



Governor Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
San Wong, Director

JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL

"To advocate for an effective, fair and equitable justice system for every Iowa youth."

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

via Google Meet

March 17, 2021

Present: Andrew Allen; Rev. Roy Klobnak; Christy Burkhart; Hon. Susan Cox; Patrick Garcia; Stephanie Hernandez; John Hirl; Kristin Hixenbaugh; Jeremy Kaiser; Trevor Lynn; Tony Reed; Aaron Sewell; Jennifer Tibbetts; Jeralyn Westercamp; Doug Wolfe

Staff: Steve Michael; Scott Musel; Kathy Nesteby; Jill Padgett; Julie Rinker

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Andrew Allen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. A quorum was present. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing concerns, the meeting was held virtually via Google Meet.

The purpose of the meeting was to approve items from the March 4 meeting that were not be approved due to lack of quorum.

II. Approve Minutes (September 2020, December 2020)

Roy Klobnak moved to approve the minutes from the September 24-25, 2020 Retreat, seconded by Stephanie Hernandez. The motion was unanimously approved.

Klobnak moved to approve the minutes from the December, 2020 meeting, seconded by Christy Burkhart. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. Coalition for Juvenile Justice 2021 Annual Conference Attendance

Scott Musel suggested the Council approve a specific number of members to attend the above virtual conference. Early bird registration is \$200. He noted that there is \$290 in credits from last year's conference due to the change from 'in person' to virtual.

After a brief discussion, **Klobnak moved to approve up to 20 registrations for staff and members at \$200 each, seconded by Doug Wolfe. The motion was unanimously approved.**

IV. Disproportionate Minority Contact Subcommittee: DMC Goals and Objectives

Allen reported that the DMC goals and objectives are coming from the DMC Subcommittee as a motion. He noted previous discussion and that the goals and objectives are coming forth as previously submitted.

Judge Susan Cox noted concerns regarding the inclusion of recommendations from the Racial Disparities report. She thought there would be unintended consequences and recommended that Goal 1, Objective E be stricken.

Allen asked if that was a motion and Cox replied it was. Allen noted that the goals and objectives were coming forward as a motion. Tibbetts questioned whether JJAC members could amend the goals and objectives since it was presented as a motion from a subcommittee. Cox then encouraged members to cast a 'no' vote. Concerns were noted regarding lobbying other members on voting.

Reed agreed with Cox. He didn't think the objective was in the best interest. Jeremy Kaiser asked if it were to be voted down, could the goals and objectives be amended. Allen responded yes.

Tibbetts expressed that the respective subcommittees have met to develop goals and objectives and was concerned that opposition was now brought forth. She added that subcommittee members are experts in their respective areas. She asked if guidance was provided to the DMC Subcommittee.

Jill Padgett reported that feedback from the December JJAC meeting was shared with the DMC Subcommittee. During the February DMC meeting, members voted to keep the word 'advance' and strongly expressed a desire to address issues that negatively impact youth of color and to keep moving issues forward.

Cox responded that the JJAC has a responsibility to oversee the work of committees. She noted comments by Chad Jensen and Alan Ostergren at the December meeting and asked that the segment be deleted.

Reed asked if feedback was received from the Chief Juvenile Court Officers. Steve Michael responded that they have requested case-level data on offenders held in 2019 and are doing further investigation to identify the rationale for holding some youth. That effort has not been completed. Michael added that in 2019, more African-American than white youth were held in detention for probation violations.

Michael also noted that the Racial Disparities report contains recommendations that require a series of actions to be taken prior to eliminating that option—effective community-based alternatives for youth on probation. The focus should be on enhancing that piece of juvenile justice. The report notes 'what will it take to make it happen' prior to eliminating that option—there are steps in the process and a lot has to be in place to make that work.

Wolfe asked if the recommendation is to support the report which supports legislative action, would there still be a legislative process to move forward?

Cox stated if you use the word 'advance, it is to move forward that legislative proposal. She thought that process would or could move fast. Instead of 'advance', she preferred 'explore' or 'discuss'.

A vote was taken and was unanimously declined.

Cox moved to exclude Goal 1, Objective E, beginning with 'advance', seconded by Kaiser.

Musel asked for clarification. He noted that would also remove support of the girls' justice initiative, minority impact statements, and prohibit racial profiling.

Cox clarified that her intent is to remove the statement "advance recommendations contained in the racial disparity report". Allen noted that the one sentence represents the entire Racial Disparities—Three Decision Points report. Musel added that it also includes pre-charge diversion efforts and waivers to adult court.

Allen read Objective E and noted that Cox's motion is to accept the goals, striking the final bullet in Objective E.

Tibbetts again stressed that the JJAC should not remove any wording, but should offer guidance to the DMC Subcommittee. Garcia agreed and thought more should be discussed.

Cox asked when the three-year plan was due. Musel responded that staff would like to begin development of the plan, although a deadline has not yet been provided by OJJDP.

Garcia moved to return to the DMC Subcommittee regarding concerns. He thought it was too important to strike the entire bullet. He would rather do it right. Allen asked Cox if she would be willing to work with the DMC.

Cox withdrew her previous motion and moved to remove the ‘use of detention for probation violations’, seconded by Kaiser.

Tibbetts express concerns with removing that portion. She thought it was not keeping true to the intent of the recommendation and noted that the Racial Disparities Report contained three recommendations.

A vote was taken and the motion passed with one nay from Tibbetts.

Allen noted that he expected to have continued dialogue with DMC Subcommittee members.

V. Iowa Task Force for Young Women Subcommittee: Gender Equity Goals and Objectives

Allen reported that the Gender Equity goals and objectives were coming forward as a motion from the Iowa Task Force for Young Women. There was no discussion. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

VI. Policy and Program Subcommittee: Other Priority Areas Goals and Objectives

Allen reported that the remaining priority areas were coming forward as a motion from the Policy & Programs Subcommittee. These areas relate to “Prevention and Intervention”, “Behavioral Health”, and “Transition of Youth”. There was no discussion. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

VII. Special Projects (\$125,155)

- Juvenile Justice Youth Subcommittee - \$10,155
- Prevention Programming - \$11,000
- Girls Grant Support - \$52,000
- Delinquency Prevention Grant Support - \$52,000

Allen reported that the Program and Policy Subcommittee is recommending the above funding amounts for special projects.

Klobnak moved to approve all funding as listed, seconded by Tibbetts. There was no discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. Unfinished Business—There was no unfinished business.

IX. New Business—There was no new business.

X. Adjourn

Allen thanked members for attending. The meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker, Administrative Secretary
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning