

WYOMING STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

Meeting Minutes

November 30-December 1, 2023: Casper, WY

Agenda:

Thursday, November 30, 2023

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

Friday, December 1, 2023

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

Present:

Abbey Kercher
Adrienne Freng
Alan Stuber
Chris Jones
Dakota Jackson
Dale Weber
Damon DeBernardi
Dylan Pierce
Erica Wood
Erika Sanchez
Kassidy Thomas
Jennifer Palser
Melinda Cox
Ruth Ogden
Stacy Becker

Ex-Officio Present:

Christina McCabe
Jen Davis
Shawn Sitzman
Dustin Brown

Via Proxy:
Alexandra Bammel
Brittany Cangialosi
Narina Nunez

Others Present:

Brandon Schimelpfenig (DFS)
Jacob Edwards (DFS)
Ed Heimer (DFS)
Laurel Wimbish (WYSAC)
Becky Burt (DFS)
Chris Dresang (CJSB)
Brooke Benson (GW BBBS)

Absent:

Lila Konecky
Logan Christie
Nicole Hauser
Patricia O'Brien
Ronald Howard
Stacy Nelson

Call to Order

I. Call to Order: Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 1:00p.

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

II. Approval of Minutes:

September 21-22, 2023 meeting held in Jackson, WY; Damon DeBernardi motioned to approve the draft minutes; Abbey Kercher seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

III. New Business:

- a) Strategic Plan Review

Erica stated that the Executive committee discussed an extension of the deadline of strategic plan updates and requested that all committees provide updates and comments to the Executive committee and/or Brandon Schimelpfenig no later than December 15, 2023.

b) 14-Day Requirement: Updates

Erica provided a brief overview of the 14-day requirement. She stated that the Outreach committee is currently drafting a document listing how communities across the state are addressing this requirement and should have something to provide to the full SACJJ during the January 2024 meeting.

c) 2023 Annual Report Discussion

Erica discussed with the SACJJ the 2022 recommendations to the Governor and which ones to possibly include in the 2023 Annual Report. One of the recommendations was to continue funding the state community juvenile service boards (CJSB); another recommendation was to keep juvenile justice as an interim topic for the Joint Judiciary committee with the Wyoming State Legislature; another recommendation was to continue efforts towards statewide juvenile justice data collection; another recommendation was for Wyoming to continue its non-participation status with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP); another recommendation to the Governor was for funding for mental health access needing to be a priority across the state. Another recommendation was there appears to be a shortage of in the workforce across all state agencies. The last recommendation from the SACJJ was to collaborate with other state councils to better encompass juvenile justice needs across the state.

A new recommendation that Erica would like to include in the 2023 report is discussion surrounding group home and crisis shelter access and services for some communities. Abbey Kercher asked questions of the Council pertaining to juvenile justice and how some juveniles that are lower functioning cognitively are being addressed in Courts. Additional discussion surrounding this topic was discussed more during Public Comment.

d) Priority List for the SACJJ

Erica stated that the Executive committee will review 2022's recommendations and 2023's themes from areas the SACJJ visited and develop a priority list of recommendations to route to the Governor.

e) 2023 Meeting Dates/Locations

Erica stated the Executive committee met in the interim and discussed areas where the SACJJ had not been recently and came up with a list of areas to discuss during this meeting as well as field discussion on any other areas suggested by council members. The SACJJ first discussed dates in January, April, June, September, and November 2024.

Erica mentioned that historically the January meeting is usually held in Cheyenne as the Wyoming Legislature is in Cheyenne around the same time. The SACJJ looked at the third week of each listed month and decided that the 2024 meetings will be held on January 18-19, April 18-19, June 20-21, September 19-20, and November 14-15 respectively. Once dates were discussed, locations were then discussed with an emphasis on locations the SACJJ had not visited recently. As the January meeting was going to be held in Cheyenne, discussion was held first for the April 18-19 location with Torrington and Sheridan being discussed before Torrington ultimately being chosen. The next meeting location in June 20-21 was discussed and Sheridan was chosen. For September 19-20, Cody was discussed and accepted as a location. Lastly, for the November 14-15 meeting location, Casper and Lander were discussed as during the fall/winter months the SACJJ generally travels to more temperate areas to avoid inclement weather; Lander was ultimately chosen.

The 2024 meeting dates and locations were listed as follows: January 18-19 in Cheyenne; April 18-19 in Torrington, June 20-21 in Sheridan; September 19-20 in Cody; and November 14-15 in Lander. Adrienne Freng motioned to approve the 2024 meeting dates and locations as mentioned and Damon DeBernardi seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried, and the list was approved.

f) Open Topic Discussion from Members
No topics brought forth.

g) Public Comment

Jacob Edwards brought forth the topic of Medicaid access to certain youth that age out and turn 18 while placed at the Wyoming Girls School (WGS) and Wyoming Boys School (WBS). He stated that currently, if a youth turns 18 while placed at the WGS or WBS or in a juvenile detention center in the state, they no longer are eligible to receive Medicaid services. He also mentioned that youth who have not been placed in foster care setting after their 14th birthday are not eligible to receive Chafee funds with the Department of Family Services. Jacob Edwards suggested members be mindful to continue to seek additional funding streams such as the Chafee Grant, etc. in instances that students would not be eligible for services.

A question was asked if other communities have experienced juveniles being placed on probation conditions for tobacco or other minor traffic violations.

IV. On-Going Business – Updates From:

a) Council Membership – Brandon Schimelpfenig

Brandon stated there are currently 24 members and the council is within the 1/5 youth ratio as well as the ratio for government vs. non-government members. No other updates.

b) Governor's Office – Jen Davis

Jen mentioned that the Governor is continuing to push mental health and access to services as a discussion topic throughout the state. She also mentioned that the Governor put 988 crisis-call funding into the standard operating budget for the state. She also mentioned that the Governor's Office is looking at implementing a behavioral health pipeline of resources across the state. Jen referred to some efforts as being "postvention" as opposed to be prevention. She mentioned that the Governor's Health Task Force is looking at options to bring more doctors into Wyoming specifically obstetrics (OB) care. Jen shared there has been the Governor's town hall series that already occurred in Powell, Worland, Rock Springs and the next one will occur in Pinedale December 15, 2023 as well as a meeting on December 18, 2023 in Gillette, WY.

Jen also briefly discussed the Governor's efforts to implement a mental health diversion program within Wyoming. She discussed that there is a pilot program starting in Campbell County with efforts being spearheaded by Wyoming Supreme Court Chief Justice Kate M. Fox and District Court Judge Matthew F.G. Castano and Circuit Court Judge Paul Phillips. She mentioned that the program is based off the Miami model in Florida and will be for those individuals that are chronically mentally ill and consistently cross paths with the criminal court system. Wraparound services will be directed for each individual so that the individual gets the services they need; this program will only be for adults.

Jen also spoke about the efforts involving a Workforce Health Fair and other communications for services for Veterans.

c) CJSB Reform – Brandon Schimelpfenig

Brandon stated that the biggest update right now is working on getting the CJSBs into the Reroute system and getting their agreements with WYSAC signed. Brandon recently collected diversion data from the CJSBs via Reroute as well as Excel sheets and said that he will be compiling the information for DFS Director Schmidt before she presents to the Wyoming Legislature Joint Appropriations committee regarding the CJSBs.

d) WYSAC-OJJDP Solicitation NPS Application/Reroute Updates-Laurel Wimbish

Laurel provided a brief update regarding the application process for the Non-Participating State (NPS) grant with OJJDP. She mentioned that the application was submitted in October 2023 and is hoping to hear a response by early 2024.

Laurel also discussed the implementation process of the Reroute data collection system with each CJSB county. She mentioned that Uinta County recently signed their agreement as well as the Laramie County District Attorney's Office and Youth Alternatives within the City of Cheyenne. Laurel provided a list of counties that had active data transfer agreements.

- e) Budget Report/Grant Update – Brandon Schimelpfenig
Brandon stated that Title II 2020 has been full expended; Title II 2021 has \$29,419.52 remaining; and Title II 2022 has \$30,000.00 remaining. Brandon has applied for Title II 2023 and is currently awaiting the award.
- f) 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.

V. Committee Reports

- a) Executive Committee – Logan Christie
Logan was not present however Vice Chair Erica Wood presented the Executive committee report stating that the Executive committee met and drafted the agenda for this meeting. Erica also stated that the committee discussed creating a uniform procedure and communication for inviting community juvenile justice stakeholders to SACJJ meetings. Currently, SACJJ coordinator Brandon Schimelpfenig sends emails to the local County/District Attorney as well as the local CJSB and DFS office inviting them to present during the second day of the SACJJ meeting during the community participation section. Erica mentioned that members of the Executive committee took part in a New Member Orientation training this morning (11/30); new members trained included Erika Sanchez, Kassidy Thomas and Dustin Brown, There was also discussion on strategic plan updates.
- b) Grants Committee – Logan Christie
Erica presented on behalf of Logan and stated there were no updates from the Grants committee.
- c) Data Committee – Adrienne Freng
Adrienne stated that the committee had not met in the interim but discussed strategic plan updates and goals for the next plan. Adrienne stated that she still needed to send those to Brandon to forward to the Executive committee. Adrienne stated that some members of the data committee as well as Brandon Schimelpfenig from DFS recently met with the new executive director for WASCOP, Allen Thompson, to discuss the Wyoming Juvenile Detention Risk Assessment (JDRA). Brandon Schimelpfenig also stated that Allen discussed the possibility of forming a subcommittee within WASCOP to look at reforming the JDRA to make it more useful for law enforcement. Laurel Wimbish with WYSAC also wanted to mention that the Wyoming JDRA is built into Reroute and can be entered that way.
- d) Best Practices Committee – Alan Stuber
Alan stated that the committee has not met recently but that they will be meeting soon to discuss strategic plan recommendations and updates.

- e) Outreach/Youth Committee – Erica Wood, Brittany Cangialosi
Brittany stated that the Outreach committee met recently and has sent in their recommendations and updates for the strategic plan. She said that they also discussed materials to draft and update regarding new member orientations. She also mentioned that they discussed a broad overview of the Neal Madson Excellence in Juvenile Justice award.
- f) Legislative Committee – Nicole Hauser
Nicole was not present however Damon DeBernardi provided an update stating they met and discussed strategic plan updates and recommendations and will be getting those finalized to send to Brandon.

Friday, December 1, 2023

VI. DFS Update/Report

Ed Heimer, Field Services Administrator, was present via Zoom to discuss DFS updates. He stated that DFS is currently undergoing a federal audit called the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). This occurs once every seven years and involves files from each field office for DFS being reviewed against a federal instrument focusing on safety, permanency, and well-being. He mentioned that this review is different than years past because it is a state-led review as opposed to a federally led review. Ed then mentioned that DFS Director Korin Schmidt will be presenting before the Wyoming Legislature Joint Appropriations Committee (JAC) on December 19, 2023 to discuss DFS budgets; including funding for the CJSBs. Ed then asked Brandon Schimelpfenig to mention that the Wyoming Girl's School will be completing a Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) audit in June 2024. Lastly, Ed discussed that the Wyoming Legislature appropriated \$500,000 to DFS for purposes of prevention efforts with families to provide services to families.

VII. Community Participation

- a) Workforce/Other Councils Collaboration: contacted by Abbey Kercher
No other Wyoming councils were available to present.
- b) Natrona County DFS
Becky Burt, Juvenile Probation Supervisor, was present to discuss trends that Natrona County is seeing regarding juveniles in their area. Becky stated that along with her full-time position with Natrona County DFS she also serves as the chair of the Natrona County CJSB. Becky stated that the CJSB partners with the local Mercer Family Resource Center (MFRC) for many diversion services including a pre-CHINS program. She also mentioned that auto burglaries have steadily been on the rise in the Casper area amongst juveniles.
- c) Natrona County District Attorney's Office
No representatives available to present.

d) Natrona County CJSB

Chris Dresang, Student Support Services Director for Natrona County School District #1, was present to discuss juvenile crime trends and services offered to youth in the Natrona County area. Chris stated that along with his full-time position with the school district he also serves as the secretary for the Natrona County CJSB. He stated that the Natrona County CJSB has approximately 934 cases on an annual basis that are screened through single point of entry (SPE). He mentioned that roughly half of those (499) are not adjudicated which means that they were screened out and offered diversion services. He stated that the most prevalent substance circulating in the schools right now is fentanyl, along with THC products, which he stated is very concerning for the area.

VIII. County Highlights

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

- Jacob Edwards mentioned creating a document that would have all juvenile diversion program grant opportunities as funding is typically a strain on programs within Wyoming. He stated that he would like to work with Brandon Schimelpfenig regarding the creation of that document.

IX. Announcements

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 18-19, 2024 in Cheyenne, WY.

X. Adjournment

Stacey Becker motioned to adjourn the meeting; Abbey Kercher seconded the motion; all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15a.