

Wheels of Change Newsletter

*Chronicling change & challenge in
Wyoming's Juvenile Justice System*

Judge Gary Hartman, Retired, ghartm@state.wy.us

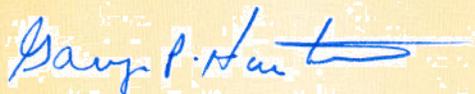
The new year is off to a terrific start, and much of that work is the subject of the second edition of the Wheels of Change Newsletter.

In this edition, you'll learn about detention and stimulus funding, how some detention facility construction will be paid for, and how 14 counties will fund Community Juvenile Services Boards efforts as well as which facilities have been licensed to treat children with serious emotional disturbances. You'll also learn what Education, Health and Family Services are doing to support local mental health services efforts.

As always, the information reported here cannot be taken as an endorsement by Gov. Freudenthal.

Enjoy, and please drop me a line if there's a particular juvenile justice issue you'd like to know more about.

Sincerely,



Judge Gary Hartman, Retired

In this issue, you'll learn more about

- Detention and Stimulus Funding
- Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI)
- Community Juvenile Service Boards (CJSB)
- Mental Health Facilities in Gillette, Torrington
- Planning Team for At-risk Children (PTAC)
- Legislative Notes



*If you'd like to respond to one of these articles or contribute your own writing,
please e-mail ghartm@state.wy.us*

Detention and the Stimulus

SLIB gets 8 applications for funding

The State Lands and Investments Board (SLIB) has received eight applications for the \$15 million of detention stimulus money.

That tally includes Natrona and Laramie counties for hardware secure facilities as well as applications from Sheridan, Fremont, Teton, Carbon and Big Horn counties for staff secure facilities. Contracts likely will be signed later this month with construction to start in the spring.

JDAI Subject of Meetings

Community meetings in Cheyenne and Casper this month

DFS and the County Commissioners Association will host two community meetings on the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). Both will include special guest Bart Lubow, director of the programs for high-risk youth at the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The meetings are as follows.

Cheyenne: 2 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 21 at the Laramie County Library, 2200 Pioneer Ave.

Casper: 9 a.m., Friday, Jan. 22 at the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, 2211 King Ave.

You're invited to attend and participate. This meeting will help decide whether Wyoming becomes a JDAI site. (There is state funding to hire local coordinators.)

CJSBs Find Funding

14 counties to receive grant dollars

Fourteen counties applied for the Community Juvenile Services Board grants and likely will see funding as set forth below:

Big Horn: \$50,000	Laramie: \$286,218
Campbell: \$142,410	Natrona: \$228,241
Carbon: \$50,000	Sheridan: \$79,864
Crook: \$50,000	Sweetwater: \$134,475
Fremont: \$120,000	Teton: \$50,000
Goshen: \$50,000	Uinta: \$74,816
Johnson: \$50,000	Washakie: \$50,000

2 Facilities Licensed

Two PRTFs approved for caring for youth when it's "medically necessary"

Medicaid has licensed Y.E.S. House in Gillette and St. Joseph's Home for Children in Torrington as Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF).

The approval makes those organizations eligible to receive Medicaid dollars to pay for children who meet the "medical necessity" criteria. Wyoming Behavioral Institute (WBI) in Casper already was licensed.

The Children's Mental Health Waiver, a home and community based Medicaid waiver for children with serious emotional disturbance is operating statewide and serving all 23 counties. The waiver can act as a diversion tool to direct children with serious emotional disturbance away from the juvenile justice system. For more information, go to

www.health.wyo.gov/mhsa/treatment/waiver/index.html

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Making MDT Rules

CJP considers new rule, faces two key issues

The Children's Justice Project continues to work on a rule to outline the duties of an Multiple Discipline Team Coordinator. That work should be completed by April. Two issues remain:

- 1) In which existing state agency should the coordinators be housed?
- 2) Funding source.

In the future, if a child is suspected of having a "psychiatric disorder," and a placement in a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) is contemplated, an assessment needs to be conducted prior to the court disposition. That assessment will be updated frequently to assure the child continues to meet the "medical necessity" criteria.

Planning Team Action

State Agency Directors plan
Jan. 25 meeting

The directors of Family Services, Education, Health, Workforce Services and Corrections will meet Jan. 25 to hear about a Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) grant, which, if awarded, will give Wyoming about \$450,000 over five years for the improvement of mental health programs for juveniles with serious behavioral health disorders using a high-fidelity wrap-around service. We know 60-75 percent of children in the court system have a mental health diagnosis.

The Planning Team for At-risk Children also will look at how DFS, Health and Education could push part of the court-ordered placement money to local communities to support local services and safely reduce the number of children in out-of-home placements.

Legislative Notes

The JJIC takes on a few bills that will impact juvenile justice

The Legislature's Joint Judiciary Committee is working on this legislation:

1. HB 0012 Juvenile Detention Admission Criteria: on form approved by the sheriff, which should include past criminal history, risk to public safety, risk of self harm to determine if arrested child should be detained in hardware secure, staff secure, shelter care or released to parent. Form probably will have a county attorney override provision.
2. SF 0009 Juvenile Detention Facility Standards: would require sheriff and other operators of detention facilities to develop and implement standards for both hardware and staff secure facilities based on national recognized criteria.
3. SF 0014 Circuit Court Hearings of Municipal Violations: would allow a city/town to petition Supreme Court to extend jurisdiction of Circuit Court in that jurisdiction to determine and try person charged with violation of city/town ordinance. Would give prosecutor ability to prosecute minor charged with municipal violation in Circuit Court.

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