

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

July 28, 2022
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lancaster Extension Education Center
444 Cherrycreek Road
Lincoln, NE 68528

1. Call to Order

JSC Co-Chair Deb VanDyke-Ries called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m., welcomed everyone and asked members to introduce themselves. Roll was taken through introductions.

2. Roll Call

Juvenile Services Committee

Committee Members Roll Call Present (9)

Jennifer Carter	Mark LaBouchardiere	Vicky Smith
Marisa Hattab	Lisa Neeman	Deb VanDyke-Ries
<i>Proxy for Amy Hoffman, Erin Wasserberger</i>	Tammy Sassaman	
	Kelli Schadwinkel	

Committee Members Absent (7)

Nicole Brundo	Dennis Marks	Dr. Richard Wiener
LaDonna Jones-Dunlap	Patrick Sailors	
Nick Juliano	Bobby Taylor	

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 (10)

Roma Amundson (9:45 a.m.)	<i>Proxy for Amy Hoffman, Erin Wasserberger</i>	Steve Solorio
Neleigh Boyer		Amanda Speichert
Patrick Connell	Denise Kracl	Tami Steensma
Brian Halstead (9:00-10:15 a.m.)	Elaine Menzel	

Coalition Members Absent (9)

Colleen Barnes	Monika Gross	Daniel Schleusener
Stanford Bradley	Janteice Holston	Jill Schubauer
Misty Flowers	Denise Manthei	Bobbi Taylor

Coalition Ex-Officio Members Present (2)

Judge Joel B. Jay
Kari Rumbaugh

Coalition Ex-Officio Members Absent (1)

Judge Chad Brown

***A quorum was established for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice upon the arrival of a member at 9:45 a.m.**

Guests in Attendance (6):

Adam Anderson Nebraska Children’s Commission
Laura Opfer..... Nebraska Children’s Commission
Paul Gordon..... Department of Health and Human Services
Tami Soper..... Boys Town

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 Mark LaBouchardiere from the JSC to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Carter from the JSC. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (9):

Jennifer Carter	<i>Proxy for Amy Hoffman, Erin</i>	Kelli Schadwinkel
Marisa Hattab	<i>Wasserberger</i>	Vicky Smith
Mark LaBouchardiere	Lisa Neeman	Deb VanDyke-Ries
	Tammy Sassaman	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (7):

Nicole Brundo	Dennis Marks	Dr. Richard Wiener
LaDonna Jones-Dunlap	Patrick Sailors	
Nick Juliano	Bobbi Taylor	

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

**NCJJ lacked quorum to take official action on the agenda.*

4. Approval of JSC and NCJJ April 28, 2022 Minutes

A motion was made by Mark LaBouchardiere from the JSC to approve the April 28, 2022 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Tammy Sassaman from the JSC. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (9):

Jennifer Carter
Marisa Hattab
Mark LaBouchardiere

*Proxy for Amy Hoffman, Erin
Wasserberger*
Lisa Neeman
Tammy Sassaman

Kelli Schadwinkel
Vicky Smith
Deb VanDyke-Ries

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (7):

Nicole Brundo
LaDonna Jones-Dunlap
Nick Juliano

Dennis Marks
Patrick Sailors
Bobbi Taylor

Dr. Richard Wiener

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

**NCJJ lacked quorum to take official action on the agenda.*

5. Legislative Update

Laura Opfer shared the [JSC/NCJJ Legislative Bill Update](#) handout and discussed past and upcoming legislation. Judge Jay discussed a committee that will be looking at reviewing the juvenile code for clarity.

6. JSC/NCJJ Annual Report (Action Item)

Co-Chairs

a. Laura Opfer shared highlights from the [JSC/NCJJ Joint Annual Report](#) handout. NCJJ Chair Menzel noted that the groups should consider changing RED to R/ED due to a shift in language usage. Laura noted that this change would be made throughout the report.

R/ED Co-chair Tami Soper shared information regarding the recommendations of the R/ED Committee. Members also discussed the shift of language usage from 'juvenile' to "youth" to reduce stigma.

Opfer continued by sharing recommendations from the YRTC Workgroup. Mark LaBouchardiere shared information regarding the recommendations. Members discussed the status of the workgroup's look into accreditation.

Members discussed YRTC intake guidance education for stakeholders. Laura Opfer shared potential recommendation language. Members discussed at length. JSC Co-Chair Deb VanDyke-Ries noted that discussion has led to the need to table specific recommendations regarding intake education, and rather note that the workgroup will continue to discuss the recommendations.

Laura Opfer shared recommendations from the Access to Services Workgroup. Workgroup Chair, Julie Smith shared additional information.

Members discussed additional changes.

A motion was made by Tammy Sassaman from the JSC and Amanda Speichert from the NCJJ to approve the JSC/NCJJ annual report, with changes as discussed. The motion was seconded by Vicky Smith from the JSC and Neleigh Boyer from the NCJJ. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (9):

Jennifer Carter
Marisa Hattab
Mark LaBouchardiere

*Proxy for Amy Hoffman, Erin
Wasserberger*
Lisa Neeman
Tammy Sassaman

Kelli Schadwinkel
Vicky Smith
Deb VanDyke-Ries

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (7):

Nicole Brundo
LaDonna Jones-Dunlap
Nick Juliano

Dennis Marks
Patrick Sailors
Bobbi Taylor

Dr. Richard Wiener

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (8):

Roma Amundson
Patrick Connell
Proxy for Amy Hoffman, Erin Wasserberger

Denise Kracl
Elaine Menzel
Steve Solorio
Amanda Speichert

Tami Steensma

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (2):

Neleigh Boyer
Brian Halstead

ABSENT (9):

Colleen Barnes
Stanford Bradley
Misty Flowers

Monika Gross
Janteice Holston
Denise Manthei

Dan Schleusener
Jill Schubauer
Bobbi Taylor

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee and the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

7. Membership Vacancies

Children's Commission Staff, Adam Anderson shared vacancies on the JSC. He noted that JSC is currently looking for a judge representative who would fill a voting membership.

8. JSC Workgroup Updates

a. Needs Assessment

Access to Services Workgroup Chair, Julie Smith shared that the group rebranding the Needs Assessment Workgroup to the Access to Services Workgroup and looking for members if interested. She noted that the workgroup has met once to discuss the direction for the group.

b. Racial & Ethnic Disparities

R/ED Workgroup member, Tami Soper shared information regarding the work that has occurred over the past year. Laura Opfer shared additional background information that helped inform the work of the workgroup.

c. Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers

Mark LaBouchardiere shared information regarding the work of the workgroup and recent workgroup discussions. Members discussed that youth at YRTC's are considered "escaped" when they are missing from care while committed to the YRTC's.

9. Center for Coordinated Assistance to the States

NCJJ Chair Menzel discussed CCAS. She noted that CCAS is providing technical assistance continuing the work done by the Juvenile Justice Institute for developing the state plan for returning for to Title II Compliance.

10. NCJJ Subcommittee Updates

a. Executive Subcommittee

NCJJ Chair Menzel shared information regarding the work of the Subcommittee, including discussing resource books, youth outreach, educational outreach.

b. Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee

Erin Wasserberger noted that recent meetings have discussed taking the Community Planning process back to the basics listed in statute and providing more one-on-one assistance to the counties. She noted this process is in the works and further discussion will need to be had to determine its feasibility.

c. Juvenile Diversion Subcommittee

Vice Chair Denise Kracl noted the group is still working on the NSAT, to bring more uniformity across the state. She noted Dr. Hamilton completed the assessment in 2021 and now Colfax is piloting the tool and looking to utilize the testing to bring more uniformity across the state.

d. Grant Review Subcommittee

Kari Rumbaugh noted that grant work has settled down. Juvenile Services grants have been posted and received by the counties. Other grant writing is in the process. Erin Wasserberger noted that a supplement enhancement grant is pending, closing August 5.

e. Young Adult Subcommittee

Chair Menzel noted that Stanford Bradley and Bobbi Taylor attended the NJJA Conference and CJJ Conference.

11. Probation Update

Kari Rumbaugh shared information regarding Probation. She shared information regarding recent commendations awarded to Probation employees. She shared a [Detailed Analysis Fiscal Year 2021](#) handout and discussed.

Rumbaugh addressed the question of adding additional foster parents. She noted that Probation has added Professional Foster Care as well as continued outreach for more homes. She also shared information regarding Emergency Foster Care. Kelli Schadwinkel discussed additional efforts to support Relative and Kinship homes.

Rumbaugh noted that in future years Probation will begin to use fundamental data measures determined by the National Center for Juvenile Justice believed to be best practice. She shared that there may be a change in future reports, but some work is already being done.

12. YRTC Update

Mark LaBouchardiere shared that Lincoln and Hastings did well on the ACA review. He also shared that Dr. Fromm has left and been replaced by Dr. Wittry. Paul Gordon shared information regarding the programming and activities of the YRTCs. He shared activities such as Pony Express and community service have been successful, such as theatre and animal shelter community service. Gordon shared that engagement continues to be successful. Gordon shared that recent engagement topics have included money management, and questions and answers from employees. Gordon noted that vocational opportunities are being discussed, as well as a relationship with CCC. The YRTCs are also looking for employment opportunities in the community for youth, Gordon shared. LaBouchardiere and Gordon shared information regarding a special event planned for the youth. Kelli Schadwinkel commended YRTC Kearney for the recent collaboration with Probation and work done.

13. Public Comment

The floor was opened to public comment. There was no public comment.

14. New Business

Tammy Sassaman thanked members for the NJJA conference. She noted there were 334 participants this year, and she encouraged agencies to apply for grants for youth and families attend the conference next year.

Deb VanDyke-Ries September 13-14 in Kearney, and then JDAI Conference will follow.

15. Upcoming Meeting Planning

October 27, 2022

16. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Anderson