

WYOMING STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

Jackson, Wyoming
October 8 & 9, 2009
Minutes

Thursday, October 08, 2009

Council Members Present:

Judge Gary Hartman, Sheriff James Pond, Rhea Parsons, Matt Keating, Adrienne Freng, Lori Fertig, Les Pozsgi, Chair Donna Sheen, Kristina Smith, Judge Bruce Waters

Others Present:

Stacey Obrecht, WY GAL Association; Eydie Trautwein, WDH; Sue Chatfield, WY AG's Office; Cil Robinson, Montana Juvenile Justice Planner; Bob Peake, Montana Supreme Court Administrator; Tony Lewis, DFS Director; Debra Dugan-Doty, DFS Administrator; Craig Fiskus, VOA; Debby Lynch, Compliance Monitor; Chuck Kratz, DMC Coordinator; James Antal, OJJDP; Elissa Rumsey, OJJDP; Susan Davis, Colorado Compliance Monitor; Shawn Hosman, Assessments.com; Representative Keith Gingery; Linda Burt, ACLU; Lauri Lamm, Coordinator

12:00 p.m. Meeting called to order by Chair Donna Sheen

- Opening remarks
- Introduction of new members: Dorina Kemper and Vanessa Thurin, Youth Members; and James Whiting, Public Defender
- Adrienne Freng elected to CJSB Committee
- By-laws Committee will request TA from OJJDP
- JDAI PowerPoint will be forwarded to members
- Mark Homer has resigned from the Council; resignation accepted
- Sheriff Kozisek has chosen to step down and allow Skip Hornecker to sit in from the WY Sheriffs' and Chief of Police Association

12:15 p.m. Data Plan Discussion, TA from Bob Peake and Cil Robinson:

- Introductions from Chuck Kratz

Implementing OJJDP's DMC Reduction Model in Montana

- Cil's PowerPoint & Handout

1:50 p.m. Montana Juvenile Court Assessment & Tracking System (JCATS)

- Bob Peak's PowerPoint & Handout

Council Discussion: Taking what is discussed today and getting input from other parties (i.e. state agencies, county and prosecuting attorney's, sheriffs and police etc.) to see if this is the best way to go or if another might be better.

3:30 p.m. Joint Judiciary Update, Rep. Keith Gingery

Background, Deputy County Attorney for Teton County; Six years in Legislature; Committee Level – Senator Burns and he went to Idaho to Rand Young, Casey Foundation, Presentation. Young came to Cheyenne for Joint Judiciary Meeting and gave presentation. What legislature should be doing? Assessment tool needs to be mandated across state and detention standards. NM just passed bill. LSO bill was on agenda at Judiciary meeting. County Commissioners, County Attorney's and Sheriff's also need to hear presentation. This was accomplished in WY.

The County Sheriff's were shown the standards, and they were receptive. JDAI recommends a team of six in each county to review the standards. Not necessarily should be DFS setting standards, but JDAI standards. The County Attorney's are not necessarily receptive, including Park County. Skorik's way of thinking somewhat makes sense, and doesn't agree with OJJDP.

If we want to make a difference in Juvenile Justice, don't use the government as a stick. Talk more about how it can benefit the kids in your community, and this is what Annie Casey Foundation talks about and speaks to.

The County Attorney's are looking into what is working in each county, and accumulate into a book. The counties are worried that the State is going to mandate what they will do. Finding that balance has been difficult; the legislature isn't sure what they're supposed to do. It's difficult when a "concept" is brought to them.

Prosecutors want the ability to jail juveniles if they've been charged w/ 3 to 4 MIP's. The House may go for it, but the Senate feels it needs to be left as a non-status offense. DMC controversy...lots of data collection has been conducted...money being spent on mundane information and stats.

The Supreme Court's basement floor is all data collection; data from the Courts. Able to collect number of MUI's from one county processed in another county. Who is collecting the data? DFS? AG's? Supreme Court? Supreme Court has no control over the other courts (i.e. Municipal and Circuit). The data needs to come from the County Attorney's, or perhaps AG's or DFS.

County Attorney's are bad at data collection, but they may want money with it. Wyoming doesn't have County Probation in every county. County Attorney's really want county probation through their office, which will be more dollars. They fear the money will have to come out of the county general fund.

The Detention Standards Bill – Find a Standard to follow voluntarily; why do we need a statute?

The Assessments Tool – The argument is that we are taking over their discretion. However, this is a tool that supports their decision. Why does it have to be a state statute? Why can't they just agree to do the assessment? We would be in compliance w/ OJJDP.

Elissa Rumsey, from OJJDP's standpoint, there are some really good things going on in Wyoming. Campbell County's detention center is outstanding and should be modeled by other counties. Compliance is happening in Wyoming.

Gingery - The SACJJ needs to be the special interest group that needs to show bills to the legislature that work. Have it worked out prior to going to legislature, who is "running the show" for data collection.

4:00 p.m.

Community Juvenile Service Boards and Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, DFS Director Tony Lewis

Everything that Rep. Gingery said, Lewis has heard the same thing; "DFS is not going to tell me what I need to do in my county". The CJSB needs to be a community driven initiative, and building to a State level.

Activities: August- sponsored Rand Young in front of Judiciary Committee; September, sponsored Rand Young for County officials. DFS had proposed rules for standards for detention; we have backed off. This needs to be a JDAI piece rather than DFS authority. This may be an issue for the Council.

Lots of local work has been done. Meeting w/ Commissioners Association, and have asked for input as to what is working.

Juvenile Detention Reform (handout), and Sweetwater County Executive Summary (handout), Juvenile Services Needs Assessment; what is being done on a local level.

JDAI would be a good fit for Campbell County, Teton County, Natrona County; good things are already happening in these counties.

State level: PACT Assessment, 15 out of 23 counties have been trained. Central point of intake, working on how each county is conducting this, i.e. the physical structure. Single

point of Entry is the process. Detention is being discussed with Laramie and Natrona Counties; stabilize and get kids out of the facilities in those counties.

Continuum of Services – at the State level, we are working on a resource booklet for County Attorneys and Judges, pointing out less restrictive intervention all the way to most restrictive, and services that correlate to those levels.

JDAI – when meeting with Prosecutors, they need options for non-compliant status offenders. Wyoming spends \$20 million per year on placements. There are a lot of kids going into the system, and we don't know what to do with them. It's important that a formal assessment is conducted on a kid prior to referral being done. There's not the correct assessment being completed on these kids. A pilot program has begun in Converse County to do an assessment on kids to provide adequate treatment.

Sixteen counties have submitted interest in CJSB. The Council could support the interest in funding for children; money is being spent on punishing by placing them, rather than funding alternatives to placements.

Start promoting money for community services rather than placement costs. Communities need to take an interest in where their kids are; keep them in the community rather than send them to placements elsewhere.

Montana model is good. There's been a lot of discussion as to what needs to happen around the state; Shame and Blame game doesn't work with communities. You can't point the finger and tell them what they are doing wrong. We need to recognize what counties are doing right.

5:00 p.m. Compliance Monitoring and Core Requirements Overview

Elissa Rumsey, OJJDP and Craig Fisgus, VOA

There are similarities in what everyone is trying to do, in regards to Juvenile Justice.

The Data show us that we are missing services for juveniles that are not complying with court orders. We know that without policy, not everyone participates. Data shows us that programs don't fit for every circumstance/kid. Awareness on what the issues are needs to be brought to everyone's attention.

Elissa – There needs to be more awareness on what is going right in Wyoming. There's too much negative press.

Friday, October 09, 2009

Members in Attendance:

Sheriff James Pond, Judge Bruce Waters, Matt Keating, Judge Gary Hartman, Adrienne Freng, Lori Fertig, Kris Smith, Donna Sheen, Rhea Parsons

Others in Attendance:

Debra Dugan-Doty, Eydie Trautwein, Stacey Obrecht, Sue Chatfield, Linda Burt, Elissa Rumsey, Susan Davis, Cil Robinson, Craig Fisgus, Debby Lynch, Lauri Lamm

8:00 a.m. Invited Public Officials

Steve Weichman, Prosecutor

Teton County has good resources for juveniles. It is more difficult for prosecutors to hold accountability for juveniles because of the inability to use the Teton County jail. Weichman asked this Council to find common dialogue with the Wyoming Prosecutors, so they can get over their anger and move on to more productive work towards Juvenile Justice.

Weichman feels that our Governor has done more for Juvenile Justice in Wyoming than any other Governor. He thinks the Council needs to focus more on alcohol issues, and try to help Prosecutors rather than point out everything they're doing wrong. Weichman said he feels that OJJDP has an arrogance that portrays Prosecutors as stupid and unconcerned for Juveniles.

Weichman's opinion is that DFS Officers are not paid enough to keep them for very long, and the turn-over rate damages the juvenile services in counties. However, Weichman pointed out that the longevity has improved in Teton County.

Nichole Krieger, Prosecutor, feels that Teton County has a very good team that is involved in Juveniles. They are currently doing restorative justice work that has great results. Teton County is also doing a continuum of care and services for children that works for them. She believes Prosecutors want to do what is best for Wyoming children, and they aren't just trying to place them in detention. She feels that prosecutors really do try to find alternatives to placement and detention.

9:30 a.m. VOA Report and OJJDP Overview of Wyoming

Four Core Requirements: Elissa Rumsey pointed out that Wyoming is not the only state that is out of compliance, and WY is not the only state that considers MIP a delinquent

act. She wants the Council to think of ways that communities can start hearing the positive things that are going on in Wyoming with Juvenile Justice, rather than all of the bad things.

Susan Davis – Jail Removal Rules, Compliance Rates, DSO Violation Rates, Facilities in Wyoming:

Campbell County: Co-located, incredible facility, doing well and worth visiting; should be considered a model facility. Includes services for juveniles; school, treatment, recreation, etc. Charlene Edwards, Prosecutor in Campbell County, knew the center, knew her data, has done a very good job.

Campbell County had all of the Separation Violations in Wyoming, and it is anticipated they won't have any violations with their new facility.

Park County: They visited with County Attorney, Bryan Skorik. Thank you to Judge Waters for his time and commitment on the SACJJ and FACJJ.

Programs:

- RFP issues January 2010 to fund programs
- Target areas with lack of nonsecure alternatives
- Target areas with lack of continuum of services
- Support effective programming that has reduced reliance on secure detention
- CJSB: Continue to promote collaboration

Awareness:

- TA: Jail Roster Trainings, On-site monitoring and data collection
- Education: Facility, Judges
- Media: Positive Recognition

10:45 a.m. Committee Updates

Donna- Maybe we could get a press release on what the Counties are doing right, and raise awareness on positive efforts. VOA can submit their data, and the impressive efforts to reduce violation rates.

Regarding Mark Homer's video, the Council would like to address the concerns they have with the negative impact his video has had toward Wyoming's Juvenile Justice.

Adrienne Freng feels that there are other conversations that need to be made as to what the SACJJ is trying to accomplish and what our goals are. We need to form relations with Prosecutors, Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police.

Donna – Perhaps we need more information on Data. What needs to happen next is perhaps a move around data, and closing the loop around data. She suggested perhaps a data stakeholders meeting.

Adrienne – She agrees w/ Gingery, in that we need to decide who is able and willing to house the Data Collection.

Craig – He suggested that maybe VOA could help with the funding of Data collection.

Donna made an executive decision that December's SACJJ meeting will be postponed to January. At that time, we would do an election of officers. She will send out an email talking about that process.

There have been concerns of old members having to sit through the new member training. She suggests that we do a new member orientation in December, and to also invite prosecutors to this orientation.

Tribal representation is needed on the SACJJ. However, if we recruit more members, we also need more youth members.

The Strategic Plan will be a focus of the January meeting. We will also want to hear about the CJSB. The January SACJJ will be held in Cheyenne.

11:10 a.m. Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauri Lamm
Coordinator