



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 REGULAR MEETING

Johnston Public Library, East Meeting Room  
6700 Merle Hay Road

Thursday, September 1, 2022

**Present:** Rev. Roy Klobnak; Christy Burkhart; Patrick Garcia; Stephanie Hernandez; Chad Jensen; Dan Larson; Jennifer Tibbetts; Hon. Cheryl Traum; Doug Wolfe

**Staff:** Steve Michael; Scott Musel; Arena Horn; Kathy Nesteby; Jill Padgett; Kayla Powell; Julie Rinker

**Others:** Evan Johnson, LSA

#### I. Call to Order and Introductions

Roy Klobnak, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:19 a.m. A quorum was present. Introductions were made

#### II. Approve Minutes (June 2022)

Jennifer Tibbetts moved to approve the minutes from the June meeting, seconded by Stephanie Hernandez. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### III. Youth Justice Council

- **Juvenile System Process Activity**

Kayla Powell reported that Youth Justice Council (YJC) members have started classes and were unable to attend today. They will join virtually for the December meeting. There are currently seven members, five are active, two are in either detention or prison. We are working to ensure that YJC is still accessible to them. They last met in March. They will be involved in the planning and facilitation of the Talking Wall. They are meeting with Drake Law School representatives on ways to partner this year.

- **Coalition for Juvenile Justice Youth Summit**

Four YJC members attended the Youth Summit in Tacoma, Washington last month. They learned about networking to achieve goals. Audi Espinoza has already begun to meet with staff from the Department of Corrections regarding ways to involve imprisoned youth. Espinoza and Ava Palmer applied to be on the JJAC earlier this year, but have not yet been appointed.

- **Creative Expressions**

Powell invited members to view artwork that was on display during the meeting. The artwork was submitted from youth across the state in group homes and detention centers. YJC members will evaluate the artwork for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards.

**Family/youth engagement summit**—Powell noted that this Council provided funding for the Youth and Family Engagement Summit held in August. The keynote speaker for the event was Dr. Shawn

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Ginwright. Approximately 390 attended (both in person and virtual). Powell provided information on those who won awards at the Summit. She will be meeting with Chad Jensen next week to review the evaluations. Jensen noted that comments have been positive.

Six of the eight judicial districts (1-3, 6-8) have formed Family & Youth Engagement teams. They will be meeting separately to advance local actions to support family and youth engagement. Flourish Agenda, Dr. Shawn Ginwright's organization, will be holding an intensive healing-centered workshop with organizational and state leaders. The purpose is to effect statewide policies and practices.

#### IV. Division & National Report – Steve

Michael reported the following:

- **Staff openings**—Three openings currently exist: Juvenile Reentry Navigator, Justice Systems Analyst, and a Budget Analyst.
- **Pre-Charge Diversion**—Local contracts were awarded to the City of Fort Dodge and Counties of Johnson and Scott for pre-charge diversion activities. The funding is provided by a recently awarded grant from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The purpose is to expand pre-charge diversion efforts.
- **Grant from state**—A few years ago, the legislature provided funding for a local grant that was awarded to Boys Town to provide services in Polk County. The legislation was later revised and the grant was awarded to Family Resources to provide services in Scott County.

Stephanie Hernandez provided more information on the Coordinated Assessment Program. The program provides services to families and youth ages 3-18. Assessments are conducted within 48 hours of referral. Caseworkers connect them to services, and provide support and follow up for six months to one year. Referrals may include advocacy, mentoring, counseling, housing, food, employment, help with utilities, and other services. The program launched in September 2021 and has served over 150 families, connecting them to over 51 community partners. Referrals come from schools, law enforcement, families, and other means.

- **Juvenile Reentry**—A no-cost extension has been awarded on the current reentry grant. CJJP has applied for a new grant, but hasn't yet been notified if the application was approved.
- **Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) grant**—CJJP has received research funds from the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) which will be used on several projects including work with the Iowa Department of Corrections (DOC) and with the Decision Matrix.
- **Detention Home Fund**—CJJP is working with Health and Human Services (HHS) to transition oversight of the detention reimbursement funds distribution process to CJJP. As part of this process, CJJP is reviewing administrative rules and obtaining input from detention center directors, JJAC subcommittees, and other interested parties. Once completed, we will submit a draft to the state to review and adopt changes.
- **Youth payments**—CJJP is developing an RFP to recruit and coordinate a Youth Action Squad in a local community and also establish a payment process for Youth Justice Council members. CJJP will provide oversight and guidance. This will be a pilot program.

## V. Title II Juvenile Justice Youth Development Allocation

- **Council Budget Report**

Musel provided an overview of past and pending expenditures. He anticipated a fiscal year-end balance of approximately \$8,991.76. On October 1, \$30,000 will be added. Musel noted that travel expenditures have remained low over the past couple of years. Upcoming travel expenses relate to the CJJ Racial and Ethnic Disparities conference in Louisville and mandatory staff training in San Diego. He anticipates a remaining balance of approximately \$58,500 by the end of December.

The compliance monitoring manual was approved by OJJDP which means 2021 funds will be released when the budget has been approved by OJJDP.

Padgett and Musel further discussed federal funding timelines and funding for a tribal program. In the past, the tribal funding amount was \$211 and the Meskwaki Tribe declined the funding. However, in light of the additional funding, the amount has been increased to \$19,386. An initial meeting was held with the Tribal probation officer, judge, and prosecutor. Federal requirements were discussed and potential programs were suggested. Tribal representatives are interested in developing a program/service. Another meeting will be held to further discuss options.

- **Title II Judicial District Expenditure Report, New Project Abstracts and Funding Amounts**

A handout provided an overview of project descriptions for each judicial district for the October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023 period.

- **FFY22 Revised Budget**

Musel reviewed the Title II Budget Detail Worksheet included in the meeting packet and discussed how funds are awarded and their expirations.

A lengthy discussion was held, the following highlights that discussion:

- Juvenile Court Services (JCS) in each judicial district develop proposals that align with the federal program areas. As this is defined, CJJP will ask how gender and DMC will be addressed.
- Title II Formula Grant dollars previously funded several Functional Family Therapy (FFT) services, but when the Families First Prevention Services Act went into effect, payment for the services shifted to state graduated sanction funding. As the judicial districts started new services, expenditures were less.
- Tibbetts asked if progress reports will include how race and gender are targeted and measured. Nesteby noted that the forms are still being designed in Iowa grants and can include that information where applicable.
- Garcia noted that the programs are approved by staff, yet members are tasked with oversight. He would like to have a more active role, look at gaps in services and make it attractive for districts and better for youth in Iowa.
- Michael reported that there are other related efforts outside of the Title II funding—pre-charge diversion, reentry, mental health. CJJP used to distribute Title II Formula Grant dollars through an RFP process, and can do that in the future, however, he likes the idea of identifying targeted priority areas and providing an opportunity for the Chiefs to be part of the process in how funds are spent.
- Musel added that the competitive process several years ago resulted in larger communities being awarded a majority of the funds. As funding was significantly reduced, the current process is more equitable across the state.
- Jensen noted that these amounts awarded to the eight judicial districts are low and must be added to other pots of money. He offered to have the chief juvenile court officers (Chiefs) present more detailed information. This is just a snapshot of some of the funding in JCS.

- Wolfe would like to know what other states are doing. He would also like to build a closer relationship with the Chiefs to better understand their needs as well as convey the Council's thoughts and concerns.
- Jensen asked about the increased funding amounts and uses. Michael responded that, historically, we spend the older funds first and add any carryover funds to the next funding year. We could take that funding and do a special project.

- **SPEP training/TA plan**

Nestey explained that the purpose is to conduct extensive Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP) training by the Peabody Research Institute at Vanderbilt University. The SPEP evaluates services, including those that are not evidence-based, to determine the likelihood that those services will reduce recidivism. Nestey provided further information regarding staffing changes within CJJP that prompted this training necessity and opportunity. The training would involve both CJJP staff and judicial district juvenile court staff for approximately 30 individuals.

Three training options were listed on a handout. Nestey thought the "On or Offsite" (middle option) would work best. Onsite training (one day) would occur with JCO staff, virtual training (two days) would occur with CJJP staff only. The projected costs range from \$6,300 to \$6,800 for the recommended option

Tibbetts moved to approved up to \$7,600 for training, seconded by Garcia. The motion passed unanimously

## **VI. Election of Juvenile Justice Advisory Council Leadership Positions**

Musel reported that the term of the Vice Chair and one at-large position are up for reelection. He explained the roles of each position. These positions are part of the Executive Committee which makes decisions on behalf of the Council when the entire Council cannot meet.

Klobnak (Vice Chair) and Tibbetts (at-large) were interested in continuing to serve in their respective capacity. Patrick Garcia was nominated for Vice Chair and Tibbetts was nominated for at-large. No other nominations were received.

A vote was taken and Garcia will assume the role of Vice Chair, Tibbetts will continue in the at-large role.

Roy Klobnak was nominated to serve in Garcia's now vacant at-large position. A vote was taken and Klobnak will assume that at-large position.

## **VII. Program and Policy Committee**

- **Juvenile Justice Advisory Council Meeting schedule**

Hernandez and Musel provided information on a potential new meeting schedule that was developed based on a member survey taken earlier this year. Members requested more frequent, yet shorter meetings, both in person and virtual.

A brief discussion was held and the topic was tabled to the next meeting.

## **VIII. Juvenile Justice Advisory Council Recommendations for Chief Justice's Juvenile Justice Task Force**

See next item.

**IX. Juvenile Justice Advisory Council Goals and Objectives: Priority Areas (2021 – 2023 Three-Year Plan)**

The above two agenda items were combined. Nesteby noted how the Chief Justice’s Juvenile Justice Task Force (CJJJTF) aligns with the council’s priority areas. The CJJJTF has six workgroups. Each workgroup has representation from both CJJP staff and JJAC members.

The following workgroup information was shared. Nesteby asked members to consider whether additional workgroup input/output was warranted. Most workgroups will be finalizing recommendations in the next 30-60 days. The CJJJTF will be compiling a report due December 1.

**Governance**—Chad Jensen reported that proposals were received for consultation services for a new case management system. A proposal from Zirous was selected. Other considerations include structuring Juvenile Court Services as a separate entity within the Judicial Branch with a stand-alone budget.

**Congregate Care**—Nesteby reported that this workgroup has been discussing a specialized setting for deep-end girls. The ITFYW submitted updated recommendations from the Iowa Girls’ Justice Initiative.

**Boys’ State Training School**—Musel noted that they are excited about the reentry program and expansion of that program. This group recognizes that an equivalent level of services for girls is needed. Consideration is being given to reviewing and updating admissions criteria.

**Dual System Youth**—Dan Larson noted issues that need to be addressed relate to communication between JCO/DHS caseworkers, legal representation should be handled by one attorney, judicial oversight by one judge, etc. Age limits for detention are also needed.

**Community-based Services**—Hernandez reported that a survey that was sent to providers across the state had a low response rate. The purpose was to identify gaps in services, employee experience, and other information. Consideration is being given to resend the survey. In the meantime, they are reviewing survey results and voice from lived experience.

Nesteby added that judges who sit on this workgroup have strongly advocated for pre-charge diversion and a broader use of SPEP.

**ReEntry**—Judge Traum reported that meetings have been held every Tuesday. The recommendations are close to being finalized. The biggest concern relates to the transfer of educational credit and standardizing reentry procedures for JCOs.

Jensen noted that the next meeting is September 23. Workgroups will submit recommendations in November. A report is due in December.

Nesteby encouraged members to continue discussions and advocate for these recommendations through legislative action.

**X. Compliance Monitoring Progress**

Musel provided an update on compliance monitoring, one of the four core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. He conducts on-site visits at every jail and detention facility once every three years. He is currently conducting site audits across the state. On average, Iowa has few violations and remains in compliance with the federal guidelines.

Tibbetts asked about prisons. Musel responded that youth in prison are generally charged with an aggravated misdemeanor or higher. Under federal definitions, an aggravated misdemeanor is

considered a felony. Therefore, once in state prison, youth under the age of 18 are no longer monitored by the juvenile system. However, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) does apply to prisons. He provided further details on PREA.

#### **XI. Unfinished Business**

- **Youth Appointments to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council**

Michael reported on past discussions to recruit more youth to serve on the council. During the June meeting, it was noted that per OJJDP the governor could designate another individual to appoint only youth members. That individual would most likely be the director of the Department of Human Rights. The appointment of a youth JJAC Co-Chair has also been discussed. After speaking with the governor's office, they were open to a youth co-chair.

Michael noted that the by-laws would need to be changed accordingly. He also noted that since the Governor appoints the Chair, she would also appoint the youth Co-Chair.

Members express the following concerns:

- The by-laws should be reviewed
- Not many youth who are on the council attend meetings.
- A mentoring component would prepare youth members for leadership positions.
- Based on the difficulty in recruiting and retaining youth members, how would it work with a youth in that role?

Powell noted the purpose of a youth co-chair is to center a youth-adult partnership with those who have lived experience/expertise. Those who have been appointed in the past do not have that experience. Two individuals with lived experience have applied, but have yet to be appointed.

#### **XII. New Business**

Musel noted that an opening exists for Midwest Region representative with the Coalition for Juvenile Justice. A description of responsibilities was included in the meeting packet.

#### **XIII. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 3:12 pm

Respectfully submitted,

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