

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

July 12, 2018

9:00am – 1:00 pm

Southeast Community College, Rooms U-104 & 106

8800 O Street, Lincoln, NE

1. Call to Order

Kim Hawekotte and Nicole Brundo, Co-Chairs of the Juvenile Services Committee (JSC), 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 9:08 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Juvenile Services Committee

Committee Members Present (11)

Nicole Brundo	Cynthia Kennedy	Margene Timm
Judge Larry Gendler	Tom McBride	Deb VanDyke-Ries
Kim Hawekotte	Kari Rumbaugh	Dr. Richard Wiener
Nick Juliano (11:30)	Vicky Thompson Smith	

Committee Members Absent (6)

Jim Bennett	Tamara Gavin	Pat Sailors
Michele Borg	Mark LaBouchardiere	Dan Scarborough

Committee Resource Members Present (4)

Nicole Berggren	Julie Smith
Lisa Neeman	Rico Zavala

Committee Resource Members Absent (1)

Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks

A quorum was established for the Juvenile Services Committee

*Matthew Lewis served as a temporary proxy designated by Deb VanDyke-Ries

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

Coalition Members Present (8)

Cassy Blakely	Kim Hawekotte	Elaine Menzel
Darrell Fisher	Denise Kracl	Justin Myers
Brain Halstead	Brett Matthies	

Coalition Members Absent (5)

Roma Amundson	Neleigh Boyer	Amanda Speichert
Jim Blue	Michelle Schindler	

Coalition Ex-Officio Members Present (3)

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

Guests in Attendance (15):

Amanda Felton.....	Nebraska Children's Commission
Chris Jones.....	Nebraska Children's Commission
Christine Henningsen.....	UNL, Center on Children, Families, and the Law
Amy Hoffman.....	Nebraska Crime Commission
Sara Hoyle.....	Lincoln/Lancaster County Human Services
Juliet Summers.....	Voices for Children in Nebraska
Trevor Spiegel.....	DHHS, Division of Children and Family Services, Office of Juvenile Services
Chris Triebsch.....	Office of Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks
Lindsey Wylie.....	UNO, Juvenile Justice Institute

a. *Notice of Publication*

JSC Co-Chair Hawekotte, 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 back of the meeting room

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Cynthia Kennedy from the JSC and Elaine Menzel from the NCJJ to approve the [agenda](#) with the modification to move agenda item 12. Joint Annual Report of the JSC and NCJJ before 5. Co-Chair's Report. The motion was seconded by Tom McBride from the JSC and Darrell Fisher from the NCJJ. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (10):

Nicole Brundo
Judge Larry Gendler
Kim Hawekotte
Cynthia Kennedy

Tom McBride
Kari Rumbaugh
Vicky Thompson Smith
Margene Timm

Deb VanDyke-Ries
Dr. Richard Wiener

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (7):

Jim Bennett
Michele Borg
Tamara Gavin

Nick Juliano
Mark LaBouchardiere
Pat Sailors

Dan Scarborough

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (8):

Cassy Blakely
Darrell Fisher
Brain Halstead

Kim Hawekotte
Denise Kracl
Brett Matthies

Elaine Menzel
Justin Myers

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Roma Amundson
Jim Blue

Neleigh Boyer
Michelle Schindler

Amanda Speichert

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

4. Approval of the Minutes

It was moved by Cynthia Kennedy from the JSC and Darrell Fisher from the NCJJ to approve the [April 10, 2018 joint JSC and NCJJ meeting minutes](#). The motion was seconded by Tom McBride of the JSC and Elaine Menzel of the NCJJ. No further discussion ensued. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (10):

Nicole Brundo
Judge Larry Gendler
Kim Hawekotte
Cynthia Kennedy

Tom McBride
Kari Rumbaugh
Vicky Thompson Smith
Margene Timm

Deb VanDyke-Ries
Dr. Richard Wiener

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (7):

Jim Bennett	Nick Juliano	Dan Scarborough
Michele Borg	Mark LaBouchardiere	
Tamara Gavin	Pat Sailors	

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (8):

Cassy Blakely	Kim Hawekotte	Elaine Menzel
Darrell Fisher	Denise Kracl	Justin Myers
Brain Halstead	Brett Matthies	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Roma Amundson	Neleigh Boyer	Amanda Speichert
Jim Blue	Michelle Schindler	

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

5. Joint Annual Report of the JSC and NCJJ

Co-Chair Hawekotte reminded members of the updated reporting deadline of September 1st, and thanking members for their efforts during the shortened timeframe.

Tom McBride with the JSC and Brian Halstead from the NCJJ motioned to approve [the Joint Annual Report of the JSC and NCJJ](#). It was seconded by Margene Timm with the JSC and Elaine Menzel with the NCJJ. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (10):

Nicole Brundo	Tom McBride	Deb VanDyke-Ries
Judge Larry Gendler	Kari Rumbaugh	Dr. Richard Wiener
Kim Hawekotte	Vicky Thompson Smith	
Cynthia Kennedy	Margene Timm	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (7):

Jim Bennett	Nick Juliano	Dan Scarborough
Michele Borg	Mark LaBouchardiere	
Tamara Gavin	Pat Sailors	

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (8):

Cassy Blakely	Kim Hawekotte	Elaine Menzel
Darrell Fisher	Denise Kracl	Justin Myers
Brain Halstead	Brett Matthies	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Roma Amundson
Jim Blue

Neleigh Boyer
Michelle Schindler

Amanda Speichert

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

6. Co-Chair's Report

Co-Chair Blakely noted that there were three spots open on the NCJJ: Representatives of community-based, private nonprofit organizations who work with juvenile offenders and their families from legislative districts 2 and 3 and a representative of law enforcement.

7. Community Based Services Aid Presentation

Cynthia Kennedy, Chief Administrator of the Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid (CBA) Division of the Nebraska Crime Commission, shared her [presentation](#) on the CBA Program. She explained that the purpose of the program was to divert youth from the juvenile justice system, reduce the population of juveniles in detention and secure confinement, and assist in transitioning juveniles from out-of-home placements to in-home treatments. She went on to discuss the evolution of the program over the years and the Legislative Bills that had altered its scope and functions.

Ms. Kennedy highlighted the two major legislative changes for 2018 which included examination of disproportionate minority contact within all community plans submitted to the Crime Commission and the option for programs to utilize funds for a one-time expense for capital construction, or initial lease, to create facilities to be used as alternatives to detention, either new structure or already existing facility. There was lengthy discussion on the drawbacks of communities using CBA dollars for construction or leasing costs.

The grant review process was summarized for the members. Co-Chair Hawekotte discussed the process of approval which occasionally included contingency approvals and requests for resubmission. Members discussed the benefit of input from the program and agency staff. Dr. Lindsey Wylie, Research Coordinator with the Juvenile Justice Institute, discussed the evaluation aspect as it related to CBA programs.

It was noted that a discussion of barriers and successes seen at the program level could inform the Coalition in their recommendations to the legislature. In particular, the members were interested in looking at target population definitions, drug testing policies, alternative school programs, school resource officers, and prevention/promotion programs. There was consensus that the October meeting would have a portion that focused on potential recommendations for statutory change.

8. Disproportionate Minority Contact Update

Kari Rumbaugh, Assistant Deputy Administrator for the Juvenile Services Division of Probation, gave a brief update on the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) efforts happening in the state. She talked on the Inclusive Communities training initiative, shared a short [video](#) with the group. She also noted that the Strategic Planning group looking at issues of DMC had recently reconvened. Ms. Rumbaugh shared information on LR418, noting that a hearing date was set for September 28th. Director of Court Improvement Project, Deb VanDyke-Ries, also informed members that the Statewide DMC Committee had formed three subgroups looking at education, data, and policy.

9. Probation Update

Ms. Rumbaugh continued with an update on Probation's Juvenile Services Division. She referenced a new article entitled, [Improving Outcomes for Justice-Involved Youth Through Structured Decision-Making and Diversion](#), remarking that it was a good resource for members to review. Also discussed was the [Juvenile Justice Home-Based Initiative](#). The main focus of the initiative was the expansion and sustainability of both multisystemic therapy (MST) and the Boys Town model.

The second handout she shared was a presentation that the division was providing to legal professionals on [Fostering Youth Success](#). Rumbaugh asked Dr. Wiener to expand on slides 12-16 talking about his recent studies looking at recidivism and the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI). Rumbaugh also highlighted the current initiatives including Crossover Youth Practice Model, probation officer recommendation matrix, and the graduated response matrix. It was suggested that a more in-depth presentation be provide on the graduated response matrix at the October meeting.

10. Office of Juvenile Services Update

Trevor Spiegel, Juvenile Services Administrator, and Nicole Berggren, Program Administrator, provided the update for the Office of Juvenile Services (OJS). Mr. Spiegel reviewed the recent hiring for roughly 20 positions, the collaborative work between the Youth Rehabilitation Treatment Centers (YRTCs), and the efforts to streamline mental health response at the

facilities. Ms. Berggren noted the use of Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) and Aggression Replacement Training (ART). Collaboration of OJS and Probation on ART was currently stalled until the federal funding mechanisms could be sorted.

Members questioned the presenters on the recent [Department of Health and Human Services business plan](#). In particular, members questioned the issue of a perimeter fence being constructed around the YRTPCs. Spiegel remarked that there were many influencing factors in that decision, most heavily being community safety. Additional information on the issue would be presented at future meetings.

11. Legislative Update

The Co-Chairs welcomed guest speakers Christine Henningsen, Project Director of Nebraska Youth Advocates, Juliet Summers, Policy Coordinator for Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice with Voices for Children in Nebraska, and Chris Triebisch, Legal Aide to Senator Patty Pansing Brooks. The three presenters provided an [overview](#) of the legislation relevant to the juvenile justice system and the work of the two groups.

Members shared concerns with LB990, which created the offense of a prohibited juvenile offender in possession of a firearm. Apprehensions were around how this bill would affect the sealing of juvenile records. LB670 also brought about lengthy discussion. In particular, the section which had previously been LB1112 on placement and detention of juveniles, was a topic of much conversation. Members struggled with the lack of appropriate placement options for youth, particularly those with mental and behavioral health needs that have been ejected from treatment facilities.

Discussion on the use of CBA funds was reignited during this conversation. There were many factors at play that could pull away the funds from community programs to be used for construction costs. There was great concern that the loss of funding, even for just one year, would most likely mean the diversion programs within those communities could not be sustained. The presenters noted that the Juvenile Detention to Alternative Initiative (JDAI) group was forming a subcommittee to look at this section of the bill for potential recommendations for cleanup.

Given the time constraints, Co-Chair Hawekotte recommended that the October meeting be host to further discussion on this issue. The group would look into pulling in representation from the JDAI subgroup for the discussion as well as leaning on the High Utilizers of Services Workgroup for additional data.

12. JSC Workgroup Updates

Due to prior discussion going over schedule, these updates were postponed until the October meeting.

13. NCJJ Subcommittee Updates

Due to prior discussion going over schedule, these updates were postponed until the October meeting.

14. Public Comment

The Co-Chairs opened the floor for public comment. No public comment was given.

15. New Business

There was no new business.

13. Upcoming Meeting Planning

Members were encouraged to contact the Chairpersons with any potential items for discussion at the next meeting.

14. Future Meeting Dates

Members were reminded of the future meeting dates which were:

- October 16, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

25. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.