

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

January 30, 2020

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Jack J. Huck Continuing Education Center, Rooms 302 & 303
301 South 68th Street Place, Lincoln 68510

1. Call to Order

Elaine Menzel, Chairperson of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Juvenile Services Committee

Committee Members Present (14)

Breanna Anderson	Judge Larry Gendler	Bobby Taylor
Michelle Borg	Amy Hoffman	Vicky Thompson Smith
Nicole Brundo	Nick Juliano	Deb VanDyke-Ries
A'Jamal Byndon	Tom McBride	Dr. Richard Wiener
Tamara Gavin	Kelli Schadwinkel	

Committee Members Absent (3)

Mark LaBouchardiere
Patrick Sailors
Dan Scarborough

Committee Resource Members Present (4)

Nicole Berggren
Julie Smith

Committee Resource Members Absent (2)

Lisa Neeman
Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks

A quorum was established for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

Coalition Members Present (9)

Neleigh Boyer	Denise Kracl	Amanda Speichert
Stanford Bradley	Elaine Menzel	Bobbi Taylor
Patrick Connell	Sheli Schindler	Rico Zavala

Coalition Members Absent (8)

Roma Amundson	Greg Gonzalez	Justin Myers
Don Arp	Brian Halstead	Lorlei Stark
CesShandra Davis	Janteice Holston	

Coalition Ex-Officio Members Present (2)

Judge Vernon Daniels
Kari Rumbaugh

Coalition Ex-Officio Members Absent (0)

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

Guests in Attendance (5):

Adam AndersonNebraska Children’s Commission
Raevin BigelowYouth Advocate
Marisa HarrisOffice of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Kathy Moore.....Foster Care Review Office
Laura Opfer.....Nebraska Children’s Commission
Sara Quiroz.....Administrative Office of Courts and Probation, Juvenile Services Division
Dr. Kate Speck.....University of Nebraska Public Policy Center

a. Notice of Publication

Chairperson of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice, Cassy Blakely, 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 Larry Gendler from the JSC and Vernon Daniels from the NCJJ to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Richard Wiener from JSC and Denis Kracl from NCJJ. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (14):

Breanna Anderson	Judge Larry Gendler	Bobbi Taylor
Michele Borg	Amy Hoffman	Vicky Thompson Smit
Nicole Brundo	Nick Juliano	Deb VanDyke-Ries
A’Jamal Byndon	Tom McBride	Dr. Richard Wiener
Tamara Gavin	Kelli Schadwinkel	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (3):

Mark LaBouchardiere
Patrick Sailors
Dan Scarborough

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (8):

Neleigh Boyer	Elaine Menzel	Bobbi Taylor
Stanford Bradley	Scheli Schindler	Rico Zavala
Denise Kracl	Amanda Speichert	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (1):

Patrick Connell

ABSENT (8):

Roma Amundson
Don Arp
CesShandra Davis

Greg Gonzalez
Brian Halstead
Janteice Holston

Justin Myers
Lorelei Stark

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

Discussion of agenda items followed the order as proposed in the agenda.

4. Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Tom McBride from the JSC and Vernon Daniels from the NCJJ to approve the August 29, 2019 and November 14, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Amy Hoffman from JSC and Denis Kracl from NCJJ. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (14):

Breanna Anderson
Michele Borg
Nicole Brundo
A'Jamal Byndon
Tamara Gavin

Judge Larry Gendler
Amy Hoffman
Nick Juliano
Tom McBride
Kelli Schadwinkel

Bobbi Taylor
Vicky Thompson Smit
Deb VanDyke-Ries
Dr. Richard Wiener

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (3):

Mark LaBouchardiere
Patrick Sailors
Dan Scarborough

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (9):

Neleigh Boyer
Stanford Bradley
Patrick Connell

Denise Kracl
Elaine Menzel
Scheli Schindler

Amanda Speichert
Bobbi Taylor
Rico Zavala

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (8):

Roma Amundson
Don Arp
CesShandra Davis

Greg Gonzalez
Brian Halstead
Janteice Holston

Justin Myers
Lorelei Stark

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

5. Co-Chair Report

- a. Chair Menzel updated the coalition on her transition to Chair of the NCJJ. Cassy Blakely is no longer Chair. Menzel noted that one of the first actions she took as Chair was to send out certificates to Blakely and Judge Roland to recognize their longstanding work with the Coalition. She urge members to help throughout the transition process.
- b. Vice Chair Brundo from the JSC had no updates.

6. NCJJ Vice Chair Vote

Chair Menzel reminded the Coalition about the Vice Chair election process and asked if Members wished to also be considered for election. Kari Rumbaugh noted interest in being considered for the position of Vice Chair. Member and nominee Denise Kracl spoke briefly why she would like to be elected as the Vice Chair of the Coalition. Member and nominee Kari Rumbaugh spoke briefly why she would like to be elected as the Vice Chair of the Coalition.

A motion was made by Sheli Schindler to end nominations and conduct vote for Vice Chair of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice between nominees Denise Kracl and Kari Rumbaugh. The motion was seconded by Amanda Speichert. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (9):

Neleigh Boyer	Denise Kracl	Amanda Speichert
Stanford Bradley	Elaine Menzel	Bobbi Taylor
Patrick Connell	Scheli Schindler	Rico Zavala

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (8):

Roma Amundson	Greg Gonzalez	Justin Myers
Don Arp	Brian Halstead	Lorelei Stark
CesShandra Davis	Janteice Holston	

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

Nebraska Children's Commission Staff Member Adam Anderson distributed Vice Chair election ballots to voting members of the NCJJ. During the meeting Anderson collected and counted the ballots.

Chair Menzel announced that after counting was conducted, Denise Kracl was elected Vice Chair of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice.

7. Update Regarding Title II Funds

Marissa Harris, from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention introduced herself and directed the members' attention to a [handout](#) and gave a brief overview about Nebraska as a non-participating state. Recently, Nebraska has opened discussion regarding the option to apply once again for Title II funds. Harris gave a brief overview of the application and compliance with Title II funds. She answered specific requirement questions regarding oversight of and awarding the funds. She welcomed the opportunity to provide technical assistance. Additionally, she answered questions regarding other states that do not apply for Title II funds.

Members discussed the pros and cons of applying in 2021, specifically the deficiencies prior to exiting the Title II program. Harris clarified the waiver process for coming back into the program. Harris and her administrators would be happy to address the committees in the future. Chair Menzel noted that there are a number of new youth members of the NCJJ, an area that she would like to restore to a higher level of participation in the future, as youth are able to bring in a lot of new ideas. Kari Rumbaugh will be assisting in bringing new youth participants to the NCJJ.

A motion was made by Denise Kracl to approve up to two members of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice to attend the upcoming National Coalition for Juvenile Justice Conference in Washington D.C. The motion was seconded by Sheli Schindler. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (9):

Neleigh Boyer	Denise Kracl	Amanda Speichert
Stanford Bradley	Elaine Menzel	Bobbi Taylor
Patrick Connell	Scheli Schindler	Rico Zavala

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (8):

Roma Amundson	Greg Gonzalez	Justin Myers
Don Arp	Brian Halstead	Lorelei Stark
CesShandra Davis	Janteice Holston	

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

8. ZERO Suicide Presentation

Dr. Speck, from University of Nebraska Public Policy Center. Introduced herself and directed Members' attention to a [PowerPoint](#). She discussed suicide data, and the work of the Public Policy Center. She noted that the State of Nebraska has received two very significant suicide prevention grants that have been distributed across the state. The Behavioral Health Regions have built a great infrastructure for suicide prevention. She brought attention to the concerning increase of 10-24 year-old rate of suicide rate, and corresponding higher rate than the national average. It is the second leading cause of death for youth under the age of 24. She also noted the regional differences in the suicide rate. She noted that there was a slight decrease in the five year average rate of suicide for youth aged 10-14, and an increase in the rate for youth age 15-24. Dr. Speck shared with the members the work of the ZERO Suicide model. She noted the five year planned prevention activities that will include a two-day academy for addressing ZERO Suicide for 16 teams in Nebraska and corresponding follow up phone calls, 2400 individuals trained, and statewide screenings, referrals and access. She noted data for people at risk for suicide. Dr. Speck emphasized that it is important to fully sign-on to the ZERO Suicide model, as it is more than just going to a two-day seminar. She answered questions regarding the ZERO Suicide training provided to mental health providers specific to the "magic words" that a youth use that would create a red flag for possible suicide. She noted that a brief Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) training is available to anyone at request that can address the difficult situation of addressing suicide with individuals. It is a short 1.5 hour training. Members discussed the lack of mental health resources for transition-aged youth and low income young adults, as there are often long waits or not guaranteed services at some of the walk-in clinics. There is a low priority for someone that says they are depressed.

9. Legislative Discussion

Laura Opfer and Adam Anderson updated the members on introduced legislation specific to the JSC and NCJJ, as well as gave an update on the legislation that the Children’s Commission will take a position on. Opfer noted the location of the [Bill Tracker](#) on the Commission website. Anderson noted a revision in the [handout](#) that contains hearing dates scheduled since the original handout was posted. Opfer noted that the tracker includes links to the landing page of each bill. Members discussed introduced legislation and hearing schedules. Discussion highlights include LB941, LB1095, LB1117, and LB1169.

10. Strategic Priorities Discussion

Adam Anderson updated the members on the planning and recent work on developing strategic priorities of the JSC and NCJJ. He noted that prior discussions were based on the overall feeling that some of the workgroups will need reorganization and perhaps deep dives into what specific priorities the JSC and NCJJ would like to focus on. Anderson noted that the loss of Kim Hawekotte and Cassy Blakely from the JSC and NCJJ presented a pause in this process, as both groups work on transitioning to new Chairs. He directed attention to the workgroup sign-up sheet at the sign-in table, and noted that he would send out a specific email about joining workgroups.

Members discussed seeking input from the Children’s Commission about what priorities specifically the Committees should proceed. Anderson noted that the Commission has yet to determine next steps in the 3-5 priority areas voted upon on at the December 10, 2020 Commission Meeting. Discussion continued about a further breakdown of the topic areas at the subcommittee level.

Chair Menzel tabled this item.

11. JSC Workgroup Updates

- a. High Utilizers of Services
 - i. Julie Smith noted that the work of this workgroup is really beyond the scope of what could be accomplished by the workgroup. The work involved larger and more data-involved studies that would be a bigger project, with a lot more resources needed than what is available.
- b. Transition Services Workgroup
 - i. This group is lacking a Chair. Michelle Borg noted that this workgroup has essentially wrapped up what could be accomplished. Supreme Court Commission on Children and Families in the Court is also looking at some of the same issues of transition services.
- c. Youth and Family Engagement Workgroup
 - i. Vicky Thompson Smith noted that this workgroup had met briefly in October but overall feels that the youth focus work of this workgroup was accomplished by the expansion of the youth representation on the JSC. The family engagement portion of the workgroup would need more discussion. The workgroup would need to discuss future work if the JSC were to vote family engagement as a priority.

12. NCJJ Subcommittee Workgroup

- a. Executive Subcommittee
 - i. Elaine noted the subcommittee is working on transition and Title II issues.
- b. Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee
 - i. Menzel noted they are in the staff-review portion of the community aid for juvenile justice applications. Around \$6 million for community based aide. This group will be meeting soon to review the applications.

- c. Juvenile Diversion Subcommittee
 - i. Denise Kracl noted that a lot of members also help on staff review, so many are working on that through February. Amy Hoffman answered the question regarding increase of applicants in Western Nebraska regarding diversion.
- d. Grant Review Subcommittee
 - i. Menzel noted that this subcommittee will be meeting in February and those items will then go to the Crime Commission for approval.
- e. Youth Subcommittee
 - i. Menzel noted that the Coalition has added five new youth members. She shared that she looks forward to their input, and encourage young adult members to sign up for some of the other subcommittees.

13. Office of Juvenile Services Update

Nicole Berggren updated the Committees regarding movement on YRTC. Education System is in place. She noted that there are couple job openings in Kearney that staff are returning to Geneva when it opens and Lincoln staff are being trained on the TARGET Model for trauma informed care, with the possibility to roll it out later to other facilities. Berggren noted that Geneva and Lincoln facilities are ready to go. She relayed to the members that Geneva looks very nice and homelike, not “correctional looking.” Berggren answered questions regarding educational pieces in place. She reviewed the educational plans for the facilities. Michelle Borg shared that classes will incorporate Webex for distance learning. Borg noted, the Department of Education is working with OJS to set it up as a special education system, this will strengthen the education system and will help continuity of instruction if youth are transferring between facilities. Tamara Gavin answered specific questions regarding the programming at the facilities. Borg discussed the missing credit hours for youth that were transferred from Geneva and the instances for youth 18 years-old to ready for college. Nicole Berggren answered specific questions regarding programming. She followed up regarding programming and answered questions regarding segregation and specific populations at the three locations. She noted there is no limit on travel reimbursement. Additionally, she answered questions pregnant and parenting youth.

14. Probation Update

Kari Rumbaugh directed attention to a [handout](#) that contains Juvenile Justice Action Plan for Juvenile Just Reform, effective January 1, 2020. She noted it is also available online. Rumbaugh noted that this document contains some of the items she has spoken about at previous meetings. She addressed some of the specific items in the Action Plan. She drew attention to the plan to Promote Individual Behavior Change, as it has the bulk of associated items. She pointed out the Advanced Coaching 4 Excellence (AC4E) priority, a new priority hat Probation launched in 2017 that has been introduced to improve and streamline their work. She highlighted that Probation has looked into electronic case planning and that case plans are now known as Success Plans for youth and families. Rumbaugh noted that the officers now work on identifying the driver and work on skills with the youth in order to be successful. Officers will be trained this year on skill building to enhance and perfect that aspect of their job. She added that Probation really would like to divert low-risk youth through the use of their diversion program as well as status offender youth, and how to work with them in another way than they have in the past. Another key area is enhanced equity and inclusion and they continue to look at the data that comes out. Rumbaugh added that it is critical that Probation is guided by data, and noted a few key areas they would like to improve upon in the next few years. Probation continues to build and maintain relationships with key stakeholders.

15. Public Comment

Chair Menzel opened the floor for public comment. There was none.

16. New Business

Chair Menzel encouraged members to sign up for the subcommittees and workgroups and once again thanked the young adults for being here.

17. Upcoming Meeting Planning

- a. April 2, 2020 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
- b. July 30, 2020 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
- c. October 29, 2020 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

18. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Anderson