

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the
Juvenile Services Committee and the
Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice**
April 29, 2021
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Webex Online Video Conferencing System

1. Call to Order

JSC Co-Chair Nick Juliano called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. JSC Co-chair Nick Juliano welcomed everyone and asked Adam Anderson to call roll.

2. Roll Call

Juvenile Services Committee

Committee Members Present (11)

Breanna Anderson (10:49 a.m.)	Tamara Gavin Amy Hoffman	Tom McBride Kelli Schadwinkel
Michele Borg	Nick Juliano	Vicky Thompson Smith
A’Jamal Byndon	Mark LaBouchardiere	Deb VanDyke-Ries

Committee Members Absent (4)

Nicole Brundo	Bobbi Taylor
Patrick Sailors	Dr. Richard Weiner

Committee Resource Members Present (2)

Brenda Kastens
Julie Smith

Committee Resource Members Absent (2)

Nicole Berggren
Senator Patty Pansing Brooks

A quorum was established for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

Coalition Members Present (10)

Colleen Barnes	Monika Gross	Amanda Speichert
Neleigh Boyer	Janteice Holston	Rico Zavala
Stanford Bradley	Denise Kracl	
Patrick Connell	Jill Schubauer	

Coalition Members Absent (8)

Roma Amundson	Brian Halstead	Lorilei Stark
Don Arp	Elaine Menzel	Bobbi Taylor
Greg Gonzalez	Justin Myers	

Coalition Ex-Officio Members Present (3)

Judge Vernon Daniels
Judge Joel B. Jay
Kari Rumbaugh

Coalition Ex-Officio Members Absent (0)

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

Guests in Attendance (5):

Adam Anderson	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Laura Opfer.....	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Trent Chestnut.....	Nebraska Crime Commission
Monica Miles-Steffens.....	University of Nebraska – Juvenile Justice Institute
Jessica Svoboda.....	Nebraska Crime Commission

a. Notice of Publication

Administrative Assistant for the Nebraska Children’s Commission, Adam Anderson, 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 on the Nebraska Children’s Commission website.

3. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Tom McBride from the JSC to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Vicky Thompson Smith. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (10):

Michele Borg	Nick Juliano	Vicky Thompson Smith
A’Jamal Byndon	Mark LaBouchardiere	Deb VanDyke-Ries
Tamara Gavin	Tom McBride	
Amy Hoffman	Kelli Schadwinkel	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Breanna Anderson	Bobbi Taylor
Nicole Brundo	Dr. Richard Wiener
Patrick Sailors	

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

A motion was made by Pat Connell from the NCJJ to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Amanda Speichert. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (10):

Colleen Barnes	Monika Gross	Amanda Speichert
Neleigh Boyer	Janteice Holston	Rico Zavala
Stanford Bradley	Denise Kracl	
Patrick Connell	Jill Schubauer	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (7):

Roma Amundson
Don Arp
Colleen Barnes
Brian Halstead

Justin Myers
Lorilei Stark
Bobbi Taylor

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

4. Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Tamara Gavin from the JSC to approve the January 28, 2021 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Amy Hoffman. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (10):

Michele Borg
A'Jamal Byndon
Tamara Gavin
Amy Hoffman

Nick Juliano
Mark LaBouchardiere
Tom McBride
Kelli Schadwinkel

Vicky Thompson Smith
Deb VanDyke-Ries

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Breanna Anderson
Nicole Brundo
Patrick Sailors

Bobbi Taylor
Dr. Richard Wiener

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

A motion was made by Sheli Schindler from the NCJJ to approve the January 30, 2020 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Denise Kracl. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (9):

Colleen Barnes
Neleigh Boyer
Patrick Connell

Monika Gross
Janteice Holston
Denise Kracl

Jill Schubauer
Amanda Speichert
Rico Zavala

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (1):

Stanford Bradley

ABSENT (7):

Roma Amundson
Don Arp
Colleen Barnes
Brian Halstead

Justin Myers
Lorilei Stark
Bobbi Taylor

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

5. Co-Chair Report

JSC Co-Chair, Nick Juliano thanked Tom McBride for his years of service to the Juvenile Services Committee, Children's Commission and countless other committees and workgroups. NCJJ Vice-Chair, Denise Kracl also thanked McBride on behalf of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice. Members shared their appreciation to McBride in the chat. McBride responded with gratitude and shared his plans for retirement.

6. Update Regarding Title II Funds

Monica Miles-Steffens shared a [PowerPoint](#) overview of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP). She noted the creation of a workgroup to review reentering the Title II program for the State of Nebraska. Miles-Steffens reminded the members of a workgroup that were previously interested in exploring Title II funds. She would guide the workgroup and assist with a gap analysis for compliance. She continued by stating that the work is a three-year project. Miles-Steffens reminded members of the REDI survey that was sent with the meeting materials. She stated the purpose of the survey and encouraged members to fill it out. Lastly, she shared that the intent of the workgroup is to meet in May.

Members asked about non-participating states. Miles-Steffens noted that Wyoming, Connecticut, and Nebraska are among non-participating states, but the number changes as states come in and out of compliance.

Members discussed the Racial and Ethnic Disparities requirement of the JJDP and noted that there are a lot of good things happening outside of Lancaster and Douglas Counties that the public doesn't always hear about. Miles-Steffens noted that one component of the grant is the redo the Disproportionate Minority Contact Assessment that was completed in 2012.

Miles-Steffens shared her email in the chat: mmiles-steffens@unomaha.edu. Denise Kracl noted that follow-up from Elaine Menzel will be forthcoming.

7. Legislative Update

NCJJ Laura Opfer provided an update regarding truancy and YRTC bills. Opfer noted that LB 568 will be coming up for floor debate soon. LB 568 would remove truancy as a juvenile status offense and reorganizes some community aid distributions, as well as creates a new position at the Crime Commission. Opfer continued by noting that LB 428 would require DHHS to notify the Legislature 128 days prior to any substantial changes to the YRTCs as well as require DHHS to complete a needs assessment and cost analysis for an inpatient psychiatric unit within the Lincoln Regional Center.

JSC Co-Chair, VanDyke-Ries shared a link in the chat for the Court Improvement Project's legislative session webinar occurring in June: <https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/programs-services/court-improvement-project/events/2021-cip-legislative-review-webinar>.

Tom McBride shared that LB 307 has moved to final reading. He noted that LB 307 requires courts to hear a motion within 30 days to move a criminal case to juvenile court, as well as addresses legal representation of juveniles.

8. JSC Workgroup Updates

a. Needs Assessment

Pat Connell and Julie Smith shared an overview of the work of the workgroup. Connell noted that the workgroup has developed a survey tool for providers. Smith shared that the workgroup is in the process of surveying the systems to determine access of critical mental health services when needed, such as factors for long wait lists or high denial rates. Smith answered questions regarding surveying court parties and noted a separate survey for service providers.

b. Racial & Ethnic Disparities

A'Jamal Byndon shared an update of the work of the workgroup. He shared a graphic of the juvenile justice system from Douglas County. He noted the need for more input from law enforcement and youth voice. Byndon also focused on the importance of data driving the work of the workgroup. Laura Opfer added information regarding the graphic and how the workgroup looks into mapping system touchpoints.

c. Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers

Rico Zavala shared an update of the work of the workgroup. He noted a survey sent to workgroup members was sent to find out what areas the group would like to examine. He noted the survey showed the group wanted to examine increasing youth voice, examining accreditation, and family engagement. The workgroup has examined the YRTC 5-year plan.

Mark LaBouchardiere answered a question regarding family engagement, noting that during COVID, families have been visiting youth more often via Zoom or Webex than in pre-COVID. He added that family therapy has been more successful with Zoom or Webex in place. Kelli Schadwinkel added that probation officers are offering the use of their technology for families that do not have personal technology. LaBouchardiere noted that discussions have been had to continue Zoom and Webex post COVID.

9. NCJJ Subcommittee Updates

a. Executive Subcommittee

Denise Kracl noted that members have been working on Community Plans as well as CBA and Enhancement grants. Elaine Menzel has been working on CBA, Enhancement, grants.

b. Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee

Denise Kracl All of the counties and tribes have submitted their plans and gone through one round of review. Staff review has been completed and they are headed to Coalition-level review. She noted that around \$6 million worth of grants for CBA have been submitted. She thanked those that have volunteered to review. Amy Hoffman noted that the grant review will be wrapping up in May.

c. Diversion Subcommittee

Denise Kracl noted that the subcommittee is working on a statewide diversion risk assessment tool.

d. Grant Review Subcommittee

Kari Rumbaugh noted that the \$6 million in grants is used to divert youth from the juvenile justice system. She noted that May will be the end of the grant review period. Amy Hoffman shared that 31 plans came in and 34 grants came in for Community-Based Aid. 57 grants in total. She noted that with the budget bill they will have to be cutting requests.

Members asked about tribal grant requests, noting that tribes have not submitted requests recently. Amy Hoffman noted that Winnebago had not asked for funding due to a surplus of federal funds. Hoffman noted that they continue to reach out to tribes to encourage utilization of funds. She added that the tribes are struggling with capacity to utilize funds, specifically noting that one tribe had been seeking a therapist but had not been able to hire one. Deb VanDyke-Ries suggested that Amanda Docter, Nathan Bush, and Greg Donovan might be able to reach out to the tribes and encourage participation in the future.

A'Jamal Byndon asked about a resource to note for those that are submitting similar requests. Amy Hoffman noted there are annual reports listing awards yearly, but no specific way for applicants to communicate. She noted in the past that yearly conferences. She also noted that for certain applicants like the diversion and truancy programs, there are conference calls, monthly meetings via WebEx, and there is collaboration with the Juvenile Justice Institute to help do those things.

10. YRTC 5-Year Plan

Mark LaBouchardiere provided a detailed overview of the [YRTC 5-year plan](#). He noted that DHHS convened a group, led by Dr. Sam Nelson from UNL, to help create the 5-year plan. He continued by noting there was a lot of healthy discussion regarding the plan and the discussion helped to come up with the plan. LaBouchardiere shared that the impetus for creating this plan was found in LB 1140.

LaBouchardiere provided explanations for each area of the recommendations.

LaBouchardiere shared some of the challenges in hiring and retaining staff in the YRTC system. He shared some ways that DHHS has reached out to the communities to encourage hiring with the YRTC system. Judge Daniels shared some avenues for promotion and recruitment and Colleen Barnes offered to share information with her college.

LaBouchardiere thanked Rico Zavala and Bobbi Taylor for their work on the YRTC Workgroup. It has been helpful to gain insight from different stakeholders.

11. Probation Update.

Kari Rumbaugh shared a flyer and [information](#) regarding a virtual Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Virtual Kickoff Event, scheduled for June 21. Rumbaugh also shared an [infographic](#) with information regarding Juvenile Justice Reform Initiative Quarterly Outcome Report. She shared specific information regarding outcomes and noted that some of the decline is related to the COVID pandemic, but was hopeful that the decline can remain.

Rumbaugh shared outcomes due to incentive currently in use as opposed to consequences. She noted that due to a grant from the Sherwood Foundation, Probation is now able to start providing tangible incentives such as Nike socks, gift cards, sporting equipment, etc.; things that motivate youth. Kelli Schadwinkel added that the YRTCs will also be instituting incentives. She also noted a reduction in recidivism.

Lastly, Rumbaugh shared that in June, Probation will celebrate 10-years as a member of JDAI. She reminded the members of the report last year of the efforts as a result of JDAI membership.

Members asked questions regarding racial and ethnic data. Rumbaugh noted that the data is being collected and reported in the detailed analysis, however it is slow to being added to the quarterly report and infographic.

Rumbaugh offered to have Amy Latshaw come to an upcoming meeting to present on YLS changes and implementation.

12. Public Comment

Co-Chair VanDyke-Ries opened the floor for public comment. There was none.

13. New Business

Laura Opfer noted that the Governor signed LB 83 which changes some provisions of the Open Meetings Act, but the upcoming meeting is planned to be in person.

14. Upcoming Meeting Planning

- a. July 29, 2021
- b. October 28, 2021

15. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Anderson