

**Nebraska Children’s Commission
 Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee**
 Thirty-Sixth Meeting
 June 14, 2016
 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
 Office of the Court Improvement Project
 Lincoln, NE 68504

I. Call to Order

Kim Hawekotte, Co-Chair of the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. She explained that with the passing of LB746, the Committee had an annual report due December 1st. The efforts of the day’s meeting would be to put together a strategic plan to form recommendations for the report. The Co-Chair informed the members that a facilitator, Cindy Tierney, had been invited to help facilitate the process.

II. Roll Call

Committee Members present (15):

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Cassy Blakely | Kim Hawekotte | Tom McBride |
| Jeanne Brandner (9:15) | Dr. Anne Hobbs | Jana Peterson |
| Nicole Brundo | Ron Johns | Vicki Thompson |
| Judge Larry Gendler (10:35) | Nick Juliano | Dr. Richard Wiener |
| Tony Green | Cynthia Kennedy (9:15) | Dr. Ken Zoucha |

Committee Members absent (1):

Juliet Summers

Committee Resource Members present (7):

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Lisa Neeman | Katie McLeese Stephenson | Rico Zavala |
| Christine Henningsen | Julie Rogers | |
| Liz Hruska | Andrew Shapiro | |

Committee Resource Members absent (11):

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Jim Bennett | Mark Mason | Senator Patty Pansing Brooks |
| Senator Kathy Campbell | Monica Miles-Steffens | Judge Linda Porter |
| Barb Fitzgerald | Steve Milliken | Dan Scarborough |
| Catherine Gekas Steeby | Jerall Moreland | |

A quorum was established.

Guests in Attendance (9):

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Dr. 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 |
| Mark LaBouchardiere..... | DHHS, Office of Juvenile Services |
| Joselyn Luedtke..... | Nebraska Legislative Council |
| Jane Martin-Hoffman..... | Concord Mediation Center/Nebraska Mediation Center |
| Cindy Tierney..... | Concord Mediation Center |
| Chris Triebsch..... | Nebraska Legislative Council |

a. *Notice of Publication*

Co-Chair Hawekotte, 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 sign-in table near the entrance of the meeting room.

III. Approval of Agenda

Co-Chair Hawekotte entertained a motion to approve the Agenda. **A motion was made by Cassy Blakely to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Katie McLeese Stephenson.** No further discussion ensued. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (12):

Cassy Blakely
Nicole Brundo
Tony Green
Kim Hawekotte

Dr. Anne Hobbs
Ron Johns
Nick Juliano
Tom McBride

Jana Peterson
Vicki Thompson
Dr. Richard Wiener
Dr. Ken Zoucha

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (4):

Jeanne Brandner
Judge Larry Gendler

Cynthia Kennedy
Juliet Summers

MOTION CARRIED

IV. Approval of the Minutes

Cassy Blakely moved to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2016 minutes as presented. **Dr. Anne Hobbs seconded the motion.** There was no further discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (12):

Cassy Blakely
Nicole Brundo
Tony Green
Kim Hawekotte

Dr. Anne Hobbs
Ron Johns
Cynthia Kennedy
Tom McBride

Jana Peterson
Vicki Thompson
Dr. Richard Wiener
Dr. Ken Zoucha

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (2):

Jeanne Brandner

Nick Juliano

ABSENT (2):

Judge Larry Gendler

Juliet Summers

MOTION CARRIED

V. Co-Chair Report

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

VI. Probation Update

Jeanne Brandner, Deputy Administrator of the Division of Juvenile Services with the Administrative Office of Probation, provide an update. She discussed the many collaborative efforts that Probation was currently involved in. They included bi-weekly meetings with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), holding positions on the Children's Commission and its subgroups, working with the Attorney General's Human Trafficking Task Force, and various other endeavors.

Ms. Brandner reviewed other projects that were under way such as the update of service definitions and guidelines which would be available in July for a 30 day comment period. The Juvenile Justice Evaluation Pilot and Wraparound Pilot were both underway in several judicial districts throughout the state. Other issues covered were the Community and Evidence Based Services Grant, detention alternatives, and the Georgetown Crossover Youth Pilot. Lastly, Ms. Brandner advised the members that the monthly report on Juvenile Justice Reform efforts was available online and would be made available to the Committee members.

VII. Office of Juvenile Services Update

Tony Green, Deputy Director Of Policy & Regulatory Compliance with the DHHS, Office of Juvenile Services, gave a brief overview of happenings at the Geneva Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center (YRTC). He noted that the population remained steady at around 42 young ladies. Mr. Green went on to discuss the improvisation camp provided for the youth. Participants went on to perform in a breakout session at the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association conference in May. He also noted that the facility had 6 youth earn their high school diplomas.

Mark LaBouchardiere, Facility Administrator, went on to discuss the Kearney YRTC. Mr. Labouchardiere commented that the assaults and escapes had decreased in the recent months. He attributed this change to individual behavior plans that worked to target the underlying causes of behavioral issues. Transparency was noted as an area of focus of the facility and tours were happening regularly. The population of the YRTC was holding steady at around 108 youth.

VIII. Interplay between Coalition for Juvenile Justice and OJS Committee

Co-Chair Hawekotte and Cassy Blakely, Assistant Vice President of Youth Policy with the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, explored the interplay between the Juvenile Services Committee and the Coalition for Juvenile Justice. Ms. Blakely described the work of the Coalition which acted as an advisory group under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act as well as the Nebraska Juvenile Services Act.

The Coalition was currently working to identify the role they played in the larger picture of the juvenile justice system and had performed a crosswalk analysis of the various system entities that could be shared with the Committee members. The duo explained that since both groups worked on similar topics with many of the same members, that efforts should be made to collaborate. With each group advising different branches of government, the Committee advising the Legislative and the Coalition advising the Executive, a united front regarding recommendations could have more weight.

There was a general consensus that a joint meeting should be arranged. The group discussed the possibility of hosting a joint meeting in Kearney while the Children's Summit was happening since many of the members of the groups would already be in attendance. Staff of the two groups would communicate and make arrangements for a joint meeting.

Ms. Blakely also noted that the Coalition had five subcommittees that OJS Committee members were welcome to join. The groups consisted of a Disproportionate Minority Contact Subcommittee, Grant Review Subcommittee, Youth Subcommittee, Community Planning Subcommittee, and a Juvenile Diversion Subcommittee.

IX. Review of Phase I Strategic Framework

Cindy Tierney with Concord Mediation Center introduced herself and Jane Martin-Hoffman with the Nebraska Mediation Center who would be assisting in the facilitation. She directed the members present to review the Phase I Strategic Recommendations from 2013. Ms. Tierney indicated that the day would be spent working through recommendations A-X and determining the current progress of each.

X. Review of Amended Statutes and Requirements of Committee

The group reviewed the section of LB746 that outlined the Juvenile Services Committee responsibilities.

XI. Review of Progress on Phase I Strategic Recommendations

The language of the recommendations can be found in the Phase I Strategic Recommendation handout for this meeting.

- A. **In progress (Met ← Unmet)** – While the Children’s Commission was reauthorized there was still work regarding collaborative efforts to be done. With the current crosswalk initiative and collaboration with the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, the Committee felt that efforts towards meeting this goal were in place.
- B. **Met** – Significant legislative changes had occurred to ensure that juvenile justice was included in the language. While efforts would be ongoing, the group felt that juvenile justice had been brought to the forefront of legislative efforts as a relevant and important issue.
- C. **In Progress (Met ← Unmet)** – The Committee acknowledge significant progress, but noted work to be done specifically regarding Class I and II felonies that still had the option to be filed in criminal court.
- D. **In Progress (Met → Unmet)** – Recent legislation under LB894 required counties having a population of 150,000 to provide legal representation for youth. This meant that only three counties in the state fell under the legislative mandate. With high numbers of waived counsel still occurring in those three counties, and a majority of the state not falling under the mandate, the group agreed that additional work needed to be done in this area.
- E. **Unmet** – The topic of separate juvenile court districts had not been a topic the Committee had directly addressed. It was decided to discuss the issue in future efforts.
- F. **Unmet** – While many of the principles of the Child and Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP) are integrated into the Committee’s conversation, it had not been included in the design work. There would be opportunities to integrate the CASSP Principles into system level reports.
- G. **Unmet** – To date, the Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders had not been used in the Committee’s efforts. It was agreed that it should be utilized in the group’s work moving forward.
- H. **In Progress (Met → Unmet)** – Work around Evidence Based services was happening, but inconsistently throughout the state. Progress had been made, but there was continued effort to be done to define a consistent spectrum of definitions and terms, in particular, defining what a successful program is.
- I. **In Progress (Met ← Unmet)** – The concept should be revisited as there was inconsistent application of the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP). While the SPEP was not currently in use, other protocols were in place to ensure consistent measurement across programs. A need was identified to evaluate if the current protocols were the best fit.
- J. Youth Rehabilitation Treatment Center (YRTC) Related Recommendations
 1. **Unmet** – The group was unsure if this recommendation was still relevant. It was agreed that the issue needed to be reassessed. The population currently at the YRTCs looked very

different today than it did in 2013. There was also discussion regarding the political climate and the potential effect of a large pool of new senators. It was agreed that whatever recommendations were created, they must be strong and well supported to gain the necessary traction.

2. **Unmet** – Refer to J.1 above.
 3. **In Progress (Met ← Unmet)** – Legislation went into effect that requires the YRTCs to implement evidence based programs. The implementation step of the practices and individualization for youth needs was determined to still be in need of work.
 4. **Unmet** – The Committee members agreed that this and all elements of recommendation J were to be reassessed as many were irrelevant given the current population, or contradictory of current efforts. A recommendation was made to create a workgroup to look specifically at YRTC issues. This group would be responsible for finding a balance of providing solid recommendations in the best interest of the youth while being mindful of financial constraints.
 5. **Unmet** – Refer to J.4 above.
 6. **Unmet** – Refer to J.4 above.
- K. **In Progress (Met ← Unmet)** – The basic elements of the recommendation were met. The Juvenile Services Committee was reauthorized until June 30, 2019 under the extension of the Children’s Commission, but was not made as its own standing committee. The group also recognized that they were an advisory body and did not have the authority to implement the recommendations that were created.
- L. **Unmet** – After the creation of the Phase I recommendations, the Committee disbanded the idea of creating subcommittees. It was decided that new committees need to be established as some of the previously suggested groups did not fit with the current system issues.
- M. **Met** – The Committee members felt that this recommendation was no longer relevant as various national experts were already involved in the day-to-day efforts of the various juvenile justice programs such as the Georgetown Crossover Youth Project, the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, and the Crosswalk Initiative.
- N. **In Progress (Met → Unmet)** – The tools used could vary greatly depending on what was being measured. It was suggested that this recommendation be revisited with the potential of dissecting it into several separate recommendations. The group noted the need for a standardized method of sharing the screening and assessment information between system programs.
- O. **In Progress (Met → Unmet)** – Community Based Aid (CBA) funds acted as county incentives, but were lacking the use of braided funding. There was discussion over using a model similar to the Social Innovation Fund grant to look at how to utilize funding from multiple sources.
- P. **In Progress (Met → Unmet)** – Work had been done to research other states and bring in experts to share information, but further effort was still necessary. The group agreed to assign this as a task to the YRTC Workgroup.
- Q. **In Progress (Met ← Unmet)** – Pilot projects for the JDAI and the Crossover model were currently in progress in various locations, but statewide implementation had not happened. A stakeholder workgroup was working to identify successful policies and procedures from the programs that would be successful statewide, as implementing the full programs may not be appropriate for each area of the state.
- R. **In Progress (Met → Unmet)** - The data warehouse pilot created under LB265 was putting together a collaborative data project that would lend to this recommendation. Other efforts towards data gathering and sharing were being done by the Foster Care Review Office, Juvenile Justice Institute,

and the Court Improvement Project. The group felt that the work of the Data Mapping Task Force would also fall under this recommendation.

- S. **Unmet** – It was proposed that the Workforce Workgroup under the Children’s Commission take on the issue of the juvenile justice workforce issues in addition to child welfare issues.
- T. **In Progress (Met ← Unmet)** – A Juvenile Justice Extension Task Force was established under the Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee of the Children’s Commission to look at these issues. LB866 was proposed last session, but did not pass. LR514 was currently in progress to provide a more solid foundation for future bills to be proposed. It was agreed that this recommendation would be taken on by the existing Juvenile Justice Extension Task Force.
- U. **Unmet** – There was still quite a bit of work to be done on this issue.
- V. **In Progress (Met → Unmet)** – Some counties had developed crisis mediation teams, but additional attention is needed.
- W. **In Progress (Met → Unmet)** – It was noted that the System of Care mapping tackled some of the items within this recommendation, but it had a narrow focus that looked only at severe emotionally unstable youth. The Community and Evidence Based Service grant was also working towards these efforts.
- X. **In Progress (Met → Unmet)** – The System of Care Initiative did meet some of the objectives within the recommendation. Probation would provide updates from their meetings with DHHS and Behavioral Health. Consensus was reached that the recommendation should be kept, but the language revisited.

XII. Gaps in Juvenile Services Committee Comprehensive Strategy and Action Item

- a. *Use of Workgroups*
 - i. Courts and Legal System Workgroup
 - a. Recommendations from the 2013 Phase I Plan to revisit: **C, D, E**
 - ii. Evaluation of Programs and Assessment of Youth Workgroup
 - a. Recommendations from the 2013 Phase I Plan to revisit: **F, G, H, I, N, R**
 - iii. Services Coordination Workgroup
 - a. Recommendations from the 2013 Phase I Plan to revisit: **O, U, V, W, X**
 - iv. Youth Rehabilitation Treatment Center and Out of Home Placement Workgroup
 - a. Recommendations from the 2013 Phase I Plan to revisit: **J, P, Q**
 - v. Juvenile Services Committee
 - a. Recommendations from the 2013 Phase I Plan to revisit: **A, L**
 - b. Recommendations to be removed due to completion, irrelevance, or delegation to other Commission subgroups: **B, K, M, S, T**

XIII. Workgroup Work Sessions and Action Item

- a. Selection of Chair/Co-Chairs and Members
 - i. Courts and Legal System Workgroup
 - a. **Chair:** Christine Henningsen
 - b. **Members:** Judge Larry Gendler, Senator Patty Pansing Brooks (or representative), and Katie McLeese Stephenson (or future CIP Director)
 - ii. Evaluation of Programs and Assessment of Youth Workgroup
 - a. **Co-Chairs:** Dr. Anne Hobbs and Dr. Richard Wiener
 - b. **Members:** Jeanne Brandner, Mike Fargen, Cindy Kennedy, and Mark LaBouchardiere
 - iii. Services Coordination Workgroup
 - a. **Chair:** Vicky Thompson

- b. **Members:** Cassy Blakely, Nick Juliano, Cindy Kennedy, Tom McBride, Lisa Neeman, Jana Peterson, Andrew Shapiro, Vicky Thompson, and a probation representative
- iv. Youth Rehabilitation Treatment Center and Out of Home Placement Workgroup
 - a. **Chair:** Nicole Brundo
 - b. **Members:** Raevin Bigelow, Tony Green, Ron Johns, Mark LaBouchardiere, Sarah Mitchell, Julie Rogers, and Dr. Ken Zoucha

XIV. Public Comment

Co-Chair Hawekotte opened the floor for Public Comment. No Public Comment was given.

XV. New Business

All items of new business were discussed under previous agenda items.

XVI. Upcoming Meeting Planning

Committee members came to a consensus that the Juvenile Services Committee would switch to bi-monthly meetings beginning in August. The established workgroups would then meet during the alternate months of the Committee.

XVII. Future Meeting Dates

Courts and Legal System Workgroup

- July 12, 2016, via conference call with details TBD

Evaluation of Programs and Assessment of Youth Workgroup

- July 18, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- Executive Building, 5th Floor Conference Room, 521 S. 14th Street, Lincoln, NE

Services Coordination Workgroup

- July 14, 2016, 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Lincoln Community Foundation Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln NE

Youth Rehabilitation Treatment Center and Out of Home Placement Workgroup

- June 30, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Office of the Court Improvement Project, 5001 Central Park Drive, Suite 200, Lincoln, NE

Meetings of the Juvenile Services Committee:

- August 9, 2016
- October 12, 2016

XVIII. Adjourn

Cassy Blakely moved to adjourn. Ron Johns seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

6/27/2016

AF