



Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
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 MEETING

Urbandale Public Library
3520 86th Street, Room A
Urbandale, Iowa

May 1, 2015

- Present:** Jennifer Tibbetts, Chair; Ashley Artzer; Linda Bisgaard; Julie Hibben; Margaret Johnson; Lori Rinehart;
- Guests:** Beth Rydberg; Eddy Vanderwaak;
- Staff:** Steve Michael; Kathy Nesteby; Matthew Garvey

- **Introductions/Announcements**

Jennifer Tibbetts opened the meeting at 10:15 am. Introductions were made at this time. There were no announcements.

- **Review of minutes**

- February meeting

The minutes were approved by consensus.

- **Iowa Girls Justice Initiative (IGJI) Grant Proposal**

Jennifer Tibbetts and the Iowa Task Force for Young Women (ITFYW) expressed their gratitude for the work done by Kathy Nesteby, Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) and the Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (Friends) on the successful IGJI proposal. The abstract describing the activities to take place within the IGJI was included in the meeting handouts.

Since the announcement of the awards, the American Institutes for Research (AIR), which has overseen the grant process, has contacted Jennifer Tibbetts and Linda Bisgaard (Chair of Friends) and informed them that grant funds cannot be used for payment of any state employee salaries. AIR and the National Girls Initiative (NGI), the originator of the grant, were provided with a detailed budget, including state salaries, as part of the proposal they selected. Of the \$100,000 budgeted, \$35,000 were allocated for payment of staff salaries and an additional \$45,000 were allocated to hire a facilitator, who would augment state staff. These positions would be responsible for both

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project and data gathering/analysis work.

Further discussion involving AIR, NGI and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) as well as Friends, the ITFYW and CJJP is needed regarding the usage of grant funds as communication from AIR with the Iowa parties has been poor to date. A plan to pursue a joint conference call is in place to that end.

ITFYW members supported this plan as it would allow for better informed decision-making regarding whether to accept or decline the grant. Without state employee salaries or a facilitator salary, only \$20,000 would remain. Those funds are currently budgeted for national experts and travel.

The consensus of the ITFYW was to decline the grant if state salaries and a facilitator salary were not included.

Next steps, assuming IGJI is fully funded

Hire a facilitator. ITFYW members are encouraged to think of potential applicants.

Determine a pool of national experts that might be used in building a cutting edge juvenile justice system for girls. Some suggestions made during the meeting include: Meda Chesney-Lind (Hawaii), Paula Schaefer (Minnesota), Lawanda Ravoira (Florida) and Francine Sherman (Massachusetts).

Explore what other state are doing that may be working for juvenile justice girls. Jennifer Tibbetts suggested that Oregon and Connecticut have strong efforts based on her recent attendance at a gathering of states to discuss females and juvenile justice in DC. Ashley Artzer shared that Hawaii's girls' court is a good model as it takes a holistic approach and provides more up front services to prevent young women from going deeper into the system. Guest, Beth Rydberg, also suggested Missouri.

Expand ITFYW membership and schedule for purposes of IGJI. A number of suggestions were made for new members to include in this expanded group. The expanded schedule will likely include monthly meetings. For current ITFYW members, there will still be four official meetings per year. Additional meetings for IGJI purposes will not require current ITFYW attendance and if missed will not affect membership status.

- **Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJAC) Update**

- *Budget Request.* The ITFYW submitted a \$27,500 (\$25,000 staff and \$2,500 training) budget request to the JJAC. The Policy and Program subcommittee of the JJAC will meet in May for budget deliberations with the full JJAC meeting to be held in June resulting in a final budget.
- *Legislative Update.* Legislation allowing JCS to extend services to 18-21 year olds has passed and been signed by the Governor. (SF412) Also passed and signed by the Governor was legislation related to confidentiality of juvenile records (SF292) and commission of class "A" felonies by juveniles (SF448).

- *State Budget Appropriations.* A status quo budget has been submitted by CJJP. House, Senate and Governor's budgets still need to be reconciled.

- **Progress and Planning for Goal and Objectives**

GOAL: Strengthen, through collaboration, the continuum of care for females involved in the juvenile justice system.

Objective 1: Advocate for legislation, policies and rules that create an appropriate level of in-state care for high risk, delinquent young women;

Action Steps Taken or Planned - The Women's Equality Commission is interested in the position paper. Senator Liz Mathis may be a champion for IGJI/Task Force. Jennifer will meet with her. Members may consider inviting their legislators to attend ITFYW meetings. A press release for IGJI can be done pending the outcome of negotiations regarding funding. Talking points for the current position paper are finished and available.

Objective 2: Educate and train stakeholders and increase public awareness on the importance of female-responsive services;

Action Steps Taken or Planned - Department website is being tested and will be running soon. It will contain ITFYW information. Use of social media by state employees is currently forbidden. Jennifer Tibbetts will create a Facebook page for the ITFYW. The ITFYW will partially fund and use TA from Meda Chesney-Lind while she is in Iowa presenting to the juvenile judges conference in June.

Objective 3: Pursue new research/data as well as analyze and link existing research/data regarding juvenile females in the justice system.

Action Steps Taken or Planned - IGJI grant funded (pending). An RFP is being considered for proposal by CJJP (\$50,000 to use in the research of girls in the juvenile justice system). Senators Grassley and Whitehouse have initiated the process for reauthorization of the JJDP Act. Analysis of data from some program evaluation (SPEP) work done by CJJP is currently underway with the purpose of examining any variations in service effectiveness based on gender and/or race/ethnicity. Although a full accounting still needs to take place, at present, based on the above program evaluation, there is only one known (evaluated) female responsive service.

- **Adjournment**

The meeting ends at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Garvey, Administrative Assistant (temp)
Department of Human Rights