

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

October 28, 2021

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lancaster Extension Education Center

1. Call to Order

NCJJ Chair Elaine Menzel called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m., welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Roll Call

Juvenile Services Committee

Committee Members Present (11)

Amy Hoffman

Proxy for Kelli Schadwinkel, Julie

Vicky Smith

Nick Juliano

Smith

Deb VanDyke-Ries

Mark LaBouchardiere

Bobbi Taylor (9:33 a.m.)

Dr. Richard Wiener

Committee Members Absent (4)

Michelle Borg

A'Jamal Byndon

Nicole Brundo

Patrick Sailors

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 (11)

Roma Amundson

Amy Hoffman

Amanda Speichert

Neleigh Boyer

Denise Kracl

Tami Steensma

Pat Connell

Elaine Menzel

Bobbi Taylor (9:33 a.m.)

Misty Flowers

Jill Schubauer

Coalition Members Absent (7)

Colleen Barnes

Monika Gross

Rico Zavala

Stanford Bradley

Bryan Halstead

Greg Gonzalez

Janteice Holston

Coalition Ex-Officio Members Present (1)

Kari Rumbaugh

Coalition Ex-Officio Members Absent (2)

Judge Vernon Daniels

Judge Joel B. Jay

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

Guests in Attendance (5):

Adam Anderson	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Jennifer Carter	Inspector General of Child Welfare
Laura Opfer	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Trent Chestnut	Nebraska Crime Commission
Monica Miles-Steffens	University of Nebraska – Juvenile Justice Institute
Michelle Nunemaker	DHHS – Division of Behavioral Health
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 Pat Connell from the NCJJ and Dr. Richard Wiener from the JSC to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Denise Kracl from the NCJJ and Amy Hoffman from the JSC.

There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (7):

Amy Hoffman	<i>Proxy for Kelli Schadwinkel, Julie</i>	Deb VanDyke-Ries
Nick Juliano	Smith	Dr. Richard Wiener
Mark LaBouchardiere	Vicky Smith	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (6):

Michele Borg	Breanna Flaherty
Nicole Brundo	Patrick Sailors
A’Jamal Byndon	Bobbi Taylor

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (10):

Roma Amundson	Amy Hoffman	Amanda Speichert
Neleigh Boyer	Denise Kracl	Tami Steensma
Pat Connell	Elaine Menzel	
Misty Flowers	Jill Schubauer	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (6):

Colleen Barnes	Stanford Bradley	Greg Gonzalez
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Monika Gross
Brian Halstead

Janteice Holston
Bobbi Taylor

Rico Zavala

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

**Minutes follow the order of items in the agenda.*

4. Approval of the July 29, 2021 JSC Minutes

A motion was made by Deb VanDyke-Ries from the JSC to approve the July 29, 2021 minutes with changes as discussed. The motion was seconded by Amy Hoffman. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (6):

Amy Hoffman
Mark LaBouchardiere

Proxy for Kelli Schadwinkel, Julie
Smith
Vicky Smith

Deb VanDyke-Ries
Dr. Richard Wiener

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (1):

Nick Juliano

ABSENT (6):

Michele Borg
Nicole Brundo
A'Jamal Byndon

Breanna Flaherty
Patrick Sailors
Bobbi Taylor

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

5. Approval of the January 28, 2021 NCJJ Minutes

A motion was made by Denise Kracl from the NCJJ to approve the January 28, 2021 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Pat Sailors. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (7):

Neleigh Boyer
Pat Connell
Amy Hoffman

Denise Kracl
Elaine Menzel
Jill Schubauer

Amanda Speichert

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (3):

Roma Amundson
Misty Flowers
Tami Steensma

ABSENT (8):

Colleen Barnes
Stanford Bradley
Greg Gonzalez

Monika Gross
Brian Halstead
Janteice Holston

Bobbi Taylor
Rico Zavala

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

6. Approval of the NCJJ 2020-2021 Annual Report

A motion was made by Neleigh Boyer from the NCJJ to approve the NCJJ section of the 2020-2021 JSC minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Pat Sailors. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (8):

Roma Amundson	Amy Hoffman	Jill Schubauer
Neleigh Boyer	Denise Kracl	Amanda Speichert
Pat Connell	Elaine Menzel	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (2):

Misty Flowers
Tami Steensma

ABSENT (8):

Colleen Barnes	Monika Gross	Bobbi Taylor
Stanford Bradley	Brian Halstead	Rico Zavala
Greg Gonzalez	Janteice Holston	

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

7. Election of Chair and Vice Chair of the NCJJ

A motion was made by Roma Amundson from the NCJJ to end Chair nominations and elect Elaine Menzel as Chair. The motion was seconded by Amanda Speichert. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (10):

Roma Amundson	Amy Hoffman	Amanda Speichert
Neleigh Boyer	Denise Kracl	Tami Steensma
Pat Connell	Elaine Menzel	
Misty Flowers	Jill Schubauer	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (8):

Colleen Barnes	Monika Gross	Bobbi Taylor
Stanford Bradley	Brian Halstead	Rico Zavala
Greg Gonzalez	Janteice Holston	

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

A motion was made by Amanda Speichert from the NCJJ to end Vice Chair nominations and elect Denise Kracl as Chair. The motion was seconded by Neleigh Boyer. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (9):

Roma Amundson
Neleigh Boyer
Pat Connell

Misty Flowers
Amy Hoffman
Denise Kracl

Elaine Menzel
Amanda Speichert
Tami Steensma

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (1):

Jill Schubauer

ABSENT (8):

Colleen Barnes
Stanford Bradley
Greg Gonzalez

Monika Gross
Brian Halstead
Janteice Holston

Bobbi Taylor
Rico Zavala

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

8. Co-Chair Report: RFK Conference

NCJJ Chair Elaine Menzel reported out about the September RFK Conference in Nashville. She noted a large contingency from Nebraska attended the conference.

Kari Rumbaugh shared information about a program with RFK and the University of Maryland that allows for a student to study Juvenile Justice as a college minor. She noted that the minor program includes significant real-life experience living in different jurisdictions that have worked with RFK and learning on the ground for a significant period of time. Rumbaugh continued by noting the specifics of the symposium and corresponding training days, including sharing information about reform efforts in their jurisdictions.

Bobbi Taylor shared that she enjoyed the presentation on the change of language to shift the model. She shared that she felt as though the mindset in that space was still very punitive in the way they talked about juvenile justice, but they had a lot of good ideas. She shared that Nebraska is well on its way, but she wasn't sure that everyone in that space was.

Denise Kracl shared information about the amazing stories she heard while attending the conference.

Laura Opfer shared information about the RED discussions she was a part of that she would like to take back to the RED Workgroup of the JSC as an idea to explore further. She noted that discussion at the seminar revolved about opening the topic of RED and being comfortable about it in the workplace as a foundation to build from.

9. JSC Workgroup Updates

a. Needs Assessment Workgroup

Julie Smith updated the group on the recent work of the workgroup. She shared that the workgroup is working on sharing the information from Kari Rumbaugh, so there aren't duplicate efforts regarding collecting data if the data has already been collected. Pat Connell noted that the workgroup has received a report from probation that had done a very comprehensive service needs assessment internally focused on probation. Kari Rumbaugh shared that it may be a good framework to start with and then send out to others and stakeholders. Smith noted that she hoped that this information will eliminated the need to send out a survey as the group had originally intended. Connell thought that the report may end up eliminating or simplifying the survey that the group sends out.

b. Racial and Ethnic Disparities Workgroup

Laura Opfer shared that the RED Workgroup has refocused its work on RED and diving into where to source the necessary data and what it shows. Bobbi Taylor shared that there is a Community Opportunity list available that may be of use to the group.

c. YRTC Workgroup

Bobbi Taylor shared information regarding the work of the workgroup. She noted that the workgroup has identified priorities such as accreditation, family engagement, and youth voice.. Mark LaBouchardiere noted that the workgroup has been very helpful in the conversation. He added that the strategic priorities identified by the group are included in the DHHS 5-year YRTC plan. Laura Opfer added that the workgroup will continue to look at the priorities and determine a path forward.

10. Update Regarding Title II Funds

NCJJ Chair Elaine Menzel opened discussion by noting she had sent out videos regarding the state advisory group, which in Nebraska is the NCJJ. Menzel turned the floor over to Monica Miles-Steffens for further updates. Miles-Steffens encouraged all to watch the videos as a refresher about the NCJJ, the JVP Act, core protections, and SAG membership and responsibilities. She continued, if Nebraska chooses to come back into compliance with the Title II funding, it is important to understand the information covered in the videos.

Monica Miles-Steffens shared that they have been working on producing recommendations regarding coming back into compliance. She noted that with cooperation from Crime Commission stakeholders the group has been looking at barriers, data collection capacity, and things that can be built into what the Crime Commission already has in place. She added that the Crime Commission is currently in the process of rewriting the jail data system, so there are some good timing pieces to jump into. Miles-Steffens continued by sharing additional requirements for developing a three-year plan and the pathway forward. She discussed some specific items for Nebraska to address such as trafficking, gender specific services, and alternatives to detention services in rural areas.

Miles-Steffens added that JJI has also been participating with the JSC RED Workgroup and the JDAI RED group to monitor what is happening with the RED work across the state, as RED is a core requirement of the OJJDP act. OJJDP has indicated that the SAG would not have to create a standalone RED Committee, and that the SAG can collaborate and work together.

Miles Steffens shared that the OJJDP has an upcoming virtual conference and other meetings regarding changes in the OJJDP Act that bans youth from being in adult jails even if and after they are charged as adults.

11. NCJJ Subcommittee Updates

a. Executive Subcommittee

Elain Menzel noted that the Executive Subcommittee has been working with the Title II project along with planning for the current meeting.

b. Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee

Elaine Menzel focused the group’s attention on the CBA report handout and turned the floor over to Trent Chestnut. Chestnut pointed out the group has funded 194 programs across 73 counties with just over \$6.5 million. He added that more than 8000 youth were referred across 21 programs that are funded by CBA dollars. He continued by discussion the breakdown in the following pages of the handout.

c. Juvenile Diversion Subcommittee

Amy Hoffman noted that the Subcommittee contracted with Dr. Zach Hamilton from UNO to create a risk and needs assessment tool for juvenile diversion in Nebraska. She continued that the assessment was finished this summer and now they have contracted with Dr. Michael Campania from UNO to assist with the development of training curriculums and to roll out the tool for all diversion programs to use. The group is

also looking at how to build the tool online into NCJIS. Hoffman was hopeful that all this will be done before July 1, 2022. Hoffman concluded by noting that the annual report for diversion is available on the Crime Commission website or the Legislature website.

d. Grant Review Subcommittee

Kari Rumbaugh noted that the Subcommittee has been meeting regularly. They have continued to talk about the counties that are returning large amounts of funds at the end of the grant period, and how to best address that. She continued by sharing that the group does not want to have CBA funds cut due to returning funds. The group has been looking at trending counties that return funds and working intensely with those counties. Rumbaugh noted that the Subcommittee is looking at reducing funds to some of those counties, but she added that it doesn't mean those counties can't request additional funding.

Amy Hoffman shared that the CBA for the next fiscal year has been release and they are currently accepting applications that are due in December. The funds will be staggered this year. Hoffman continued that there have been changes in the formula and statute for how to allocate CBA based on juvenile population and other relevant factors as determined by the Crime Commission, such as poverty rates, nonwhite rates, and rate of population change. Hoffman clarified that the counties that have returned 20% or more of their funds on average over two years had their allocation decreased by half that percentage. She provided the example that Lancaster had deallocated 30% over two years had their allocation reduced by 13%. She noted that they did that for five counties. Hoffman answered question regarding COVID extensions, noting that twice as much funding ended up being returned.

Members discussed the statutory requirement of being evidence based in order to get funding. Members noted that it can be very difficult for small non-profits to get evidence based. Discussion continued regarding turnback funds and utilization of funds effectively across the state.

Lastly, the members discussed the statutory change that would include allowing funding for at risk and prevention programs. Chris Triebsch provided updates on legislation being worked on by Senator Patty Pansing Brooks that would affect funding and juvenile justice.

e. Young Adult Subcommittee

Bobbi Taylor shared updates regarding the work of the Subcommittee. She noted that it has been very difficult to get youth engaged in this space and asked members to reach out to young people they are involved with to encourage participation. She noted that there isn't trust from the youth in the space and they are concerned that they are not being paid for their time and they have busy lives that prevent them from participating. Bobbi is hoping to receive three names of youth that she can reach out to. Members discussed frustration that paying youth for their time is not currently allowed in the statute.

12. Legislative Update

Chris Triebsch provided updates on legislation. He shared that the Bridge to Independence bill is in Committee, and they have been working with the Applesseed and Probation to get the bill out of Committee. He noted there was concern about opening up the Bridge program to the probation population in the was that the stipend would be used by the youth, and concern regarding the size of the fiscal note. Triebsch shared that LB203 which prevents applicants from having their background be a barrier to admittance to college, has not had any opposition. Additionally, Triebsch shared information regarding juvenile court transfers and LB 34 which would ban juvenile life without parole sentences and mandatory minimum sentences for juveniles. Triebsch concluded by noting that the YRTC Oversight Committee toured the YRTC in Hastings and they were really impressed by the improvement that has happened over the last couple years with living conditions and the use of solitary confinement.

Members discussed potential YRTC legislation and the need to keep the positive change momentum moving forward.

13. Probation Update

Kari Rumbaugh shared an update on the Juvenile Justice Reform Graphic that she has shared previously. She noted that Probation now has added racial and ethnic demographics on the quarterly report forms. She noted that these reform graphics are located on the Nebraska Supreme Court website.

Rumbaugh shared that the juvenile justice population continues to decrease consistently. She is hopeful that it is related to some of the community-based diversion programs being used. Rumbaugh also noted that high and moderate risk populations are increasing, which is where Probation would like to be; serving high and moderate risk youth, while low risk youth are being served elsewhere.

Rumbaugh shared statistics from Probation's use of the screening tools, noting they saw a drop during COVID but anticipate the number to level back out again. She shared that a group of judges are looking at status offense youth and how often time those youth linger on probation. She noted that the group is digging in to determine a path forward.

Rumbaugh concluded by sharing information regarding recidivism, the tangible incentive program, and the successful release from Probation, which stands at 85%.

Rumbaugh answered questions regarding family engagement, noting that it is being discussed. She noted that the family is a very important part of the equation, and that Probation has room for improvement in this aspect. She is hopeful that a new case management system that will allow for better metrics will move family engagement forward. Rumbaugh shared a link for a [video](#) from the American Probation and Parole Association about family engagement. Members discussed family engagement.

14. YRTC Update

Mark LaBouchardiere shared an update regarding the YRTC. He noted that things are moving forward like things from the Missouri Institute and collaboration with NDE regarding the education piece.

LaBouchardiere shared that youth at the YRTC in Kearney entered into a nonprofit parade and their float won. He also shared that youth have been allowed to help out with different organizations in the community a couple times a week. LaBouchardiere also highlighted that an individual at a YRTC has been taking CAN classes with other CAN students.

LaBouchardiere shared information about opening back up with furloughs. He noted some concerns regarding COVID spread that has made implementation difficult. LaBouchardiere shared that furloughs prior to COVID were conducted in conjunction with Probation Officers that would check on the family and youth. He added information regarding the slow transition giving the trust back to the youth during transitions.

Lastly, LaBouchardiere commended Bobbi Taylor and Rico Zavala for their help in the YRTC advisory role.

15. FCRO Annual Report Highlights

Monika Gross and Heather Wood from the Foster Care Review Office joined the meeting via Zoom and provided highlights from the [FCRO Annual Report](#).

16. Public Comment

NCJJ Chair Menzel opened the floor to public comment. There was none.

17. New Business

There was no new business.

18. Upcoming Meeting Planning

January 27, 2022. Location to be determined.

19. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Anderson