

**STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE**  
**MINUTES**  
**APRIL 28 & 29, 2010**  
**GILLETTE, WY**

---

**WEDNESDAY, April 28, 2010**

**GAMB – Cottonwood Room, 412 S. Gillette Avenue**

**Noon: Lunch with Invited Community Members, Judges, Prosecutors**

**Recognition and Plaque Presentation to Campbell County Detention Center**

**Council Members In Attendance:** Donna Sheen, Judge Gary Hartman, Beth Evans, Gary Gilmore, Charlene Edwards, James Whiting, Rhea Parsons, Jordan Parsons, Kristina Smith, Rick Patterson, Jim Pond, Skip Hornecker, Don Rardin, Les Pozski, Ronn Jeffrey, Lori Hutchinson, Melinda Dennington.

**Others in Attendance:** Tony Lewis, DFS; Judge Dan Price, Sixth District Court; Byron Oedekovan, WASCOP; Chuck Kratz, DMC Coordinator; Jo Ann Numoto, Dpt of Education; Susan Cahill, Campbell County Juvenile Probation; Melodee Hanes and Elissa Rumsey, OJJDP; Erika Wood, Campbell County; Bonnie Volk, DFS; Lisa Finkey, Law Clerk, Campbell County; Sheryl England, YES House; Terry Siears and Kevin Allen, Campbell County Sheriff's Office/Detention Center; Ginger Largent, Washakie County; Ernie Reinhold and Bernita Carlson, Crook County Juvenile Services; Shad Bates, Goshen County; Debby Lynch and Craig Figus, VOA; Judge John Perry; Stacey Obrecht, GAL Program; Sue Chatfield, AG's Office; Debra Dugan-Doty and Jeff Bell, DFS.

**Call to Order**

- Chair Donna Sheen called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**Discussion**

- Welcome new members:

Jordan Parsons – stated that he wanted to be a part of the SACJJ to make a difference with youth and to understand the process/system better. Rhea Parsons added that Jordan has a good perspective on youth, and what is happening in the community.

James Whiting-

Skip Hornecker – Sheriff of Fremont County, told the Council he felt it was important to have a Sheriff on the Council.

- Welcome Judge Perry and Judge Price

**Committee Updates**

- Beth Evans, Data Committee update: (handout) Statewide data collection is all over the place; no consistent data collection. Main source of juvenile data comes from DCI annual crime in Wyoming report; juvenile arrests and crimes. The second system is developed and housed through Assessments.com with the PACT Assessment and the Jail Roster.

Craig Figus - VOA has committed \$100,000 to the data collection data base with the non-participating state funding.

Donna - The Joint Judiciary wants to have a data plan presented to them, what statutory changes need to be made, what funding is needed? Joint Judiciary meets in May, and it may be beneficial to have material compiled to present to them.

**2:00-5:00 p.m. Forum: Coordination of Information to Foster and Assist Community Juvenile Services Boards –Complimentary Activities, Initiatives and Projects**

*Teleconference will be available*

Community Juvenile Services Board Representatives

Department of Health Representative, Eydie Trautwein (via phone)

Department of Education Representative, Jo Ann Numoto

Department of Family Services Representative, Tony Lewis

Wyoming Planning Team for At Risk Children, Youth and Families (PTAC); Judge Hartman

Police Chief and Sheriff's Association, Byron Oedekovan

Legislative Representative

Volunteers of America (Non-Participating State Funding), Craig Fiskus

**Big Horn County, Lynn Davies:** Hire a diversion officer

**Campbell County, Susan Cahill:** 5 Programs written into plan. YES House 48-hour hold; Youth and Family Advocate Program; GPS Monitoring; Corrective Thinking Training for Community members, correctional officers, hospital staff, YES house staff; Juvenile and Family Drug Court.

Susan reports there were challenges with the application process for the CJSB grant. Campbell County already had a board put together, and also had assessments developed. The county had been looking at their gaps in services, so this was not a problem to decide where the money needed to go. The application asked for documentation that was readily available to the department, application was redundant, and was a nuisance and took far more effort than needed. The tremendous delay in the turn-around was also a challenge, as the funding was cut in certain programs. Tony Lewis, DFS, talked about the possibility of revising the applications to make the process easier. It would have been beneficial to have meetings to answer questions and help with the process. It may benefit other counties to receive assistance from those counties that have already completed the process.

**Carbon County, Dawnessa Snyder:** Interim level of care

**Crook County, Ernie Reinhold:** Diversion Program. Funding is not enough to sustain program. Hoping there will be more money in a few years. Local intervention; prevention is a huge focus. Sheriff has refused to sign agreement and receive money. Sheriff said juveniles are not held in jail. The application "made me crazy". The contract is not clear; a huge question about the detention risk assessment, why are we waiting for the sheriff's to come up with something?

**Fremont County, Chuck Kratz:** Funding will be used to support the single point of contact program through the juvenile probation office. Timelines were difficult and the dragging out of funding. Having difficulty with joint powers agreement; just received the RFP from the state for ISP, Reentry and Prevention, hoping to make application from Board. Fremont County will be involved in the JDAI project, and would also look at using funding to hire another prosecutor for juveniles.

**Laramie County, Alfreida Gonzales:** Commissioners approved the building of the new JDC. The county took advantage of the needs assessment that was conducted a couple of years ago. The funding will be allocated to those services that are needed in the continuum of care. Very involved board, and DFS will provide technical assistance to be sure the best-practice is used in designing and implementing the center. TA will be used for educational opportunities in juvenile justice to the community to ensure their priorities are straight in implementing the center.

**Natrona County:** 48-hour staff secure, treatment and evaluations, drug court treatment services

**Sheridan County, Neal Madsen:** Sheridan County has a strong continuum of services; good partnerships. Concerns: for a small portion of funding, will they have to change their system of how things are completed in the county? Have not seen the final contract. The application was not a big deal; everyone was helpful in the process.

**Sweetwater County, Joyce Corchran:** There is a great deal of resistance from the commissioners, but hopeful of getting support in establishing the boards. Diversion program improvement, re-entry program and a soft-bed facility. Jill Johnson, diversion program: training was received with Family Solutions; an evidence-based model program through OJJDP. Collaboration with juvenile probation. Tony Lewis reported that their program has been effective in keeping kids out of placement, and offered congratulations.

**Teton County, Nicole Krieger and Chris Moll:** 24 hour intake and assessment to screen juveniles (tentatively). Nothing has been approved. Would like to have the funding used for Risk assessment/central point of intake, crisis shelter appropriately staffed, and ISP. Application was very cumbersome and time consuming.

**Uinta County, Monica Anson and John Condan:** Community supervision officers, support 48 hour hold and youth alcohol court.

**Washakie County, Virginia Largent:** Funding to be used for an on-call youth alternatives worker to conduct an intake screening on juveniles. Application was easy, MOU was easy, but did not like the contract wording. Rosalynn Wiseman works with at-risk youth; coordinates with social services, schools, presents to different agencies.

#### **Panel: Questions and Answers/Presentations:**

**Byron Oedekovan:** the assessment form that the Sheriff's is developing as an initial screening process for juveniles that are entering detention. Are the dollars worth the effort? Yes

**Eydie Trautwein:** (handout of the Department of Health Continuum of Care for Community Juvenile Service Boards). The CJSB's should have access to all grants that the Dpt. offers in the areas of: Prevention, Community-Based Substance Abuse Treatment, Community-Based Mental Health Treatment, Residential Mental Health Treatment, Residential Mental Health/Substance Abuse Treatment. Medicaid will now pay for prevention services.

Joyce Corchran: very helpful and useful rundown of Department programs.

Chris Moll: Children's Mental Health Waiver, CHIPRA Demonstration Grant?

Eydie: The CHIRPA funding is for the development of care management entity; currently conducting a rules revision; a psychotropic medication review process; total health records; better analysis of hospital and PTRF programs.

**Jo Ann Numoto:** (handouts and also found on WDE website: Educations Strategic Plan and Court-ordered placement of students out of districts). Two school districts have block grants for at-risk kids. The CJSB's need to have a school district representative on the board to help them with educational issues.

Byron: Are all of the detention facilities receiving educational support?

Jo Ann: WDE is attempting to work with the school district and the detention center to provide services to youth in detention.

Byron: Council, there needs to be discussion and a recommendation to the joint judiciary as to statutory opportunities for the student's education to continue while in detention.

Donna: we would ask the CJSB to look into educational services in their community for juveniles that are in placement.

Jo Ann: Coordination between the home school district, the treatment facility/or the detention center is imperative so that the student receives continued education. In some cases, the credits earned are not transferred from one district to another.

**Tony Lewis:** Educational issues are a great example of how the CJSB's can be involved in their community and what expectations are not being met.

What about funding? The funding won't go away because the CJSB's is a different way in planning and budgeting. \$100 million per year between DFS, Education and Health is spent on the placement of kids. There is plenty of money available, and being spent. We want to work with each county and their needs to plan for the best use of their resources and to hold state agencies responsible for the best utilization of these resources. The goal of the CJSB's, is to enable the community and achieve success in keeping their youth in their community and home school district. The reduction of placements will free up money to go back into the community to spend on effective programs. Communities are suffering because funding is being cut to support the local programs that are providing services to youth and families. The Boards need to submit a plan for their community for an array of services to be funded by the State. A large piece that is missing in this planning is the data. Too many communities are using 24 hour hold for every intervention. We need to look at other interventions rather than 24 hour care.

**Judge Hartman:** Directors of State agencies: DOC, Dpt of Workforce Services, DFS, Dpt Of Education, and Dpt of Health have come together to determine what the big issues are in the State. These agencies are coordinating to establish and expand the CJSB's. Why not use the local Board as an avenue to address the needs of the youth in that community? Boards will play a greater role in establishing services for youth, and pushing funding down to the local levels. We are also looking at the boards to sustain services in communities.

**Byron Oedekovan:** Have been tasked with the establishment of detention standards and an intake screening. Statute takes effect in July, but process has already been started. Currently they are looking at different assessment forms already being utilized. They hope to have work out for review this summer, and a finished product by this fall.

The standards for detention statutes take effect in July. Six counties that currently house juveniles will be required to have standards. Some detention centers may refuse to take juveniles so they do not have to conform to those standards. The goal is to have a uniform set of standards for juveniles for detention.

**5:00 p.m. Meeting Adjourned**

**THURSDAY, April 29, 2010**

**Campbell County Sheriff's Office, 600 W. Boxelder**

**Council Members In Attendance:** Donna Sheen, Judge Hartman, Jordan Parsons, Rhea Parsons, Kristina Smith, Skip Hornecker, Jim Pond, Les Pozski, Don Rardin, James Whiting, Gary Gilmore, Melinda Dennington

**Others In Attendance:** Stacey Obrecht, Sue Chatfield, Debra Dugan-Doty, Tony Lewis, Jo Ann Numoto, Sheryl England, Bonnie Volk, Kevin Allen, Terry Siears, Byron Oedekovan, Bernita Carlson, Ernie Reinhold, Susan Cahill, Ilaine Brown, Tony Lewis, Elissa Rumsey, Shad Bates, Chuck Kratz, Debby Lynch, Virginia Largent, Melodee Hanes

**Call to Order**

Chair Sheen called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

## Discussion

### *Wyoming becoming a Participating State*

Sheen: There has been discussion with OJJDP helping Wyoming come into compliance; a large factor is the funding that would be lost if Wyoming does become a participating state. Other factors are the confidentiality issues that have come up with the non-governmental agency managing the non-participating grant and data collection. Collaboration with OJJDP will be important.

Melodee Hanes, OJJDP Representative, talked to the Council about the history of compliance and the juvenile justice act. OJJDP has a cooperative agreement with VOA with the non-participating grant awards. In 1996, Wyoming opted out to be a participating state. At this time, Wyoming has an opportunity to become a participating state again. The OJJDP acting administrator has agreed to give an incentive grant to Wyoming to help toward compliance. Currently, OJJDP is being reauthorized, and with the new statute, it will allow the money to remain with that state to assist with compliance rather than limiting it to two years.

OJJDP is proposing an incentive grant to Wyoming to become a participating state with three conditions: 1.) The Council must submit a proposed plan to OJJDP before June 30, 2010, with the plan focusing on how Wyoming will become compliant with the JJDP Act. 2.) The Council will still support VOA's application of the 2010 non-participating grant, pending the possibility of Wyoming becoming a participating state. 3.) The Governor needs to be persuaded that compliance is in the best interest of Wyoming; this recommendation comes from the Council, and needs to be backed by the Sheriff's Association and Prosecutors. Melodee understands that not all Sheriff's and Prosecutors will agree to this, but the SACJJ needs to work with these agencies to gain their support.

Judge Hartman: Wyoming's non-compliance is primarily because of the DSO and jail removal. He agreed that if the Council chooses to move forward on the compliance piece, we need the backing from the Sheriff's and Prosecutors.

Tony Lewis: He let the Council know that this is new discussion, and he is not a voting member of the SACJJ. However, he is listening to what the communities are saying, and yesterday several of the communities expressed the frustration that they are "nickel and dimed to death". They have to apply for too many small grants. The ultimate plan for federal funding is to better manage spending for programs, and to have it all in one pot rather than several smaller pots. Lewis feels that if the State becomes a participating state, the funding received from OJJDP may be easier for the communities and the state to determine what it should be used for, and easier for counties to receive funding.

Byron Oedekovan expressed his interest in what OJJDP's regulations are for compliance, and what the plan for Wyoming would be to come into compliance, and also how it will be managed.

Elissa Rumsey talked about the regulations, and told the Council that Jail Removal is obtainable. DSO would be the focus for Wyoming in the state plan, as this is a very strict regulation.

Donna Sheen talked about there needing to be a general standard of care for youth in Wyoming, and the fact that we are not in compliance is a tell-tale sign that we are not achieving the best for our youth.

Lez Pozski asked what the perspective of the Prosecutors around the state is?

Char Edwards talked about the need to find a middle ground with MIP's as a status offense vs. delinquent offenses, and having juveniles in jail.

Skip Hornecker questioned the value of being a participating state, if Sheriff's are able to have the Detention Standards adopted? If detention centers are following the standards, then they are anticipating that the rules are being followed. And what if the State/Counties don't want the money?

Sheen talked about the funding; there are already programs that are currently being funded by federal money, and we would hope to continue utilizing that money each year for those programs. Regarding the data concerns, and the inability to share and receive data for juveniles around the state, it is anticipated that federal funding could help with the data piece. Additionally, the confidentiality concerns would not be a factor anymore, as it would be DFS managing the data. And finally, with Wyoming becoming a participating state, it shows the commitment to kids.

Chuck Kratz talked about his experience back when Wyoming was a participating state vs. non-participating. The big advantage is that it allows Wyoming to be involved in best-practice trainings and research for our youth. It also allows the state to "be at the table" and partners with other states. By not participating, Wyoming does not have a voice.

Hornecker explained that he wears "two hats"; one being a member of the council, the other being a Sheriff. He asked, "What's the problem that we are trying to fix, if Wyoming is basically compliant?" He thinks the Sheriff's around the state have the fear of "jumping into the boat." They are very independent and need more information. He feels that it will take a lot of work to convince other Sheriff's and Prosecutors. If the funding is attached to DFS, there will be an issue with that. There is a lot of uncertainty, and the Sheriff's will feel like they are getting something "shoved down their throat".

Susan Cahill reported that Campbell County receives federal funding from both VOA and DFS. Initially, JABG money was a concern, as DFS was handling the money. However, they have been receiving JABG funds for over 10 years for their programs, and they have not experienced any unfair treatment, DFS and the SACJJ were flexible in allowing funding to go to different areas, and she worries what will happen to their programs if the funding is discontinued. Susan said it may be important to inform the counties, i.e. Sheriff's and Prosecutor's, what and how many programs around the state are funded with federal money.

Stacey Obrecht stated that Judges around the state are not willing to give up the ability to lock up repeat status offenders. She feels that it is important to include Judges in the discussion with Sheriff's and Prosecutors.

Melinda Dennington said she is going against the recommendation of Wyoming becoming a participating state.

- **Judge Hartman made the motion for the SACJJ to make the request to the Governor to sign an executive order for the State of Wyoming to become a participating state, upon the condition that a substantial number of County Sheriff's and County Prosecutors also support this request.**
- **Les Pozski seconded the motion.**

Kris Smith: Do we need to define "Substantial"?

Hartman suggested we leave it to the Governor to determine if there is enough support.

Pozski suggested that the Council needs to make the information available to the Prosecutors and the Sheriff's.

Jim Pond asked what the Judicial stance is on this? Will the Judges be on board?

Stacey Obrecht suggested that we need to include the Judges in this condition, along with the Sheriff's and Prosecutors.

Hornecker: What do we mean by substantial?

Edwards asked what we should do to get the support that we need?

Sheen suggested that we need to have a plan drafted to review for the June SACJJ meeting. Asked for volunteers to work on the plan, and also asked for volunteers to go and talk with the Sheriff's and Prosecutors.

**Sheen asked for a vote on the standing Motion: Eight members were in favor of the Motion made by Hartman; Five members opposed. Motioned was passed.**

**10:00 a.m. Break**

**10:15 a.m.**

Byron Oedekovan asked that the minutes do not reflect the names of the members that voted on action with the SACJJ. Judge Hartman made the motion for the voting members' names not be reflected in the minutes. Don Rardin seconded the motion, and all members present were in favor of the motion.

*DMC and Compliance Monitoring, VOA*

Debby Lynch: Some counties are opting out to report data for compliance monitoring. At this time, Converse, Park and Sweetwater County Sheriff's are not reporting data in the county jails. However, some of the city jails are still reporting.

There continues to be a decline in the numbers of juveniles in detention and a decline in the numbers of violations. Debby said the reform in Wyoming is obvious, and the progress that is being made as to how the juveniles are being handled. DSO continues to be an issue in detention facilities.

**10:30 a.m. WASCOP**

Byron Oedekovan: When going to the SACJJ website, failed to see an updated strategic plan, and wanted to see more discussion on youth services, prevention that reflects the goals and objectives of the Council. Where is the SACJJ's recommendation to the legislature regarding Education and Health initiatives? Where are the recommendations for the families, and for the early age interventions to youth?

Rhea Parsons asked if there is a list of services for each community?

Debra Dugan Doty and Stacey Obrecht talked about the Continuum of Care website, and further information will be sent out.

**10:45 a.m. Joint Judiciary Interim Committee Study: Court-Ordered Placements of Juveniles**

Tony Lewis, regarding the specific footnote that the legislation is looking for regarding data collection: Freeze the number of licenses and contracts with placement facilities to what it was as of January 1, 2010; look at the level of care, and define; what do we need in capacity for crisis beds, treatment; what alternatives need to be created to the 24 hour care? What the systems of care will look like within the next year?

Judge Hartman, Juvenile issues: Court ordered placements and the process in which they are placed; look at the possibility of putting together bills to make a recommendation as to the court process of the placement of youth. May 17 is the date of the joint judiciary meeting.

Donna feels we need to consider the MIP issue, and the challenge that detention centers are facing, as it is a major barrier with compliance. The SACJJ needs to keep making recommendations to the legislature. Another challenge that we are facing is the data collection piece. The Council should consider addressing these issues. We will work on email correspondence to share information and present issues.

Skip Hornecker adds that alternatives need to be presented to counties for juveniles that have been picked up for drinking/MIP's. Sometimes there are no other places for these juveniles to go that are being to be picked up, in addition to the repeat offenders.

Charlene reported that there needs to be alternatives.

**11:15-11:30 a.m. Other Business**

- June Retreat in Lander, Strategic Plan
- New Members and Appointments, New Members/Refresher Training on May 20, 2010
- Request support of Children's Law Center applying for OJJDP Conference Grant, Donna Sheen: OJJDP has released a grant to support Conferences and Training. Donna is interested in applying for the grant to train public defenders. Currently, there are no state agencies that are applying for the funding.  
Asking for a letter of support from the Council, and help in sponsoring the conference.  
Vice Chair, Edwards asks for a motion to support  
James Whiting supports motion.  
Judge Hartman seconded motion.  
None apposed.

**11:45 a.m.** Meeting Adjourned

**11:45-12:30 p.m.** Tour of Juvenile Detention Center