

Nebraska Children's Commission
Juvenile Services Committee
Fortieth Meeting
April 11, 2017
Southeast Community College, Rooms V107 & 109
8800 O Street, Lincoln, NE 68520

I. Call to Order

Nicole Brundo, Co-Chair of the Juvenile Services Committee (Committee), called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Committee Members Present (14):

Jim Bennett	Dr. Anne Hobbs (9:17)	Kari Rumbaugh
Cassy Blakely (10:28)	Nick Juliano	Dan Scarborough
Nicole Brundo	Cynthia Kennedy (9:19)	Vicky Thompson Smith
Judge Larry Gendler	Mark LaBouchardiere	Dr. Richard Wiener
Kim Hawekotte (11:47)	Aubrey Mancuso*	

Committee Members Absent (2):

Tom McBride	Dr. Ken Zoucha
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Committee Resource Members Present (6):

Nicole Berggren	Jerall Moreland (9:21)	Judge Linda Porter
Christine Henningsen	Lisa Neeman	Julie Smith

Committee Resource Members Absent (10):

Michele Borg	Monica Miles-Steffens	Deb VanDyke-Ries
Barb Fitzgerald	Senator Patty Pansing Brooks	Rico Zavala
Catherine Gekas Steeby	Julie Rogers	
Liz Hruska		

A quorum was established

*Aubrey Mancuso served as a temporary proxy designated by Juliet Summers

Guests in Attendance (10):

Katie Bass.....	Foster Care Review Office
Amoreena Brady.....	Administrative Office of Probation, Juvenile Services Division
Bethany Connor Allen.....	Nebraska Children's Commission
Amanda Felton.....	Nebraska Children's Commission
April Garcia.....	Administrative Office of Probation, Juvenile Services Division
Mallory Goertzen.....	SCC Practicum Student/Nebraska Children's Commission
Matt Lewis.....	Nebraska Court Improvement Project
Dr. Ryan Spohn.....	UNO, Nebraska Center for Justice Research
Jenny Stewart.....	Heartland Family Services
Dr. Emily Wright.....	UNO, Nebraska Center for Justice Research

a. Notice of Publication

Amanda Felton, 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 and was located on the sign-in table near the entrance of the meeting room.

III. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Nick Juliano and seconded by Jim Bennett to approve the [agenda](#) as presented. No further discussion ensued. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (10):

Jim Bennett	Mark LaBouchardiere	Vicky Thompson Smith
Nicole Brundo	Aubrey Mancuso	Dr. Richard Wiener
Judge Larry Gendler	Kari Rumbaugh	
Nick Juliano	Dan Scarborough	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (6):

Cassy Blakely	Dr. Anne Hobbs	Tom McBride
Kim Hawekotte	Cynthia Kennedy	Dr. Ken Zoucha

MOTION CARRIED

IV. Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Dan Scarborough and seconded by Vicky Thompson Smith to approve the [minutes of the February 14, 2017 meeting](#) as presented. No further discussion ensued. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (10):

Jim Bennett	Mark LaBouchardiere	Vicky Thompson Smith
Nicole Brundo	Aubrey Mancuso	Dr. Richard Wiener
Judge Larry Gendler	Kari Rumbaugh	
Nick Juliano	Dan Scarborough	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (6):

Cassy Blakely	Dr. Anne Hobbs	Tom McBride
Kim Hawekotte	Cynthia Kennedy	Dr. Ken Zoucha

MOTION CARRIED

V. Co-Chair's Report

Co-Chair Nicole Brundo did not have any information to share under this item.

VI. Legislative Discussion

The Committee members reviewed a number of Legislative Bills relevant to the work of the Committee. It was shared with the group that [LB158](#), legislation that would expand the requirement for appointment of legal counsel for juveniles to all counties, would be called for debate on the floor the following day.

VII. Probation Update

Kari Rumbaugh, Assistant Deputy Administrator, and Jim Bennett, Director of Placement - Supervision Services, provided an update on the Juvenile Services Division of the Administrative Office of Probation. Rumbaugh explained that they would expand on two issues raised at the previous meeting: the Lancaster County Juvenile Inventory for Functioning (JIFF) Pilot Project and the Graduated Sanctions Response Matrix.

The floor was given to Amoreena Brady to discuss the two efforts. She began by discussing the pilot project which focused on status offense youth. The Lancaster County area was selected for the pilot as they have the largest population of status offense youth. The goal of the pilot was to prevent status offense youth from entering the juvenile justice system by providing wrap around services within the community and building up the informal supports.

The JIFF tool, a self-assessment completed by the youth and family, was being used in conjunction with the YLS (Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory) assessment for the pilot. Brady went onto discuss the importance of school involvement and collaboration with probation youth. Caseloads of probation officers were shifted to ensure that they did not cover more than two schools, increasing the amount of consistency and connection with the youth and school staff.

Brady discussed the three outcome goals of the pilot: reduction of time on probation, reduction in the number of technical violations, and to reduce out-of-home placements. Progress had been made including a drop of average time on probation from 12 to 8.7 months, increased communication to identify underlying issues for youth and families, and a decrease in the youth placed out-of-home.

The group conversed on the barriers still experienced with this population. Issues such as school truancy standards and inability to share data between agencies were identified. It was also shared that the Community Based Aid (CBA) truancy diversions programs in Lancaster County see a much smaller amount of referrals as other counties. In addition to the lower utilization of diversion programs, the success rate of youth in the programs was fairly low. This brought up the potential need to track the youth who complete diversion and go on to become probation involved.

Brady then moved on to review information on the graduated response grid. Numerous states utilizing graduated response were reviewed as well as national standards were reviewed in the process of the creation of the grid. Work was in progress to finalize the response grid and establish the training for field staff. Once the grid was completed it would be shared with the Committee for review.

VIII. Douglas County Crossover Youth Practice Model Project Evaluation

The [presentation](#) on the evaluation of the Douglas County Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) was given by Dr. Ryan Spohn and Dr. Emily Wright. The presenters explained that Crossover youth, or youth involved in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, faced additional difficulties. The evaluation was performed over a two year period and looked at four components: outcome evaluation, process evaluation, cost-benefit analysis, and systems analysis.

Dr. Wright explained the three sample groups involved in the study which included the comparison group who received no intervention, the CYPM eligible group that received full services, and the CYPM eligible group who could not receive full services due to the nature of their offense or their placement situation. Wright went on to summarize the findings of the study indicating that the full treatment group had the best outcomes.

Dr. Spohn expanded on the system impact and cost-benefit analysis of the model. He reviewed the responses of the CYPM professionals regarding their impression of the model. An annual net benefit of \$173,161 in addition to the increased diversions showed an overall benefit of utilizing the model.

The two presenters discussed the recommendations from the evaluation and identified the barriers that would still need to be overcome. While there were several challenges, the study supported the continuation of the CYPM in Douglas County and to implement efforts to spread statewide.

IX. Office of Juvenile Services Update

Co-Chair Brundo invited Mark LaBouchardiere, Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Services (OJS) within the Department of Health and Human Services, to provide an update. Areas of discussion included the implementation of daily briefing calls between the Youth Rehabilitation Treatment Center (YRTC) facilities, the slight increase in intakes, and increased placement of gang involved youth from the Lincoln and Omaha areas. LaBouchardiere shared with members the complications that have been faces with youth who have high medical needs. He talked about a youth with hemophilia was placed at the facility and the challenges it had on the facility.

Nicole Berggren, Juvenile Justice Administrator, provided a brief update on the happenings of the Kearney YRTC. She covered an initiative between OJS and the Department of Labor, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Probation to help youth graduate from high school and gain employment once re-entering their communities. In addition, the Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (ACRA) was a substance abuse treatment being implemented at the facility. Other items of note for the Kearney YRTC were the decrease in assaults and escapes and efforts to prepare for the compliance audit which would happen in June.

Dan Scarborough, Facility Administrator, provided information on the Geneva YRTC. He began with an update on the young woman with high risk behaviors that had been discussed at length at the previous meeting. Scarborough provided a summary of the youth's history. All parties were brought back to the table to review what the best placement would be for the youth. The group decision was to place this youth at a more appropriate facility out-of-state. The Committee would continue to be updated on the progress of the youth.

This prompted conversation on the need for a state run psychiatric hospital. There was concern on sending youth out-of-state when we should have the ability to meet their needs. Conversations had begun with the Division of Behavioral Health to identify options on how to address the population of youth with mental health needs. Probation had also begun to track the youth with repeat visits to the Richard Young Hospital to gather more data on the population most in need.

The population of developmentally disabled (DD) was also a subject of discussion. With recent changes in DD funding, there was worry as to what would happen to this population. It was an extremely rare occasion that a DD youth would be placed at an YRTC. DD youth encompass a very small number of youth involved with juvenile justice, but efforts were still in progress to ensure that they receive the correct services.

X. Standing Update Items

a. Court Improvement Project

An update on the Court Improvement Project was provided by Project Coordinator, Matt Lewis. Regional conferences were set to happen in Omaha on October 3rd and North Platte on October 4th. The conferences would be host to judges, attorneys, court personnel, Eyes of the Child Teams, law enforcement, and many other stakeholders. Areas of focus would be racial equity and implicit bias, encouraging dialogue with the media, out-of-home placement, culture, and relevant legislation. A [handout on the Juvenile Justice Home-Based Initiative](#) was shared with the group. A full conference schedule would be available towards the end of July.

b. Georgetown Crossover Youth Practice Model

Nick Juliano, Director of Regional Advocacy and Public Policy with Boys Town, did not have any additional information to share on the program outside of the morning's presentation.

c. Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiatives

Kari Rumbaugh gave members an overview of the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) work. Otoe County had begun implementation of their new JDAI site. A national conference in Orlando the following week would be attended by 12 JDAI stakeholders. Last, she touched on LB8 regarding the graduated response sanctions.

d. Juvenile Services Community Based Aid

Co-Chair Hawekotte welcomed Cynthia Kennedy to share information on the Juvenile Services Community Based Aid (CBA). Kennedy informed the Committee that the grant review process was officially complete. There had been 51 grants reviewed representing 70 counties and 1 tribe which support around 241 programs throughout the state.

Hawekotte, Chair of the Grant Review Subcommittee for CBA funds, thanked Kennedy for her work to streamline the grant process. She went on to discuss the need to review the statutes surrounding CBA in the months ahead.

e. *Evaluation of Community Based Aid Study*

An [update](#) on the evidence based work around the Community Based Aid (CBA) was provided by Dr. Anne Hobbs. She explained how outcomes had been broken down by program type. She directed members to the recent report on [truancy and absenteeism programs](#). Data showed that while youth were enrolled in the programs, there was a 95% success rate of improve attendance. What continued studies would show was if these programs had an effect on truancy after completion of the program. A longitudinal data set will be collected that will give an idea of the unique blend of youth, programs, and outcomes.

The goal of the evaluation was to ensure that there were effective juvenile diversion programs throughout the state. The study was not meant to act as a way to defund programs, but rather to identify the successful efforts and examine them for future implementation.

XI. Lunch

The Committee recessed for lunch at 12:05 p.m.

The meeting resumed business at 12:40 p.m.

XII. Presentation on Sarpy County Psychiatric and Behavioral Crisis Response Teams

Co-Chair Hawekotte welcomed guest presenter Jenny Stewart, Director of Crisis Response Services at Heartland Family Service. Stewart began her [presentation](#) by explaining that the ultimate goal of the crisis response teams is to stabilize individuals and families and referring them to the appropriate services if continued assistance is identified. She highlighted both the Assessment Support and Prevention (ASAP) program and the Crisis Mediation Team (CMT) in Sarpy County.

The ASAP program handles any crisis that does not require immediate hospitalization/incarceration for any individual. Stewart explained that only law enforcement was able request the presence of an ASAP team. The CMT, which was modeled after the ASAP, is aimed specifically for at-risk youth with behavioral health issues. The CMT programs originated from the frustration of law enforcement in complicated situations with youth and families. With the assistance of CBA funding, the program was able to be created.

The purpose of the CMTs were to assist the referring organization in assessing the needs of the client immediately following and/or during a crisis event, provide prompt responsive screening practices that ensure equitable treatment and support, and follow up within 24 hours with referral information on supportive services. Stewart detailed the process during and after the crisis intervention for the Committee.

XIII. Subgroup Updates

a. *Courts and Legal System Workgroup*

Workgroup Chair and Staff Attorney with the Center on Children, Family and the Law, Christine Henningsen, provided an update on the work of the group. Henningsen reminded members that LB158 would be discussed on the Legislative floor the following day. Current opposition claimed the financial burden of the bill as a barrier. An amendment had been submitted to access the court automation fund for incurred expenses.

The Workgroup had also released a survey to gather information from judges across the state regarding system structure. Work was in progress to best format the results, but initial feedback indicated that a majority of county judges felt the current system structure worked well. The other item of focus for the group was the current sealing process for juvenile records. Language for a Legislative Resolution had been submitted by Senator Patty Pansing Brooks on the issue.

b. *Data Mapping and Analysis (DMA) Taskforce*

An update on the DMA Taskforce was provided by Dr. Katie Bass, Director of Research with the Foster Care Review Office (FCRO). She informed the Committee that in addition to Mike Fargen accepting a position with the Crime Commission, she herself had moved from CIP to the FCRO. Due to the several position shifts,

the group had not met since the previous Committee meeting. Work would be done to pull in a representative from CIP once they had hired a new data coordinator. More information would be provided at future meetings.

c. Evaluation and Assessment Workgroup

Bethany Connor Allen, Policy Analyst with the Children’s Commission, updated members on the progress of the Evaluation of Programs and Assessment of Youth Workgroup. The current efforts focused on outreach to various organizations to provide stakeholder education. In addition to those efforts the workgroup was working to create and distribute a survey to collect information on what tools are used by the various institutions and agencies.

d. Service Coordination Workgroup

Co-Chair Hawekotte shared information from Vicky Thompson Smith, Chair of the Service Coordination Workgroup, who had to leave earlier in the meeting. Thompson Smith had asked for guidance on the areas of focus for the workgroup. Hawekotte recommended that the group investigate the use of telehealth as a way to offer more services in the western area of the state. Identifying the barriers and ways to overcome those would be a helpful issue for this workgroup to tackle.

XIV. Public Comment

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

XV. New Business

There was no new business.

XVI. Upcoming Meeting Planning

Mark LaBouchardiere remarked on the Committees statutory requirement to form recommendations around the YTRCs. Members echoed the importance of regular discussion on the subject of the YTRCs and it was agreed to have it as a regular agenda item at future meetings. Co-Chair Hawekotte reviewed additional discussion from the day making note of topics for future meeting discussion. This included the following:

- A review of the Graduated Sanctions grid once completed
- A presentation from Dr. Hobbs and Dr. Wiener on the various definitions of recidivism
- Updates, as they arise, on the work of the Case Progression Standards Subcommittee of the Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts
- An update on the work of the Juvenile Court Defense Standards Subcommittee of the Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts
- A discussion of Disproportionate Minority Contact

Hawekotte also reminded members that the next meeting on June 13th would be a joint meeting of the Juvenile Services Committee and the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ). The meeting would act as a test run for future collaborations. With the state’s decision not to pursue Title II funds, the NCJJ was facing a large cut to their funding. Considering the similar subject matter, the two groups would work towards a concerted effort.

XVII. Future Meeting Dates

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| a. June 13, 2017 | c. October 11, 2017 (Moved to a Wednesday due to a Monday holiday) |
| b. August 8, 2017 | d. December 12, 2017 |

XVIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Cassy Blakely and seconded by Cynthia Kennedy to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.