

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the
Juvenile Services Committee (JSC) and
Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ)**

January 27, 2022
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Zoon
And
FCRO Conference Room
1225 L Street, Suite 401
Lincoln, NE 68508

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. Roll Call was taken through introductions.

2. Roll Call

Staff

Juvenile Services Committee

Committee Members Roll Call Present (10)

A'Jamal Byndon	Dennis Marks	Vicky Smith
Amy Hoffman	Lisa Neeman	Deb VanDyke-Ries
Nick Juliano	Tammy Sassaman	
Mark LaBouchardiere	Kelli Schadwinkel	

Committee Members Absent (6)

Michelle Borg	Patrick Sailors
Nicole Brundo	Bobbi Taylor
Breanna Flaherty	Dr. Richard Wiener

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 (12)

<i>Proxy for Neleigh Boyer</i> , Mary	Monika Gross	Amanda Speichert
Ann Harvey	Brian Halstead	Tami Steensma
Stanford Bradley	Amy Hoffman	Rico Zavala
Patrick Connell	Denise Kracl	
Misty Flowers	Jill Schubauer	

Coalition Members Absent (6)

Roma Amundson	Greg Gonzalez	Elaine Menzel
Colleen Barnes	Janteice Holston	Bobbi Taylor

Coalition Ex-Officio Members Present (1)

Judge Vernon Daniels

Coalition Ex-Officio Members Absent (2)

Judge Joel B. Jay

Kari Rumbaugh

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

Guests in Attendance (7):

Adam Anderson	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Jennifer Carter	Inspector General of Child Welfare
Laura Opfer	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Greg Harre	Lancaster County Detention Center
Sara Hoyle	Lancaster County Health Department
Denise Mathei	Young Adult
Monica Miles-Steffens	University of Nebraska – Juvenile Justice Institute

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 Agenda

A motion was made by Pat Connell from the NCJJ and Tammy Sassaman from the JSC to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Amy Hoffman from the NCJJ and Amy Hoffman from the JSC. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (9):

A’Jamal Byndon
Amy Hoffman
Nick Juliano

Mark LaBouchardiere
Dennis Marks
Lisa Neeman

Tammy Sassaman
Vicky Smith
Deb VanDyke-Ries

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (1);

Kelli Schadwinkel

ABSENT (6):

Michele Borg
Nicole Brundo
Breanna Flaherty

Patrick Sailors
Bobbi Taylor
Dr. Richard Wiener

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (9):

Stanford Bradley
Patrick Connell
Monika Gross

Brian Halstead
Amy Hoffman
Denise Kracl

Jill Schubauer
Amanda Speichert
Tami Steensma

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (1):

Proxy for Neleigh Boyer, Mary Ann Harvey

ABSENT (8):

Roma Amundson
Colleen Barnes
Misty Flowers

Greg Gonzalez
Janteice Holston
Elaine Menzel

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 JSC and NCJJ October 28, 2021 Minutes

A motion was made by Brian Halstead from the NCJJ and Nick Juliano from the JSC to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Pat Connell from the NCJJ and Amy Hoffman from the JSC. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (8):

A'Jamal Byndon
Amy Hoffman
Nick Juliano

Mark LaBouchardiere
Dennis Marks
Tammy Sassaman

Vicky Smith
Deb VanDyke-Ries

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (2):

Lisa Neeman
Kelli Schadwinkel

ABSENT (6):

Michele Borg
Nicole Brundo
Breanna Flaherty

Patrick Sailors
Bobbi Taylor
Dr. Richard Wiener

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (9):

Stanford Bradley
Patrick Connell
Monika Gross

Brian Halstead
Amy Hoffman
Denise Kracl

Jill Schubauer
Amanda Speichert
Tami Steensma

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (1):

Proxy for Neleigh Boyer, Mary Ann Harvey

ABSENT (8):

Roma Amundson
Colleen Barnes

Misty Flowers
Greg Gonzalez

Janteice Holston
Elaine Menzel

5. Legislative Update

Laura Opfer shared information regarding the hearing for LB 732, which is a bill regarding the interrogation of minors. She thought the hearing was interesting as law enforcement shared that it is a practice they use.

Opfer shared that LB 792 appropriates funds for two new YRTC Kearney facilities. Mark LaBouchardiere noted that the new facilities would allow for a move away from dorm style housing and towards individual rooms. He noted that a hearing will occur on January 28, 2022.

Regarding LB 810, Mark LaBouchardiere noted that it would require submission of reports for room confinement under an hour. Jennifer Carter noted that this will allow for a better sense of how the facilities are using room confinement. Members discussed how the data is presented, delivered, and utilized.

Opfer discussed LB 883, regarding confidentiality of minors tried as adults and rights during interrogation. She noted that the conversation during the hearing revolved around whether youth understand their rights during interrogation. Members didn't have additional items to discuss.

Opfer shared information regarding LB 946, which prohibits use of off-label prescriptions with youth in state custody. Jennifer Carter shared information regarding what she learned during the hearing. She noted that the Legislative Committee will continue to have discussion. Mark LaBouchardiere responded that kids are not walking around like zombies at the YRTCs, as was alleged during the legislative hearing. Pat Connell added information regarding requirements for medication use per Medicaid requirements. Dennis Marks asked about Medicaid at YRTC. LaBouchardiere noted that Medicaid is suspended during YRTC stays, however all medications are administered under the YRTC Medical Officer. Connell noted that Boys Town provide telehealth services for YRTCs and Brian Health provide telehealth services in Lincoln.

Opfer briefly noted that LB 1019 requires DHHS to establish a youth assessment center pilot.

Opfer shared that LB 568 is on select file and currently being debated with an amendment.

Deb VanDyke-Ries shared a website in the chat for a legislative review on February 16, 2022. <https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/programs-services/court-improvement-project/events/2022-cip-webinar-legislative-preview>.

Members discussed LB 975, which prohibits state employees from testifying in anything other than a neutral capacity unless they are on leave during that time. A'Jamal Byndon noted the importance of weighing in on legislation, even in a personal capacity. Members discussed this bill at length.

6. JSC Workgroup Updates

a. Needs Assessment

Pat Connell shared information regarding the Juvenile Probation Needs Assessment and how the workgroup might utilize the work from the document. Adam Anderson will share this assessment. Kari Rumbaugh shared the website for the assessment:

https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/Probation/behavioral_health/Probation_District_Needs_Analysis.pdf in the chat. Pat Connell noted there is a lack of therapeutic group homes in the state. He shared that Boys Town is looking for feedback regarding this need. Tammy Sassaman noted the existence of multiple needs assessments and asked what the group is looking for. Connell responded that each group has their own thoughts about needs. Julie Smith responded that she is hopeful for pulling together members from multiple systems to have the discussion regarding needs.

b. Racial & Ethnic Disparities

A'Jamal Byndon shared that the group has been working to narrow their focus as there have been many things that have come up. He noted that it is difficult to come up with a specific point of success without the data. He is hopeful to have more listening sessions with communities. He noted one final comment from a new employee who walked into DCYC and noted a high number of youth of color there. Laura Opfer shared information regarding the system map and access to racialized data from the Department of Education later this year from LB 154 that passed last year. Misty Flowers discussed the lack of representation of Native American voice on many RED discussions. A'Jamal Byndon noted that even the numbers may be small the disparity can be great. Monika Gross shared that Native American boys are overrepresented 11 times and girls are overrepresented 15 times.

c. Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers

Laura Opfer shared the priorities of the workgroup are youth voice, family engagement, accreditation, and disparities. She shared that the recent focus has been on accreditation. Mark LaBouchardiere noted that during a meeting with COA, COA

noted that they are looking at a juvenile justice transitional program within COA. Initially, he is looking at Whitehall Campus as a place to start. He has asked COA for a list of comparable facilities in other states that are accredited with COA that house high-risk juvenile justice youth. Jennifer Carter asked about looking at licensing as well as accreditation. LaBouchardiere noted that currently the facilities are not looking at this as currently in all facilities have the ability to make anonymous reports to the Hotline or Ombudsman on a specific phone in all residence halls. LaBouchardiere noted that the Ombudsman is now required to prepare an annual report for the legislature per statute. He continued by noting staff have attended the Families Thrive training and they are looking at racialized data regarding length of stay, etc. Opfer added that it would be helpful to have a list of all the external partners who look at the facilities and what they look at to provide to the members.

VanDyke-Ries encouraged members to reach out to workgroups chairs or Adam and Laura to join any of the Workgroups.

7. Update regarding Title II Funds

NCJJ Vice Chair turned the floor over to Monica Miles-Steffens. Monica Miles-Steffens noted that since the last meeting the group has worked with Juvenile Justice Detention Alternatives Initiative and RED workgroups to look at needs such as racial makeup of committees, and RED requirements for recommendations for the Coalition. She shared the System Map and noted that it also has a corresponding additional explanation that is flexible to use. A Jamal Byndon asked to have specific breakdown for community members. Deb VanDyke-Ries noted the availability of the “What Now” document that explains the system processes. She also noted that Families Inspiring Families also is working on similar documents. VanDyke-Ries shared CIP’s document in the chat: <https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/programs-services/court-improvement-project/resources/publications/what-now-juvenile-justice-guide> Miles-Steffens noted that it might be helpful to add the link in the documents. She noted that the workgroup is focusing on the compliance points of the Title II. The workgroup continues to look at and determine what the recommendations will be at the end of this year.

8. NCJJ Subcommittee Updates

a. Executive Subcommittee

Vice Chair Kracl noted no update from the Executive Subcommittee.

b. Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee

Amy Hoffman noted that this group will be working on a training for a mid-plan review sessions for grantees to look at their progress on their plans. She added that the Subcommittee changed to a four-year plan to align to the biennium, and this is year two.

c. Juvenile Diversion Subcommittee

Vice Chair Kracl noted this group is working on an assessment tool for the entire state and having regular meetings with counties that are willing to participate in this pilot program for Juvenile Diversion. She added that there are many counties, big and small, urban and rural that are willing to work on piloting the project.

d. Grant Review Subcommittee

Kari Rumbaugh noted that this is the start of Community Based Aid grant season. The group met and discussed the applicants and are moving towards feedback to the applicants or the requests that have come through that are ready to be approved. Amy Hoffman noted that the Juvenile Services Grant will open up in February, with the main difference being that it is also open to non-profits to apply directly for.

e. Young Adult Subcommittee

9. Probation Update

Kari Rumbaugh noted that there is not a new quarterly report yet. She will share it when it is available, as well as discuss at the next meeting. She shared that the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Initiative Nebraska continues and the next step is to prepare a report and recommendations by the end of summer with action steps. Rumbaugh noted other national partners are ready to assist, such as implementation science, data capacity assessment, and trauma assessments and supports.

Rumbaugh shared that Probation launched the Advanced Coaching for Excellence initiative in 2017 to take evidence-based practices to the next level. She noted that Probation is in their third of four core items, which is engagement to enhance motivation. Rumbaugh added that Probation has partnered and contracted with Hasan Davis who has developed a curriculum called HOPE, which deals with procedural justice. She noted that Probation staff are beginning to be trained in the HOPE program. She would be happy to share information if anyone is interested.

Rumbaugh added that positive results are continuing to come in regarding the Aggression Replacement Therapy program.

10. YRTC Update

Mark LaBouchardiere shared information regarding the slight increase in census. He shared information regarding the increase in COVID in staff and youth. He noted no hospitalizations from the cases. He also shared that any staff that are around youth are required to wear a mask.

LaBouchardiere shared information regarding programs instituted at the YRTCs and noted that recently Dialectical Behavior Therapy has been instituted and has been successful so far. He shared information regarding DBT.

LaBouchardiere continued by noting that the facilities have adequate nursing coverage currently. He noted the numbers of RNs at the locations. He continued by noting that contract negotiations have reached \$25 per hour for direct care staff and other staff received 20% raises. He noted that YRTCs are waiting to see the results and if it was beneficial.

LaBouchardiere responded to a question regarding art therapy and the implementation of different therapies at the YRTCs. Misty Flowers shared information regarding art therapy in conjunction with cultural competencies.

Members discussed IT infrastructure and other recommendations for staff and youth at the YRTCs. Questions arose regarding access to tablets and communications with families. LaBouchardiere noted that in some cases companies make money from phone calls and technology, which leaves kids without money in their accounts out.

11. Public Comment

Monica Miles-Steffens asked the question of the groups whether to change the title of the document from Juvenile Justice to Youth Justice. Members discussed the options and specific juvenile justice language, but it will remain with Juvenile Justice.

12. New Business

13. Upcoming Meeting Planning

April 28, 2022

July 28, 2022

October 27, 2022

14. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Anderson