



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

JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

GOOGLE MEET
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022

Present: Hon. Jeffrey Neary (Chair, Ex-officio); John Haila, Vice Chair; Beth Barnhill; Kim Cheeks; Sarah Jennings; Tim Lane; Tina Meth-Farrington; Cody Samec; Dee Sandquist; Monique Scarlett; Sherri Soich; Kurt Swaim; Bruce Vander Sanden; Olivia Walker; Dale Woolery
Ex-officio: Rep. Mary Lynn Wolfe

Staff: Steve Michael; Mindi TenNapel; Shayla Gilleland; Julie Rinker

Others: Bill Freeland; Evan Johnson; Cheryl Nolan; Michelle Tilotta

I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Hon. Jeffrey Neary, Chair, welcomed all in attendance at 10:06 a.m. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes—March 1, 2022

John Haila moved to approve the minutes from the March meeting, seconded by Cody Samec. The motion carried with one abstention from Dee Sandquist.

III. Division Update

Steve Michael reported the following:

Research Staff—Two staff members are on maternity leave. Lanette Watson retired and her position has been posted.

Budget—The CJJP budget amount increased by 4%.

IV. Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) Grant Proposed Projects

Mindi TenNapel reported that through the federal Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, each year Iowa applies for SAC grant funding. (CJJP is recognized as Iowa's SAC.) Based on priority areas established by this Board in its three-year plan, the following are potential projects listed in the grant application:

- Iowa Decision Matrix
- Enhance Community-Based Corrections Dashboard with Charge and Conviction Data

Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning

- An Evaluation of the Department of Corrections' Workforce Programs
- Analysis of Iowa Sex Offender Registry
- Examine Pre-Trial Release Outcomes using Jail Data in Iowa's Justice Data Warehouse

V. 2022 Legislation Review

TenNapel reviewed proposed legislation that is still active:

SF2363—Relates to the Sex Offender Registry. The bill has passed the House and Senate, but has not been signed by the governor.

HF2079—This requires that a no contact order go before a Magistrate before being issued. It has been signed by the governor.

HF2462—This bill increases penalties relating to the manufacture, delivery, or possession with the intent to manufacture or deliver heroin. It has been signed by the governor.

FH2372—This bill relates to the attempt to intentionally terminate a pregnancy without the knowledge and consent of the pregnant individual. The penalty increases from a C to a D felony under Iowa Code 707.8(3). It has passed the House and Senate, but has not been signed by the governor.

HF2507—This bill transfers oversight of Juvenile Detention Home funds from DHS to CJJP. It has passed the House and Senate, but has not been signed by the governor.

VI. Updated Report on Juveniles Prosecuted as Adults

Michael reviewed key findings related to youth under age 18 who were prosecuted in adult court. The information included youth who were direct filed and those waived to adult court, as well as race, sex, county, most serious charge, prior juvenile court history, and subsequent convictions in a two-year period.

Michael noted the following concerns:

- The need to establish a consistent recidivism rate
- The trend for deferred judgements
- The overrepresentation of black youth.
- Identify how youth entered the adult system

Members voiced the following concerns:

- What type of legal representation do these youth receive—private pay or court-appointed?
- Overrepresentation of Black youth, especially in certain counties.
- More options are needed for judges regarding waivers.
- The need for services within the Department of Corrections for youth charged as adults.
- There is a need to extend juvenile court authority beyond age 18.

- Most offenders in this group are male. In consideration of brain development and age, what more can be done in the juvenile justice system to prevent these crimes, evaluate extenuating circumstances, and rehabilitate and intervene at an earlier age for these youth.

Michael provided information on the process and severity of offenses by which youth are waived to adult court. He also noted efforts to extend juvenile court jurisdiction beyond age 18. Before that could happen, more services will be needed for older youth.

Bruce Vander Sanden noted his past work as a probation officer assigned to a youthful offender program in Linn County. He noted the broad range of expertise required of probation officers in rural areas and the lack of services available. Larger urban areas have the ability to staff teachers and other specialists to work with youth in the adult correctional system. He applauded efforts to utilize improved risk assessments, but also noted concerns regarding the ability to address previous charges in the juvenile justice system due to confidentiality of information related to minors.

VII. Public Comment—There was no public comment

VIII. Issues for Next Meeting

Beth Barnhill asked to be on the next agenda to report on transformative and restorative justice training through the Iowa Board for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers.

Neary asked Vander Sanden about working with juveniles, replicating successful areas of the program and if someone could present information at the next meeting. Vander Sanden offered to contact other directors regarding specialized programs for youth waived to adult court.

Neary would like to further understand challenges and hurdles and possibly make recommendations. He asked Michael to work with Vander Sanden.

Haila asked if there is an assessment on the work of this Board and its effect on legislation through the recommendations provided in the three-year plan. Is that being tracked or is there an assessment tool? What more can be done to engage legislators?

Michael responded that there is some frustration that the data and research shared is not always heeded. In particular, proposed legislation on the sex offender special sentence. During the debate of the bill, information was not taken into account regarding the changes we would want in that legislation, including a standardized approach to risk assessments. He offered to start keeping track of recommendations.

Haila noted that the Board is given a specific charge to report to the governor and general assembly. He noted concerns on the lack of success of the Board's recommendations.

Vander Sanden agreed. Although they have held meetings with local legislators to address concerns with community-based corrections, many legislators believe a heavy hammer is the only thing that makes a difference. Studies by CJJP can impact internal processes outside of legislation. He would like to focus more on pre-trial areas to influence practitioners and others on the cost savings compared to treatment.

Cheeks noted concerns on the lack of support for parents/families once their child is in adult corrections. It doesn't matter how many laws and policies are passed if the plans are not implemented within the correctional system.

Michael noted that the next meeting will include a review of the three-year plan to begin discussing the next update which is due December 1.

IX. Adjournment

Haila moved to adjourn, seconded by Monique Scarlett. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting will be held September 21.

Respectfully submitted,

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