

State Advisory Council Meeting
August 13, 2008
Laramie, WY

Members and Guests Present: Judge Bruce Waters, Ilaine Brown, Christina McCabe, Lindee Wiltjer, Tony Lewis, Judge Gary Hartman, Craig Figus, Deb Lynch, Melinda Dennington, Gary Gilmore, Matt Keating, Donna Sheen, Marc Homer, Renee Kemper, James Pond, Lori Hutchinson, Chris Smith, Nicky Anderson, Ronn Jeffrey, Lori Furtic, Steve Aaron, Beth Evans, Eddie Trautwein, Chad Shaver, Jeff Bell, Nicole Anderson, Debra Dugan-Doty, Rick Robb, Brenden McKinney, Mona Schatz, Stacey Obrect, DeAnn Roll, Chuck Kratz, Jen Neely, Senator Kathy Sessions,

12:05 pm Meeting called to order by Judge B. Waters and introductions

New Member Orientation

- ✓ Background information of the Juvenile Justice in the United States.
- ✓ JJDP Act Information- requires that each state have a State Advisory Council
- ✓ OJJDP Office Information- oversees grants that fall under that JJDP Act
- ✓ Four core requirements of the JJDP Act
 - Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders
 - Deals with status offenders and other options other than locking kids up
 - Site and Sound Separation
 - Separating youth and adults in jail by site and sound
 - Jail Removal and Lock up
 - Kids under 18 should not be locked up in adult facilities and therefore should be put in juvenile facilities in a certain time frame.
 - Disproportional Minority Context
 - Deals with the % of minorities in the jail
- ✓ Discussion of how we use funding we receive through the Non- Compliance Grant
- ✓ Discussion of the County Commissioners Association and their role/ They administered these funds in the past. That money is now going to go through Volunteers of America (VOA).
- ✓ Role of the Department of Family Services with the SAG
- ✓ Discussion of the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant, Title V and Formula Grants (Lindee Wiltjer, Juvenile Justice Specialist)

Reintroduction due to other persons who arrived at 1:00 pm

Election of Officers

- ✓ Tabled until day two of this meeting to give some members who could only attend the second day.

New/Old Business

- ✓ Update on the Federal Advisory Council. Federal SAG Report will be released soon. Issues that will be addressed in the report will be mental health issues and

services provided to kids. The report will include advice on how to deal with these issues. Also, court appointed attorneys will be addressed in this report. DMC will be addressed and well as the new issue of what happens to youth who turn 18 while in custody.

- ✓ Discussion of the three year Strategic Plan that is mandated by the federal government. The Strategic Plan needs to be updated yearly, for which it is almost time to begin working on this.
- ✓ Discussion on whether or not we continue to be a member of the Coalition on Juvenile Justice. In the past we have been members and have been sent a letter asking the SAG whether or not they would like to rejoin their organization. The cost of this is \$2,500.00 a year.
- ✓ Discussion of the changes that are occurring in Wyoming in Juvenile Justice including the appointment of Judge Hartman as the Policy Advisor for Juvenile Justice for the Governors Office.
- ✓ Discussion of the annual report that is submitted to the Governor on what the SAG has done and any recommendation as to how we handle it. Opened the floor up to suggestions on how the annual report should be handled. Judge Hartman recommended that in addition to reporting on how the funds are used but also include recommendations as well as our 3 year strategic plan. Ronn Jeffery says that what we need to do is decide how we are going to get the report done. Judge Hartman's recommendation is that we break into smaller groups and discussion what everyone thinks is important then make suggestions that will be the basis for the report.

Broke up into groups to discussion annual report

Report back to SAG on what was discussed in small groups

Group 1- Reported by Judge Hartman

- ✓ Support single point of entry into Juvenile Justice system
 - Diversion
 - Use of district court resources
- ✓ Community Juvenile Service Boards
- ✓ Main Filter for Juvenile Services issues
- ✓ Problem solving courts

Group 2- Reported by Craig Fisgus

- ✓ Focus on Juvenile Justice Topics
- ✓ Continuum of care
- ✓ Diversion out of the system
- ✓ Unified Juvenile Justice System

Group 3- Reported by Gary Gilmore

- ✓ Representation of youth in the system
- ✓ Develop ideas and check with agencies on direction
- ✓ Brief discussion on compliance monitoring- should be a continued objective and a priority.

Group 4- Reported by Melinda Dennington

- ✓ Single point of entry

- ✓ Assessment Tool
- ✓ Looking at what we can realistically do in a years time.

***Discussion of how to compile all of this information. Ilaine Brown volunteered to assist in pulling the report together. Sub-committee meeting includes Gary Hartman, Gary Gilmore, Donna Sheen, Ronn Jeffery and Marc Homer. Gary Hartman will be the chair of the committee.

Subcommittee Reports

- ✓ Subcommittee regarding the Juvenile Justice Conference reported there were several suggestions as to what will plan to do but a decision hasn't been made based on the problem with getting judges in one place to have this type of conference.

Presentation by Tony Lewis, Director of the Department of Family Services

- ✓ Background information on the Department of Family Services
- ✓ He believes that the SAG and DFS should have a close working relationship.
- ✓ Priorities of the Juvenile Services Division based on restorative justice. It would be useful for the SAG to know what his goals are.
 - The goal include: implementation of the community service boards, work around the valid court order act, work is being done with the Wyoming Youth Services Association (WYSA) to safely reduce the number of kids in placement. Work is being done with detention center and residential treatment facilities as well.
- ✓ Discussion of how we are changing how we work with communities by building on the strengths. Stressed that the States role is to provide a frame work for JJ but to allow communities to do things in their own unique way.

Common Agenda for At-Risk Youth

- ✓ Introduction by Gary Hartman regarding the "Washington Assessment" and the Juvenile Justice System in Wyoming. Presentation of his new job with the governors office and his agenda.
- ✓ Department of Health/Department of Education/Department of Family Services
 - Presentation on how these Departments are working together towards common goals.
 - DOH- Mental Health and Substance Services Division- Eddie Trautwien
 - Overview of programs that work with at risk youth
 - Children's Mental Health Waiver
 - Services to families prior to out of home placement
 - Collaboration with Medicaid services
 - Family care coordination, Child care and Family Training are the three areas
 - Adult, Family, Juvenile and Tribal Drug Courts
 - Pilot Courts- Family Court and Problem Solving Court
 - SAGE Initiative- Federal Grant (6 year)
 - Collaboration with all Departments
 - Prevention Grants

- Based on community needs
- Medicaid Services
 - Collaboration with Office of Finance
- UDAL Grant
 - Focus on underage drinking
- Charter that was mandated by the governor where all the agencies focus on a plan for mental health services, as well as getting all agencies on the same page with for mental health services bills.
- DFS- Nicky Anderson
 - Overview of Coordination of State Agencies
 - Presentation of how these agencies are making efforts to get on the same page on issues as they pertain to at risk youth. They formed a governance group in an effort to begin this process.

Non-Compliance Grantee- Craig Figus, VOA and Debby Lynch, VOA (handout)

- ✓ Debby Lynch has been traveled the state working with Beth Evan on the compliance
- ✓ Distributed the RFP's on the 2nd of July (\$800,000.00 total to distribute to counties for two years) August 28th is the set date where the committee members will be getting together to review the RFP's and determine where the funding will go. 16 of the 23 counties applied. \$41,219.00 has already been obligated to the tribes.
- ✓ Valid Court Issue
 - Juveniles can be classified as status offenders. It is away to appropriately place kids in detention. The Valid Court Order has some specific guidelines. The report is that the feds are reviewing the guidelines and they may be tightened up.
- ✓ Single Point of Entry/Assessment
 - Exciting time, seems to be a lot of momentum
- ✓ Discussion about having trainings regionally on juvenile justice issues as well as issues relevant to the SAG with the help of VOA.
- ✓ Discussion about how to make recommendations back to the SAG as far as the Non-Compliance Grant award recipients. Hartman made a motion for the sub committee to meeting and discuss the RFP's making a recommendation via email to the other SAG members. Within 5 days of the email going out, if no one has responded the recommendations they will consider that an affirmative vote. Discussion took place and motion was voted on and passed.
- ✓ Discussion about the Coalition for Juvenile Justice and joining. Questions about what the SAG would get out of being a member of this Coalition. Motion to table it until we get more information about the budget and whether or not this is something we have funding for.

Discussion about tomorrow's agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 4:33 pm.

August 14, 2008

8:40 am Meeting called to order by Judge B. Waters and introductions

Opening Session

Safely Reducing Number of Kids in Placement

- ✓ Wyoming has high rate for out-of-home placement
- ✓ Keep children in homes and home school districts.
- ✓ 20/20 Casey Family Initiative
- ✓ Assumption that children are safer when taken out of the home and put in placement
- ✓ 7.75% of children in Foster Home were abused
- ✓ Recent CFSR supports reduction goal
- ✓ Community collaboration is the key
- ✓ Non-violent offenders are placed with violent offenders and learn from them.
- ✓ Recidivism within CPS 7%- Probation is 29% must be addressed to reduced placement
- ✓ ASPHA makes us look at outcomes
- ✓ Reinvest the money saved in kinship care and in home services.
- ✓ Look at length of time kids stay and get permanent placement as soon as possible.
- ✓ Front end helping parents raise the children is important
- ✓ Children are “hard wired” to their families
- ✓ Research shows that children are damaged by removal and not reunifying with families, as well as expensive
- ✓ Wyoming will need to work on infrastructure. Permanency is critical.
- ✓ Children in foster care have high rates of mental illness

Update on GAL Program

- ✓ Program used to be run by Supreme Court now through the Public Defender’s Office through legislation
- ✓ No conflict from overlap. Completely separate program.
- ✓ Supervise 113 contract attorneys throughout the state. One attorney contact in each case who funnels to attorneys.
- ✓ Set up for attorney to be at shelter care system.
- ✓ Standards and rules for GALs. At-will contract signed by attorney on probationary status. Application process. Standards set in contract which will need to be met.
- ✓ New rules for project. Currently using emergency rules. New rules should be in effect by the end of year.
- ✓ Case load amount will be changed. Training will be initiated. All information is on the website.
- ✓ Orders from Judges will be more specific.

- ✓ “Child Chat” conference call training for GAL’s.
- ✓ Hoping to have parent training regarding representation.
- ✓ Working on setting up resource library center; list serve; children’s handbook; tracking system on hours spent on case.
- ✓ Empowerment program for youth in care. Giving children voice at hearings and take ownership in decisions in the case.
- ✓ Clinic at the law school to follow through on a case from beginning to end.
- ✓ All children’s records are available to the attorney.

Community Juvenile Service Boards

- ✓ Work with SACJJ and have SACJJ hold DFS accountable.
- ✓ Initiatives about planning, service continuums, and diversion.
- ✓ Some counties have boards that are still in effect from first try
- ✓ Change model;
 - Look at the vision- how does it look, how should it look
 - Look at skills-
 - Look at resources-
 - Action Plan
- ✓ Some dissention- ACLU disagrees with this approach
- ✓ Single point of entry for youth should be used for diversion.
- ✓ Senator Sessions reported on information regarding the bill.
- ✓ Discussion of the role of DFS and the Wyoming Citizens Review Panel.
- ✓ Both Agencies will be assisting counties with getting their community service boards in place and provide ongoing support and education.
- ✓ Give counties the opportunity to choose to participate
- ✓ Discussion about counties efforts so far
 - County started with the independent consultant doing a study on the system in Laramie County. He provided short term and long term goals for the county.
 - Northwestern part of the state bringing people in and establishing services and seeing what we need and working on the assessment. People are being receptive.
 - Northeastern part of the state interested in Juvenile Services Boards. Some of his counties have boards in place. Main focus in his region the County Probation Office taking a lead role.
 - Southwest part of the state focusing on Sweetwater county right now.

Lunch 12:05 p.m.

Return 1:30 p.m.

DMC Training

Please see attached power point handout.

Committee

Steve Aaron Chair

April Dittman

Gary Gilmore

Ronn Jeffrey

DFS representative to be designated by Tony Lewis

Release of State Report

- ✓ Preliminary Detention Statistics Numbers from DeAnn Roll (handout)
- ✓ Juvenile Detention in Wyoming 2007 Compliance Monitoring Report (handout)
- ✓ Rural Exception approved retroactive to July 1.
- ✓ DFS hold issue- Tony Lewis to review and report back

Judge Hartman

Vision is that Sag take the lead on all Juvenile Issues in the state of Wyoming including:

- Wyoming Legislation
- Programs
- SAG set goals in 5 or 10 year plan
- Leadership to bring Wyoming in compliance with OJJDP
- Use our weight to problem solve courts in the State of Wyoming
- Leader for change to reorganize the unified court system in Wyoming with appropriately trained judges,

Talk to Julie Herr about training-Lindee

Future meeting- email Ilaine dates not available in October

Nominations for Chairperson

Donna Sheen for Chairperson

Matt Keating for Chairperson

Donna Sheen elected

Nominations for Vice-Chair

Bruce Waters for Vice-Chair

Bruce Waters elected

Nomination for Secretary
Matt Keating for Secretary

Matt Keating elected

Nomination for Treasurer
Lori Hutchinson for Treasurer

Lori Hutchinson elected

Membership committee sending inactive people to ask for resignation and if not then we will consider you will resign from the committee.

Motion to adjourn Donna Sheen
Second Matt Keating
4:51 p.m.