

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Juvenile Services Committee (JSC)**

January 25, 2024
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Virtual or
1225 L St, Ste 401
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 (11)

Jennifer Carter
Amy Hoffman
LaDonna Jones-Dunlap
Nick Juliano

Judge Denise Kracl
Mark LaBouchardiere
Michelle Nunemaker
Patrick Sailors

Tammy Sassaman
Vicky Smith
Deb VanDyke-Ries

Committee Members Absent (5)

Nicole Brundo
Marisa Hattab

Dennis Marks
Bobbi Taylor

Kaleb Vicharra
Dr. Richard Wiener

Committee Resource Members Present (2)

Bethany Nelson
Julie Smith

Committee Resource Members Absent (1)

Senator Carol Blood

A quorum was established for the Juvenile Services Committee

Guests in Attendance (4):

Amanda Adams
Adam Anderson
Lincoln Arneal
Monika Gross
Christine Henningsen

Leslie Remus
Dan Schleusener
Steve Solorio
Tami Steensma

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 Tammy Sassaman from the JSC to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Judge Denise Kracl. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (11):

Amy Hoffman
LaDonna Jones-Dunlap
Nick Juliano
Judge Denis Kracl

Mark LaBouchardiere
Michelle Nunemaker
Patrick Sailors
Tammy Sassaman

Vicky Smith
Deb VanDyke-Ries

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (6):

Nicole Brundo
Jennifer Carter
Marisa Hattab

Dennis Marks
Bobbi Taylor
Kaleb Vicharra

Dr. Richard Wiener

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

**Minutes do not follow the approved agenda*

4. Approval of JSC October 26, 2023 Minutes

A motion was made by Pat Sailors from the JSC to approve the October 26, 2023 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Michelle Nunemaker. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (11):

Amy Hoffman
LaDonna Jones-Dunlap
Nick Juliano
Judge Denis Kracl

Mark LaBouchardiere
Michelle Nunemaker
Patrick Sailors
Tammy Sassaman

Vicky Smith
Deb VanDyke-Ries

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (6):

Nicole Brundo
Jennifer Carter
Marisa Hattab

Dennis Marks
Bobbi Taylor
Kaleb Vicharra

Dr. Richard Wiener

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

5. JSC Membership Update

Adam Anderson noted that Kaleb Vicharra has been appointed to the Juvenile Services Committee. He noted that he would be reaching out to any committee members who have membership terms expiring prior to the next meeting. Anderson also shared information regarding the process for members who don't regularly attend meetings.

6. Nebraska Children's Commission Strategic Priorities

Amanda Adams shared information regarding the strategic priorities and noted that the Commission will be realigning the priorities to fit the recommendations of the committee in the future.

7. Legislative Update

Amanda Adams shared information regarding the legislation being tracked by the Children's Commission. She shared that LB 899 exempts class 3 school districts from prohibition of suspending kids in pre-kindergarten through second grade. She noted continuing to monitor LB 921, which provides for a mentorship program for individuals under supervision probation and parole officers. Adams will also monitor LB 1051, which seeks eliminate obsolete provisions and reorganize provisions of the Nebraska Juvenile Code and change certain filing deadlines. Adams noted monitoring LB 1057, which changes provisions related to arraignments filing of juvenile petitions and jurisdiction of juvenile courts. Adams will also monitor LB 1085, which eliminates provisions relating to the establishment of new separate juvenile court districts and renames existing districts.

Adams discussed LB 1089, which exempts kids under 19 from court fees that prevent youth from getting their records sealed. Members discussed how the bill affects fees for diversion, which are charged by all diversion programs. Members discussed how the fees are on a wider scale. Christine Henningsen noted a report from Voices for Ch

Adams added that LB 1146 adds additional exceptions to prohibition from suspending a student in pre-k through second grade in cases where there is violent behavior or behavior that may harm another.

Adams discussed LB 1208, which allows for detention of juveniles under the Nebraska Juvenile Code for their own protection, and it also removes the protection of property as a reason to detain someone. Adams noted a letter of support by the Commission.

Adams continued by discussing LB 1209, which appropriates \$2.5 million for the Department of Health and Human Services to grant funds to increase emergency shelters in primary class cities, which Lincoln would be the only one. She shared that LB 1281 changes provisions regarding how long a youth may be held without a hearing.

Adams discussed LB 1282, which outlines Youth Renewal Centers. Julie Smith asked whether this would be under a different code, and whether the treatments could be funded under Medicaid. Smith stated that the requirements for these centers look very similar to the services of the YRTCs, which would be problematic for Medicaid funding.

LB 1334 provides for a waiver of fees by Probation, which Adams will monitor.

Adams discussed LB 1417, which changes provisions to the Children's Commission and several boards and commissions, as well as statutory committees under the Commission. Amy Hoffman noted that the grant services outlined in the bill has been discussed and will be amended out of the bill.

Deb VanDyke-Ries shared information regarding CIP's upcoming legislative webinar.

8. YRTC Update

Mark LaBouchardiere shared the census for YRTCs. He noted Hastings: 10 youth, Kearney: 60 Youth, Lincoln 12 Youth.

LaBouchardiere shared that the percentage from Douglass County has gone down. He clarified that when youth come from the same area there is a higher chance of incidents between youth. He noted that the centers are doing their best to observe when this is happening and to separate youth when issues are imminent. He continued that there is a Prison Rape Elimination Act audit next week in Lincoln. Lastly, LaBouchardiere noted that the OJS has gone back under the CFS Director .

9. Probation Update

Julie Smith shared that there is a new infographic for the quarter. She shared the info in the chat, <https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/Q4-2023-Juvenile.pdf>. She noted an increase in intakes and investigations. She noted stable recidivism and an increase in successful discharges.

Smith noted that the Juvenile System Enhancement report will be posted and incorporated into internal policy. She noted that one recommendation is a behavioral and trauma screen in order to tailor to youth needs. She shared that service expansion in districts 11 and 12 is underway with the environmental scan being conducted by UNK.

Smith shared that Sara Quiroz has moved to the position of Assistant Deputy, and Amoreena Brady has been promoted to the Director position. She noted that there is one Director position still open and there will continue to be internal shifting and reorganization within the division to better serve and support one another.

10. JSC Workgroup Updates

a. Access to Services

Julie Smith noted a break by the workgroup over the holidays. She stated the workgroup started again in January and are in progress working through the mapping project about how to access services and how the systems interface with each other; CFS, Probation, and MCOs. She noted the workgroup will be looking to streamline the map and how to utilize the map to inform training and determine access point problems.

b. Racial & Ethnic Disparities

Amanda Adams shared that the group is focusing on lifting agencies that are providing culturally appropriate services. She noted new conversations with Dekow Sagar, who works with refugees and the group is looking at ways to expand the conversation.

c. Continuum of Care

Tammy Sassaman and LaDonna Jones-Dunlap met to discuss visiting facilities across the state. Jones-Dunlap shared that the group would like to ask what the families are experiencing, as well as asking the facilities what their experience is with the continuum of care. Sassaman stated that the group will also be looking at the number of confinements, and looking at “Talking Walls” within the YRTCs.

Julie Smith stated that she would like to work with the group and help bring voices to the group that would like to discuss the continuum of care.

Mark LaBouchardiere asked the logistics of visiting out of state facilities and gathering data. Julie Smith shared ideas about how to gather and share data. Pat Sailors shared thoughts regarding how youth share their stories.

11. Title II Grant

Amy Hoffman noted that the state was awarded \$600,341. With the funds, Hoffman noted that the year one milestones are that the Crime Commission will hire or designate a Juvenile Justice Specialist and Compliance Monitor, and a R/ED Coordinator. The Crime Commission will also have to begin to update the Statewide Plan in order to get ready for the Summer to apply again. She noted that July 1 will start the 3-year plan again. She noted that the three priority areas to divide the funds into are prevention, positive youth development, and reducing disparities. She shared that approximately \$133,000 has been divided into each of those categories and the Coalition received a waiver for 66% passthrough funds this year for the Coalition to decide if there are projects to work on rather than devote it all to grants.

12. Public Comment

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

13. New Business

Tammy Sassaman shared that the NJJA conference will be coming up very soon, May 1-3. She shared that the NJJA has several great keynote speakers and breakout proposals currently being discussed.

14. Upcoming Meeting Planning

- a. April 25, 2024, 9:00 AM, In-Person
- b. July 25, 2024, 9:00 AM, Virtual
- c. October 24, 2024, 9:00 AM, In-Person

15. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Anderson