

## **Nebraska Children's Commission – Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee**

Eighth Meeting

May 14, 2013

9:00AM-4:30PM

Child Advocacy Center (Gary Lacey Training Center)  
5025 Garland Street, Lincoln, NE

### **Call to Order**

Ellen Brokofsky and Marty Klein called the meeting to order at 9:10am and noted that the Open Meetings Act information was posted in the room as required by state law.

### **Roll Call**

Subcommittee Members present: Martin Klein, Ellen Brokofsky, Kim Culp, Sarah Forrest, Judge Larry Gendler, Kim Hawekotte, Anne Hobbs, Ron Johns, Nick Juliano, Jana Peterson, Corey Steel, Monica Miles Steffens, and Dalene Walker.

Acting as resources to the committee: Tony Green, Liz Neeley, and Dan Scarborough.

Subcommittee Member(s) absent: Pastor Tony Sanders.

Resource members absent: Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, Stacey Conroy, Doug Koebernick, Jerall Moreland, Hank Robinson, and Amy Williams.

### **Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Corey Steel to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Ron Johns. Voting yes: Martin Klein, Ellen Brokofsky, Kim Culp, Sarah Forrest, Judge Larry Gendler, Kim Hawekotte, Anne Hobbs, Ron Johns, Nick Juliano, Corey Steel, Monica Miles Steffens. Voting no: none. Jana Peterson, Pastor Tony Sanders, and Dalene Walker were absent. Motion carried.

### **Approval of April 9, 2013, Minutes**

A motion was made by Judge Larry Gendler to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2013, meeting, seconded by Ron Johns. Voting yes: Martin Klein, Ellen Brokofsky, Kim Culp, Sarah Forrest, Judge Larry Gendler, Kim Hawekotte, Anne Hobbs, Ron Johns, Nick Juliano, Corey Steel, Monica Miles Steffens. Voting no: none. Jana Peterson, Pastor Tony Sanders, and Dalene Walker were absent. Motion carried.

## **Chair's Report**

Ellen Brokofsky and Marty Klein gave a chair's report. They reminded the committee that the role and responsibility of the Juvenile Services (OJS) committee would be changing if LB561 passes. They noted that since the legislation had not yet passed the committee would continue to work on the charge from LB821 from the previous year. The committee was instructed that the day would consist of a process of working through facilitated discussion.

The chair's also led the group in talking about the expansion of the group membership. Committee members suggested that the committee be expanded to look at adding someone from the Crime Commission, Education, Diversion, Behavioral Health, Child Advocacy Center, Law Enforcement, and Substance Abuse. The committee members were reminded to turn in any nominations for new members to Leesa.

A motion was made by Ellen Brokofsky to expand the membership of the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee to 16 voting members. The motion was seconded by Kim Hawekotte. Voting yes: Martin Klein, Ellen Brokofsky, Kim Culp, Sarah Forrest, Judge Larry Gendler, Kim Hawekotte, Anne Hobbs, Ron Johns, Nick Juliano, Jana Peterson, Corey Steel, Monica Miles Steffens. Voting no: none. Pastor Tony Sanders, and Dalene Walker were absent. Motion carried.

## **YRTC Update**

Jana Peterson and Dan Scarbrough provided information on the Kearney and Geneva YRTCs. Dan indicated that YRTC Geneva has been averaging 75 girls. Dan indicated that the count was up slightly because he had a category of girls that were having their release delayed so that they would complete school. Dan indicated that YRTC-Geneva would have 11 girls graduating. He also reported on the equine program and contracts that are coming up for renewal.

Jana reported that they have seen a decrease in assaultive behavior at Kearney YRTC. Jana indicated that they had also seen a decrease in the number of youth being sent to YRTC-K in general. Jana also shared some information of the YRTC-K equine program.

## **Travel/Conference Updates**

Monica Miles Steffens reported on the NJJA conference in Kearney and the New Jersey Trip. Topics for the NJJA conference included collaboration, leadership, biases, and bullying. The conference also included a legislative update.

Monica reported that 12 of the original 17 planned participants were able to make the trip to New Jersey. It was noted that the information was very helpful and gave the group a good opportunity to build relationships. The group is considering how to get the information to the group that was not able to travel. 2 or 3 key people may be invited to Nebraska to share the information with a larger audience.

## **Legislative Update**

The committee briefly discussed LB 561 and how the proposed changes would impact families and youth.

## **Strategic Recommendations Facilitated Discussion**

The OJS committee continued their review of the juvenile justice system through a facilitated discussion. The committee began with a focus question and agreed upon the following question to guide the strategic recommendations process: “What changes (or things to remain the same) will effectively improve and support a comprehensive, culturally competent, continuum of care; and accountability for youth and families involved in the juvenile justice system, while maintaining public safety?”

In answer to the focus question, the committee agreed upon the following vision elements:

1. Right youth, right services, right time
2. Consistent, stable, skilled work force
3. Transparent system collaboration with shared partnerships and ownership
4. Family focused/youth centered
5. Data driven decision making
6. Reducing social and system disparity

Committee members were then divided into sub-groups to develop goal statements for each vision element. After reporting out on each of the goal statements the group further developed strategic for each goal. The sub-groups reported out the following, including a parking lot list:

Sub-group 1: Right youth, right services, right time –

- Appropriate screening/assessment and TARGETED systematic response, based on that assessment
  - Validated/evidenced-based screening tool
  - Develop concept – Juvenile Intake Assessment Center (JIAC)
  - Criteria for referral
- Continuum of care, close to home, that is accessible (finances) to all youth being served
  - Analysis of current systems and holes in those systems
  - Identify what system responses should include
    - No system response “out the door”
    - Diversion
    - Court involvement
  - Identify services available and holes in each of these systems
- Getting screening/assessment and services in place in an expedited, age-appropriate, timely manner
  - Develop/research guidelines for each system response
  - Educate system “players”
  - Change law

Sub-group 2: Consistent, stable, skilled work force

- Foster working with youth as a professional and career choice
  - Incentivizing college students to enter the profession by offering tuition remission and/or reimbursement
  - Engage private and public colleges as a “front door” to educating employees of the juvenile justice system in best practices in working with youth and families
  - Encourage continuing education to be in best practices that will enhance abilities of employees to serve youth and families
- Provide adequate support, training and mentoring that allows for success and career advancement.
  - Strong supervision and mentoring translates into higher quality services for youth and families
  - Development of strong, formal mentoring programs to enhance transfer of education and skills into competencies in working with youth and families
- Ensure the highest skilled and most experienced employees case commensurate equal to their abilities and compensated accordingly
  - Identify core skills and abilities needed to work with specific populations
  - Provide incentives for employees who have specialized, high risk caseloads (e.g. – speak certain language)
- Ensure cultural competency, reasonable caseload sizes and measure the quality of service and supervision provided
  - Investigate and adopt standards appropriate to relative caseload size
  - Develop internal controls that define quality of service utilizing EBP/best practices models
  - Set standards for competency expectations of supervisory personnel
  - As part of the mission, focus on developing cultural competency at all levels

Sub-group 3: Transparent system collaboration with shared partnerships and ownership

- Developing and sustaining public/private partnerships for strategic planning efforts
- Increase capacity for leadership development in the juvenile justice system
  - Identify current juvenile justice leaders and develop network opportunities
  - Partner with NJJA and other stakeholders to develop juvenile justice leadership academy
- Information sharing
  - Common definitions of key system points (i.e. – entry, exit, etc.)
  - Develop and define common outcome measures (i.e. – recidivism, case processing, etc)
  - Work with Nebraska Children’s Commission data efforts to include juvenile justice

- Develop information sharing agreements across systems (education, justice, etc)
- Utilize technical assistance from national experts
- Develop public/private partnerships
  - Identify and document existing collaborations and initiatives at state and local level
  - Partner with Nebraska Children's Commission Community Ownership workgroup
  - Educate juvenile justice to get involved
  - Uniform way of informing the state on this work
- Leadership Capacity
  - Identify current juvenile justice leaders and develop network opportunities
  - Partner with National Juvenile Justice Association and other stakeholders to develop juvenile justice leadership academy.

Sub-group 4: Family focused/youth centered or Family-centered/youth-focused

- Youth & family (broad definition) involvement (engagement) at every juncture and throughout the case
  - Workforce trained and educated on importance of family and tools to engage them
  - Agency, placement, facility and court policies that actively encourage family involvement and supportive relationships
  - Youth and family knowledge of rights and responsibilities
  - Family and youth involved in decision making pre-filing onwards
  - Family finding
- Developmentally appropriate approach to youth, services and programs
  - Workforce training (staff, providers, judges) on adolescent behavior and development (trauma?)
  - Access to legal representation/quality counsel
  - Juvenile cases start in juvenile court
- System responses ensure the safety, permanency and well-being of families and youth
  - Aftercare and re-entry planning
  - Investment in prevention and supports to families outside of juvenile justice system
  - Correct referral of families and youth to services outside system
  - Services and case plans, etc. address needs of whole family, not just youth

Sub-group 5: Data driven decision making

- Information should follow a youth/family through timely common data sharing system
- Data is accessible at the individual and policy levels

- Review current statutes and agency policy to determine what can be shared
- Educate/explain to family and youth why we want to share data (prevent duplication-increase coordination)
- Explore legislative responses to sharing data for public policy/research
- Workforce culture that relies on data
  - Inform staff on reasons for quality data
  - Increase accountability/quality assurance
  - Use data on a daily basis in agencies

Sub-group 6: Reducing social/racial and system disparity

- Data driven approach to identifying/understanding disparities
- A commitment to evaluating to what extent assessment tools, policies and procedures are implemented equitably
- Juvenile justice workforce is educated about social inequalities (race, class, gender, language, etc.) and cumulative disadvantage

Parking Lot Strategies:

- Education – as a system
- Education – provided to youth
- Consumer Representation on boards/commissions
- Quality Assurance
- Collaboration across state level boards/Commissions/agencies
- Prevention
  - Coordination with coordinated case processing/management
- Cost savings reinvestment
- Definitions for systems work (i.e. – collaboration, juvenile justice, etc.)

**New Business**

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2013 from 9:00am to 4:30PM.

**Adjourn**

A motion was made by Sarah Forrest to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Monica Miles Steffens. The meeting adjourned at 4:20pm.