

WYOMING STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

Meeting Minutes

December 6-7, 2012

Casper, WY

Member Education: Wyoming Citizen Review Panel, Jo Ann Numoto, Board Member

- Citizen Review Panels are a federally mandated group of citizens who are responsible for determining whether state and local agencies are effectively meeting child protective responsibilities pursuant to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and subsequent amendments. Through review of service networks, policies, procedures, research and reviews of child protective and juvenile service cases the purpose of the Citizen Review Panels is to promote child safety, permanency and well-being for children and families
- Wyoming's Citizen Review Panel is comprised of the following: Wyoming Kinship Advocacy (WYKA), coordinated by Alice Carter; Wyoming Advocates for Youth (WAY), coordinated by Miguel Reyes; Wyoming Child Death Review and Prevention Team, formerly known as the Wyoming Child Major Injury/Fatality Review Team (WCDRPT) and Prevent Child Abuse Wyoming (PCAW), both of these entities are coordinated by Allison Anderson; and Systems and You Networking and Collaborating (SYNC) Reviews, coordinated by Kelly Hamilton
- There have been approximately eight (8) reviews this year and details can be found on the website. Kelly has resigned as the Executive Director so the organization is beginning to undergo restructuring. He will remain as a member of the Executive Committee to the Panel.
- More details can be found on the website: www.wycrp.org
- The 2013 National Citizen Review Panel Conference will be May 21 – 24, 2013 in Jackson Hole
- Alli Anderson added that the SYNC Reviews are used to review drug court systems around the state, both adult and juvenile

I. Call to Order: Thursday, December 6, 2012, 1:12 p.m.

- Eleven new members appointed to Council; mentors have been assigned to each new member. Member handbooks/manuals are available to all new members

a) Roll Call

Members Present: Beth Evans; Charlene Edwards; Allison Anderson; Shad Bates; Adrienne Freng; Hon. Steven Brown; Susan Cahill; Mackenzie Coyne; Gary Gilmore; Rene Kemper; Neal Madson; James Pond; Clinton Robinson; Don Rardin; Mark Russler; Donna Sheen; Bryan Skoric; Kristina Smith; Debra Sprague; Dawnessa Snyder; Les Pozsgo (Fri)

Present via Proxy: Lynne Davies, Les Pozsgo (Thurs), Dorina Kemper

Ex Officio's Present: Debra Dugan-Doty, Jo Ann Numoto, Alice Russler

Others Present: Merit Thomas, Governor's Office; Representative Tom Reeder; Craig Fiskus, Debby Lynch, and Chuck Kratz, Volunteers of America; Chris Smith, Paul Fritzler, Rachel Campbell, and Kelly Smario, Department of Family Services

- b) Declaration of Quorum: 23 members present
- c) Reordering of Agenda

II. Approval of Minutes

- **Motion: approve minutes from September 27 and 28, 2012 SACJJ meeting, made by Member Anderson; seconded by Member Sheen**
- Motion carried (22-0)

III. Budget Report

- a) A handout was provided by Chair Evans listing the federal funds that have been distributed to Wyoming over the past five years from the Department of Justice (DOJ)
- b) Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG)
 - Handout provided
- c) Title V Community Prevention Grant
 - Handout provided
- d) Title II State Advisory Group Award
 - Handout provided
- e) Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) – DOH
 - No update

IV. Reports of Committees

- a) Executive Committee
 - Chair Evans reported, as a result of the survey the members completed in September, the 2013 Calendar and meeting locations was drafted and sent to members
 - 2013 Schedule is accepted and stands as is; this schedule will also be available on the website
 - E Citations: Member Edwards looked into this; found the Prosecutors Association didn't seem to know specifics of the e-citations; according to an email forwarded by circuit court judge, four state troopers around the state began using the e citations in November.
 - Member Pond verified this was a project out of the Supreme Court for use by the Highway Patrol
 - Member Brown thinks this will make single point of entry difficult
 - Member Skoric said this violates the single point of entry statute; legislature is aware of conflicts
- b) Grants Committee
 - Grants committee reviewed nonparticipating grant proposals in October
 - This committee is an elected committee; a new chair and members will be elected for this committee in January

- c) Vision/Planning and Policy Committee
 - Member Bates presented the draft of the 2012 annual report; stated that knowing now what the Governor's expectations are for the Council, it will make next year's report easier
 - Input was provided for the annual report by Members
 - Report is due to the Governor by December 31
- d) JJDP Compliance Monitoring
 - Member Pozsgo recognized Rachel Campbell for developing training for the DFS caseworkers; will eventually make the training available to all CJSB members, too
 - Rachel Campbell added it was a good partnership with the committee; the training is developed for caseworkers, and was very well received; the training was concluded with a case study for resources in their communities; hoping to adapt it to the CJSBs and stakeholders
- e) DMC Committee
 - No report
- f) Outreach Committee
 - Member Anderson reported a list of resources was made to recruit youth members; would like to use these resources each year when it comes time to recruit new youth members
- g) Data Committee
 - Previously covered in meeting when discussing the Governor's request for the Council to evaluate data collection
- h) Legislative Committee
 - Member Sheen reported on two bills: Community Juvenile Services Board bill originally proposed by prosecutors and has since been revised (draft provided to council); updated version is not available on the web
 - Juvenile probation/parole life sentencing proposed bill is available on the web
- i) Bylaws Committee
 - Member Edwards discussed the proposed changes to the bylaws. These changes were sent to members via email and include: Article II, Section 5, the annual awards program to one county for providing best practices to youth; and Article VII, Section 3, the ability for nonvoting council members to sit on committees
 - **Motion: approve the changes to Article II, Section 5 of the bylaws, made by Member Pozsgo; seconded by Member Anderson**
 - Discussion: Member Skoric suggested "awards" needed to be defined, as it could mean a financial award. Member Anderson responded it is not a monetary reward, but a plaque and recognition
 - **Motion: amend "approval by full Council vote" wording, to "subject to approval by majority of Council vote of determination", made by Member Skoric; seconded by Member Sheen**
 - Motion to amend carried (24-0)
 - Motion carried to accept change, as amended, in Article II, Section 5 of bylaws (24-0)

- **Motion: approve the changes to Article VII, Section 3, made by Member Pozsgi; seconded by Member Rardin**
 - Member Brown opposed the motion because members need to be appointed by the Governor
 - Member Edwards responded that the chair of the committees have the ability to appoint members to their committee, but cannot appoint members to the Council
 - Member Brown said his understanding of the rules and procedures do not allow the appointment of participating committee members without being appointed members
 - Merit Thomas said she could take this back to their Attorney General for comment
 - Chair Evans said this is a way of encouraging perspectives and input from non Council members that may have expertise and/or experience in a particular area
 - Member Skoric does not think state statute prevents the participation of non members to committees, although the written by laws prohibit it; Member Skoric agrees with Member Brown
 - **Motion: table motion to approve changes to Article VII, Section 3 of the bylaws until a letter of opinion from the Attorney General can be obtained; made by Member Brown, seconded by Member Skoric**
 - Motion carried 24-0
- j) Youth Member Committee
- Chair Evans said there has been some discussion around a Facebook page for youth to connect and keep in touch
 - Member Robinson asked about doing some updating to the current SACJJ logo and website; will work with coordinator on this
- k) Nominating Committee
- Member Edwards reported they are working on nominees for Chair, Vice Chair, Executive Committee, and Grants Committee for elections at January's meeting
- l) Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ)
- No update

V. On-Going Business – Updates from:

- a) Governor's Office, Merit Thomas, Governor's Policy Analyst
- Merit Thomas reported that she met with Tony Young and Mary Kay Hill regarding issues of juvenile justice. She wanted to relay to the Council that Governor Mead is excited about the new member appointments and the work that is being done by the Council. A letter was provided to the Council from Governor Mead requesting the Council focus on three areas: recidivism, data collection and leveraging resources
 - Thomas said the Governor has asked the Council to come up with a proposed plan for a statewide data collection system, and the Governor would be willing to find the funding to support this data system

- Governor Mead is anxious to hear from the council and the council's priorities
 - Chair Evans reported on email correspondence received from Tony Young asking the Council to explore the pros and cons of the state to be compliant with the JJDP Act, and what we, as a state, are doing to comply with the requirements, and is Wyoming complying with the Act?
 - Chair Evans said we, as a Council, are tasked with four focus issues from the Governor's office for which we need to come up with responses at the January meeting
 - Sub-committees were established for the three areas (in Mead's letter) and fourth area requested by the Governor's Office (email).
- b) Community Juvenile Service Boards (CJSB), Rachel Campbell
- Currently twelve Boards are up and running; two are still working on paperwork and contracts
- c) Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), Rachel Campbell
- Monthly phone calls are conducted with the five communities
 - Annie E Casey Foundation is conducting reviews and system assessments in each JDAI site, beginning December 18 in Campbell County; looking for a comprehensive document to be created to examine what has been accomplished; how each system in each community is operating
 - Training will be held in Casper for JDAI participants in February 2013.
 - There's been a delay in reports being provided by Annie E Casey Foundation released for Wyoming; seems they are trying to determine accuracy of the data being collected; data is coming from the Juvenile Jail Roster
 - Member Sheen suggested Annie E Casey could be a resource for data collection in response to the Governor
- k) Coalition of Juvenile Justice (CJJ), Member Kristina Smith
- No updates
 - Merit Thomas asked if CJJ has annual meetings; Member Smith reported that Chair Evans attended the annual meeting last June
 - Chair Evans felt the guidance and materials received from CJJ is beneficial
- l) Tribal Reports
- No updates
- m) Non-Participating State Grant (VOA), Craig Figus (handout provided)
- Title II Funding was reduced by thirty percent; fortunately we have funds remaining from previous awards so we can alert counties of the cuts prior to the award period
 - The Council has elected to focus on a single community each year to recognize as one that is doing good work toward juvenile justice efforts; Hot Springs has been chosen for the 2013 recognition
 - DMC state wide assessment is being done in Fremont, Sweetwater and Laramie; report will be provided in March
 - DMC data collection starts with arrests in each county all the way through secure holds; it runs the full gamut of the juvenile justice system
 - Figus feels \$500,000 is feasible for the establishment of a data system; coordination may be more of an issue than the funding

- DCI did a mock system of a juvenile data system based on their adult data system, and the estimated \$500,000 came from that work up
 - Member Bates suggests that the data system interface with the DFS data system; duplication is unnecessary and a waste of resources
 - Member Skoric pointed out that Wyoming has a fragmented system and one large data system will not work in our state; with the systems that are set up locally in individual counties, those work for what they need the data for, but will not work state-wide
 - Member Skoric added that a huge state wide data system for juveniles is scary because of the confidentiality issues and the right to expunge those cases
 - Member Sheen said it is unfair that juveniles charged in the lower courts, their records are not expunged, but the juveniles processed in district court have the capability of having their records expunged
 - Member Brown agreed with Member Skoric saying a the state-wide data system is not possible; also in Natrona County, there are additional levels of courts; perhaps there should be a way to integrate law enforcement records for contacts and arrests
 - Member Pond added that it will be difficult to integrate all the systems and build a huge state wide system to capture all data
- n) Ex-Officio Members
- Jo Ann Numoto, Wyoming Department of Education, reported that the US Dept of Ed At-Risk funding is distributed directly to the school districts, and is commonly used for salaries; the Foundation Program is the gatekeeper for this funding
 - Alice Russler reported that the Department of Health's focus has currently been on budget; currently a 4% cut has been proposed to the Governor, and the Department is preparing for further budget cuts
 - Debra Dugan-Doty wanted to comment on the DFS data collection, and there are federal mandates on the information that is held; it holds not just the juvenile delinquency data, but also data for child protection, adult protection, CHINS and central registry
- o) Other Updates
- Chuck Kratz talked about the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) report on diversion in Wyoming; the report should be available in January
 - Merit Thomas asked about the Children's Justice Project through the Supreme Court; Member Sheen reported that the focus of this project is primarily abuse and neglect; they also fund and coordinate the annual conference

VI. New Business

- a) Subcommittees met and reported on their strategies for responding to the Governor's request for the Council to evaluate and make recommendations on the following:
- i. Recidivism – Member Edwards reported that the members for this workgroup are going to continue discussions and draft a response letter to the Governor.

Continued correspondence will occur primarily through email, so if anyone has anything to add to this issue, please email Member Edwards.

- Member Gilmore said the group talked about the possibility of the Council establishing a standard definition of “recidivism”, as there are many different ideas of what recidivism is.
- ii. Data Collection – Member Frenge reported their group met but determined more discussion will follow. There are current data resources available that will be accessed for the response to the Governor.
- May want to include the communities and the Clerk of Courts in the data system discussion; would also recommend the new state IT department (ETS) be involved in this decision-making process for input
 - Montana data system will also be a resource
 - Unless statues are changed, DCI is still marked as the housing agency for the state wide data system according to current statute
 - The nine points of contact will be looked at when considering the development of a data system
 - The group discussed the elements of a data system; web based, recidivism, training, confidentiality, levels of access, sharing of information, expungement of juvenile records
 - Would welcome input from all members
 - Member Rardin suggested and requested that all members be copied on the email discussion of these topics
 - Further discussion as to who would manage the data; is DCI responsible for both housing and managing?
 - Member Frenge emphasized that we need to be sure we’re not duplicating what is already being done with data collection; most counties have their own data system, and the data is being collected, but it’s being collected in different systems; we need to figure out how to bring those systems and data together
 - Member Skoric commented in Park County the PACT is not being used by the county, only by DFS; we need to determine what data is needed, why it is needed, and who needs it
 - Member Brown stated the supreme court has most of the data that is needed; the supreme court has their own IT department
 - Member Frenge agreed that the data is there (with the supreme court), but accessing that data is the difficulty; because of the way the data is input, trying to pull out the data that has been requested is very time consuming
 - Chair Evans let members know that per diem is available for those workgroups that need to meet face to face on this topic
- iii. Leveraging Resources – Member Anderson said this group talked about the need for data and recidivism pieces to be established to fully respond to what services are considered Best Practices. The workgroup also talked about:
- Using the DFS resource guide as a beginning point to establish best practice

- Putting a list of resources together to have members review and comment on
 - Chair Evans suggested the committee address the difficulty of accessing resources in some communities
 - Member Kemper spoke to the Council members about our priorities, and we need to remember that our work is for the kids, and what is best for kids in Wyoming
 - Continued work for all of the work groups will be through emails, conference calls and face to face; please coordinate with DFS, if needed
- iv. Compliance with the JJDP Act – Member Smith said the workgroup talked about the pros and cons of the federal funding Wyoming receives
- One benefit of the funding is it funds programs that are doing best practice for kids
 - DOJ is a good resource for the state in regards to technical assistance and data collection
 - However, since Wyoming is a non-participating state, the funding is “dinged”; and it could be exposing liability to sheriffs and police
 - Workgroup is looking at meeting in January to draft a response
- b) Member Robinson presented the proposed Foster Youth Bill of Rights to the Council. The intent is to have these rights given to youth when they enter the system; would like to emphasize that this bill was written by members of WAY (former foster youth).
- Donna Platon, University Law School and Stacey Obrecht, GAL Program provided assistance in drafting bill
 - Currently looking for a sponsor for the bill; Rep. Reeder said he would look at it and would be happy to give ideas and recommendation; may be also willing to sponsor the bill
 - Member Skoric suggested having a prosecutor look at the bill, and would be happy to offer suggestions
 - Member Gilmore and Member Sprague agreed to look at the bill and give feedback and suggestions as it pertains to their institutions
- c) Rep. Tom Reeder attended the Thursday afternoon session. He thanked the Council for inviting him to attend, and appreciates all of the work being done by the Council. Reeder commented that he would like further input on what needs exist around the state regarding juveniles. Reeder said he welcomes contact from anyone who would like to discuss juvenile justice issues with him.
- d) Other Business

VII. Community Participation

- a) Natrona County Prevention Coalition, President Jen Dyer and the Mercer Family Resource Center, Cori Cosner-Burton, Executive Director (handouts provided)
- Provides education, counseling and referral services for youth and families; four tiers are involved with these services that include: family programming, intervention, community connections and environmental strategies

- The CHINS Program is provided by the Mercer Family Resource Center; this is a supervision program that keeps youth from having to go through juvenile court; early intervention keeps kids out of placement and the courts
- The Youth Empowerment Group is a very strong group that does fundraisers, is involved in bullying and suicide prevention, and several other initiatives in Natrona County
- They suffered a huge budget cut because of the loss of the Department of Health funding; have increased local funding and fundraisers; receive CJSB and JABG funding, along with funding from the school district
- If the JABG funding was no longer provided for the CHINS program, it would be a drastic hit to their program; good collaboration with the local DFS office, and they would have to probably take the CHINS program back if the funding was lost
- The Prevention Coalition began ten years ago and has grown to about fifty community agencies that participate
- Approach is to prevent substance abuse and promote positive and healthy choices; they provide healthy activities for youth, outreach for community education, family and parenting support, environmental strategies and policy change
- Try to address needs of youth and families without duplicating services

VIII. Announcements

- a) Local legislatures are invited to each Council meeting. Representative Reeder sent a note Friday morning thanking us for being invited
- b) Received thank you note from Washakie County for the award/recognition
- c) Legislature meets January 8, 2013; next SACJJ meeting is in January in Cheyenne; please continue to access the SACJJ and CJJ websites
- d) Youth Mentoring Conference in January in DC
- e) Youth Manual available for Youth Members

IX. Meeting Adjourned: Friday, December 7, 2012 at 11:12 a.m.

- **Motion: made by Member Anderson; seconded by Member Freng**
- Motion Carried (20-0)

Minutes Approved:

Minutes Submitted by Lauri Lamm, SACJJ Coordinator