erica Wood wanted to discuss adding the massive vaping concerns that communities are witnessing in their respective schools and adding to the SACJJ agendas as an ongoing discussion topic. Logan agreed this was a good idea and said that the Executive Committee would add it to the agenda for next proposed SACJJ meeting in April 2024. It was a consensus opinion amongst the SACJJ that suspensions and expulsions are not an effective tool for reducing or eliminating vaping usage in Wyoming schools.

g) Public Comment

No topics were brought forth by members of the public.

h) Executive Meeting with Governor

The SACJJ Executive committee meeting with the Governor has been scheduled for February 27, 2024; time and agenda are to be determined.

IV. On-Going Business – Updates From:

a) Council Membership – Brandon Schimelpfenig

Brandon stated that roughly half of the SACJJ's member's terms are due to expire by August 31, 2024. Brandon then listed each member whose terms are due to expire; they included Abbey Kercher, Dakota Jackson, Damon DeBernardi, Erica

Wood, Jen Palser, Logan Christie, Melinda Cox, Narina Nunez, Nicole Hauser, Ron Howard, and Stacy Nelson. Brandon advised that those members wishing to stay on the SACJJ to please apply for another three-year term by using the “Online Application” link on the SACJJ’s website and to indicate that they are not applying as a new member but rather applying for another term. Melinda Cox stated that an individual named Hattie Calvert recently submitted her application for the SACJJ from Fremont county.

b) Governor’s Office – Jen Davis

Jen was not available for an update however she provided Brandon with an update. Brandon stated that the Governor’s Office is currently working the budget since this upcoming legislative session is a budget session.

c) CJSB Reform – Brandon Schimelpfenig

Brandon stated that he has drafted up a new application for the CJSBs and it is currently being reviewed by DFS administration. Once approved, Brandon stated that he will disseminate the application to the CJSBs for completion. Brandon also stated that Jacob Edwards and he will be traveling to each CJSB in the month of May 2024 to provide technical assistance and answer questions the CJSB might have regarding Reroute or anything else going into the new biennium set to take effect July 1, 2024. Damon DeBernardi requested information on starting a CJSB in Sublette County. Brandon stated that he can provide that information to Damon in the interim between now and the next meeting in April.

d) Budget Report/Grant Update – Brandon Schimelpfenig

Brandon stated that Title II 2020 has been full expended; Title II 2021 has \$25,493.58 remaining and Title II 2022 has \$30,000.00 remaining. Title II 2023 was received by DFS on 12/20/23 in the amount of \$30,000.00 and has the full amount currently remaining.

e) Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ) – Brandon Schimelpfenig

Brandon stated there are a few runaways from other states currently in Wyoming and he is working on returning them to their home states. No other updates.

f) Training Committee

Logan discussed the idea of creating a Training committee to assist with training counties in juvenile justice topics (data collection, best practices, etc.). Stacy Becker advised that the SACJJ should reach out to the counties around the state to see what sorts of trainings they would like to see if juvenile justice and start the discussions there. Adrienne Freng also agreed with this idea and asked the Data committee to lead this task as well as teaming up with the Best Practices committee.

V. Committee Reports

a) Executive Committee – Logan Christie

Logan highlighted that the 2023 Annual Report was submitted to the Governor. He had stated that the new Strategic Plan was also included in the Annual Report and Brandon Schimelpfenig requested that he send just the new 2024-2026 Strategic Plan to him as that will need to be included in the upcoming 2024 Title II application once it has been solicited by OJJDP. The 2024-2026 Strategic Plan will also be posted on the SACJJ's website. Logan stated he would get that individual document to Brandon.

- b) Grants Committee – Logan Christie
Logan stated things with the Grants committee are quiet right now as the Non-Participating State grant award with OJJDP has not been announced yet. No other updates.
- c) Data Committee – Adrienne Freng
Jacob Edwards expressed his desire to join the Data committee. Adrienne stated that the Data committee recently met with Director Allen Thompson from WASCOP to discuss the Juvenile Detention risk Assessment and how it should be utilized in the future.
- d) Best Practices Committee – Alan Stuber
Stacey Becker expressed her desire to join the Best Practices committee. Alan stated they met on December 14, 2023 and discussed juvenile definitions, Wyoming juvenile facilities, as well as update the list of juvenile diversion programs around the stated to include an attorney portion to the list as well.
- e) Outreach/Youth Committee – Erica Wood, Brittany Cangialosi
Jacob Edwards expressed his desire to join the Outreach/Youth committee. Erica stated that the committee recently met to discuss their Strategic Plan areas.
- f) Legislative Committee – Nicole Hauser
Melinda Cox and Erika Sanchez expressed their desires to join the Legislative committee. Nicole advised that before next year's legislative session that the Legislative committee will be looking at the SACJJ's bylaws for areas to revise including discussing changing the Chair's term from 1 year to 2 years. Nicole stated that this year's Legislative session will be a budget session so bills will require a 2/3 majority vote in each chamber to be introduced in the House and Senate. Nicole stated that the Legislative committee is tracking HB0044 as well as SF0037; a bill concerning the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and delinquency petitions. Damon DeBernardi also discussed SF0032-Hemp limitations on psychoactive substances.

Friday, January 19, 2024

VI. DFS Update/Report

Korin Schmidt, Director for DFS, was present to discuss DFS updates. Korin briefly discussed the budget process with the Wyoming Legislature as DFS recently submitted their budget for approval. Korin then discussed an overview of the DFS budget requests. Lindsey Schilling, Senior Administrator for the Social Services Division with DFS, spoke regarding Medicaid eligibility for juveniles that age out while in detention settings. She stated that once they turn 18, they are dropped from Medicaid until they discharge from those facilities. She also wanted to point out that if they are not in a detention setting, that once they turn 18, they retain their eligibility with Medicaid until they turn 26. Lindsey stated that Medicaid and CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) are partnering to provide insurance for juveniles that are in detention settings and age out that starting January 1, 2025, Medicaid will provide insurance for juveniles 30 days prior to discharge from their respective facility and also one week post-discharge.

VII. Community Participation

a) Laramie County DFS

Kiersti Willms, Juvenile Probation Supervisor, and Amanda Aldridge, Social Services Supervisor, with Laramie County DFS were present to discuss local juvenile justice trends they are seeing within their office. Amanda stated that in calendar year 2023 there were 113 delinquency and 33 CHINS petitions filed in Laramie County. She also wanted to note that to-date in calendar year 2024, there have been five CHINS petitions filed as well as five delinquency petitions filed. Erica Wood asked Laramie County DFS if they have been seeing an increase in weapons related offenses with juveniles and Kiersti responded in the affirmative and that within the past few years; cases involving juveniles and weapons have been steadily rising. Amanda also wanted to note that there doesn't seem to be many barriers between local DFS and the education system in Laramie County as there are court liaisons to help with communication and dissemination of documents between DFS and the schools. Amanda noted that within Laramie County, there is a rising number of fentanyl usage among juveniles as well as mental health issues.

b) Laramie County CJSJPB

Tim Thorson, Administrator for the Laramie County Community Juvenile Joint Powers Board, was not able to physical be present at the meeting however he provided a short update to Brandon to disseminate amongst the SACJJ. Brandon stated that Tim wanted to note that "the LCCJSJPB continues to consider the value of a group or congregate care facility and which entity would be appropriate to move such a project forward. The LCCJSJPB continues to fund diversion and case management services provided through Youth Alternatives and successfully brokered the involvement of our DA and Youth Alternatives in the Reroute system. If funding is continued by the Legislature, the board looks forward to DFS' next RFP process for further direction and priorities for CJSB funding."

c) Laramie County District Attorney's Office

Jeff O'Holleran, Deputy District Attorney for Laramie County, joined the meeting via Zoom to present trends that his office is seeing regarding juveniles in Laramie County. He stated they are definitely seeing an increased usage of fentanyl. He also said that CHINS cases are consistently being referred by the local schools in Laramie County.

VIII. County Highlights

The SACJJ briefly highlighted key areas from the meeting in Laramie County.

- Laramie County is very prevention focused with their juvenile justice.
- Laramie County has a court liaison that assists with case with DFS and the local schools.
- Laramie County has a wealth of resources for juvenile services.

IX. Announcements

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 18-19, 2024 in Torrington, WY. Jacob Edwards has been appointed by the Governor as the Ex-Officio for the Department of Family Services.

X. Adjournment

Alan Stuber motioned to adjourn the meeting; Stacey Becker seconded the motion; all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:56a.