

Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

321 E. 12th Street, Room 208
Des Moines, IA 50319

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

Hybrid—Google Meet

Present:

Steve Michael, Chair, Iowa Department of Human Rights
Julie Hibben, Iowa Department of Public Health
Gary Niles, Juvenile Court Services, 3rd Judicial District
Jay Pennington, Iowa Department of Education
James Piazza, SIYAC
Mary Sheka, Volunteer Iowa
Cayla Taylor, 4-H Youth Development
Doug Wolfe, Iowa Department of Human Services

Others Present:

Monserrat Saucedo, CJJP/AmeriCorps
Brianna Messer, CJJP/AmeriCorps, Iowa Youth Congress
Sonya Streit, Iowa Department of Human Rights

I. Welcome and Announcements

Steve Michael called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. A quorum was present. Introductions and announcements were made.

Michael reported the following:

- **Election of New Chair:** An election will be held at the June meeting.
- **Justice System Analysts:** Two analysts have been hired since the December meeting. They will work with adult criminal and juvenile justice related data and reporting.
- **Juvenile ReEntry Navigators:** Two have been hired and will work in the Cedar Rapids and Des Moines areas. A third navigator will be hired to work with youth at the Boys' State Training School. Their focus will be on disabled youth in the juvenile justice system who are exiting placement and will provide opportunities in career development and job placement. This is a pilot program that we hope to continue.
- **Pre-Charge Diversion:** CJJP has been awarded funding to expand pre-charge diversion in Iowa. Funding will be awarded to local units of government. The purpose is to refer youth to community-based services instead of juvenile court. Awards will be made through an RFP to communities looking to expand current services or for new communities wishing to offer programs.



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- **Early Childhood Iowa:** Shanell Wagler was unable to attend, but wanted to share that an MOU between the Department of Management and DHS provides for housing two Early Childhood Iowa staff members under the supervision of Janee Harvey. The purpose is to strengthen the early childhood system and develop efficiencies.
- **Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse:** Julie Hibben reported that the conference will be held virtually. Online registration has begun.

II. Approval of 12/08/21 Minutes

James Piazza moved to approve the minutes from the December meeting, seconded by Jay Pennington. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. 4-H Career Pathways Institute

Cayla Taylor provided information on the 4-H program in Iowa and the 4-H Career Pathways Academy, a 12-month program for all Iowa youth in grades 8-11. Approximately 100 youth will participate. The Academy will be held June 28-30 on the ISU campus. Attendees will learn about careers in healthcare, manufacturing, education, entrepreneurship, and the armed forces from speakers who will provide an overview of higher education and careers in those fields. Field trips to local employers will also be conducted. The program will provide youth with access to skills and opportunities in their local area as well as access to academic scholarships, entrepreneurship stipends, adult mentors, academic credit, and admission opportunities.

Each month thereafter, youth will engage in in-depth discussions on a particular field and participate in an 8-hour externship with employers in their area. The following summer, attendees will participate in an elevated academy, narrow their field of choice, and graduate from the program.

The goal is to reach as many youth as possible and eliminate barriers. Some financial assistance is available for transportation and conference attendance.

Kayla Powell asked if ICYD could be part of that. Taylor responded that they are interested in partnering with other agencies and provided information.

Update on Meetings with Directors and 3-Year Plan

Michael reported that meetings have been held with most of the directors of the member agencies. The purpose is to gain commitment to ICYD and the direction we are going. He added that the Department of Human Rights is committed to this effort. The next meeting will include an election for a new ICYD chair.

Several members provided a summary of meetings held with respective directors.



Powell reviewed the status of the three-year action plan. While several goals have already been accomplished, more work is needed to develop a positive youth development framework, representation from other youth groups in the Executive Branch, and appointments by directors to the technical assistance team.

A meeting was held with staff from the Department of Public Health regarding youth participatory action research and the Iowa Youth Survey. The purpose was to discuss ways to increase participation and use of the Survey data. A separate meeting was held with the Mid-Iowa Health Foundation regarding funding for youth initiatives.

IV. Youth Initiatives

A. SIYAC

Piazza reported that the five committees are working on issues—

- Racial Equity developed a podcast on accessibility and concerns.
- The Education Committee passed a position statement on the current education system and the need for skill building and critical thinking.
- The Health Committee is advocating their position on menstrual hygiene products to spread awareness on the issue.
- The Education Committee is advocating for more sustainability education.
- As a group service project, members are developing a “Condition of Iowa Youth” report that will include data from state agencies and a youth survey. Separately, one of the SIYAC member’s service project is to hold a mental health fair at his school that will include experts in that field.

B. Iowa Youth Congress

Brianne Messer reported that two bills remain active in the Iowa Legislature and relate to disability education and subsidizing extra-curricular activities. Since the last meeting, youth have held a legislative prep day and, earlier this month, participated in DHR Hill Day and a youth shadow week. Youth are working on service projects and skill building. Applications are being accepted for the 2022-2023 term.

C. Youth Action Squads

Michael reported there were thirty-one youth who participated in the Youth Action Squads. They will report this Sunday on their various areas of interest.

D. Youth Justice Council

Powell reported that the Youth Justice Council (YJC) is a newly-formed subcommittee of Iowa’s Juvenile Justice Advisory Council. The YJC will be composed of youth with lived experience and compensated for serving. There are currently seven members.



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YJC members have established the following priorities—a bill of rights for youth in detention; promoting access to female hygiene products in detention; develop care packages for youth in out-of-home placement; serving on the Chief Justice’s Juvenile Justice Task Force; and elected officers. Ava Palmer was elected Chair.

A meeting has been held with detention directors regarding female hygiene products, some have already ordered products. A meeting was held with DHS to provide youth of color access to adequate skin and hair products in out-of-home placement. A formal request will be made.

E. Youth Shadow Week

Messer reported that in February youth participated in a job shadow week and were paired with a variety of state legislators and state agency staff. Feedback collected from the participants showed a greater understanding of the importance of involvement in state government, while legislators and state agency staff reported on the importance of youth engagement within their professional role. One hundred percent of state leaders expressed interest in participating again next year.

F. Mid-Iowa Health Foundation

There was no report.

V. Agency Updates

DHS—Doug Wolfe reported that the DHS Director presented information to staff regarding the realignment with the Department of Public Health. The agency will be known as the Department of Health and Human Services. There were a lot of questions and discussions.

With regard to legislation, two bills are related to child welfare. One extends foster care to age 21 on a voluntary basis, the other changes Iowa Code §232 (child welfare). Contracts for foster care-related services are being reviewed. The focus is to keep youth connected to family and friends and provide effective services.

Juvenile Court Services—Gary Niles reported on an upcoming visit to Boys Town’s PMIC in Nebraska by JCS/DHS administration. The purpose is to access the state-of-art facility and 90-day program for Iowa youth. Youth who have completed the program have had good results. He noted capacity issues and the lack of programs in Iowa, especially for girls. He was hopeful that this would reduce lengths of stay for girls. Additionally, of the 18 specialized delinquency beds available at Four Oaks and Family Resources, 14 have been filled.

Volunteer Iowa—Mary Sheka reported that Volunteer Iowa is broadening its youth-serving programs in Polk County. The purpose is to reach under-served populations through a recently awarded grant.



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Department of Education—Jay Pennington reported that the state Board of Education will meet to review two charter school applications. Legislation that passed last year expanded charter school operations outside a public school district from non-religious organizations.

Pennington provided information on proposed legislation that would allow scholarships for students to attend a private school based on specific criteria. Other work includes retention incentives for teachers to be paid from CARES Act funds.

DHR—Sonya Streit thanked members for their efforts on behalf of the Department of Human Rights and youth in Iowa. She noted proposed legislation that would require that schools list a mental health hotline phone number on the back of school IDs.

VI. Review Next Steps on 3-Year Plan

- A. Finalize Interagency Technical Assistance Team**
- B. Positive Youth Development Framework Team**

This agenda item was discussed earlier.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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



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