

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

Twenty - Third Meeting  
November 13, 2014  
9:00AM-1:00PM  
Country Inn and Suites, Omaha Room  
5353 North 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68521

### Call to Order

Ellen Brokofsky called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. and noted that the Open Meetings Act information was posted in the room as required by state law.

### Roll Call

Subcommittee Members present: Jeanne Brandner, Ellen Brokofsky, Nicole Brundo, Kim Culp, Barb Fitzgerald, Judge Larry Gendler, Tony Green, Kim Hawekotte, Dr. Anne Hobbs (9:11), Ron Johns, Nick Juliano, Mark Mason, Tom McBride, Jana Peterson, and Dr. Richard Wiener.

Acting as resources to the committee: Jerall Moreland and Julie Rogers.

Subcommittee Member(s) absent: Cindy Gans and Dr. Ken Zoucha.

Resource members absent: Jim Bennett, Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, Liz Hruska, Doug Koebernick, Jenn Piatt, Hank Robinson, and Dan Scarborough.

Resource members present: Jerall Moreland and Julie Rogers.

Also attending: Bethany Connor and Leesa Sorensen from the Nebraska Children's Commission.

### Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Kim Hawekotte to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Jana Peterson. Voting yes: Jeanne Brandner, Ellen Brokofsky, Nicole Brundo, Kim Culp, Barb Fitzgerald, Judge Larry Gendler, Tony Green, Kim Hawekotte, Ron Johns, Nick Juliano, Mark Mason, Tom McBride, and Jana Peterson. Voting no: none. None abstained. Dr. Anne Hobbs, Cindy Gans, and Dr. Ken Zoucha were absent. Motion carried.

### Approval of August 12, 2014 Minutes

A motion was made by Ron Johns to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2014, meeting, seconded by Kim Culp. Voting yes: Jeanne Brandner, Ellen Brokofsky, Nicole Brundo, Kim Culp, Barb Fitzgerald, Judge Larry Gendler, Tony Green, Dr. Anne Hobbs, Ron Johns, Mark Mason, Tom McBride, Jana Peterson, and Dr. Richard Wiener. Voting no: none. Kim Hawekotte and Nick Juliano abstained. Cindy Gans and Dr. Ken Zoucha were absent. Motion carried.

### **Co-chair's Report**

Ellen Brokofsky and Nicole Brundo gave a co-chair's report. Ellen noted that there was one open slot from the original allotment of members. She invited Mark Mason to speak and he entered his resignation as a voting member, as he is taking a position as the Re-entry Specialist for Probation. He noted that he would like to remain on the Committee as a resource. Ellen accepted Mark's resignation. She noted that the Department of Education has an important role in the Juvenile Justice system, and a discussion of necessary representatives was had. Ellen stated that the Committee would send a letter to the Department of Education requesting representation on the committee.

### **Council of State Government Presentation**

Jeanne Brandner introduced a presentation from the Council of State Government ("CSG"). Josh Weber, Nancy Arrigona, Elizabeth Seigle, and Nastassia Walsh discussed CSG's involvement with the State of Nebraska. CSG has started working with Nebraska and four other pilot sites. CSG representatives are holding 30 focus groups during their time in Nebraska. CSG will create a report with recommendations for both the juvenile and adult justice system in February. CSG representatives then solicited feedback and questions from the group and discussed juvenile justice in Nebraska.

### **Continued Co-chair's Report**

Ellen resumed discussion of the Committee's membership following the CSG presentation, and proposed that a membership slot be reserved for a youth voice from Project Everlast. She noted that it may not always be the same youth, but that a youth voice is necessary on the Committee. Youth must be prepared for the meeting so that they are prepared to speak about their stories before the Committee without re-living trauma.

A motion was made by Ellen Brokofsky to establish a voting membership slot on the committee, for a youth advocate from Project Everlast, with the ability for different youths to fill the slot. Ron Johns seconded the motion. Voting yes: Jeanne Brandner, Ellen Brokofsky, Nicole Brundo, Kim Culp, Barb Fitzgerald, Judge Larry Gendler, Tony Green, Kim Hawekotte, Dr. Anne Hobbs, Ron Johns, Nick Juliano, Mark Mason, Tom McBride, Jana Peterson, Dr. Richard Wiener. Voting no: none. Cindy Gans and Dr. Ken Zoucha were absent. None abstained. Motion carried.

### **Juvenile Services Committee Report Priority Discussion**

Ellen Brokofsky led a discussion to determine the priorities of the Juvenile Services Committee Report. The group discussed breaking into subgroups to make recommendations on specific subject areas, and decided to continue work as a group to further recommendations. The group discussed the importance of remembering that disproportionate minority contact is an issue throughout all areas of the juvenile justice system. The group decided to map the juvenile justice system by sending information on different individuals and groups within the juvenile justice system working on similar initiatives to Bethany Connor to compile the information in collaboration with Dr. Richard Wiener. The group will use the December 9, 2014 meeting to plan the rest of the years meetings to tackle the subjects of 1) Screening and Assessment tools; 2) Community based programs; 3) SPEP design; 4) YRTC Transition/Level 5 creation; and 5)

Social Racial, and Ethnic Disparities. The group will then analyze each subject through the Ideal Juvenile Justice Treatment System Matrix on page 10 of the Committee Report.

Anne Hobbs noted that Diversion's Capstone plan will have been submitted before the December 9, 2014 meeting, so that the issue of Diversion can be revisited. Christine Henningsen offered to report back to the Committee regarding Senator Krist's roundtable discussion on juvenile justice. Tony Green will report back to the Committee on a meeting with Senator Hadley regarding the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center at Kearney. Ellen identified a need to become educated on the System of Care, and suggested a brief overview from a representative as an agenda item for the December meeting. Julia Tse stated that the Voices for Children Juvenile Justice advocate would be available to provide a report on the Voices for Children Race for Results Conference.

### **Crossover Initiative**

Nick Juliano led a discussion of the Crossover Initiative. The Crossover Initiative is moving toward statewide implementation. The Sherwood Foundation has provided a grant for Dr. Spohn of the University of Nebraska at Omaha's Center for Justice Research to perform an evaluation of the implementation. Nick provided the Committee with a PowerPoint Presentation and data from the Douglas County initiative. Kim Culp provided an overview of the initiatives staff structure in Douglas County. Many members asked a number of technical questions about eligibility for the initiative, and Nick suggested having a longer discussion at the next meeting. Ellen stated that she would continue to have the Crossover Initiative as a regular item on the agenda.

### **Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative**

Monica Miles-Steffens led a discussion of the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative. She noted that Sarpy County is currently targeting youth coming in on warrants, and has found an overrepresentation of minorities. The initiative is also looking at youths who have run away, and providing community supports, working with families and probation to form a community response to runaway youth. She noted that she and other stakeholders will be traveling to St. Louis to meet with the Casey Foundation to discuss taking the JDAI initiative statewide.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **New Business**

Dr. Anne Hobbs noted that the Crime Commission will be drafting its three year state strategic plan, and the Committee should provide input to the plan. She stated that there will be meetings and surveys so that Committee members may further the recommendations in the report. Ellen identified that State Strategic Plans are an important vehicle to further the recommendations and tasked Bethany with creating a document with information about the various State Strategic plans the different agencies and other entities create.

Ellen thanked Mark Mason for his services as a member of the Committee, and he expressed that he looks forward to serving as a resource to the Committee.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2014, from nine o'clock a.m. to three o'clock p.m., location TBA.

**Adjourn**

A motion was made by Barb Fitzgerald to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Anne Hobbs. The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

DRAFT