

**Joint Meeting of the
Juvenile Services Committee and the
Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice**

June 13, 2017

Southeast Community College, Rooms V103 & 104
8800 O Street, Lincoln, NE 68520

I. Call to Order

Cassy Blakely, Chair of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ), and Kim Hawekotte, Co-Chair of the Juvenile Services Committee (Committee), called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Juvenile Services Committee

Committee Members Present (11):

Jim Bennett	Kim Hawekotte	Aubrey Mancuso*
Cassy Blakely	Dr. Anne Hobbs	Vicky Thompson Smith
Nicole Brundo (10:00)	Nick Juliano	Dr. Ken Zoucha (9:18)
Judge Larry Gendler	Cynthia Kennedy	

Committee Members Absent (2):

Mark LaBouchardiere	Kari Rumbaugh	Dr. Richard Wiener
Tom McBride	Dan Scarborough	

Committee Resource Members Present (6):

Michele Borg
Christine Henningsen
Monica Miles-Steffens
Lisa Neeman
Julie Smith
Deb VanDyke-Ries

Committee Resource Members Absent (10):

Nicole Berggren	Jerall Moreland	Rico Zavala
Barb Fitzgerald	Senator Patty Pansing Brooks	
Catherine Gekas Steeby	Judge Linda Porter	
Liz Hruska	Julie Rogers	

A quorum was established for the Juvenile Services Committee

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

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

Coalition Members Present (9):

Cassy Blakely	Kim Hawekotte	Brett Matthies
Neleigh Boyer	Cindy Kennedy*	Elaine Menzel
Brian Halstead	Denise Kracl	Michelle Schindler

Coalition Members Absent (13):

Mark Benne	Mark LaBouchardiere	Kevin Spencer
John-Robert Bloom	Justin Myers	Nicola Variano
Jim Blue	Chris Rodgers	Corben Waldron
Heather Duhackcheck	Dan Scarborough	
Tiffany Gressley	Amanda Speichert	

Coalition Ex-Officio Members Present (3):

Jeanne Brandner

Judge Vernon Danierls

Judge Randin Roland

A quorum was not established for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

*Cynthia Kennedy served as a temporary proxy designated by Darrell Fisher

Guests in Attendance (13):

Bethany Connor Allen.....Nebraska Children’s Commission
Ryan Anderson.....Practicum Student - Nebraska Crime Commission
Mike Fargen.....Nebraska Crime Commission
Amanda Felton.....Nebraska Children’s Commission
Mary Ann Havey.....Nebraska Court Improvement Project
Amy Hoffman.....Nebraska Crime Commission
Shelly Hug.....Administrative Office of Probation, Juvenile Services Division
Vanessa Humaran.....Nebraska Crime Commission
Beth Klemme.....Grand Island Public Schools
Katie Lawrence.....Colfax County
Matt Lewis.....Nebraska Court Improvement Project
Sidnee Pavel.....Colfax County School Intervention and Diversion Program
Dr. Lindsey Wylie.....UNO, Juvenile Justice Institute

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 front of the meeting room.

III. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Cynthia Kennedy and seconded by Judge Larry Gendler 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. Minutes of the April 11, 2017 OJS Committee Meeting

A motion was made by Dan Scarborough and seconded by Vicky Thompson Smith to approve the [minutes of the April 11, 2017 meeting](#) as presented. No further discussion ensued. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (11):

Jim Bennett
Nicole Brundo
Judge Larry Gendler
Nick Juliano

Mark LaBouchardiere
Aubrey Mancuso
Kari Rumbaugh
Dan Scarborough

Vicky Thompson Smith
Dr. Richard Wiener
Dr. Ken Zoucha

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Cassy Blakely
Kim Hawekotte

Dr. Anne Hobbs
Cynthia Kennedy

Tom McBride

MOTION CARRIED

b. Minutes of the March 13, 2017 NCJJ Meeting

The approval of the March 13, 2017 meeting minutes was postponed until the next meeting at which a quorum could be reached.

V. Co-Chair's Report

Chairperson Blakely took the opportunity to thank everyone who made it to the meeting. She also acknowledged the work done by the Executive Committee of the NCJJ and Crime Commission staff to make sure that the group could continue to meet their statutory requirements. Co-Chair Hawekotte encouraged members to voice interest in the work of any of the workgroups and subcommittees as topics were discussed throughout the day.

Hawekotte asked Matt Lewis, Project Coordinator with the Court Improvement Project, to share information on the juvenile court attorney guidelines. Revised guidelines had been submitted and were now open for public comment. Hawekotte noted that information would be shared after the meeting on the guidelines and that members of both groups were encouraged to review and submit feedback.

The Chairpersons transitioned conversation to the upcoming statutory change that stated that youth under the age of 11 could not be charged as a delinquent. They posed the question to the groups if this topic should be included as an agenda item at the upcoming August meeting since many areas were struggling with how to implement these changes for their youth population. They also proposed having this be an issue that the joint Legislative Workgroup take on under their charge.

There was lengthy dialogue around the issue. Parties noted that would be influential to forming cohesive recommendations included law enforcement, representatives of the System of Care Committee, and the Department of Education. The group determined that the Legislative Workgroup would look at the diversion and Community Based Aid (CBA) statutes to see if diversion was a possible option for these youth. It was noted that the age limits included in statutes could affect the funding of communities wishing to serve this population. The Juvenile Diversion and Community Planning Advisory Subcommittees of the NCJJ would also be brought into the conversation.

VI. Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Update

The floor was given to Monica Miles-Steffens, Director of Juvenile Placement with the Administrative Office of Probation, and Shelly Hug, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Coordinator. In their [presentation](#), Miles-Steffens and Hug noted explained that the initiative utilizes 8 core strategies to help jurisdictions reduce the system involvement of their youth. After reviewing the history of JDAI in Nebraska, Hug went on to review the accomplishments at the state and local levels.

Hug went on to discuss in detail JDAI in Douglas County. Disproportionate minority contact (DMC) and youth with warrants are the two target populations within the area. She directed members to the portion of the [handout](#) addressing warrants and DMC statistics from 2015 to current which emphasized the need to hone in on the two populations. Hug explained that a majority of the warrants in their area were for unlawful absence – youth in out of home placement who have gone missing. The presenters ended by reviewing the next steps planned for both the Douglas County and Statewide JDAI efforts.

VII. Discussion of Disproportionate Minority Contact

The Chairpersons opened the floor up for discussion on the issue of DMC. Michelle Schindler, Facility Director of the Lancaster County Youth Services Center, briefly reviewed the efforts to reduce DMC in Lancaster County. Dr. Anne Hobbs, Director of the Juvenile Justice Institute, also noted that communities using CBA funds for system improvement would be required to complete a DMC matrix of the different system points as part of their annual reporting requirements. Dr. Hobbs indicated that she could bring additional data on these programs at a future meeting.

Miles-Steffens, shared information on a small group of stakeholders who had met to look at recommendations from a [2012 DMC study](#) and identify strategies that could be implemented statewide. She also touched on the law enforcement education that had taken place recently as well as efforts towards electronic court notifications to better utilize communication mediums accessible to their target populations.

While collaboration between the NCJJ, OJS Committee, and JDAI was mentioned, issues of funding proved to be a complication. Chairperson Blakely explained that the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) was competitively awarding funding allocations to non-participants of Title II. However, the funds would need to be administered by a private nonprofit agency or a local public agency. Interested entities were cautioned of the work and effort that would have to go into the administering of funding and managing of the project. Information on the solicitation and application would be sent out to members.

VIII. Joint Legislative Workgroup Update

Christine Henningsen, Co-Chair of the Legislative Workgroup and Staff Attorney with the Center on Children, Family and the Law, provided an update on the relevant legislative bills and resolutions. Goals of the workgroup moving forward will be to examine the issue and statutes around youth under 11 and monitoring of implementation for LB8, LB10, and LB11.

IX. Presentation on Definitions of Recidivism

Dr. Anne Hobbs and Dr. Lindsey Wylie with the Juvenile Justice Institute were invited to share information recidivism definitions and how they relate to CBA funded programs. Dr. Hobbs began the presentation by explaining the complications that come with defining recidivism. She noted that most recidivism definitions looked only one year out from program completion, whereas their office was working towards a 10 year longitudinal dataset.

Dr. Wiley described in depth, the process of pulling data included pulling data from JUSTICE, the statewide case management system for filing criminal cases in Nebraska. Through a complicated process, information is pulled on youth who have participated in a CBA diversion program to determine if they have recidivated. Members reviewed and discussed the statistics and demographics of the youth included in the study. The presenters hoped to be able to use the data to assist programs to get improved outcomes in the future.

X. Probation Update

A probation update was provided by Jeanne Brandner, Deputy Administrator with the Administrative Office of Probation. Brandner discussed the work being done towards in-home services for juvenile justice youth. She noted a recent spike in the number of out-of-home placements in the past six months, which could have been attributed to the time of year. The graduated response system of incentives and sanctions was in progress and would be shared with both groups for review when a draft version was approved by administration. Monthly meetings with the DHHS directors were happening with joint efforts to ensure consistent training between probation and the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers (YRTC).

Another topic covered was the impact of the recent closing of several placement options for youth who may benefit from out-of-home placement. Several factors were of influence in the closings including budget, limited service availability, and most recently, issues with insurance payouts. Situations had arisen where there was delay or denial of payment from either Medicaid or private insurance. With services being underfunded, probation has looked into the potential of a rate increase for providers to fill in that gap. They have also investigated the possibility to implement Professional Foster Care.

The conversation transitioned into the larger issue of the State's lack of out-of-home placement options. Lengthy discussion ensued over the stressors experienced by placements such as the YRTCs, detention centers, and other out-of-home placements. It was determined that the YRTC and Out-of-Home Placement Workgroup of the OJS Committee should be re-established to tackle these difficult barriers. It was suggested to pull in member representation from the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee of the Nebraska Children's Commission for input. There was also the recommendation to see if representatives of private insurance and Medicaid would be willing to attend a meeting of the Workgroup.

XI. Lunch

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

The meeting resumed business at 12:30 p.m.

XII. Discussion of Youth Rehabilitation Treatment Centers and Out-of-Home Placements

As noted in the Probation Update discussion, the member felt specific attention needed to be given to the issue of the YRTCs and out-of-home placements. To streamline this task, the YRTC and Out-of-Home Placement Workgroup would reconvene with the addition of any interested members from the NCJJ.

XIII. OJS Committee Workgroup 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 of the survey released to judges across the state to gather information regarding system structure. Work was in progress to best format the results, but initial feedback showed the largest challenge faced by judges was a lack of available services. Other items covered included a Legislative Resolution examining the sealing of records that had been submitted by Senator Patty Pansing Brooks and LB158, which would remain on general file until the next session.

b. Data Mapping and Analysis (DMA) Taskforce

Mike Fargen, Co-Chair of the DMA Taskforce and Chief of Information Services Division with the Nebraska Crime Commission, noted that momentum of the group in 2017 had slowed due to staff turnover. Moving forward the group will want to look at placement consumption and placement capacity throughout the state. Fargen hoped to have an update in August on the progress of the group. It was suggested that the DMA Taskforce partner with the YRTC and Out-of-Home Placement Workgroup to provide data to the group. Co-Chair Hawekotte requested that a short presentation on the data mapping and algorithms be presented at the August meeting.

c. Evaluation and Assessment Workgroup

An update from Dr. Richard Wiener, Workgroup Chair and Beddy Professor of Psychology at UNL, would be provided at the next meeting.

d. Service Coordination Workgroup

Vicky Thompson Smith, Workgroup Chair and Program Managers with CEDARS, informed the members that the Workgroup had yet to meet in 2017. The plan was to bring the group together to review next steps and to determine if the workgroup would need to continue.

XIV. Grant Recipient Program Presentations

a. Colfax County School Interventionist and Diversion Program

Denise Kracl, Colfax County Attorney, and Sidnee Pavel, Colfax County Diversion Officer and School Interventionist, provided a [presentation](#) on the Diversion and Truancy programs in their area. Kracl explained

that the Colfax County area was one of the top ports in the United States for immigrants. The community was host to 17 different cultures and subcultures and 11 different languages and dialects.

Pavel talked about the challenges faced by the youth in the area, including the high rate of truancy. Many of these families came from cultures where work and household contribution was regarded in higher esteem than education, leading to many youth missing school to either part time jobs or supervision of other siblings. Other challenges include teaching life skills, ensuring basic life necessities were provided, and learning and accommodating religious and cultural differences.

Pavel and Kracl went on to share information on how they address and tackle some of the challenges they see with the youth and families in their community. Efforts included teaching and providing supplies to address basic hygiene needs, working to stay involved with youth on the outskirts of the system in need of assistance, partnering with community translators, providing payment plans or reduced costs for programs such as the [BEST program](#). Kracl emphasized that the success of the program laid heavily on having Pavel in the schools and her ability to interact and connect with the youth on a daily basis.

b. Hall County School Interventionist Programs

Beth Klemme, Hall County School Interventionist, shared her [presentation](#) on their program efforts. Klemme informed the groups that the programs work through two schools with their target population being youth ages 11-18. Challenges faced with their youth population included low grades, poor attendance, behavior concerns, and youth with high risk factors. The program worked with community stakeholders including counselors, teachers, social workers, and parents for referrals to the program.

Supports provided by the program included elements such as continued availability and interaction with students before, during and after schools. Staff often would reach out directly to involved youth or families to identify and meet needs such as transportation of home visits to ensure the success of the youth. Other outreach efforts of the program included teaching social and coping skills, connecting youth and families to community resources, completing job and college applications, and helping youth to think and focus on their future.

XV. NCJJ Subcommittee Updates

a. Executive Subcommittee

Chair Blakely referenced the earlier discussion on the efforts of this group to identify a transition plan for the NCJJ. She also mentioned that a collaboration was established with the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association to sponsor this year's Spirit of Youth Award.

b. Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee

Elaine Menzel, Subcommittee Chairperson and Legal Counsel for the Nebraska Association of County Officials, directed members to handouts covering the [current efforts](#) and the [charter](#) of the subcommittee. The group had a number of projects, and would be joining forces with the Grant Review Subcommittee to examine ways to streamline the request for proposal process for CBA funds. In the fall, the subcommittee would be looking over the community plans.

c. Juvenile Diversion Subcommittee

Chairperson for the subcommittee, Denise Kracl, gave an [update](#) on the work of the group. Their current goal was to create a diversion academy which would provide training opportunities for the different diversion officers throughout the state.

d. Grant Review Subcommittee

The update for this subcommittee was provided by the group's Chairperson, Kim Hawekotte. The group's charge was to examine all CBA funding applications. Over the last few years the process of application, review, and use of evidence based programing had increased greatly. Hawekotte discussed the potential for a policy, regulation, or statute clarifying the percentage of CBA funds that could be used towards administrative

overhead. The subcommittee would provide an in-depth presentation on the statistics for the various grant CBA programs.

XVI. Public Comment

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

XVII. New Business

As a member of the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice, Judge Daniels was given an opportunity to share information from their work. He mentioned their efforts to ensure the DMC was an intentional focus at every pressure point within the system, and to ensure that it was kept in consideration at every state and local level. The Research Committee had also begun looking at different approaches for populations such as missing and gang involved youth.

XVIII. Upcoming Meeting Planning

Co-Chair Hawekotte reviewed additional discussion from the day making note of topics for future meeting discussion. This included the following:

- A presentation from the DMA Taskforce on the data mapping and algorithms used by the group
- A presentation from Dr. Hobbs on the communities using CBA funds for system improvement and how DMC was effected by their efforts.
- Bring in a representative from the System of Care Initiative to share information with the groups, specifically on crisis intervention efforts.
- Discussion of potential recommendations for the annual report
- Partner with Probation to examine data on youth in detention awaiting placement
 - Collect data from current providers on the impact they are experiencing due to the recent placement closures
 - Look at the past utilization of placements that are now closed

XVII. Future Meeting Dates

All meetings for the remainder of 2017 would be joint meetings between the OJS Committee and NCJJ.

- a. August 8, 2017 from 9:00am to 3:00 pm
- b. October 11, 2017 from 9:00am to 3:00 pm (*Moved to a Wednesday due to a Monday holiday*)

XVIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Dr. Anne Hobbs and seconded by Dr. Ken Zoucha to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.