

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

Twenty - Eighth Meeting
April 14, 2015
9:00am – 3:00pm
Child Advocacy Center, 5025 Garland Street
Lincoln, NE 68504

Call to Order

Co-Chair Kim Hawekotte called the meeting to order at 9:20 am and announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act was posted in the room as per state law.

Roll Call

Subcommittee Members present: Jeanne Brandner (through proxy Corey Steel), Nicole Brundo, Kim Culp, Cindy Kennedy, Judge Larry Gendler, Tony Green, Kim Hawekotte, Dr. Anne Hobbs, Tom McBride, Ron Johns, Jana Peterson, Cassy Rockwell (and designee Sarah Mitchell), Juliet Summers, and Dr. Ken Zoucha.

Acting as resources to the committee: Dannie E. Elwood, Mark Mason, Jerall Moreland, Adam Proctor.

Subcommittee Member(s) absent: Barb Fitzgerald, Nick Juliano, and Dr. Richard Wiener.

Resource members absent: Jim Bennett, Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, Catherine Gekas-Steeby, Christine Henningsen, Liz Hruska, Doug Koebernick, Monica Miles-Steffens, Judge Linda Porter, Hank Robinson, and Julie Rogers.

Also attending: Bethany Connor Allen and Sarah Forrest.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

A motion was made by Cassy Rockwell to approve the agenda, seconded by Dr. Anne Hobbs. A motion was made to approve the March minutes as written by Juliet Summers, seconded by Ron Johns. A roll call vote was taken on both motions. Voting Yes: Jeanne Brandner (through proxy Corey Steel), Nicole Brundo, Kim Culp, Cindy Kennedy, Judge Larry Gendler, Tony Green, Kim Hawekotte, Dr. Anne Hobbs, Ron Johns, Tom McBride, Jana Peterson, Cassy Rockwell, Juliet Summers, and Dr. Ken Zoucha. Voting no: none. Barb Fitzgerald, Nick Juliano, and Dr. Richard Wiener were absent. None abstained. Motions carried.

Co-Chair's report

Kim Hawekotte led a Co-chair's report. The Committee discussed the current legislative bills that impact juvenile justice, including LBs 347, 265, 500, 482. The Committee agreed that the

next meeting should include an update from Cindy Kennedy on the Community Based Aid grant program.

Hastings Treatment Center Presentation

Dr. Ken Zoucha led a presentation of the Hastings Treatment Center. He noted that it began as an extension of the YRTCs, as many of the youth entering the YRTCs also has substance abuse or mental health treatment needs. He described the various programs available at the Treatment Center. He shared that research has shown that rewards for positive behavior are more effective than punishments for negative behaviors.

YRTC Role Discussion

Tony Green and Jana Peterson led a discussion on the role of YRTCs in the juvenile justice system in Nebraska. Tony noted that with respect to recidivism, although there is information as to why youth returns to a YRTC, it is less clear as to why youth do not return to YRTCs. He noted that a predominant theme is youth entering with significant mental health or substance abuse treatment needs. There has been a rise in more youth who have graduated high school and need assistance with vocational skills. The Committee discussed that the previous recommendation was to move to a regional system for the YRTCs. The Committee discussed the differences in need between rural and urban areas, and how that would affect the proposed regional system. The Committee agreed that a speaker should come in to discuss the Missouri model, including what Missouri looked at in determining placement of facilities.

Detention/Staff Secure Center Discussion and action item

Assistant Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare Sarah Forrest led the group in a discussion of a staff secure facility that is also licensed as a shelter care facility. She discussed that “staff secure” facilities do not exist outside of the state of Nebraska. She noted that it is generally meant to mean a facility in which the youth are not restrained by hardware, only staff. She noted that this is often accomplished through the use of doors that open on a time delay. It is unclear under which standards staff secure facilities should be licensed. Sarah noted that the issue is difficult to answer, but JDAI has helped significantly with the issues.

Potential Recommendations Discussion and Action Item

The Committee agreed to table this discussion until the next Juvenile Services Committee Meeting.

New Business

Cassy Rockwell informed the group that the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association is taking nominations for the NJJA Services Award. She noted that she would send nomination information via email to the Committee members.

Future Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee will be on May 12, 2015, location TBA.

Adjourn

Jana Peterson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Tony Green. The meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.