

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

August 29, 2019

9:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Lincoln Community Foundation Building,
215 Centennial Mall South, 5th Floor Conference Room, Lincoln, NE 68508

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 9:08 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Juvenile Services Committee

Committee Members Present (12)

Michele Borg	Kim Hawekotte	Lisa Neeman*
A'Jamal Byndon (9:17)	Nick Juliano	Kari Rumbaugh
Hazel Delgado*	Mark LaBouchardiere	Vicky Thompson Smith
Judge Larry Gendler	Tom McBride	Margene Timm

Committee Members Absent (4)

Nicole Brundo	Dan Scarborough
Pat Sailors	Dr. Richard Wiener

Committee Resource Members Present (2)

Nicole Berggren
Julie Smith

Committee Resource Members Absent (1)

Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks

A quorum was established for the Juvenile Services Committee

*Let it be noted for the record that Tamara Gavin appointed Lisa Neeman as her temporary proxy for the meeting. Additionally, let it be noted that Deb VanDyke-Ries appointed Hazel Delgado as her temporary proxy for the meeting.

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

Coalition Members Present (12)

Roma Amundson	Greg Gonzalez (9:17)	Brett Matthies
Don Arp	Brian Halstead	Elaine Menzel
Cassy Blakely	Kim Hawekotte	Justin Myers
Neleigh Boyer	Denise Kracl	Rico Zavala

Coalition Members Absent (4)

Patrick Connell	Amanda Speichert
Michelle Schindler	Lorlei Stark

Coalition Ex-Officio Members Present (2)

Judge Vernon Daniels (9:17)
Kari Rumbaugh

Coalition Ex-Officio Members Absent (1)

Judge Randin Roland

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

Guests in Attendance (11):

Adam Anderson	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Raevin Bigelow	Project Everlast
Mike Fargen	Nebraska Crime Commission
Chris Harris	Nebraska Crime Commission
Sara Hoyle	Lancaster County Human Services
Amy Hoffman	Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice
Chris Jones	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Emily Shoenleber	Nebraska Probation Administration
Jessi Svoboda	Nebraska Crime Commission
Bobbi Taylor	Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
Chris Triebisch	Nebraska Children’s Commission

a. Notice of Publication

Nebraska Children’s Commission staff member, Chris Jones, 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.

3. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Tom McBride from the JSC and Elaine Menzel 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):

Michele Borg	Kim Hawekottte	Lisa Neeman
A’Jamal Byndon	Nick Juliano	Kari Rumbaugh
Hazel Delgado	Mark LaBouchardiere	Vicky Thompson Smith
Judge Larry Gendler	Tom McBride	Margene Timm

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (4):

Nicole Brundo	Dan Scarborough
Patrick Sailors	Dr. Richard Wiener

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (10):

Don Arp	Kim Hawekotte	Justin Myers
Cassy Blakely	Denise Kracl	Rico Zavala
Neleigh Boyer	Brett Matthies	
Brian Halstead	Elaine Menzel	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (2):

Roma Amundson
Greg Gonzalez

ABSENT (4):

Patrick Connell
Michelle Schindler

Amanda Speichert
Lorelei Stark

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

4. Approval of the Minutes

It was moved by Michelle Borg from the JSC and Elaine Menzel from the NCJJ to approve the May 30, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Tom McBride of the JSC and Denise Kracl of the NCJJ. No further discussion ensued. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (12):

Michele Borg
A'Jamal Byndon
Hazel Delgado
Judge Larry Gendler

Kim Hawekotte
Nick Juliano
Mark LaBouchardiere
Tom McBride

Lisa Neeman
Kari Rumbaugh
Vicky Thompson Smith
Margene Timm

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (4):

Nicole Brundo
Pat Sailors

Dan Scarborough
Dr. Richard Wiener

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (9):

Don Arp
Cassy Blakely
Neleigh Boyer

Brian Halstead
Kim Hawekotte
Denise Kracl

Brett Matthies
Elaine Menzel
Justin Myers

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (3):

Roma Amundson
Greg Gonzalez
Rico Zavala

ABSENT (4):

Patrick Connell
Michelle Schindler

Amanda Speichert
Lorilei Stark

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

5. Co-Chair's Report

Co-chair Hawekotte shared with the groups that appointments to the Juvenile Services Committee will need to go before the Nebraska Children's Commission, which has yet to be appointed by the Governor. Once the nomination of Bobbi Taylor is approved by the Commission it will then come back to JSC for a vote.

Children's Commission staff member Chris Jones shared a handout and updates on upcoming hearings regarding YRTCs; LR103 and LR200. Additionally, LR236, an interim study from Senator Lathrop examining issues related to juvenile justice has also been set for hearing. Following up on the list of legislative resolutions provided at the May 30, 2019 meeting, Jones shared that all have been referred to committee but have yet to be set for hearing at this time.

Chris Triebisch from the office of Senator Pansing-Brooks shared updates on LR208, which is tied to LB147, regarding physical contact and restraint of students. LR208 examines underlying issues arising from comment during debate last session to determine if agreement or consensus can be reached regarding best practice, that could be enacted into statute for these issues. Senator Pansing-Brooks is holding listening sessions with education stakeholders and the Education Committee to explore moving forward with a bill free of the issues originally raised during debate.

Co-chair Hawekotte shared an update on LR156, from Senator DeBoer, regarding juvenile suicide. Co-chair Hawekotte has reached out to Senator DeBoer to provide input and assistance from the JSC and NCJJ, and has yet to hear back. Hawekotte did not expect this resolution to be set for hearing at this late of date, but she will continue to monitor.

Regarding meetings of the Juvenile Services Committee and the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, it was brought forth by Hawekotte and agreed upon that joint meetings between the JSC and NCJJ will continue in the future.

6. Nebraska Crime Commission Update

Executive Director Don Arp shared updates on the Nebraska Crime Commission and the vision for the commission under his direction. He expects to have an open-door policy and to have as many voices in the room as possible to help inform what they do. He welcomes as much input and partnership to get to a shared outcome. He would like the Crime Commission to become a model for 21st century public safety. Director Arp announced a new division of the Crime Commission tentatively named the Juvenile Intervention and Programs Division. This division will serve as a comprehensive source for juvenile service related issues. Arp noted that Amy Hoffman has replaced Cynthia Kennedy in the role of Community Base Aid Director as well as Juvenile Diversion Director. Recent staffing changes have allowed Arp to examine the needs across the commission and make changes to fill those needs. Director Arp later added that by the end of the year 2020, all 93 counties in Nebraska will have a diversion program or will partner with neighboring counties.

On behalf of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, Chairperson Blakely extended congratulations to Amy Hoffman on her new role with the Crime Commission.

7. Probation Update

Committee Member Kari Rumbaugh provided a handout sharing information about the juvenile justice system. Rumbaugh presented research provided by Annie E. Casey Foundation, Georgetown University, and Robert F. Kennedy Resource Center. Key points include investing resources on highest risk youth, a shift in language away from the term "offender," reducing case load size to accommodate the highest risk youth. Rumbaugh shared that the current probation population is around 55-65% high risk youth, while historically that number was around 30%. Data also suggests that specialization in juvenile justice is beneficial rather than viewing juvenile justice as a stepping stone to the adult justice system. Additionally, she shared that incentivizing and encouraging youth, and engaging and training parents both result in good outcomes. Skill building and Aggression Replacement Therapy that have recently been instituted in Nebraska have shown effectiveness. Rumbaugh also updated the committees regarding services gaps and the expansion of emergency foster homes in western Nebraska.

Rumbaugh answered questions regarding helping stakeholders understand the role of Probation, diversity of the committees, and data measurements.

Chair Blakely shared information about a brief recently released by National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC) on family involvement methodologies for juvenile justice involved families. NTTAC is an excellent resource.

Judge Gendler brought forth a suggestion for the committees to visit with youth in detention centers.

8. DHHS Update

Mark LaBouchardiere provided information to the committees regarding the recent removal of youth from the Geneva YRTC and transition to the Kearney YRTC. He shared information regarding the history of the physical structures of Geneva facility and the inspections that occurred in 2018 and 2019. LaBouchardiere also shared information about staffing levels at Geneva, the transition of the youth from Geneva to Kearney, and the DHHS response to this transition. LaBouchardiere answered questions regarding the transition timeframes, staffing, alternative location, visitation, long-term plan, and the outreach efforts to youth and parents of youth from Geneva prior to and during the transition.

9. Juvenile Services Workgroup Review

Julie Smith shared that the High Utilizers of Services Workgroup had created a smaller subgroup to examine data and reach out to data expert partners, and determined that a data project as such would be a larger project requiring time and funding beyond what is capable in a small group. Don Arp shared that the Crime Commission has a research contract with the university that may be of assistance to the High Utilizers of Services Workgroup.

Vicki Thompson-Smith shared that the Youth and Family Workgroup is situated in a good place to continue its work. The workgroup was most recently connecting with youth councils and committees to attend the workgroup meetings gather information from youth and collect best practices. The workgroup is in a good place to pick up in the same place where it last left off.

It was agreed that the Juvenile Services Workgroups will meet to determine whether they will continue in their current states or come up with new objectives for the following year. The workgroups will bring their recommendations to the following meeting in October.

10. Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice Workgroup Review

Coalition Member Denise Kracl shared that, in conjunction with the goal of expanding diversion to all 93 counties in Nebraska, overcoming barriers, and spreading information about diversion, the workgroup has created a template handout in hopes of generating a grass-roots movement regarding diversion and its importance in good outcomes with involved youth.

Coalition Member Elaine Menzel shared that the Community Base Aide Committee is awaiting grant applications and looking at processes to reduce giveback to less than 15% or other avenues to re-grant the giveback money. Committee will also look at the length of grant applications and grant adjustments for flexibility of the grantees. The committee will meet and bring proposals for the Coalition to decide at the next meeting.

11. Suicide Prevention Conference Discussion

Co-Chair Hawekotte directed attention to a handout regarding UNL Center for Public Policy receiving a 5-year SAMHSA grant to study youth suicide prevention. UNL CPP reached out to the Juvenile Services Committee and the Coalition for Juvenile Justice to take the lead on suicide prevention and collaborate with the JSC and NCJJ.

After discussion regarding collaborative efforts between UNL CPP, JSC and NCJJ, **it was moved by Kari Rumbaugh from the JSC and Elaine Menzel from the NCJJ to create a joint subcommittee between JSC and NCJJ, starting with a gap analysis on suicide prevention and come out with best practices for a community plan. The motion was seconded by Nick Juliano from the JSC and Brian Halstead from the NCJJ.** There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (12):

Michele Borg
A'Jamal Byndon
Hazel Delgado
Judge Larry Gendler

Kim Hawekotte
Nick Juliano
Mark LaBouchardiere
Tom McBride

Lisa Neeman
Kari Rumbaugh
Vicky Thompson-Smith
Margene Timm

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (4):

Nicole Brundo
Pat Sailors

Dan Scarborough
Dr. Richard Wiener

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (13):

Roma Amundson
Don Arp
Cassy Blakely
Neleigh Boyer
Greg Gonzalez

Brian Halstead
Kim Hawekotte
Denise Kracl
Brett Matthies
Elaine Menzel

Vicky Thompson Smith
Lorilei Stark
Rico Zavala

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (6):

Patrick Connell
Brett Matthies

Justin Myers
Michelle Schindler

Amanda Speichert
Lorelei Stark

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

12. Public Comment

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

13. New Business

Co-chair Hawekotte suggests meeting at the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility for the October meeting. Members agreed the need to research the feasibility of such a visit.

14. Upcoming Meeting Planning

Next meeting planned for October 24, 2019. Nebraska Children's Commission staff will survey potential dates for a date in January 2020 for a joint committee meeting.

15. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Anderson