



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

**JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL
IOWA TASK FORCE FOR YOUNG WOMEN**

Mission: Promoting innovative female responsive techniques through education and advocacy

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

February 5, 2021

Present: Jennifer Tibbetts; Ashley Artzer; Andrea Dencklau; Andrea Dickerson; Jackie Ellenbecker; Julie Martin; Danielle Masten; Lori Rinehart

Staff: Steve Michael; Kathy Nesteby; Tiara Mosley; Jill Padgett; Kayla Powell; Julie Rinker; Kylie Spies

Others: Tiffany Berkenes; LaTasha DeLoach, Interim Chair, DMC Subcommittee; Mandie Engle-Cartie; Taren Ferguson, Job Corps

Introductions/Announcements

In the absence of Jennifer Tibbetts, Lori Rinehart served as Chair and called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. A quorum was present. Introductions were made. There were no announcements. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing concerns, the meeting was held virtually.

Approval of Minutes

- May, August & November

There was consensus to approve the following minutes:

- DMC-ITFYW Joint Meeting May 1, 2020
- ITFYW Meeting May 1, 2020
- ITFYW Meeting August 7, 2020
- ITFYW Meeting November 6, 2020

JJAC/CJJP/COVID Update

Steve Michael, CJJP Division Administrator, provided information on the various councils within CJJP and their structure. The Juvenile Justice Advisory Council and its subcommittees work together to address juvenile justice-related issues and develop priorities as part of the three-year plan as required to receive Title II funding from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The three-year plan is due this spring and will cover federal fiscal years 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Michael also reported the following:

- CJJP is looking into applying for a five-year, \$1.5 million delinquency prevention grant through OJJDP. Ninety percent of the funds must be spent at the local level. The goal is to provide

services to keep youth out of the system. If awarded, Iowa would focus on pre-charge diversion to enhance community efforts.

- CJJP applied for an OJJDP grant last year to reduce risk for girls in the juvenile justice system, however, the grant was not awarded. CJJP is applying for the same grant this year.
- Todd Nuccio, State Court Administrator, announced his resignation effective April 30.
- With the change in presidential administration, Karen Harp is no longer OJJDP Administrator. Chyrl Jones is now Acting Director.
- Through the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ), Senator Elizabeth Warren asked for feedback on proposed changes to the JJDP Act. CJJP compiled a response to be shared with Senators Warren, Grassley and Ernst. Some changes relate to race and gender and gender, in particular, is added to several areas of the draft legislation. Staff will track the status as well as any proposed legislation. Tibbetts requested a copy of the draft legislation.
- CJJP has pre-filed legislation to comply with the JJDP Act which requires youth waived to adult court be held in a juvenile detention facility. The legislation (SSB1109) requires a review and findings by the court unless there are safety issues for the community and the juvenile.
- The Governor's office has pre-filed an anti-racial profiling bill which would require CJJP to analyze law enforcement data and provide a report. Michael noted concerns with extra duties, funding, and changes to the Justice Advisory Board (JAB) membership and structure.

Human Rights “Day on the Hill” - Feb. 25

Michael reported that this year's event will be held virtually due to the pandemic. Plans are being finalized. Some committee chairs may be asked to present information through a video. Tibbetts requested a meeting to further discuss a plan for the event and what members wish to share.

TF members willing to join the JJAC also

Nestey reported that there are a number of upcoming vacancies on the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council. Those interested can apply on the Iowa Talent Bank website:

<https://talentbank.iowa.gov/board-detail/2908ad6c-cc29-4004-876b-c60e9e1c1950>

Racial Disparity Report—“Racial Disparities - 3 Decision Points in Juvenile Justice”

Michael provided a brief review of the above report and its recommendations. A copy of the report was included in the meeting packet. The report was released in November, 2020.

Nestey asked about progress of the recommendations. Michael responded that JCS is open to reviewing several areas that would not require legislation. However, additional resources are needed to implement some of the recommendations and would require funding appropriations by the legislature.

DMC Subcommittee Update

LaTasha DeLoach, Interim DMC Chair, reported that the next DMC meeting is February 10. She invited members to join the meeting. A separate work group has been seated to address disparate impact on black girls in the juvenile justice system. Members will finalize DMC priority area goals and objectives.

NYTD Report and Discussion

Kayla Powell reviewed the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) report on 17 year olds in the foster care system. The report was released two weeks ago and was included in the meeting packet. She reviewed the types of data collected and gender-related comments from the 'Talking Wall'. Members requested copies of the comments and will review them at the next meeting.

Tibbetts assumed role as chair.

Mission Discussion

- *Promoting innovative female responsive techniques through education and advocacy*

Tibbetts asked members to review the mission statement to determine whether it's still relevant or should be changed. A brief discussion was held. Tibbetts offered to meet with Rinehart and Nesteby and will provide suggestions at the next meeting. Members were encouraged to volunteer their ideas.

Find Our Sisters

- Taren Ferguson, Executive Director, Ottumwa Job Corps
- Volunteer for next meeting

Powell introduced Taren Ferguson, Ottumwa Job Corps. Ferguson reported that students have been absent since the start of the pandemic last March and are just now returning. Eligibility requirements include meeting minimum federal poverty guidelines. They have approximately 250 students. A variety of training is provided. The facility provides disability and mental health services to help youth overcome/manage issues to secure higher education and/or employment. Skills encompass social interaction, independent living, relationships, and behavioral coaching in a structured environment.

Staff are trained in ACES, trauma-informed approaches, and collaborate where student support is needed.

All students are screened for past criminal history and are drug tested. Those who test positive are given 45 days and are dismissed if they retest positive. During that time, a student assistance program is provided. Youth with felony or sex offenses with a minor are not allowed. Youth on probation are allowed time to meet with their probation officer.

Youth with substance abuse issues are allowed if they have completed a program and may come directly to Job Corps following treatment. Staff include a health/wellness manager, mental health consultant, and center coordinator who strive to meet the needs of each student entering the facility.

Nesteby and Tibbetts offered assistance, including staff training, to better understand needs of young women in the program.

Nesteby asked for volunteers for next meeting. Tibbetts will contact Tanager staff for a presentation.

OJJDP Grant

- “Reducing Risk for Girls in the Juvenile Justice System”

Nestebly reported that CJJP is currently writing the above grant application. The PnP Subcommittee has recommended that the JJAC allot \$52,000 to supplement the \$450,000 grant. If awarded, a competitive grant process would invite provider applicants to start or expand female-responsive services in their area. The grant focuses on rural areas and/or chronic, high poverty areas. Iowa would focus on poverty and black girls will be the target population. The grant deadline is the end of March. She anticipated the award would be announced before September 30. Task Force members may be asked to review the RFP, provided they have no conflict of interest. A project abstract was shared earlier and feedback was requested.

ITFYW Goals and Objectives 2021-2023

- **Review and action step planning**

Nestebly reported that action steps were added to the goals and objectives. She asked members to review prior to submission to the JJAC for approval.

A brief discussion ensued. Andrea Dickerson recommended changing ‘girls’ to ‘females’. Nestebly will incorporate that change and review for any grammatical changes.

- **Workgroup meetings**

Nestebly discussed monthly work group meetings to focus on the publication and any other work required. There was consensus to meet virtually on the first Friday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Attendance would be flexible during those meetings. Calendar invitations will be sent.

New Membership

Tibbetts encouraged members to invite others and provide speaker suggestions.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Adjournment

Tibbetts thanked members for attending. The meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker
Administrative Secretary
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning
Iowa Department of Human Rights