

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

October 11, 2017
9:00am – 3:00 pm

Nebraska State Office Building, Lower Level Conference Room A
301 Centennial Mall S, Lincoln, NE 68508

1. Call to Order

Kim Hawekotte and Nicole Brundo, Co-Chairs of the Juvenile Services Committee (Committee), along with Cassy Blakely and Elaine Menzel, Chair and Vice Chair of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ), called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Juvenile Services Committee

Committee Members Present (12)

Jim Bennett	Nick Juliano	Dan Scarborough
Cassy Blakely	Cynthia Kennedy	Juliet Summers (9:32)
Kim Hawekotte	Tom McBride	Vicky Thompson Smith
Dr. Anne Hobbs	Kari Rumbaugh	Dr. Richard Wiener

Committee Members Absent (4)

Nicole Brundo	Mark LaBouchardiere
Judge Larry Gendler	Dr. Ken Zoucha

Committee Resource Members Present (2)

Lisa Neeman	Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks (10:20)
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Committee Resource Members Absent (13)

Nicole Berggren	Liz Hruska	Julie Smith
Michele Borg	Monica Miles-Steffens	Deb VanDyke-Ries
Barb Fitzgerald	Jerall Moreland	Rico Zavala
Catherine Gekas Steeby	Judge Linda Porter	
Christine Henningsen	Julie Rogers	

A quorum was established for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

Coalition Members Present (11)

Mark Benne	Darrell Fisher	Brett Matthies
Cassy Blakely	Tiffany Gressley	Elaine Menzel
Jim Blue	Brain Halstead	Dan Scarborough
Neleigh Boyer	Kim Hawekotte	

Coalition Members Absent (6)

Denise Kracl	Michelle Schindler	Kevin Spencer
Mark LaBouchardiere	Amanda Speichert	Corben Waldron

Coalition Ex-Officio Members Present (1)

Judge Randin Roland

Coalition Ex-Officio Members Absent (3)

Jeanne Brandner	Judge Vernon Daniels
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A quorum was established for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice.

Guests in Attendance (12):

Dr. Katie Bass..... Foster Care Review Office
 Bethany Connor Allen..... Nebraska Children’s Commission
 Amanda Felton..... Nebraska Children’s Commission
 Amy Hoffman..... Nebraska Crime Commission
 Mark Le Flore..... Douglas County Youth Center
 Matt Lewis..... Nebraska Court Improvement Project
 Kristy Nguyen..... Nebraska Crime Commission
 Kelli Schadwinkel..... Administrative Office of Probation, Juvenile Services Division
 Teri Schuller..... Platte County
 Steve Solorio..... Joven Noble
 Trevor Spiegel..... DHHS, Division of Children and Family Services, Office of Juvenile Services
 Chris Triebisch..... Nebraska Legislative Council

a. Notice of Publication

Bethany Connor Allen, 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

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by **Kim Hawekotte from the OJS Committee and Elaine Menzel from the NCJJ to approve the agenda with the alteration of postponing the CBA report out until the next meeting. It was seconded by Cassy Blakely from the OJS Committee and Brian Halsted from the NCJJ.** There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (11):

Jim Bennett	Nick Juliano	Dan Scarborough
Cassy Blakely	Cynthia Kennedy	Vicky Thompson Smith
Kim Hawekotte	Tom McBride	Dr. Richard Wiener
Dr. Anne Hobbs	Kari Rumbaugh	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Nicole Brundo	Mark LaBouchardiere	Dr. Ken Zoucha
Judge Larry Gendler	Juliet Summers	

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (11):

Mark Benne	Darrell Fisher	Brett Matthies
Cassy Blakely	Tiffany Gressley	Elaine Menzel
Jim Blue	Brain Halstead	Dan Scarborough
Neleigh Boyer	Kim Hawekotte	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (6):

Denise Kracl
Mark LaBouchardiere

Michelle Schindler
Amanda Speichert

Kevin Spencer
Corben Waldron

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

4. Approval of the NCJJ Minutes

a. *Minutes of the March 13, 2017 NCJJ Meeting and June 13, 2017 joint OJS Committee and NCJJ Meeting*

It was moved by Elaine Menzel and seconded by Brian Halstead to approve the March 13, 2017 NCJJ minutes and the June 13, 2017 joint OJS Committee and NCJJ meeting minutes. No further discussion ensued. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (11):

Mark Benne
Cassy Blakely
Jim Blue
Neleigh Boyer

Darrell Fisher
Tiffany Gressley
Brain Halstead
Kim Hawekotte

Brett Matthies
Elaine Menzel
Dan Scarborough

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (6):

Denise Kracl
Mark LaBouchardiere

Michelle Schindler
Amanda Speichert

Kevin Spencer
Corben Waldron

MOTION CARRIED

5. Approval of the OJS Committee and NCJJ Minutes

a. *Minutes of the August 8, 2017 joint OJS Committee and NCJJ Meeting*

It was moved by Dr. Anne Hobbs from the OJS Committee and Elaine Menzel from the NCJJ to approve the August 8, 2017 joint OJS Committee and NCJJ meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Cynthia Kennedy with the OJS Committee and Kim Hawekotte from the NCJJ. No further discussion ensued. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (11):

Jim Bennett
Cassy Blakely
Kim Hawekotte
Dr. Anne Hobbs

Nick Juliano
Cynthia Kennedy
Tom McBride
Kari Rumbaugh

Dan Scarborough
Vicky Thompson Smith
Dr. Richard Wiener

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Nicole Brundo
Judge Larry Gendler

Mark LaBouchardiere
Juliet Summers

Dr. Ken Zoucha

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (11):

Mark Benne
Cassy Blakely
Jim Blue
Neleigh Boyer

Darrell Fisher
Tiffany Gressley
Brain Halstead
Kim Hawekotte

Brett Matthies
Elaine Menzel
Dan Scarborough

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (6):

Denise Kracl

Mark LaBouchardiere

Michelle Schindler

Amanda Speichert

Kevin Spencer

Corben Waldron

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

6. Co-Chair's Report

Chair Blakely thanked everyone for making it to the meeting. She explained that she had spent the last several weeks contacting each member to explain the new process and the shift in meeting schedules.

7. Review of Draft OJS Committee and NCJJ Annual Report

It was moved by Vicky Thompson Smith from the OJS Committee and Elaine Menzel from the NCJJ to approve the joint OJS Committee and NCJJ Annual Report with the following amendments:

- On page 4, in the bullet addressing legal counsel for youth, strike the last sentence reading, "Funding for youth legal counsel would be maintained at the county level," and combine with the following bullet point.
- On Page 6, in the fourth bullet, alter the term, "tool" to read, "needs assessment."
- On Page 7, in the first bullet point discussing a shared database, alter the second sentence to read, "the database could allow for..."
- On page 8, in the first bullet, remove the first sentence and combine the remainder with the last bullet under the YRTC heading.
- On page 9, alter the reference to blended funding to read, "explore the possibility of blended funding," since it was unclear if the process would work well in Nebraska.
- Allowance for staff to make any necessary grammar or formatting corrections as needed.

The motion was seconded by Cynthia Kennedy with the OJS Committee and Darrell Fisher from the NCJJ. No further discussion ensued. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (12):

Jim Bennett

Cassy Blakely

Kim Hawekotte

Dr. Anne Hobbs

Nick Juliano

Cynthia Kennedy

Tom McBride

Kari Rumbaugh

Dan Scarborough

Juliet Summers

Vicky Thompson Smith

Dr. Richard Wiener

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (4):

Nicole Brundo

Judge Larry Gendler

Mark LaBouchardiere

Dr. Ken Zoucha

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (11):

Mark Benne

Cassy Blakely

Jim Blue

Neleigh Boyer

Darrell Fisher

Tiffany Gressley

Brain Halstead

Kim Hawekotte

Brett Matthies

Elaine Menzel

Dan Scarborough

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (6):

Denise Kracl
Mark LaBouchardiere

Michelle Schindler
Amanda Speichert

Kevin Spencer
Corben Waldron

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

8. NCJJ Attendance, Absentee Policy, and Meeting Discussion

Co-Chair Blakely discussed the open positions on the NCJJ which included community-based, private nonprofit organizations who worked with juvenile offenders and their families from both districts 2 and 3 as well as a County Commissioner or Supervisor. Blakely then went on to discuss the recent challenges with reaching quorum and raised the question of changing the wording of within the NCJJ bylaws from allowing members to have up to 4 unexcused absences during their term to only 4 absences, whether they be excused or unexcused.

It was moved by Elaine Menzel and seconded by Darrell Fisher to remove the word “unexcused” from the absence policy within the NCJJ bylaws. No further discussion ensued. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (10):

Mark Benne
Jim Blue
Neleigh Boyer
Darrell Fisher

Tiffany Gressley
Brain Halstead
Kim Hawekotte
Brett Matthies

Elaine Menzel
Dan Scarborough

AGAINST (1):

Cassy Blakely

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (6):

Denise Kracl
Mark LaBouchardiere

Michelle Schindler
Amanda Speichert

Kevin Spencer
Corben Waldron

MOTION CARRIED

9. System Improvement Community Based Aid Programs and Disproportionate Minority Contact

Dr. Anne Hobbs shared a [presentation](#) on the System Improvement Community Based Aid (CBA) Programs and the impact they can have on Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC). Dr. Hobbs explained the areas of overlap that may happen between CBA and DMC which included programs specifically designed to address over represented groups as well as community planning as a whole in which data points are examined that relate to DMC.

Dr. Hobbs went on to explain that while there were a number of culturally focused CBA funded programs, they don't fulfil the systemic approach necessary to tackle DMC. However, system improvement programs could utilize their data to pull information to examine DMC patterns. The Juvenile Justice Institute recently sent out a request to around 40 counties utilizing CBA funds, asking them to pull juvenile justice data. Through the request, it was discovered that many counties have very limited access to juvenile justice data. Dr. Hobbs expressed that JJI may be able to assist the counties in gathering information with the hope that it would become more easily accessible in the future.

10. Community Based Aid Report Presentation

As noted in the approval of the agenda, this item was postponed for a future meeting.

11. Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory Study Presentation

Dr. Richard Wiener, gave a presentation on the recent Youth Level of Service/Case Management (YLS/CMI) Inventory evaluation that had just been completed. Dr. Wiener began with an overview of the basics regarding random and systematic error, reliability, and validity. The goal of the study was to identify if the YLS/CMI had sufficient validity in its use on Nebraska juveniles.

The presentation continued by discussing the sample used from Nebraska Probation youth. The study sample was made up of 6,158 individual juvenile probationers who had an YLS/CMI assessment performed between May 2017 and November 2015. The study defined success as a “Youth with a successful first disposition and never returned to probation.” Failure was defined as a “Youth with an unsuccessful first disposition and/or returned to probation.”

The YLS/CMI demonstrated validity with respect to predicting failure in the juvenile justice system. Dr. Wiener continued by examining the effects of gender and race/ethnicity on YLS/CMI scoring. Gender did not have disparate impact on the predictive validity of scores, but Dr. Wiener did note that boys were significantly more likely to fail vs. girls. Results also showed The YLS/CMI showed no evidence of disparate impact in the way it predicts failure by minority status. However, African American and Hispanic populations were somewhat more likely to fail than European Americans.

12. Grant Recipient Program Presentations

a. Platte County

Teri Schuller was invited to share information on the Platte County Diversion programs, Time for Change (T4C) and Triumph Builders Club. The programs worked with youth aged 14-17, and had a targeted effort to help address the mounting gang problems happening in the area. Since their inception, the programs had grown in participation and activities. Fieldtrips to local factories, businesses, banks, and assisting with various community projects were among the activities that brought youth together. The local community had also stepped up and now offered several locations for the groups to meet. Participants showed improvement in both behavior and school performance and had been expanded to include youth from any of the local schools.

b. Joven Noble

Steve Solorio shared information with the groups on the Joven Noble diversion program. The program is host to several important issues include domestic violence education, health system education, education outreach programs, and the Latino/a Leaders programs. The overall objective of Joven Noble was to help prevent youth from either entering or assist in their exit from the juvenile justice system. Current efforts had targeted parental and family engagement. Youth have reported a stronger feeling of self and identity and feel connections with both their culture and community.

13. Probation Update

Jim Bennett, Director of Placement - Supervision Services and Kari Rumbaugh, Assistant Deputy Administrator gave an update on the Administrative Office of Probation, Juvenile Services Division. Topics discussed included service recommendations, the sanctions incentive grid, efforts to address the sex offender population, the JIFF pilot happening in district 3J, and Professional Foster Care progress. Bennett introduced Kelli Schadwinkel, who was new to Probation and would be working on the home based initiatives.

14. Lunch

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:25 p.m.

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

15. Youth Rehabilitation Treatment Center Update

Dan Scarborough, Facility Administrator for the Geneva Youth Rehabilitation Treatment Center (YRTC), and Trevor Spiegel, Facility Administrator for the Kearney YRTC, provide an update. Scarborough gave an update on a situation originally discussed at the February meeting of the OJS Committee. Attempts to find an appropriate placement had been initiated, leading to out of state placement for the youth. However, the out-of-state placement ejected the youth, who then returned back to Nebraska. While there are still complications for the youth, efforts were in progress to keep them involved in activities, and improvement was being exemplified.

Spiegel and Scarborough shared the efforts in the past year focusing on stabilization of the facilities including increased communication between Geneva and Kearney. Also noted were the efforts toward confinement reduction, integration of YLS into the case plan goals, increased youth involvement in the case plans, finding ways to engage youth who have already achieved their high school diplomas and GEDs, and the incentive programs available to youth.

16. Out-of-Home Placement and Transition Workgroup Update

Chair of the workgroup, Vicki Thompson Smith, noted that while the group had a lot of energy in its membership, the scope of the group was overwhelming. The past meeting of the workgroup was spent discussing the placement options, effectiveness of placements, and desired outcomes. She noted that the group may need additional guidance from leadership to help narrow the scope and topics of the group.

17. Joint Legislative Workgroup Update

Neither Co-Chairs for the workgroup were able to attend the meeting. Members were directed to the several handouts from the workgroup including the [update](#), [LR216](#), [Case Progression Standards](#), [Practice Guidelines for Attorneys in Juvenile Court](#), and [Judicial Branch Education Standards](#).

18. University of Nebraska, Kearney Youth Perception Study

Members welcomed Dr. Christina Sogar who presented on a University of Nebraska, Kearney (UNK) study looking at perceived needs and service use among youth offenders preparing for reentry to rural and urban communities. Dr. Sogar's [presentation](#) emphasized the goal to ensure that the youth voice is heard. The key research questions being examined were how did youth perceive their own needs, how did YRTC staff perception of service needs compare to what the youth input was, and how accessible services were to Nebraska youth.

Dr. Sogar reviewed the factors related to the youths' reentry experiences. She also shared information on the perceptions of the staff regarding the youth needs. She went on to note that over 99% of youth aged 15-19 would have access within a 30-minute drive to a health care facility after release. However, other transitional service categories such as job training, attainment of living skills, housing assistance, and others would not be accessible to between 33 and 40% of youth. Dr. Sogar clarified that "accessible" was defined as being within a 15 minute drive.

19. OJS Committee Workgroup Updates

a. Placement and Needs Mapping Workgroup (formerly the Data Mapping and Analysis Taskforce)

Dr. Katie Bass, Co-Chair of the Placement and Needs Mapping Workgroup and Director of Research with the FCRO, provided a brief update. The group would be assessing membership and who best could assist in validating the data required to meet the goals of the workgroup. Dr. Bass also noted that there would be efforts to narrow the focus to see what the system currently looked like vs. reviewing the past placement data which may no longer be relevant.

b. Evaluation of Programs and Assessment of Youth Workgroup

Dr. Richard Wiener, Chair of the Workgroup and Beddy Professor of Psychology at UNL, went over the efforts of the workgroup including stakeholder education and a survey to look at screening and assessment tools across the state. The group had not met recently, but would hopefully have additional information at the next meeting.

20. NCJJ Subcommittee Updates

a. Executive Subcommittee

Due to time restraints, members were directed to review the portion of the annual report covering the work of this subcommittee.

b. Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee

c. Due to time restraints, members were directed to review the portion of the annual report covering the work of this subcommittee.

d. Juvenile Diversion Subcommittee

e. Due to time restraints, members were directed to review the portion of the annual report covering the work of this subcommittee.

f. Grant Review Subcommittee

- g. Due to time restraints, members were directed to review the portion of the annual report covering the work of this subcommittee.

21. Public Comment

Co-Chair Hawekottee invited members of the public to offer comment. No comments were given.

22. New Business

There was no new business.

23. Upcoming Meeting Planning

Members with suggestions for agenda topics should forward their ideas to Commission or Coalition staff.

24. Future Meeting Dates

Meetings for the 2018 calendar year would be determined based on the recent survey that was sent to members.

25. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.