

**Nebraska Children’s Commission
Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee**

Thirty-Fifth Meeting

April 19, 2016

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Child Advocacy Center, Gary Lacy Training Building
5025 Garland Street, Lincoln, NE 68504

I. Call to Order

Nicole Brundo, Co-Chair of the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Committee Members present (10):

Nicole Brundo	Dr. Anne Hobbs	Juliet Summers
Judge Larry Gendler	Ron Johns	Dr. Richard Wiener
Tony Green	Cynthia Kennedy	
Kim Hawekotte	Tom McBride	

Committee Members absent (5):

Cassy Blakely	Nick Juliano	Dr. Ken Zoucha
Jeanne Brandner	Jana Peterson	

Committee Resource Members present (5):

Christine Henningsen	Jerall Moreland (9:38)	Julie Rogers
Liz Hruska	Judge Linda Porter	

Committee Resource Members absent (12):

Jim Bennett	Catherine Gekas Steeby	Steve Milliken
Senator Kathy Campbell	Mark Mason	Senator Patty Pansing Brooks
Dannie Elwood	Katie McLeese Stephenson	Adam Proctor
Barb Fitzgerald	Monica Miles-Steffens	Dan Scarborough

A quorum was established.

Guests in Attendance (7):

Katie Bass.....	Nebraska Court Improvement Project
Bethany Connor Allen.....	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Michael Fargen.....	Foster Care Review Office
Amanda Felton.....	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Kimberly Fonseca.....	Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
Troy Gagner.....	Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
Mark LaBouchardiere.....	DHHS, Office of Juvenile Services

a. Notice of Publication

Co-Chair Brundo, indicated that the notice of publication for this meeting was posted on the Nebraska Public Meetings Calendar website in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

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 table near the entrance on the west side of the meeting room.

III. Approval of Agenda

Co-Chair Brundo entertained a motion to approve the Agenda. **A motion was made by Cynthia Kennedy to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Dr. Anne Hobbs.** No further discussion ensued. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (10):

Nicole Brundo
Judge Larry Gendler
Tony Green
Kim Hawekotte

Dr. Anne Hobbs
Ron Johns
Cynthia Kennedy
Tom McBride

Juliet Summers
Dr. Richard Wiener

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Cassy Blakely
Jeanne Brandner

Nick Juliano
Jana Peterson

Dr. Ken Zoucha

MOTION CARRIED

IV. Approval of the Minutes

Tony Green moved to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2016 minutes as presented. Ron Johns seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (10):

Nicole Brundo
Judge Larry Gendler
Tony Green
Kim Hawekotte

Dr. Anne Hobbs
Ron Johns
Cynthia Kennedy
Tom McBride

Juliet Summers
Dr. Richard Wiener

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Cassy Blakely
Jeanne Brandner

Nick Juliano
Jana Peterson

Dr. Ken Zoucha

MOTION CARRIED

V. Co-Chair Report

Co-Chairs Brundo and Hawekotte, did not have any information to present under their report.

VI. New Member Nominations and Action Item

Co-Chair Hawekotte noted that there were two individuals who had been nominated to fulfil the juvenile diversion position on the Committee. The two persons were Vicki Thompson and Rico Zavala. Ms. Thompson's experience included management of the CEDARS Diversion and Teen Court program for over ten years. Mr. Zavala served as the Service Director over all CEDARS Juvenile Justice programming with knowledge of the juvenile justice system and programs. Discussion occurred as to which of the two nominees

would best serve the work of the Committee. **Dr. Hobbs motioned that both nominees, Vicki Thompson and Rico Zavala, be appointed as members to the Juvenile Services Committee. Ms. Thompson would serve as a voting member with Mr. Zavala acting in a resource capacity. The motion was seconded by Cynthia Kennedy.** No further discussion occurred. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (10):

Nicole Brundo
Judge Larry Gendler
Tony Green
Kim Hawekotte

Dr. Anne Hobbs
Ron Johns
Cynthia Kennedy
Tom McBride

Juliet Summers
Dr. Richard Wiener

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Cassy Blakely
Jeanne Brandner

Nick Juliano
Jana Peterson

Dr. Ken Zoucha

MOTION CARRIED

VII. Legislative Discussion

The members were directed to LB894 for review. The members went through the Bill and touched on several of the key issues. Items of discussion included the definition of alternatives to detention and the definition of staff-secure juvenile facility.

Lengthy dialogue occurred surrounding the issue of staff-secure and its relation to alternatives to detention. The group agreed that the topic should be discussed with the detention facilities. It was agreed to invite representatives from the five detention centers and a representative from the Crime Commission to take part in a panel discussion. The panel would be asked to discuss their interpretations of LB894 and how or if they would need to alter their procedures to comply with the bill. Continued examination of the bill at a future meeting would also provide the opportunity for Probation to be present to contribute to the discussion, as no representatives were able to attend the current meeting.

The group continued dialogue over LB894 discussing issues such as legal counsel requirements for youth, and provisions for Guardians Ad Litem. Chair Hawekotte noted that LB746 had also recently been passed and would be a discussion at a future meeting.

VIII. Social Innovation Fund and Connected Youth Initiative Presentation

Troy Gangner, Associate Vice President of Social Innovation Funding at Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, was invited to present on the Social Innovation Fund (SIF) and the Connected Youth Initiative (CYI). Mr. Gangner explained that the SIF looked for programs and methods that showed preliminary evidence of success and would provide funding to assist these programs in enhancing their effectiveness. The CYI had been awarded SIF funds of \$1 million with private funds matching the amount funding a year over a 5 year period. Mr. Grangner noted that while the SIF financial contributions were useful in initial momentum, other sources of financial support that combined current and new finance mechanisms would be necessary to sustain the programs.

Mr. Grangner continued by describing the CYI timeline and details explaining that the target audience was unconnected youth defined as young adults ages 14 -24 who found themselves disconnected from a positive life course. He went on to review the evolution of the effort beginning with Project Everlast, Opportunity

Passport, and other statewide partnerships. The ultimate goal of the Initiative was to improve the effectiveness of the program organizations in serving the youth within their communities. Areas of focus for the involved youth included Personal and Community Engagement, Education, Employment, Daily Living/Housing and Transportation, Physical and mental health, Permanence, and Economic Stability.

IX. Data Mapping and Analysis Taskforce Update

Mike Fargen, Chair of the Data Mapping and Analysis (DMA) Taskforce, and Dr. Katie Bass, Taskforce member, presented information on the development of the group's work. Mr. Fargen began with emphasizing the importance of data and how it affected the work of the Committee. The amount of effort to organize the data gathered from the JUSTICE database by the DMA Taskforce proved to be a large undertaking. It was pointed out that the data provided only included placements that were associated with cases, and that any future data requests would request all data. Other complications included the inconsistencies in the data that had been entered into the database. Issues with varying facility names and incorrect placement types caused additional difficulties.

Mr. Fargen and Ms. Bass continued on by discussing the software, *Link Plus*, that was used in formatting the data. The duo went over the JUSTICE algorithm, matching system, and scoring and described how it allowed for the data to be gathered. It was explained how the software would allow for identification of locations to determine the surrounding population, distance that would be traveled by involved youth and family, resources available to the youth and family in the area, and other questions that may be proposed. The data would also provide the ability to identify a specific need and find the location of the population that a facility would best serve.

In depth discussion occurred surrounding the software and its ability to create a unique identifier to be utilized when integrating additional data sets. The potential was mentioned to have a database tool in which the committee members could input a prompt or question and the tool would calculate a response. This prompted the group to discuss the factors to look at moving forward. These included identifying the number of placements prior to and after placement at an YRTC, looking at dually adjudicated youth, and working towards a standardized and comprehensive data entry procedure. The Committee also expressed interest in two Interim Studies, LR551 and LR561, that could be assisted by the information the DMA Taskforce.

X. Standing Update Items

a. Court Improvement Project Update

Dr. Katie Bass, Project Data Analyst with the Court Improvement Project (CIP), provided an update. Dr. Bass provided information over several of their efforts including Native community outreach, work on the Crossover Youth Practice Model, Strengthening Families Act/Normalcy Task Force, the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force, Community and Evidence Based Services Grant, Educational Trainings, and Data Collection and Analysis efforts.

b. Juvenile Services Community Based Aid (CBA)

The floor was given to Cynthia Kennedy, Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid Program Administrator with the Crime Commission. Ms. Kennedy talked about the process surrounding the CBA grant funding. She noted that providing technical assistance and grant management training had been the areas of focus of the division during the previous month. A future goal mentioned was to transition to an online grant application system. Ms. Kennedy also informed the members that she would provide a listing of the programs approved for CBA funding as of July 1, 2016.

i. *Evaluation of Community Based Aid Study*

Ms. Kennedy transitioned the discussion over to Dr. Anne Hobbs, Director of the Juvenile Justice Institute. Dr. Hobbs provided an update on the CBA Evaluation explaining that over 4,500 youth data files had been received for the study. She discussed the complications that arose such as the differing definitions of recidivism and the time consuming process to gain access to sealed records for review. The study would be identifying any differences between youth who had successfully completed the programs vs. those uninvolved. Dr. Hobbs indicated that it could be well past July before information was available for distribution, but that the Committee would be kept up to date on the progress of the study. She also mentioned that input may be gathered from the Committee members as to refining the definition of recidivism as the study moves forward.

XI. Office of Juvenile Services and DHHS/Probation Consultant Update

Tony Green, Deputy Director with the Office of Juvenile Services, updated the members on the current happenings of the division. He discussed the primary focus of the division in stabilizing the Kearney Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center (YRTC). He summarized the upcoming town hall meeting to address the local community. Mr. Green then introduced Mark LaBouchardiere who was recently hired as the new Facility Administrator at the Kearney YRTC. Mr. LaBouchardiere shared his background in treatment and correctional programs, and his goal to deconstruct the current system and identify what was currently working and what needs reform.

Mr. Green went on to mention how the current population of the YRTCs had changed with the refinement of the Probation case management system. It was explained that there was an issue with youth ending up at YRTC on a charge that was not reflective of the reason for placement. The example was given of a youth having multiple placements while on probation with a violation of their probation leading them to the YRTC, but was documented showed the original charge that lead to system involvement. It was suggested to have a future agenda item on what efforts can be done to ensure that youth are being placed appropriately prior to arriving at the YRTCs.

XII. Public Comment

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

XII. New Business

Chair Hawekotte informed the group that progress had been made in the search for funding for the YLS/CMI study. She indicated that the Committee would be kept updated on the progress.

XIV. Upcoming Meeting Planning

The Committee agreed to cancel the May 10, 2016 meeting. The June meeting would most likely be used as an opportunity to bring in representatives from the five detention centers to discuss the effects of LB894. The Committee would also look more in depth at LB746 and how it would influence the work as they moved forward.

It was also suggested with the addition of new members and position changes of current member, that the membership composition be revisited to ensure a healthy balance or representation.

XV. Future Meeting Dates

Meetings would continue monthly on the second Tuesday unless determined otherwise. Those dates were as follows:

- June 14, 2016
- July 12, 2016
- August 9, 2016
- September 13, 2016
- October 12, 2016
- November 8, 2016

XIII. Adjourn

Co-Chair Hawekotte entertained a motion to adjourn. **Ron Johns moved to adjourn. Tony Green seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.** The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

3/3/2016

AF