

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

October 24, 2024
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Jack J. Huck Continuing Education Center
301 S 68th St. Place
Lincoln, NE 68510

1. Call to Order

JSC Co-Chair Nick Juliano called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM, welcomed everyone and asked Sage Leis to call roll.

2. Roll Call

Juvenile Services Committee

Committee Members Present (12)

Amoreena Brady

Jennifer Carter

Amy Hoffman

Nick Juliano

Judge Denise Kracl

Proxy for Mark

LaBouchardiere, Neleigh

Boyer

Dennis Marks

Proxy for Michelle Nunemaker,

Heather Nelsen

Patrick Sailors

Tammy Sassaman

Vicky Smith

Deb VanDyke-Ries

Committee Members Absent (4)

Nicole Brundo

LaDonna Jones-Dunlap

Kaleb Vicharra

Dr. Richard Wiener

Committee Resource Members Present (0)

Committee Resource Members Absent (3)

Senator Carol Blood

Bethany Nelson

Julie Smith

A quorum was established for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

Coalition Members Present (12)

Neleigh Boyer

Karen Bredthauer

Monika Gross

Amy Hoffman

Proxy for Nandi Kumondan,

Lincoln Arnel

Proxy for Elaine Menzel, Beth

Ferrell

Jaiden Nelsen

Daniel Schleusener

Steve Solorio

Tami Steensma

Lauren Walag

Coalition Members Absent (6)

Stanford Bradley

Breanna Flaherty

Brian Halstead

Denise Manthei

Bobbi Taylor

Kirby Williams

Coalition Ex-Officio Members Present (1)

Proxy for Sara Quiroz, Amoreena Brady

Coalition Ex-Officio Members Absent (2)

Judge Chad Brown

Judge Joel B. Jay

Guests in Attendance (4):

Sage Leis

JaQuala Yarbrow

a. Notice of Publication

Administrative Programs Officer 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 Denise Kracl from the JSC and Daniel Schleusener from the NCJJ to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Carter from the NCJJ and Monika Gross from the NCJJ. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (12):

Amoreena Brady
Jennifer Carter
Amy Hoffman
Nick Juliano
Judge Denise Kracl

Proxy for Mark LaBouchardiere,
Neleigh Boyer
Dennis Marks
Proxy for Michelle Nunemaker,
Heather Nelson

Patrick Sailors
Tammy Sassaman
Vicky Smith
Deb VanDyke-Ries

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (4):

Nicole Brundo
LaDonna Jones-Dunlap

Kaleb Vicharra
Dr. Richard Wiener

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (8):

Neleigh Boyer
Monika Gross
Amy Hoffman

Proxy for Nandi Kumondan,
Lincoln Arneal
Proxy for Elaine Menzel,
Beth Ferrell

Daniel Schleusener
Steve Solorio
Tami Steensma

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (3):

Karen Bredthauer
Jaiden Nelsen
Lauren Walag

ABSENT (7):

Stanford Bradley
Breanna Flaherty

Brian Halstead
Denise Manthei

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

**Minutes do not follow the approved agenda*

4. Approval of July 25, 2024 Minutes

A motion was made by Pat Sailors from the JSC and Neleigh Boyer from NCJJ to approve the July 25, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Tammy Sassaman from the JSC and Monika Gross from the NCJJ. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Juvenile Services Committee

FOR (9):

Amoreena Brady
Jennifer Carter
Amy Hoffman

Judge Denise Kracl
Dennis Marks
Patrick Sailors

Tammy Sassaman
Vicky Smith
Deb VanDyke-Ries

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (3):

Nick Juliano
Proxy for Mark LaBouchardiere, Neleigh Boyer
Proxy for Michelle Nunemaker, Heather Nelson

ABSENT (4):

Nicole Brundo
LaDonna Jones-Dunlap

Kaleb Vicharra
Dr. Richard Wiener

MOTION CARRIED for the Juvenile Services Committee

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (8):

Neleigh Boyer
Monika Gross
Amy Hoffman

Proxy for Nandi Kumondan,
Lincoln Arneal
Proxy for Elaine Menzel,
Beth Ferrell

Daniel Schleusener
Steve Solorio
Tami Steensma

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (3):

Karen Bredthauer
Jaiden Nelsen
Lauren Walag

ABSENT (7):

Stanford Bradley
Breanna Flaherty
Brian Halstead

Denise Manthei
Jill Schubauer
Bobbi Taylor

Kirby Williams

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

5. NCJJ Vice Chair Voting

A motion was made by Neleigh Boyer from NCJJ to elect Breanna Flaherty as the Vice Chair for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice. The motion was seconded by Monika Gross from the NCJJ. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (11):

Neleigh Boyer

Karen Bredthauer

Monika Gross

Amy Hoffman

Proxy for Nandi Kumondan,

Lincoln Arneal

Proxy for Elaine Menzel,

Beth Ferrell

Jaiden Nelsen

Daniel Schleusener

Steve Solorio

Tami Steensma

Lauren Walag

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (7):

Stanford Bradley

Breanna Flaherty

Brian Halstead

Denise Manthei

Jill Schubauer

Bobbi Taylor

Kirby Williams

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

6. NCJJ Bylaw Discussion

Discussion centered around rules for approval to allow members to attend conferences paid for by NCJJ. Only 3 members going to conference in DC next month. Monika Gross asked if there is something in formula to allow or limit one person to attending more than one conference per year. Elaine said those individuals are given a different amount of votes, but chair and vice chair will usually always be in attendance due to specialized presentation. Will vote at next meeting for conference in DC in May.

7. JSC & NCJJ Membership

JSC Chair Nick Juliano discussed issues with scheduling. There will be more in-depth discussion at a later date. The time of the next meeting will be determined after today.

8. YRTC Update

Neleigh Boyer presented for Mark LaBouchardiere. Since last meeting, DHHS has seen a spike in YRTC census, but that number is coming down. Also, there seems to be increased gang activity at YRTC-Kearney. Boyer noted that construction on new facility has started (official groundbreaking ceremony next week) and the projected end date is February 2026 due to the cold months (an extension from initial date). She shared that the new facility is 48 bed facility with individual suites for youth that will be secured at night. DHHS believes this will help with safety and gang activity. YRTCs are currently undergoing PREA audits. Question about YRTC-Lincoln's RPEA audit timeline; will find out answer at a later date. Individual room facility will ideally be for newer youth, with a transition to more dormitory settings once they are further in the program. Question if increase in population is seasonal, but unsure if the spike is seasonal (seeing more pre-Covid numbers now). Question about county breakdown for who is in the YRTCs, speaker will send out answer to individual who asked. Discussion on what causes spikes in populations centered around school dates. Daniel Schleusener discussed YRTC law enforcement appreciation picnic, said event was good and a great opportunity to connect with the youth. Deb VanDyke-Ries asked about programing targeting gang affiliated youth. Presenter will look into this to bring back.

9. Probation Update

Amoreena Brady presented, and she will be regularly attending meetings now. Brady discussed probation report, have fully incorporated recommendations into Probation's strategic plan. Have launched behavioral health screening process to determine if youth have needs that should be addressed by specialized professionals. Working to implement a best practice for screening process, highlighting the importance of early screening. Implementing two new tools (MASY-2 and CTS). MASY looks at substance use and if you have experienced trauma, CTS looks at if youth have experienced trauma and are responding to that. Implementing across the state in waves, will be fully implemented in June 2025 across the state. Pointed members to Probation website on Nebraska Supreme Court site with more information on this process and efforts made by Juvenile Probation. Discussed incentives for youth to continue good behavior. Incentives help build rapport between youth, family, and probation. Highlighted the importance of family engagement. Noted out of home placement numbers have remained consistent.

10. JSC Workgroup Updates

a. Access to Services

Access to Services has been active and busy. Working on mapping and tools to help ensure collaboration across systems is happening but took a break to address Senate Report on the concerns with PRTCs. Been discussing this report and the recommendations made by the Senate Finance Committee / Senate Health Committee. Summary of findings: Raise standards, prioritize keeping youth in their communities. Group has been discussing ways to prevent youth from needing to go to out of state residential facilities. Looking at options to put something forward as a demonstration project to serve youth instead of sending them to YRTC's or out of state facilities. Looking at how to share funding for this. Julie highlighted that Nebraska youth have been placed in facilities highlighted in Senate report. Probation still uses some of the mentioned facilities, highlighting substantial changes addressing concerns. Probation sends staff to each out of state facility once a month to check with youth and ensure there are no concerns regarding their treatment. Pointed out the main concern is how to ensure money is being spent from the right bucket to ensure it is properly funded.

b. Racial & Ethnic Disparities

No update.

c. Continuum of Care

CoC Chairs have been data gathering by visiting a number of placement facilities. The hope is that by January, there will be a chart to compare the facilities. Have had a number of conversations centered around when discharge planning should begin (chairs highlight it should start on day 1 of the placement). Also looking into how to educate adults in home placements / parents.

11. NCJJ Subcommittee Updates

a. Executive Subcommittee

b. Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee

No update from last meeting. Community plans are due in December. Will plan a way for members to review plans.

c. Juvenile Diversion Subcommittee

Hasn't met recently. Having membership changes.

d. Grant Review Subcommittee

Met last Friday (10/18), funding panel scheduled for 10/25. Have received more requests than funding available. Following funding panel meeting, funds will be distributed.

e. Young Adult Subcommittee

Idea of this committee was to have an adult and young adult to be co-chairs. Facing issues with young adult members being able to meet at the designated time. Still ironing out the issues.

12. Title II Grant

a. Award and Budget

3 SAG grants. 2022 grant has been fully spent down, moving on to spending 2021 Title II funds. Created in house grant award for compliance monitor. For fiscal year 2024, OJJDP said not to submit a funding request. Have a workaround to provide complete funding requested, but may appear like funding has been slashed. Application for next Title II grant will show Nebraska is not in compliance and has a number of penalties, but do not mind that. Due to Nebraska not

being in compliance for very long, being given a grace period to report data. Have until September 2026 to have data ready for collection.

Discussed Title II funding opportunities for Native American tribes in Nebraska that meet criteria (Omaha, Santi Sioux, and Winnebago). One tribe (Omaha) accepted funding to help with horse therapy funding offered to tribal youth.

b. Sub Award Priorities (Action Item)

A motion was made by Monika Gross from NCJJ to subaward 100% of funds via competitive grants. The motion was seconded by Karen Bredthauer from the NCJJ. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (10):

Karen Bredthauer
Monika Gross
Amy Hoffman

Proxy for Nandi
Kumondan, Lincoln
Arneal
Proxy for Elaine Menzel,
Beth Ferrell

Jaiden Nelsen
Daniel Schleusener
Steve Solorio
Tami Steensma
Lauren Walag

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (8):

Neleigh Boyer
Stanford Bradley
Breanna Flaherty
Brian Halstead

Denise Manthei
Jill Schubauer
Bobbi Taylor
Kirby Williams

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

c. Funding Priorities and Amounts (Action Item)

Discussed ways to get youth more involved across Nebraska via boards and passing funding through these to both pay the young adults and give leadership opportunities. Federal grant prohibits providing direct stipends to young adults. Discussed spreading money to different organizations that are focused on increasing involvement of people of color in the work. Discussion became focused on funding after school programs for youth involvement.

Question: Do we want to supplement the funds?

Leaning towards sub-awarding all money.

A motion was made by Monika Gross from NCJJ SAG funds to pay for three NCJJ members to attend DC conference. The motion was seconded by Karen Bredthauer from the NCJJ. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

FOR (8):

Karen Bredthauer
Monika Gross
Amy Hoffman

Proxy for Nandi
Kumondan, Lincoln
Arneal
Proxy for Elaine Menzel,
Beth Ferrell

Jaiden Nelsen
Tami Steensma
Lauren Walag

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (3):

Neleigh Boyer
Daniel Schleusener
Steve Solorio

ABSENT (7):

Stanford Bradley
Breanna Flaherty
Brian Halstead
Denise Manthei

Jill Schubauer
Bobbi Taylor
Kirby Williams

MOTION CARRIED for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

13. New Business

14. Upcoming Meeting Planning

- a.** January 23rd

15. Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,
Sage Leis