

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the  
Juvenile Services Committee (JSC) and  
Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ)**

July 27, 2023  
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Nebraska State Office Building  
Otoe Conference Room  
301 Centennial Mall South  
Lincoln, NE 68508

**1. Call to Order**

JSC Co-Chair Nick Juliano called the meeting to order at 9:12 AM, welcomed everyone and asked Adam Anderson to call roll.

**2. Roll Call**

**Juvenile Services Committee**

***Committee Members Present (12)***

Jennifer Carter  
Amy Hoffman  
Nick Juliano  
Judge Denise Kracl  
Mark LaBouchardiere

Dennis Marks  
Michelle Nunemaker  
Patrick Sailors  
Tammy Sassaman  
Sara Quiroz

Proxy for Vicky Smith, Chelsea  
Wittgren  
Deb VanDyke-Ries

***Committee Members Absent (5)***

Nicole Brundo (viewing online)  
Marisa Hattab

LaDonna Jones-Dunlap  
Bobbi Taylor

Dr. Richard Wiener

***Committee Resource Members Present (1)***

Julie Smith

***Committee Resource Members Absent (2)***

Senator Carol Blood  
Bethany Nelson

**A quorum was established for the Juvenile Services Committee**

**Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice**

***Coalition Members Present (8)***

Proxy for Neleigh Boyer, John Baker  
Patrick Connell  
Misty Flowers

Monika Gross  
Amy Hoffman  
Elaine Menzel

Daniel Schleusener  
Steve Solorio

***Coalition Members Absent (11)***

Roma Amundson  
Colleen Barnes  
Stanford Bradley  
Breanna Flaherty

Brian Halstead  
Janteice Holston  
Denise Manthei  
Jill Schubauer

Amanda Speichert  
Tami Steensma  
Bobbi Taylor

***Coalition Ex-Officio Members Present (2)***

Judge Chad Brown  
Kari Rumbaugh

***Coalition Ex-Officio Members Absent (1)***

Judge Joel Jay

**A quorum was not established for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice.**

**Guests in Attendance (4):**

Amanda Adams	KeAyra Braitwait
Adam Anderson	Gregg Harre

**a. *Notice of Publication***

Administrative Programs Officer for the Nebraska Children’s Commission, Adam Anderson, 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 at the sign-in table and on the Nebraska Children’s Commission website.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**A motion was made by Amy Hoffman from the JSC to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Michelle Nunemaker from the JSC. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:**

**Juvenile Services Committee**

**FOR (11):**

Jennifer Carter	Mark LaBouchardiere	Tammy Sassaman
Amy Hoffman	Dennis Marks	Sara Quiroz
Nick Juliano	Michelle Nunemaker	Deb VanDyke-Ries
Judge Denise Kracl	Patrick Sailors	

**AGAINST (0):**

**ABSTAINED (1):**

Proxy for Vicky Smith, Chelsea Wittgren

**ABSENT (5):**

Nicole Brundo	LaDonna Jones-Dunlap	Dr. Richard Wiener
Marisa Hattab	Bobbi Taylor	

**MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee**

***\*Minutes do not follow the approved agenda***

**4. Approval of JSC and NCJJ April 27, 2023 Minutes**

**A motion was made by Jennifer Carter from the JSC to approve the April 27, 2023 meeting minutes with edits to the JSC and NCJJ Roll Call. The motion was seconded by Mark LaBouchardiere from the JSC. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:**

**Juvenile Services Committee**

**FOR (11):**

Jennifer Carter	Amy Hoffman	Nick Juliano
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Judge Denise Kracl  
Mark LaBouchardiere  
Dennis Marks

Michelle Nunemaker  
Patrick Sailors  
Tammy Sassaman

Sara Quiroz  
Deb VanDyke-Ries

**AGAINST (0):**

**ABSTAINED (1):**

Proxy for Vicky Smith, Chelsea Wittgren

**ABSENT (5):**

Nicole Brundo  
Marisa Hattab

LaDonna Jones-Dunlap  
Bobbi Taylor

Dr. Richard Wiener

**MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee**

**5. JSC and NCJJ Membership Update**

Adam Anderson and Elaine Menzel shared information regarding current openings on the Committee and Coalition.

**6. YRTC Update**

Mark LaBouchardiere briefly noted the history of the YRTCs population in recent years. He stated that as of May the population has increased to an average of 60 – up from an average of 40. He continued to say that DHHS was looking into the option of beds being used at DCYC, as a place for assessments. Additionally, LaBouchardiere shared additional strategies for youth that are over 18 years of age, for transitional planning purposes. Facilities Planner, Clinical Director and LaBouchardiere visited DCYC to determine what additional measures can be arranged in the short term. Judge Brown noted that there is a vote with the Douglas County Commissioners regarding the new DCYC facility.

LaBouchardiere shared updates regarding the plan to move towards dorm style housing for youth. He noted that current inflation of labor and construction materials has required DHHS to ask for additional appropriation for the renovation. Members discussed the facilities, and how they would make the facilities more home-like. Tammy Sassaman shared encouragement regarding the direction the YRTCs are headed.

**7. Approval of the JSC recommendation**

Amanda Adams shared the Annual report and provided highlights of the new and updated information.

Julie Smith discussed the Community Treatment Aide service definition recommendation. Members discussed the CTA service, noting that it had been used in the past and had gone away due to the reimbursement model. Members suggested edits to the recommendations to be included in the final report presented to the Children's Commission.

**A motion was made by Mark LaBouchardiere from the JSC to approve the JSC annual report with changes as discussed. The motion was seconded by Pat Sailors from the JSC.** There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

**Juvenile Services Committee**

**FOR (10):**

Jennifer Carter  
Amy Hoffman  
Nick Juliano  
Mark LaBouchardiere

Dennis Marks  
Michelle Nunemaker  
Patrick Sailors  
Tammy Sassaman

Sara Quiroz  
Deb VanDyke-Ries

**AGAINST (0):**

**ABSTAINED (2):**

Judge Denise Kracl

Proxy for Vicky Smith, Chelsea Wittgren

**ABSENT (5):**

Nicole Brundo  
Marisa Hattab

LaDonna Jones-Dunlap  
Bobbi Taylor

Dr. Richard Wiener

**MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee**

**8. JSC Workgroup Updates**

**a. Access to Services**

Julie Smith shared an update regarding the work and recommendations of the workgroup that are contained in the annual report.

**b. Racial & Ethnic Disparities**

Deb VanDyke-Ries shared that the Tami Soper has agreed to Chair the workgroup. Amy Hoffman shared that the Crime Commission has a R/ED workgroup to look at the R/ED data from the Crime Commission. She noted that the Crime Commission doesn't have access to all the data that is needed, and one task could be to reach out for that data.

Members discussed what the workgroup would work on. Deb VanDyke-Ries offered to convene the different R/ED groups across the state to discuss moving forward

**c. Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers**

Nick Juliano discussed the history of the YRTC workgroup related to the JSC. Juliano opened the floor for discussion. Members discussed what the focus of the group would be. Judge Brown suggested perhaps the group take an educational/discussional approach. Members discussed an educational approach.

Members continued by discussing transitional planning and community connections. Members shared stories regarding past youth exiting YRTCs at age 19. Pat Connell noted difficulty accessing adult services at time of transition.

Jennifer Carter noted that the YRTC is currently in the middle of a five-year plan, and possibly this group could help move forward some of the pieces of the plan.

**9. NCJJ Subcommittee Updates**

**a. Executive Subcommittee**

NCJJ Chair Menzel thanked members for attending. She noted they have been reaching out to increase attendance.

**b. Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee**

Erin Wasserburger shared that the May meeting has been postponed to potentially August. She shared that the next meeting will discuss the statewide plan and also to begin discussing the layout of the next community planning cycle. Wasserburger shared information from the Conference held in June. She noted approximately 652 attendees for the first two days of the conference and a lot of positive feedback so far.

**c. Juvenile Diversion Subcommittee**

Amy Hoffmans shared information regarding the NSAT tool. It is live and has begun to be implemented. She noted that the group will reconvene to determine future priorities. Hoffman hoped to invite partners at the next meeting to discuss the tool and its data.

**d. Grant Review Subcommittee**

Kari Rumbaugh thanked members regarding the data included in the Annual Report. Erin Wasserburger shared information regarding the grant awards. She stated that there are now 82 counties funded and there were \$2.7 million in grant requests with only \$564,000 available to award. Of the \$2.7 million requested through 29 grant requests, she noted that 9 grants were awarded the \$564,000. She explained that there were de-obligations from the previous years that were added into the awards. Wasserburger also noted that this year attempts were made to allow smaller counties more opportunity to access grants.

**e. Young Adult Subcommittee**

Elaine Menzel shared that there are attempts to reinvigorate this subcommittee.

**10. Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act**

Chair Menzel shared that the group is working to determine the pros and cons of being a participating state. She shared one of the pros is that there will be a statewide plan. Menzel noted that a workgroup of the NCJJ met with CCAS and OJJDP during the June conference. Amy Hoffman noted that the invitation to come back under Title II recently arrived and what is required to come in as a participating state is the 33-point plan and approval of the Crime Commission director as well as the Governor. Members discussed the specifics of moving forward with the plan and the discussions needed to come back into compliance. Amy Hoffman will share the plan with those that are interested.

**11. Community Base Aid Presentation**

NCJJ Member Steve Solorio shared information regarding. Solorio introduced Citlalli Rosales, who is a facilitator of the girls in the youth program. Solorio shared that the El Centro offers the Latino Youth Leadership Program utilizing the Joven Nobles curriculum, developed in Los Angeles. The program is focused on preventing youth entering the juvenile justice system. He noted that the program is designed to be 16 weeks, but youth were interested in remaining with the program. Solorio shared that the program accepts referrals from probation. Additionally, it is incentive-based. Rosales shared information regarding the girls in the afterschool program, such as gang involvement, truancy, and mental health. She noted many discussion topics covered during the afterschool sessions. Solorio shared that 79% youth reported better success at school, 69% reported increased connections with adults. 82% of parents reported better behaviors and communication at home, and 72% reported youth involved in positive activities. Solorio shared that school staff noted 81% improvement in grades, 84% improved attendance, and 94% high school graduation rate for those involved in the program. Solorio noted 400 youth currently involved, up from 8 youth when the program was first started.

**12. Public Comment**

The floor was opened to public comment. There was no public comment.

**13. New Business**

**14. Upcoming Meeting Planning**

October 26, 2023

**15. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Adam Anderson