

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the
Juvenile Services Committee and the
Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice**

October 16, 2018

9:00am – 3:00 pm

CEDARS Northbridge, 1533 N 27th St, Lincoln, NE 68503

1. Call to Order

Kim Hawekotte and Nicole Brundo, Co-Chairs of the Juvenile Services Committee (JSC), along with Cassy Blakely and Elaine Menzel, Chair and Vice Chair of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ), called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Juvenile Services Committee

Committee Members Present (10)

Nicole Brundo	Nick Juliano (10:58)	Margene Timm
Tamara Gavin	Cynthia Kennedy	Dr. Richard Wiener
Judge Larry Gendler	Tom McBride	
Kim Hawekotte	Vicky Thompson Smith	

Committee Members Absent (6)

Michele Borg	Kari Rumbaugh	Dan Scarborough
Mark LaBouchardiere	Pat Sailors	Deb VanDyke-Ries

Committee Resource Members Present (3)

Nicole Berggren (9:21)	Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks (10:27)	Julie Smith
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Committee Resource Members Absent (1)

Lisa Neeman

A quorum was established for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

Coalition Members Present (10)

Roma Amundson	Kim Hawekotte	Justin Myers
Cassy Blakely	Denise Kracl	Michelle Schindler
Neleigh Boyer	Brett Matthies	
Amy Hoffman*	Elaine Menzel	

Coalition Members Absent (3)

Jim Blue	Brain Halstead	Amanda Speichert
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Coalition Ex-Officio Members Present (3)

Jeanne Brandner	Judge Vernon Daniels	Judge Randin Roland
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A quorum was established for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice.

*Let it be noted for the record that Darrell Fisher appointed Amy Hoffman as his temporary proxy for the meeting.

Guests in Attendance (13):

Dr. Katie Bass	Foster Care Review Office
Hazel Delgado	Nebraska Court Improvement Project
Monica DeMent	DHHS, Division of Children and Family Services
Amanda Felton	Nebraska Children's Commission
Amy Hoffman	Nebraska Crime Commission
Chris Jones	Nebraska Children's Commission
Amy Latshaw	Office of Probation Administration, Juvenile Division
Monica Miles-Steffens	Office of Probation Administration, Juvenile Division
Julie Rogers	Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare
Kelli Schadwinkel	Office of Probation Administration, Juvenile Division

Trevor Spiegel.....DHHS, Division of Children and Family Services, Office of Juvenile Services
Tami Steensma.....Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center
Chris Triebisch.....Office of Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks

a. *Notice of Publication*

JSC Co-Chair Hawekotte, indicated that the notice of publication for this meeting was posted on the Nebraska Children’s Commission and Nebraska Public Meetings Calendar websites in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

b. *Announcement of the placement of Open Meeting Act information*

A copy of the Open Meetings Act was available for public inspection and was located on the sign-in table near the back of the meeting room

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Cynthia Kennedy from the JSC and Elaine Menzel from the NCJJ to approve the [agenda](#). The motion was seconded by Tamara Gavin from the JSC and Neleigh Boyer from the NCJJ. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (9):

Nicole Brundo	Kim Hawekotte	Vicky Thompson Smith
Tamara Gavin	Cynthia Kennedy	Margene Timm
Judge Larry Gendler	Tom McBride	Dr. Richard Wiener

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (7):

Michele Borg	Kari Rumbaugh	Deb VanDyke-Ries
Nick Juliano	Pat Sailors	
Mark LaBouchardiere	Dan Scarborough	

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (10):

Roma Amundson	Kim Hawekotte	Justin Myers
Cassy Blakely	Denise Kracl	Michelle Schindler
Neleigh Boyer	Brett Matthies	
Amy Hoffman	Elaine Menzel	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (3):

Jim Blue	Brain Halstead	Amanda Speichert
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MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

4. Approval of the Minutes

It was moved by Tom McBride from the JSC and Elaine Menzel from the NCJJ to approve the [July 12, 2018 joint JSC and NCJJ meeting minutes](#). The motion was seconded by Judge Larry Gendler of the JSC and Justin Myers of the NCJJ. No further discussion ensued. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (8):

Nicole Brundo	Cynthia Kennedy	Margene Timm
Judge Larry Gendler	Tom McBride	Dr. Richard Wiener
Kim Hawekotte	Vicky Thompson Smith	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (1):

Tamara Gavin

ABSENT (7):

Michele Borg

Nick Juliano

Mark LaBouchardiere

Kari Rumbaugh

Pat Sailors

Dan Scarborough

Deb VanDyke-Ries

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (10):

Roma Amundson

Cassy Blakely

Neleigh Boyer

Amy Hoffman

Kim Hawekotte

Denise Kracl

Brett Matthies

Elaine Menzel

Justin Myers

Michelle Schindler

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (3):

Jim Blue

Brain Halstead

Amanda Speichert

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

5. Co-Chair's Report

Co-Chair Hawekotte discussed the upcoming sunset date of the Nebraska Children's Commission on June 30, 2019 and the work around LR451. She highlighted that once a bill was introduced the group would need to monitor its progress and discuss the potential structure changes that may arise.

6. Update from Douglas County on Title II Funds

Douglas County representation was unable to attend the meeting. This update was postponed for a future meeting.

7. Legislative Discussion

a. Legislative Resolution Review

Chris Triebsch, Legislative Aide to Senator Patty Pansing Brooks, provided a brief overview of relevant legislation for the members. Highlighted items included work on legislation for juvenile right to counsel, a change in provision for the sealing of juvenile records, issues of solitary confinement, and addressing issues of disproportionate minority contact.

b. JDAI Update on Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-251.01

Monica Miles-Steffens was invited to provide an update on the work regarding Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-251.01. She explained that the Juvenile Detention to Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Statewide Collaborative had formed a workgroup to specifically look at steps to prepare the communities for the upcoming legislation. A [handout of data](#) from the workgroup was provided to members. Members discussed the data at length, stressing the need for consistent definitions across systems along with community and home based services.

8. Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare Report

The Co-Chairs welcomed Julie Rogers, Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare, to provide a presentation on the office's most recent annual report. She provided an overview of the work of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and their most recent [annual report](#). Several topics inspired conversation including sexual abuse, licensing standards, and the rise in suicidal behavior. The groups talked at length regarding ways to create a model for crisis response for suicide prevention.

Members concluded that a future meeting should focus exclusively on the issue of suicide prevention for system involved youth. Areas to be addressed should include uniform statewide crisis response procedures, adequate preventative mental health services, and community education of prevention methods. The hope was to have a wide scope of participants that

would include county officials, law enforcement, hospital administration, rural community representation, 1184 team members, child death review team members, public health representation, university representation, and affected parents. The leadership of the JSC and NCJJ would meet to in the upcoming weeks to outline the structure of the event.

9. JSC Workgroup Updates

a. High Utilizers of Services Workgroup

Julie Smith, Co-Chair of the High Utilizers of Services Workgroup, described the focus of the group. Work had begun to examine and identify a clear and consistent high utilizer profile that could be used across systems. Smith noted the barriers of data sharing. She explained both the issues of confidentiality often prevent system partners from sharing information as well as the varying measures used by each system to identify their high utilizers. The hope of the group was to be able to identify if the correct services were in place to prevent youth from becoming more entrenched in the juvenile justice system, and if not, what services should be in place and at what point within the case progression.

b. Transition Services Workgroup

Workgroup Co-Chair, Kim Hawekotte, shared that the Transition Services Workgroup had been working to create both guidance checklists and procedures to assist in the transition of youth from various placements. The group planned to continue to delve into how best to support both educational and medical transition planning to ensure youth can achieve success when returning to their community.

c. Youth and Family Engagement Workgroup

Workgroup Chair, Vicky Thompson Smith, provided an update on the work of the Youth and Family Engagement workgroup. She spoke on the number of initiative and practices occurring throughout the state working to engage youth and family. The group hoped to gather a comprehensive matrix of current engagement initiatives and identify how best to support them and raise awareness. Through examining the various engagement initiatives, the group aimed to pull out the elements that allow for successful engagement along with any barriers preventing it.

10. NCJJ Subcommittee Updates

a. Executive Subcommittee

The Executive Subcommittee did not have any updates to provide at that time.

b. Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee

Elaine Menzel, Chair of the Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee, indicated that the group would be meeting the following day. The group had been working in conjunction with the Grant Review Subcommittee to look at definitions and framework for grant applications to help streamline the process. This group was also preparing to serve in the first round of reviews for Community Based Aid (CBA) fund applications.

c. Juvenile Diversion Subcommittee

An update of the Juvenile Diversion subcommittee was provided by group chair, Denise Kracl. The group had created a strategic plan for diversion in the state of Nebraska. From this effort three workgroups were formed: an advocacy workgroup to help spread education and awareness of diversion and its benefits, a data and assessment workgroup to help identify the population entering diversion and examine program funding, and a training workgroup to assist communities and stakeholders in learning how to best implement diversion practices.

It was requested that this subcommittee look at the potential financial barrier of diversion programs. Anecdotally, there had been the occasional reference to the cost of diversion being prohibitive for some youth and families. Kracl noted that training information would work to ensure communities knew that diversion programs should always work to be available to youth no matter their financial resources.

d. Grant Review Subcommittee

Elaine Menzel noted that this group is currently collaborating on several issues with the Community Planning Subcommittee.

11. Lunch

Members recessed for lunch from 12:10 – 12:30 p.m.

12. Office of Juvenile Services Update

Trevor Spiegel, Juvenile Services Administrator with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), provided a [presentation on Moral Reconation Therapy \(MRT\)](#). He explained that every youth in the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers (YRTC) completed the program. He continued by discussing the shift to more normative educational format, improved vocational opportunities, and continued collaboration with the Department of Labor and Vocational Rehabilitation. Spiegel also briefly commented on the proposed fence for the YRTC, siting concerns for the youth safety within the community if they were to go missing from the campus.

13. Foster Care Review Office Annual Report Presentation

The Co-Chairs welcomed Dr. Katie Bass, Research Director with the Foster Care Review Office (FCRO), to review their most recent [annual report](#). Highlights included a shortage of treatment level placements, a high percentage of youth in probation based out-of-home placement that had previously been involved with the child welfare system, and the high number of cases in which parents are unwilling to allow system involved youth to return home. Bass noted that work was in progress to refine review questions to better address the needs of the youth involved in both child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

14. Probation Update

Jeanne Brandner, Deputy Probation Administrator for Juvenile Services, quickly noted a few items. Information shared included the upcoming retirement of the Probation Administrator, Ellen Brokofsky, a recent training initiative to refine case management and planning, and the work on in-home services. She also highlighted the struggle to identify sufficient providers of treatment services, particularly in the rural and western part of the state.

a. Crossover Collaboration Discussion

Jeanne gave the floor to Monica DeMent, an Administrator with DHHS, Division of Children and Family Services, and Amy Latshaw, Investigation and Evaluation Specialist with the Juvenile Services Division of the Office of Probation Administration. The two shared a [presentation](#) with members on the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM). DeMent and Latshaw explained that they had been traveling across the state providing training on the initiative. They went on to describe the efforts to ensure collaboration between DHHS and Probation staff. The CYPM was intended to be a permanent practice with a continuous quality improvement process in place.

15. Public Comment

The Co-Chairs opened the floor for public comment. No public comment was given.

16. New Business

There was no new business.

17. Upcoming Meeting Planning

Members were encouraged to contact the Chairpersons with any potential items for discussion at the next meeting. The tentative meeting dates for the 2019 were as follows:

- a. January 29, 2019
- b. April 25, 2019
- c. July 23, 2019
- d. October 24, 2019

18. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.