



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

Google Meet

December 1, 2022

- Present:** Andrew Allen, Rev. Roy Klobnak; Christy Burkhart; Stephanie Hernandez; Chad Jensen; Dan Larson; Sheriff Dave McDaniel; Jacob Molitor; Jennifer Tibbetts; Hon. Cheryl Traum; Jeralyn Westercamp; Doug Wolfe
- Staff:** Steve Michael; Scott Musel; Arena Horn; Kathy Nesteby; Jill Padgett; Julie Rinker
- Others:** Audi Espinoza, Melvin Gaye, Zoie Points, Youth Justice Council; Laura Furr, consultant; Laura Kracht; Dawn Schott; Laurie Nash; Zach Engstrom; Felicia Carter; Ann Santos

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Andrew Allen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Introductions were made. A quorum was present.

II. Approve Minutes (September 2022)

Sheriff Dave McDaniel moved to approve the minutes from the September meeting, seconded by Jeralyn Westercamp. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Youth Justice Council

- **New Members**

Audi Espinoza, Chair of the Youth Justice Council (YJC), reported that there are three new members—Melvin Gaye, Faith Rupe, and Zoie Points. Points and Gaye were in attendance and stated that they joined YJC to advocate for kids who are experiencing similar circumstances as they did in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

- **Recommendations for Chief Justice Susan Christensen**

Padgett reviewed the 17 recommendations brought forth from the YJC to the Chief Justice's Juvenile Justice Task Force (CJJJTF). Since the YJC is a subcommittee of this Council, they are seeking approval of the recommendations. Upon approval, the recommendations will be shared with the Chief Justice and Chad Jensen, Director of Juvenile Court Services. (A full list of recommendations was included in the meeting packet.) Padgett also noted that several YJC members served on the CJJJTF and some of the workgroups. Espinoza added that the recommendations are based on the personal experiences of YJC members and responses from the Talking Wall.

The following highlights discussion:

- Jennifer Tibbetts asked about Recommendation #8: *“Allow sufficient time for youth to shower while in detention”*. She questioned whether 15 minutes was sufficient and wondered whether it should be phrased more generally to provide dignity.

Espinoza and Points responded that a specific amount of time was suggested so facilities could not reduce the amount of time. However, they were willing to work with detention staff regarding schedules and rules.

Dan Larson noted that the time constraints are in place in order for youth to get to school on time—10 minutes has been in place for 30 years. If a child has more hygiene needs, they are given more time, but this has usually been sufficient.

Tibbetts explained that she was more concerned with providing an adequate amount of time for youth to practice basic hygiene, to uplift the lives of youth in detention, rather than fit a schedule. Perhaps more showers could be added.

- Hon. Cheryl Traum noted Recommendation #17 *“Keep youth in their communities”*. From her perspective, there are times when it’s better to place youth further from home. She noted sex offender treatment or facilities that offer specific services, but may not be local. She also noted Recommendation #7 *“Mandate that youth have privacy during visits with family while in detention and other out-of-home placement”*. There may be safety concerns and suggested further study.

Espinoza offered to review and possibly redefine “privacy”.

Chad Jensen thanked YJC members for their careful thought and consideration. Because some recommendations require the involvement of other stakeholders, he suggested a meeting with YJC, CJJP, JCS, and the other entities. He noted that the final report by the CJJJTF is currently being drafted.

Tibbetts moved to support the recommendations and share them with the Chief Justice and Jensen, seconded by Roy Klobnak.

Doug Wolfe offered to help address policy changes, provide guidance, and training. He suggested developing a timeline to address issues with other stakeholders.

There was no further discussion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

- **Talking Wall**

Espinoza reported that the Talking Wall (TW) would be used in every detention, shelter, and group home. YJC members have been facilitating these discussions.

Gaye added that participating in the TW was a great experience. Some youth need encouragement in elaborating their concerns—for instance, “not enough time to eat”. How much time do you get? How do you utilize that time? He has encouraged youth to provide a little more information to further identify issues.

- **Current Activities**

Espinoza reported that YJC has planned a retreat in January. This is an opportunity to connect in person and tackle some projects on their agenda. Several members have been active outside of YJC. At the Family and Youth Engagement Summit in August, Espinoza presented information on authentic youth engagement in the courtroom and Points presented on healing-centered engagement.

IV. Division & National Report

Steve Michael reported the following:

- **RFP**—CJJP has received the applications and the review process has begun. The purpose is to develop a payment process for YJC members, establish amounts, and pilot the Youth Action Squad model on a community level. An award will be made soon.
- **Juvenile Reentry**—CJJP has been awarded a new grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The grant will extend and enhance current efforts for another three years and add an additional navigator within the state.

There are currently three navigators—Deidre Darold-Wilson at the Boys’ State Training School, Arena Horn in the 5th District, Alison Roe in the 6th District. A fourth navigator will be funded through an agreement between the 5th District and Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services. That position has been posted and should be awarded closer to the holidays.

- **Budget Analyst**—This position is still open and is being posted again today.
- **Sandy Lint Award from the Cultural Equity Alliance**—Espinoza was the recipient of this award. Michael congratulated her and stated she was very deserving of the award.

V. Title II Juvenile Justice Youth Development Allocation

- **Council Budget Report**

Musel reviewed expenditures and pending expenses. A balance of approximately \$41,759 remains. Allen requested that more details be provided on the handout. He would like to know the reasons for the charges. Musel will provide that information in the future.

- **Coalition for Juvenile Justice Conference, May 24-27, 2023 in Washington DC**

Musel noted that registration for the conference will begin prior to the next meeting and we want to obtain “early bird” rates. Traditionally, two attendees have attended—the chair/designee and one staff member.

Tibbetts asked if it would be beneficial to include a youth member? Allen agreed. Espinoza noted that this year’s theme is ‘amplifying youth’.

Tibbetts moved to approve up to \$6,000 to allow three individuals to attend the conference. The motion was seconded by Klobnak and unanimously approved.

- **Iowa Summit on Justice and Disparities, December 8, 2022**

Michael provided information on a sponsorship versus the cost for individual registration fees. There are currently 20 individuals interested in attending. The sponsorship is \$2,500; the individual rate is \$149.

Tibbetts moved to approve a sponsorship, seconded by Klobnak. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Coalition for Juvenile Justice Annual Dues**

Musel reported that the 2023 annual membership is \$5,000 per year. There is a 5% discount if paid in January.

Tibbetts asked about the benefits of membership. The following highlights that discussion.

- Gives us a seat at the table and a pulse on what’s going on—learn what other states are doing, connect with peers in other states, and ask questions of others.
- Last year, Iowa got a lot of visibility.
- They have been a great resource. We have received technical assistance in launching YJC, authentic youth engagement, youth payments, etc.

Tibbetts moved to renew CJJ membership, 2nd by Klobnak. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Title II Judicial District Expenditure Report & Program Progress Reports**

Padgett reviewed the status of the previous fiscal year (2021-2022) expenditures by the eight judicial districts. Any carryover funds will be added to the next year. We are currently working on reporting performance measures to OJJDP.

VI. Program Presentation – Too Good to Lose – 5th Judicial District

Padgett reminded members that in previous meetings, there has been interest in learning how Title II funds are spent and the activities they support. The “Too Good to Lose” Girls’ Court model program is funded through Title II funding (overseen by this Council) and blended with other funding by the 5th Judicial District.

Ashley Artzer supervises the program. Danielle Masten and Kelsie Kuhnert are juvenile court officers in the 5th District. Megan Golly is with Children and Families of Iowa.

Artzer provided historical information on how the program began in 2014 as a ‘dream’ and launched in 2016—this was around the time the Girls’ State Training School closed. The purpose is to prevent girls from going deeper in the system, address their needs, their trauma, and delinquency. Approximately 49 girls have been served.

Masten reviewed referral criteria. A major focus is risk—most are moderate to high risk and have had multiple failed attempts in the community. Many are recovering from violence.

The program utilizes a female-responsive approach. Staff are trained on female development and socialization, trauma, and are culturally competent. Of the 49 girls served, 53% are black, 4% Latina, 15% white. Safety is a priority—a list of family and friends is developed so the girls know where they can run, no questions asked, no matter the time of day or night.

Team meetings are held weekly—judge, county attorney, child’s attorney, and the three JCOs—they address individual concerns such as safety, violations, needs, and celebrate successes.

There are four phases to the Girls’ Circle program and each phase has specific expectations and requirements with weekly or bi-weekly sessions. Programming can include coordinating medical appointments, providing transportation, attending school meetings, yoga class, Junior League activities, modeling appropriate behavior to advocate for oneself, and activities that require them to reflect and openly talk about issues or insecurities. The medical team can include therapists, substance abuse counselors. Weekly reports are uploaded to the court docket for each female.

Artzer, Masten, and Kuhnert closed with success stories of several girls who have gone through the program and are now back in school, employed, and/or continuing their education beyond

high school. By connecting these young women to community-based resources, when the program ends, the girls more easily reach out because they're familiar with them.

Padgett noted that these funds fall under gender specific services and the program is unique in the state. She asked members to keep this model in mind as we look at investing, standardizing, and expanding in other places.

[recess for lunch 12:09-12:30 p.m.]

VII. Legislative Activities

Padgett noted past discussions where members have expressed interest in legislative activities. On January 12, the Juvenile Court Officer Association will be holding a legislative breakfast at the Capitol Rotunda and we have an opportunity to join this event. It is separate from DHR's "Day on the Hill" (normally held in late February/early March). The YJC will be participating. If this Council is interested in participating, she would develop talking points.

Allen encouraged attendance. He noted the role of advocacy and inviting legislators to visit with members and staff to learn more about this work.

After a brief discussion, there was consensus to host a table. Mileage will be reimbursed. Padgett will send a sign-up sheet.

The following were talking points suggested by staff.

- **Juvenile Court Minimum Age**

Members discussed age of culpability and the lack of services available for youth under age 10 who are in the juvenile justice system.

Klobnak moved to recommend that the age of culpability in Iowa be established at age 12, seconded by Larson. The motion passed with one nay from Traum.

- **Youth Bill of Rights**

Espinoza reported that a Youth Bill of Rights for detention is still under development. The purpose is to educate youth in detention on the availability of resources and what to do in certain situations—language barriers, hygiene procedures, hygiene products, what if your attorney doesn't answer the phone, etc.

Tibbetts moved to support a bill of rights for youth in detention, seconded by Jacob Molitor. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Iowa Girl’s Justice Initiative (IGJI) Supplement**

Nestebly reported that the recommendations for deep-end girls that were developed by the Iowa Girls’ Justice Initiative (IGJI) have been reviewed and updated. At the time the original recommendations were developed, the emphasis was towards a setting for girls. Since then, the recommendations address the need for services, legislation, policy, and bed space for deep-end/high-risk girls. She reviewed a draft of the recommendations that was included in the meeting packet.

Klobnak moved to approve the recommendations, seconded by Larson. The motion passed with one abstention by Wolfe.

Nestebly asked that the following be approved and inserted into the existing document:

“While all recommendations in this section apply to a placement of last resort level of care, in the five years since these recommendations were made, another inequity has been produced within the deep end of the system. Two “specialized settings” for delinquent boys were created in 2022 with the intention of preventing multiple out-of-home placements. No similar settings have been created for girls. As a result, girls do not have access to a placement of last resort OR a specialized delinquency.”

Tibbetts noted that the Iowa Task Force for Young Women is in support of this addition.

Tibbetts moved to approve the addition of the above paragraph, seconded by Klobnak. The motion passed with one abstention by Wolfe.

- **Staff recommendations for legislative agenda**

Michael reviewed a draft of recommendations that were discussed today and in the past. All of these positions were previously approved with the exception of the minimum age of culpability, the Bill of Rights, and the recommendations for high-risk girls.

After a brief discussion, there was consensus to develop a handout based on recommendations that have been approved.

VIII. Youth Justice Awareness Month (YJAM) Position

Allen noted that, in October, the governor issued a proclamation for Youth Justice Awareness month.

IX. Coalition for Juvenile Justice Technical Assistance Reflection

Laura Furr reported that they are wrapping up their technical assistance, but will continue to be available. She asked members comment on the changes and improved outcomes since the involvement of the YJC—she noted youth compensation and a toolkit for youth engagement which both resulted from technical assistance efforts.

Allen noted that because of these efforts, this meeting included a robust conversation brought about by a youth perspective. YJC members have pressured the Council to ensure that youth engagement is genuine and authentic.

X. Juvenile Justice Advisory Council Meeting schedule

There was consensus to adopt this schedule and revisit the issue a year from now. **Wolfe moved to adopt the meeting schedule, seconded by Tibbetts. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Due to time constraints, the following agenda items were not discussed.

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

XII. Racial and Ethnic Disparities Conference Report

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

XIII. Healing-Centered Engagement Related Trainings

XIV. HiSET in Juvenile Detention

XV. Compliance Monitoring Progress

XVI. Unfinished Business

XVII. New Business

XVIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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