

**Nebraska Children's Commission
Juvenile Services Committee**

Thirtieth Meeting
August 11, 2015
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Country Inn & Suites
5353 N. 27th Street
Lincoln, NE 68512

I. Call to Order

Nicole Brundo, Co-Chair of the Juvenile Services Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Committee Members present (13):

Nicole Brundo	Ron Johns	Juliet Summers
Kim Culp	Nick Juliano	Dr. Richard Wiener
Tony Green	Tom McBride	Dr. Ken Zoucha
Kim Hawekotte	Jana Peterson	
Dr. Anne Hobbs	Cassy Rockwell	

Committee Members absent (4):

Jeanne Brander	Judge Larry Gendler
Barb Fitzgerald	Cynthia Kennedy

Committee Resource Members present (7):

Dannie Elwood	Monica Miles-Steffens	Julie Rogers
Christine Henningsen (9:17)	Jerall Moreland (9:56)	
Katie McLeese Stephenson	Adam Proctor (9:26)	

Committee Resource Members absent (10):

Jim Bennett	Liz Hruska	Hank Robinson
Senator Kathy Campbell	Doug Koebernick	Dan Scarborough
Senator Colby Coash	Mark Mason	
Catherine Gekas Steeby	Judge Linda Porter	

A quorum was established.

Guests in Attendance (7):

Bethany Allen.....	Nebraska Children's Commission
Raevin Bigelow.....	Project Everlast
Teri Deal.....	National Center for Juvenile Justice
Amanda Felton.....	Nebraska Children's Commission
Kari Rumbaugh.....	Office of Probation Administration
Margaret Vacek.....	Boys Town
Samantha Zaleski.....	National Center for Juvenile Justice

a. *Notice of Publication*

Recorder for the meeting, Amanda Felton, indicated that the notice of publication for this meeting was posted on the Nebraska Public Meetings Calendar website on August 3, 2015 in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. The publication will be kept as a permanent attachment with the meeting minutes.

b. Announcement of the placement of Open Meetings Act information

A copy of the Open Meetings Act was available for public inspection and was located on the Public Comment sign in table at the rear of the meeting room.

III. Approval of Agenda

Co-Chair Brundo entertained a motion to approve the Agenda. A motion was made by Nick Juliano to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Tony Green. No further discussion ensued. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (13):

Nicole Brundo	Ron Johns	Juliet Summers
Kim Culp	Nick Juliano	Dr. Richard Wiener
Tony Green	Tom McBride	Dr. Ken Zoucha
Kim Hawekotte	Jana Peterson	
Dr. Anne Hobbs	Cassy Rockwell	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0)

ABSENT (4):

Jeanne Brander	Judge Larry Gendler
Barb Fitzgerald	Cynthia Kennedy

MOTION CARRIED

IV. Approval of the Minutes

Ron Johns moved to approve the items of the Consent Agenda as presented. Cassy Rockwell seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (13):

Nicole Brundo	Ron Johns	Juliet Summers
Kim Culp	Nick Juliano	Dr. Richard Wiener
Tony Green	Tom McBride	Dr. Ken Zoucha
Kim Hawekotte	Jana Peterson	
Dr. Anne Hobbs	Cassy Rockwell	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0)

ABSENT (4):

Jeanne Brander
Barb Fitzgerald

Judge Larry Gendler
Cynthia Kennedy

MOTION CARRIED

V. Co-Chair Report

Co-Chairs, Nicole Brundo and Kim Hawekotte, indicated that the input of the Committee members was requested for a new taskforce that was being formed. The Chairs gave the floor to Juliet Summers of Voices for Children in Nebraska to expand. Ms. Summers informed the members that a sub-committee had been formed under the Bridge to Independence Committee whose goal was to look at extending supports to youth aging out of the juvenile justice system. Currently, the sub-committee is conducting a series of focus groups to reach out to stakeholders who are familiar with the topic. They are investigating what kinds of supports currently exist as well as recommendations for how they can improve.

The Committee members discussed the various mediums in which information could be gathered. After reviewing the schedule of the OJS Committee upcoming meetings, it was agreed that a meeting with the option of a conference call would be held to gather member input for the sub-committee. The meeting was scheduled for September 9, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. with a final location to be determined at a later date.

VI. Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) Presentation

Co-Chair Hawekotte gave the floor to Monica Miles-Steffens and Anne Hobbs to present on the Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI). Ms. Miles-Steffens began by reviewing the background and purpose of the RAI as a detention screening tool for officers. The purpose of the tool is to provide the intake officer with the information proven in research to determine the risk of re-offense prior to court and/or the risk to fail to appear for court for the youth in question.

The varying levels of scoring will result in the course of action including released without restriction, release with a detention alternative, staff secure detention, and secure detention. Ms. Miles-Steffens and Ms. Hobbs reviewed the steps used in gathering information and the challenges that arose while doing so. Juliet Summers inquired into the effect of the youth's history of offences and the complications that could result. Lengthy discussion occurred regarding the legal history of involved youth when being scored with the tool.

Another topic that produced much conversation was the amount of score overrides. There was only a 55% overall confidence rate among the officers. The other 45% of the time the officers were overriding the score recommendations. Nearly all of the overrides were to a higher detention level. The members reflected over the differences in availability of detention alternatives across the districts and how that could affect the override rate. Dr. Hobbs informed the Committee that the primary reason indicated for overrides to a higher scoring was that the youth was a flight risk or had runaway behaviors. This led the Committee members to inquire as to if the statutory wording regarding detainment in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-251.01(5) needed to be addressed and defined more clearly.

Ann Hobbs informed the members that that there was a group she was currently working with that would be meeting to discuss definitions of terms across varying organizations working with youth including the Juvenile Justice Institute (JJI). Kim Hawekotte also mentioned that the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) Definition Sub-Committee was working on a similar project.

It was suggested that all of the groups convene together and report back to their respective committees. Members interested in partaking in this meeting included Ron Johns, Nick Juliano, Juliet Summers, Monica Miles-Steffens, and Julie Rogers.

The Commission recessed for a short break at 11:07 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 11:27 a.m.

VII. National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) Presentation

Due to complications with the speakers' flight arrangements, this Item was postponed until after Item IX. For the purpose of the minutes, items will be discussed in order of the Agenda.

Co-Chair Hawekotte welcomed the guests from the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ). The speakers, Teri Deal and Samantha Zaleski, introduced themselves for the members. The purpose of their center is to learn how states differ in terms of Juvenile Justice Systems. They educated the Committee on their Juvenile Justice Geography, Policy, Practice & Statistics project. The project centered on the creation of a website, accessible at www.jjgps.org, that provides visitors with a sweeping view of the juvenile justice landscape across states and a place to make comparisons and chart change.

In their research, Ms. Deal and Ms. Zaleski focused on how states support evidence based practices and programs. After speaking with representatives in all of the states, they found 13 states that housed an Evidence Based Practices (EBP) Resource Center. Nebraska was one of the 13 states, with its EBP Resource Center being the Juvenile Justice Institute. During their visit they were gathering information on how the Juvenile Justice Institute integrates into the Juvenile Justice System. Before concluding, the guests passed out a short survey for the members to complete to help them get an idea of how the Juvenile Justice Institute influences their work.

VIII. Screening and Assessment Tools Presentation (Dr. Anne Hobbs)

Dr. Anne Hobbs began her presentation by noting that the terms Screening and Assessment are often used interchangeably despite being very different things. She clarified that screenings can serve as a cost-effective method for identifying potential mental health problems that can be applied to all youth entering a system or facility. Assessments, she explained, provide more extensive and individualized identification of mental health needs for only those individuals whose screening results suggest it is warranted.

Dr. Hobbs went on to discuss some of the screening and assessment tools used with youth in Nebraska including the Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI), the Nebraska Youth Screen (NYS), and the School Refusal Assessment Survey (SRAS). When used appropriately, screening followed by assessment can maximize resources, reduce costs, and improve the targeting of services and interventions for youth.

IX. Screening and Assessment Tools Presentation (Dr. Richard Wiener)

Dr. Richard Wiener took the floor and opened his presentation by providing a review of general concepts of risk assessment. He educated the members on the basic concepts of psychometrics. The presentation included information on random and systematic error and how they relate to reliability and validity. Dr. Wiener explained that the ideal is to have both low random error and systematic

error, but as long as the systematic error remains low, a reasonable level of random error can be tolerated.

The Committee recessed for lunch at 12:22 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:05 p.m.

Dr. Wiener continued his presentation by looking at six different common measure instruments to assess risk of criminal activity in youth. The instruments discussed were YLS/CMI, SAVRY, NCAR, Solano County JCS & LINK, JCP, and YASI. The two instruments most commonly used with the most research completed were YLS/CMI and SAVRY. Currently, YLS/CMI is the instrument used to assess youth risk of recidivism in Nebraska. In review of the various instruments it was suggested that YLS/CMI may not be the most valid or reliable option of the available choices.

Extensive discussion resulted concerning the reason why YLS/CMI was not providing predictable results. The members struggled to decide if re-training should occur with the current instrument, or if a new tool should be investigated.

It was decided that Dr. Wiener would draft a proposed study for review by the Committee at the November meeting. The study would potentially encompass the Douglass county area or other high volume county to compare the YLS/CMI instrument against the SAVRY instrument. The goal will be to have a recommendation to present to the Nebraska Children's Committee prior to their meeting in late November.

X. OJS Update

Tony Green, Juvenile Services Administrator with the Office of Juvenile Services, gave a brief update. He indicated that both the Kearney and Geneva facilities will be undergoing an audit for compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act in October. Jana Peterson, a Facility Administrator with the Office of Juvenile Services, let the members know that both facilities were currently applying for a technology grant. She voiced her hope to obtain tablet devices for the youth in school at the facilities.

XI. Probation Update

Kari Rumbaugh, Assistant Deputy Administrator with the Administrative Office of Probation, Juvenile Division, filled in for member Jeanne Brandner. Ms. Rumbaugh opened her report by providing the members with the June handout for Probation Juvenile Justice Reform Efforts. She summarized efforts towards Intake and Detention Alternatives, Pre-adjudication and Investigations, Case Management and Services, and Reentry.

XII. Potential Recommendations Discussion

All discussion regarding potential recommendations occurred in earlier agenda items.

XIII. Public Comment

Co-Chair Brundo invited any members of the public forward. No public comment was offered.

XIV. New Business

There was no New Business to present at this time.

XV. Next Meeting Planning

Co-Chair Hawekotte mentioned that due to the Labor Day holiday, the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2015 was cancelled. In its place would be a conference call on September 9th at 9:00 am central time in order to answer questions for the Bridge to Independence sub-committee for extending supports to youth aging out of the juvenile justice system.

Ms. Hawekotte also set the time of Tuesday, September 8th at 9:00 a.m. to have a conference call to plan questions and discussion for the October OJS Committee meeting when the Director and Deputy Director of Missouri's Youth Services Division would be attending. The date of that meeting will be October 20, 2015.

The November meeting will host discussion surrounding the issue of Risk Assessment tools. The proposal that Dr. Wiener will draft will be reviewed to prepare for recommendation to the Nebraska Children's Council. Ms. Hawekotte also suggested that more data be presented on the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers (YRTC's). Jana Peterson also suggested that the previous OJS Committee Strategic Recommendations be reviewed in preparation of the report that will be due to the legislature this December.

The last item covered was the meeting to discuss statutory language regarding youth detainment. Co-Chair Hawekotte said that a date and time would be scheduled at a later date. Any members interested should let her know.

XVI. Future Meeting Dates

- Tuesday, September 8, 2015: Conference call to plan for October meeting Missouri guests
- Wednesday, September 9, 2015: Meeting with conference call option to answer questions for the Bridge to Independence sub-committee
- October 20, 2015: OJS Committee Meeting
- November 10, 2015: OJS Committee Meeting

XVII. Adjourn

It was moved by Kim Culp to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Ken Zoucha seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

08/14/2015

AF