

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

July 29, 2021
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Courtyard Marriott

1. Call to Order

JSC Co-Chair Deb VanDyke-Ries called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m., welcomed everyone and asked Adam Anderson to call roll.

2. Roll Call

Juvenile Services Committee

Committee Members Present (9)

A'Jamal Byndon
Breanna Flaherty
Tamara Gavin

Proxy for Amy Hoffman, Trent
Chestnutt
Mark LaBouchardiere
Tom McBride

Kelli Schadwinkel
Deb VanDyke-Ries
Dr. Richard Wiener

Committee Members Absent (6)

Michelle Borg
Nicole Brundo
Nick Juliano

Patrick Sailors
Bobbi Taylor
Vicky Thompson Smith

Committee Resource Members Present (1)

Julie Smith

Committee Resource Members Absent (2)

Brenda Kastens
Senator Patty Pansing Brooks

A quorum was established for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

Coalition Members Present (8)

Patrick Connell
Greg Gonzalez
Monika Gross

Brian Halstead
Proxy for Amy Hoffman, Trent
Chestnut

Denise Kracl
Elaine Menzel
Rico Zavala

Coalition Members Absent (10)

Roma Amundson
Colleen Barnes
Neleigh Boyer
Stanford Bradley

Misty Frazier
Janteice Holston
Jill Schubauer
Amanda Speichert

Tami Steensma
Bobbi Taylor

Coalition Ex-Officio Members Present (2)

Judge Vernon Daniels
Kari Rumbaugh

Coalition Ex-Officio Members Absent (1)

Judge Joel B. Jay

A quorum was not 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
Tami Sassaman	Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association

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 at the sign-in table and on the Nebraska Children’s Commission website.

3. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Tamara Gavin from the JSC to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Breanna Flaherty. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (8):

A’Jamal Byndon	<i>Proxy for Amy Hoffman, Trent</i>	Kelli Schadwinkel
Breanna Flaherty	Chestnut	Deb VanDyke-Ries
Tamara Gavin	Mark LaBouchardiere	Dr. Richard Wiener

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (6):

Nicole Brundo	Patrick Sailors
Nick Juliano	Bobbi Taylor
Tom McBride	Vicky Thompson Smith

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

**Minutes follow the order of items in the agenda. Members of the NCJJ were invited to provide updates on agenda items.*

4. Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Breanna Flaherty from the JSC to approve the April 29, 2021 minutes with changes as discussed. The motion was seconded by Tamara Gavin. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (8):

A’Jamal Byndon	<i>Proxy for Amy Hoffman, Trent</i>	Kelli Schadwinkel
Breanna Flaherty	Chestnut	Deb VanDyke-Ries
Tamara Gavin	Mark LaBouchardiere	Dr. Richard Wiener

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (6):

Nicole Brundo
Nick Juliano
Tom McBride

Patrick Sailors
Bobbi Taylor
Vicky Thompson Smith

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

5. Co-Chair Report

JSC Co-Chair, Deb VanDyke-Ries shared that all the JSC Workgroups have been very active and will provide updates at this meeting.

6. Legislative Update

Laura Opfer expressed thanks for the work of Senator Patty Pansing Brooks and welcomed Chris Triebsch from the Senator's office to provide a legislative update. Triebsch provided an update regarding the work of Senator Patty Pansing Brooks. He noted the work done on LB 307, the right to counsel for juveniles at the time the petition is filed. He also shared that the Senator's office hopes to work further on truancy bill LB 568 in the next session. He clarified the goals of LB 568 and noted that the bill is currently on select file with the legislature. He continued that the Senator's office is comfortable with where the bill is headed, as well as excited to work with partners to make it a stronger bill. He shared that the Senator's Office is hoping to work on LB 202, which extends Bridge to Independence eligibility to a select population of juvenile justice youth. The Senator's Office expressed gratitude for the work done by members of the JSC and NCJJ. Members discussed the B2i legislation and the availability of acute mental health services as it relates to the 988 mental health crisis line.

Laura Opfer discussed bills being tracked by the Children's Commission and Juvenile Services Committee. She discussed the YRTC block of legislation. Mark LaBouchardiere provided clarification regarding the plans of DHHS.

Elaine Menzel shared information regarding pending federal legislation and grand funding opportunities that may be available.

7. JSC Workgroup Updates

a. Needs Assessment

Julie Smith shared an update regarding the recent work of the workgroup. She noted the workgroup has been working on surveys to identify gaps in the system around access to residential and higher level treatment services and to refine the surveys to be meaningful in identifying the target populations. Patrick Connell noted that this group is keenly aware and focused on juvenile justice mental health needs, but there is a world outside of that, such as schools, physicians, psychiatrists, hospitals, etc. Connell noted that the Boystown Residential Treatment Center has 82 youth on the waiting list, and that it could be upwards of 120 days before some of those kids enter the program. Connell answered questions regarding out of state youth at Boystown and the groups targeted to receive the surveys. Laura Opfer shared a PowerPoint with information on the structure and goals of the workgroups.

Kari Rumbaugh shared information regarding the recently completed probation district needs analysis, available on the [Supreme Court website](#).

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. Byndon noted the recent conversation with Voices for Children that would allow the systems map being developed to be interactive across jurisdictions. He noted the continued need for racial and ethnic data from various sources, and continued that without that data change is difficult. Byndon shared that advocacy about this issue is key and that data from law enforcement cannot be overlooked. With data from all sources, he shared that a bigger discussion on racial and ethnic disparities can occur. Laura Opfer shared a PowerPoint with information on the structure and goals of the workgroups. She added that data is missing at many points. She shared a little information about the goal in creating an interactive map.

Kari Rumbaugh shared a thought that coming together and brainstorming with help from System of Care could help make progress in an integrated child welfare juvenile justice data system.

c. Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers

Rico Zavala shared an update of the work of the workgroup. Rico commended Mark LaBouchardiere and thanked his staff for being a tremendous partner in the project. He noted that LaBouchardiere has been very open to any discussion relating to the YRTC system. Rico noted that the workgroup analyzed the YRTC 5-year plan and used it as a starting point for discussion. He shared the three goals of the workgroup include family engagement, accreditation, and the 5-year plan. Rico noted that the workgroup is searching for any help regarding to accreditation. He continued that it is a goal that is difficult to change. Mark LaBouchardiere added information regarding to the work of DHHS on addressing some of the issues.

Members discussed youth stipends as a means to engage youth.

LaBouchardiere shared information regarding the organization, Performance Based Standards. He noted that this organization falls under the Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators and they have nearly 200 data points and two site visits per year and a monthly call to see what improvements can be made.

8. Annual Report

Laura Opfer shared a draft copy of the annual report and discussed the details. She noted that much of what is in the annual report had been discussed during the meeting.

A motion was made by A’Jamal Byndon from the JSC to approve the JSC Annual Report with changes as discussed. The motion was seconded by Breanna Flaherty. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (8):

A’Jamal Byndon
Breanna Flaherty
Tamara Gavin

Proxy for Amy Hoffman, Trent
Chestnut
Mark LaBouchardiere

Kelli Schadwinkel
Deb VanDyke-Ries
Dr. Richard Wiener

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (6):

Nicole Brundo
Nick Juliano
Tom McBride

Patrick Sailors
Bobbi Taylor
Vicky Thompson Smith

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

9. Update regarding Title II Funds

Monica Miles-Steffens reminded the groups that Lancaster County in partnership with the NCJJ applied for a non-participating state grant, so that Lancaster County could access dollars to address the four core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Lancaster County, in collaboration with the Juvenile Justice Institute, will explore whether Nebraska has the capacity and potentially come back into compliance with the act. Miles-Steffens noted that this is a three-year grant that kicked off in March. She continued by discussing the specifics of the conversations revolving around coming back into compliance. She noted that the group is waiting from guidance from OJJDP regarding whether Nebraska would be held accountable from leaving compliance or whether they would start from scratch. Miles-Steffens specified that the components required to be analyzed are arrest, probation, youth in adult court, and diversion. Elaine Menzel noted that the group is open to JSC members as well. Menzel reiterated that the NCJJ continues to look for young adult members.

10. NCJJ Subcommittee Updates

a. Executive Subcommittee

Elaine Menzel reminded the groups that the Subcommittee did a survey to know all slots and positions are filled, both federally and at the state level. She updated the groups that there are two new members on the Coalition: Misty Frazier and Tammy Steensma. Menzel shared training opportunities available in the near future.

b. Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee

Elaine Menzel shared that the Subcommittee updated the mission, community plans and process the subcommittee went through for accepting or reviewing plans. Trent Chestnutt noted that there are 31 plans submitted through participating counties and the are uploaded to the website.

c. Diversion Subcommittee

Denis Kracl noted that although the Subcommittee hasn't officially met, there has been a lot of work happening. She shared that the Nebraska Crime Commission held a statewide diversion meeting during Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association in Kearney, allowing diversion programs from across the state to meet in person. She continued by noting the Brain Injury Alliance held two webinars aimed at diversion programs to help members understand that there is a traumatic brain injury screening tool and help members help youth who have experienced a TBI. Members discussed the TBI screening tool and related issues. Additionally, Kracl shared that Dr. Zachary Hamilton is wrapping up a final model for a special risk needs screening tool that would be available for use across the state, rather than the individual tools currently being used in different areas.

d. Grant Review Subcommittee

Kari Rumbaugh noted that the grant work the Subcommittee worked on is included in the annual report. She shared the specifics of the grant process approval process. She highlighted there was around \$6 million awarded and due to LB380 a reduction was needed. The Subcommittee worked to adjust based on organizations that historically return funds. Trent Chestnut added that the group added seven new counties this year, but he hopes to bring in tribal representations.

e. Young Adult Subcommittee

Elaine Menzel noted that Bobbi Taylor is not present to report out but highlighted previously in the meeting some of the work and conference attendance of young adults representing the NCJJ. Menzel again noted the need for young adult representation, as Mark LaBouchardiere pointed out much responsibility is often put into only a few young adults, leaving gaps when they leave.

11. YRTC Update

Mark LaBouchardiere noted that the population of the YRTCs has been increasing over the last five years. He reminded the groups that visitation is up and running again, and that video conferencing continues. YRTCs are engaging in community activities again as well. LaBouchardiere noted the hiring struggles in Kearney and a program with youth jobs within the community. He has reached out to the community colleges in the area as a partnership for hiring college students, and he noted other activities done to find leads on employees.

Judge Daniels noted some of the previous discussions regarding the state of the YRTCs and commended the work of the current administration on doing something about the conditions. He continued that when a facility looks nice it can make a big difference to begin to build a foundation for rehabilitation.

Members discussed touring the facility and issues related to touring.

12. Probation Update.

Kari Rumbaugh shared the Juvenile Services Division detailed analysis. She provided an overview of the report noting the newly added probation officer spotlights. She noted that addition is important in talking about what officers are doing and the impact they are making. Rumbaugh also noted the tangible incentive work being done in partnership with the Sherwood Foundation. She added information about the “driver,” a new worksheet introduced last year that staff facilitate with probationers to determine the driving domain that is impacting them. Rumbaugh continued by providing additional detail regarding the report.

13. Membership Vacancies

Adam Anderson noted that the Juvenile Services Committee is searching for a judge representative, a defense attorney representative and Mark LaBouchardiere will submit a resource member to replace Nicole Berggren. Tamara Gavin noted that this is her last meeting as a member of the JSC. Deb VanDyke-Ries and Mark LaBouchardiere thanked Tamara for her work.

14. Public Comment

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

15. New Business

There was no new business.

16. Upcoming Meeting Planning

October 28, 2021, Location to be determined.

17. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Anderson