

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

January 29, 2019
9:00am – 1:00 pm

Boys Town National Headquarters,
14100 Crawford Ave, Boys Town, NE 68010

1. Call to Order

Kim Hawekotte, Co-Chair of the Juvenile Services Committee, and Cassy Blakely, Chairperson of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice, called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Juvenile Services Committee

Committee Members Present (12)

Nicole Brundo	Kim Hawekotte	Tom McBride
A'Jamal Byndon	Nick Juliano	Kari Rumbaugh
Tamara Gavin	Cynthia Kennedy	Vicky Thompson Smith
Judge Larry Gendler	Mark LaBouchardiere	Dr. Richard Wiener

Committee Members Absent (5)

Michele Borg	Dan Scarborough	Deb VanDyke-Ries
Pat Sailors	Margene Timm	

Committee Resource Members Present (2)

Nicole Berggren	Julie Smith
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Committee Resource Members Absent (2)

Lisa Neeman	Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks
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A quorum was established for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

Coalition Members Present (10)

Roma Amundson	Greg Gonzalez (9:36)	Justin Myers
Cassy Blakely	Kim Hawekotte	Michelle Schindler
Patrick Connell (9:20)	Denise Kracl	
Amy Hoffman*	Brett Matthies	

Coalition Members Absent (6)

Jim Blue	Brain Halstead	Amanda Speichert
Neleigh Boyer	Elaine Menzel	Lorilei Stark

Coalition Ex-Officio Members Present (2)

Jeanne Brandner	Judge Randin Roland
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Coalition Ex-Officio Members Absent (1)

Judge Vernon Daniels

A quorum was established for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice.

*Let it be noted for the record that Darrell Fisher appointed Amy Hoffman as his temporary proxy for the meeting.

Guests in Attendance (11):

MaryPat Coe.....	Nebraska Court Improvement Project
Amanda Felton	Nebraska Children's Commission
Chris Grutel.....	Boys Town
Caleb Jackson.....	Boys Town

Shiann Janousek.....Boys Town
 Chris Jones.....Nebraska Children’s Commission
 Kyle Kinney.....Nebraska Family Helpline
 Emmanuel Kuot.....Boys Town
 Josh Reed.....Boys Town
 Juliet Summers.....Voices for Children in Nebraska
 Rico Zavala.....CEDARS Youth Services

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 the Agenda

A motion was made by Tom McBride from the JSC and Patrick Connell from the NCJJ to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Nick Juliano from the JSC and Denise Kracl from the NCJJ. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (12):

Nicole Brundo	Kim Hawekotte	Tom McBride
A’Jamal Byndon	Nick Juliano	Kari Rumbaugh
Tamara Gavin	Cynthia Kennedy	Vicky Thompson Smith
Judge Larry Gendler	Mark LaBouchardiere	Dr. Richard Wiener

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Michele Borg	Dan Scarborough	Deb VanDyke-Ries
Pat Sailors	Margene Timm	

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (10):

Roma Amundson	Greg Gonzalez	Justin Myers
Cassy Blakely	Kim Hawekotte	Michelle Schindler
Patrick Connell	Denise Kracl	
Amy Hoffman*	Brett Matthies	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (6):

Jim Blue	Brain Halstead	Amanda Speichert
Neleigh Boyer	Elaine Menzel	Lorilei Stark

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

4. Approval of the Minutes

It was moved by Tom McBride from the JSC and Michelle Schindler from the NCJJ to approve the [October 16, 2018 joint JSC and NCJJ meeting minutes](#). The motion was seconded by Cynthia Kennedy of the JSC and Denise Kracl of the NCJJ. No further discussion ensued. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (12):

Nicole Brundo	Kim Hawekotte	Tom McBride
A'Jamal Byndon	Nick Juliano	Kari Rumbaugh
Tamara Gavin	Cynthia Kennedy	Vicky Thompson Smith
Judge Larry Gendler	Mark LaBouchardiere	Dr. Richard Wiener

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Michele Borg	Dan Scarborough	Deb VanDyke-Ries
Pat Sailors	Margene Timm	

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (10):

Roma Amundson	Greg Gonzalez	Justin Myers
Cassy Blakely	Kim Hawekotte	Michelle Schindler
Patrick Connell	Denise Kracl	
Amy Hoffman*	Brett Matthies	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (6):

Jim Blue	Brain Halstead	Amanda Speichert
Neleigh Boyer	Elaine Menzel	Lorilei Stark

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

5. Co-Chair's Report

Co-Chair Hawekotte informed members of [LB294](#) and the proposed reduction to general funds appropriated to Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid. Members had lengthy discussion on the effect the reduction would have on communities and the services they are able to provide. Members felt strongly that the recommendation for a reduction in funding was not in the best interest of Nebraska's youth.

Michelle Schindler motioned to create a small focus group of NCJJ members to collaborate with the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) and coordinate a letter to or a meeting with the Governor's office. The letter/meeting was to express appreciation for the past increases to CBA funds, and to encourage a reevaluation of the recommended decrease in CBA funding for the upcoming fiscal cycle. The discussion should also highlight the impact a funding decrease would have on counties, particularly relating to property taxes. Roma Amundson seconded the motion. Discussion identified focus group participants to include Roma Amundson, Cassy Blakely, Kim Hawekotte, Denise Kracl, and Elaine Menzel with the support of JSC and NCJJ staff. Roll call vote as follows:

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (8):

Roma Amundson	Kim Hawekotte	Justin Myers
Cassy Blakely	Denise Kracl	Michelle Schindler
Patrick Connell	Brett Matthies	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (1):

Amy Hoffman*

ABSENT (7):

Jim Blue

Brain Halstead

Lorilei Stark

Neleigh Boyer

Elaine Menzel

Greg Gonzalez

Amanda Speichert

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

6. Update from Douglas County on Title II Funds

A’Jamal Byndon introduced himself and provided a summary of his previous work. In his role, Byndon worked to ensure that race and ethnicity were included in the big picture discussions. He highlighted the need for diversity in the representation of government bodies, the need for more academic research examining issues of disproportionate minority contact (DMC), and for work to happen on public policy to address barriers facing people of color. He reminded members that while conversation on these issues may be difficult, they were necessary to deconstruct our own biases.

Conversation went to touch upon the roadblocks the system was currently facing. Cross-system data sharing and community engagement and education were flagged as areas in need of examination. They also noted the need to better lift up the minority population by focusing on prevention services and other ways to tackle multi-generational involvement. Offering listening sessions or similar forums was offered as a way to connect to our minority populations. There was interest expressed in examining the potential for allowing incarcerated youth and young adults to participate as guest presenters in meetings through video conferencing. Research would occur to see how something similar could be executed for these meetings.

7. Youth-Led Group Presentation: Boys Town Policy Fellows Participants

The floor was turned over to several youth who participated in a policy fellowship partnership between Voices for Children in Nebraska and Boys Town. Juliet Summers explained that the fellowship was in its third year of having youth learn, research, discuss, and be an advocate for policy change. Nick Juliano introduced the youth and invited them to share on their experience with the fellowship. Youth present included Chris Grutel, Caleb Jackson, Shiann Janousek, Emmanuel Kuot, and Josh Reed.

Youth explained that the group met every other week for nearly two months. At their meetings youth would watch videos, discuss some of the current policies and what branch of government they resided in, and brainstorming solutions of what an ideal system would look like. In their policy presentations, youth advocated for discontinued use of detention facilities in favor of a continuum of care within the communities, increased services to address the treatment needs of youth, implicit bias training for decision makers within the system, alternative response procedure for truancy cases to divert youth from entering the juvenile justice system, and increased youth voice within the court process.

The youth presenters discussed their time involved with the juvenile justice system. Many of the youth expressed a mistrust of system involved adults, citing the inconsistencies in what they were told would happen and what they experienced. They felt that often times their voice in the proceedings was often overlooked or thought to be unimportant. Many also shared that they had a general lack of knowledge about their cases and what they should expect. Most of the presenters mentioned at least one adult they trusted, and while their role to the youth differed, the commonality of them all was the willingness to take time to listen and take a youths input into consideration.

When asked if they thought they could have been diverted from the juvenile justice system, all of the youth indicated that having support at a young age to help address the source of their behavior would have prevented them from further disruptive behavior. The young men attributed their growth to empathetic, patient, understanding, and engaged adults and peers that had come into their life.

8. Legislative Discussion

The groups reviewed the [bills of interest handout](#). Highlighted bills which inspired lengthy discussions included [LB230](#), [LB231](#), [LB391](#), [LB485](#), [LB491](#), and [LB651](#). Co-Chairs also referred to [LB330](#) regarding the continuation and restructure

of the Nebraska Children's Commission and its subgroups. Members voiced the desire to see the Commission continue as a backbone structure for the JSC. Members would receive updates on any movement regarding the Commission.

9. Discussion of Suicide Prevention Conference Event

The Co-Chairs updated the groups on work that had been happening to create a conference to address the rising suicide rates of juvenile justice youth. A [handout](#) was shared that provided a basic outline of the group's work so far. Co-Chair Hawekotte noted that private funds had been located and that April was the tentative timeline for the event. A small steering committee of members would meet over the next few weeks to help finalize the details and logistics of the event.

10. JSC Workgroup Updates

Due to time restraints, workgroups were asked to distribute written updates to the members after the meeting.

11. NCJJ Subcommittee Updates

Due to time restraints, workgroups were asked to distribute written updates to the members after the meeting.

12. Office of Juvenile Services Update

An update was provided by Mark LaBouchardiere, Nichole Berggren, and Trevor Spiegel from the Office of Juvenile Services. Spiegel noted that youth in the facility were scored on a daily basis which was based on program compliance and interactions with staff and peers. Over time the scoring would determine what level of privilege system youth would reside under. Other updates included the work happening with the Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) and Aggression Replacement Training (ART).

Spiegel also noted the plateau of intakes at the Kearney Youth Rehabilitation Treatment Center (YRTC). Currently the facility held around 80 young men when the previous year they had seen the population spike to 100. Conversely, the Geneva YRTC saw an increase from 20 to 40 young women in recent weeks.

13. Probation Update

Kari Rumbaugh provided a summary of the work happening in juvenile probation. She informed members of the [detailed analysis](#) that had recently been released and walked through the document. Key points included the research articles completed by Dr. Weiner, the launching of the graduated response matrix, the planned focus specific programming to address the rise in female involvement and the over representation of people of color.

14. Public Comment

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

15. New Business

There was no new business

16. Upcoming Meeting Planning

The Co-Chairs noted that no spring meeting was on the calendar currently due to the planned conference. Updates on the specific date and time would be distributed once available. Other meeting dates for the year included July 23, 2019, and October 24, 2019.

17. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:01

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Felton