



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

June 3, 2021

Present: Rev. Roy Klobnak; Patrick Garcia; Stephanie Hernandez; John Hirl; Kristin Hixenbaugh; Chad Jensen; Jeremy Kaiser; Trevor Lynn; Dave McDaniel; Jacob Molitor; Tony Reed; Aaron Sewell; Jennifer Tibbetts; Jeralyn Westercamp; Doug Wolfe

Staff: Steve Michael; Scott Musel; Kathy Nesteby; Jill Padgett; Kayla Powell; Julie Rinker; AmeriCorps Staff: Nixon Benitez; Brianna Deason; Elle Fitzgerald; Brianne Messer; Tiara Mosley

I. Call to Order & Introductions

In the absence of Andrew Allen, Chair, Roy Klobnak, Vice Chair, welcomed all in attendance at 10:08 a.m. A quorum was present and introductions were made. Due to COVID-19 and social distancing concerns, the meeting was held virtually via Google Meet.

II. Approve Minutes (March 2021 & March 2021 Special)

Doug Wolfe moved to approve the minutes from the March 4th meeting, seconded by Jeralyn Westercamp. The motion was unanimously approved.

Wolfe moved to approve the minutes from the March 17th special meeting, seconded by Aaron Sewell. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. Division & National Report

Steve Michael reported the following:

- **Staff changes**—Two individuals are retiring--Jeanne Foster, Budget Analyst, and Jeff Regula, Statistical Research Analyst.
- **CJJP Budget**—The House proposed an increase of \$60,000 to cover cost of living salary increases.
- **Juvenile Justice Early Intervention grant**--Two years ago, this grant was awarded to Boys Town to provide prevention services to delinquent youth and their families in the Des Moines area. The new grant criteria states that a provider cannot receive the grant for more than two consecutive years. It also states that the provider must provide a comprehensive, multi-faceted delivery of social services that meet the guiding principles and standards for assessment centers as set by the National Assessment Center Association. Three communities (Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Sioux City) qualify based upon population. CJJP will work with the Iowa Department of Administrative Services on the bidding process and send notices to the communities.
- **Legislative meetings**—Andrew Allen, LaTasha DeLoach, Jennifer Tibbetts, and Michael have met with several congressional legislators and/or their staff. More information was provided later in the meeting.
- **JJAC member terms**—Several members' terms expire June 30. Jeremy Kaiser has expressed that he will not re-apply. Michael thanked Kaiser for his service. Kaiser thanked members for their efforts and reported that he has enjoyed working with council members.

IV. JJAC Attendance Requirements and Expectations

Scott Musel noted attendance requirements based on Iowa Code §69.15. Staff are working with the governor's office to obtain new appointments that meet federal requirements.

Members expressed a preference for virtual meetings. Michael responded that staff have held discussions on the matter and will work towards holding hybrid meetings when possible, depending upon the availability of meeting rooms that provide quality WiFi for virtual access.

V. Title II Juvenile Justice Youth Development Allocation

- **Council Budget Report**

Musel reported that a balance of \$28,925 remains. Upcoming expenditures include Mitigating Gender and Racial Bias training for up to 19 members and Coalition for Juvenile Justice conference registrations for Jill Padgett, Andrew Allen, and Jennifer Tibbetts. Approximately, \$9,000 will expire on September 30, and on October 1, another \$30,000 will be added. Staff will request an extension for the expiring funds, but for now, assume it will expire. Staff will continue to monitor expiring funds.

Musel also reported on technology needs. CJJP is requesting \$1,000 of council funds to provide webcams and headphones for 10 staff members. He anticipated the actual amount would be less.

Jacob Molitor moved to approve spending \$1,000 in council funds for webcams and speakers/ headphones, seconded by Kaiser. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Title II Judicial District Progress Reports**

Musel provided an overview of handouts related to spending by the eight judicial districts as of June 30. Several have spent their entire allocation, while others have not due to issues related to COVID or other reasons. Approximately one-third of the total spending remains at this time.

Tibbetts asked about unspent funding in the Sixth District regarding the "(In)Power" program for girls and whether the funding for the program would expire. She noted the importance of continuing gender-focused programs. Nesteby noted that the program ended due to a lack of female referrals.

Musel responded that unspent funds are returned to the allocation and redistributed based on child population in each judicial district. The oldest funds are spent first. As COVID restrictions end, more youth will be referred to programs.

- **Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) Virtual Conference – June 9th – 11th, 2021**

Musel reported that the CJJ conference is next week and will be held virtually. Andrew Allen, Jill Padgett, and Jennifer Tibbetts have registered. A draft agenda was included in the meeting materials. Attendees will be asked to report on the conference at the September meeting.

- **CJJ Racial & Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) Conference, Louisville, KY – November 2nd & 3rd**

Musel reported that a draft agenda was included in the handouts. In the past, one staff member and the DMC chair have attended. This year's conference is hybrid (virtual and in person) in Louisville. Early registration (\$295) ends July 31. He asked if the Council would like to send any attendees.

Tibbetts asked if there was any additional benefit to sending someone in person to the conference. Musel responded that it would depend on the individual's comfort in traveling. Attending in person does provide more opportunities to network and meet with peers.

Tibbetts moved to approve funding for one individual to attend in person (either the DMC chair or DMC coordinator) and 10 slots for virtual attendance. The motion was seconded by Wolfe.

Following a brief discussion on the number of DMC members and the availability of council funds, Tibbetts amended the motion:

Tibbetts moved to approve funding for two in-person attendees (the DMC chair and DMC coordinator) and 20 virtual attendees, seconded by Wolfe. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Mitigating Gender and Racial Bias Training – June 24th & 25th**

Nesteyby noted that the above training will be held virtually on June 24-25 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. each day. Under the contract, there are 19 seats—12 are now filled. The remaining seats may be filled by this Council or its subcommittee members. Several reminders have been sent.

In the event the remaining seats are not filled, Nesteyby asked for approval to open the remaining slots to targeted groups such as the Black Girls in Juvenile Justice Work Group, juvenile court staff, and those who provide Title II funded delinquency prevention services to youth in Iowa.

Molitor moved to approve expanding to the targeted audiences, seconded by Sewell.

Kaiser asked to include detention staff and the motion was amended by Molitor.

Wolfe asked if other groups should be included.

Tibbetts suggested School Resource Officers as a way to get material into schools. Nesteyby responded that she was not opposed, but thought it may be difficult to contact them with schools not in session. She suggested that if training is offered again in the fall/winter, consideration could be given at that time.

Tibbetts asked if the funds were already spent. Nesteyby responded 'yes' and that the training would be held regardless of the number of attendees. The intention for the training was for members to be informed about gender and racial bias when conducting all council work.

There was no further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.

- **FY2021 Delinquency Prevention Grants Program Letter of Support**

Padgett reported that the RFP was recently released for the above-referenced five-year federal grant. CJJP is in the process of applying for it. The grant will enhance pre-charge diversion efforts. She noted that the Council previously approved some funding towards the grant. Staff are requesting approval to develop a letter of support from the Council. Once complete, a copy of the letter and final application will be shared with council members.

Jennifer Tibbetts moved to approve developing a letter of support to be signed by Andrew Allen on behalf of the Council. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Hernandez and was unanimously approved.

[The Council recessed for lunch from 11:50 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.]

VI. Justice Advisory Board Priorities

In the absence of Hon. Jeffrey Neary, Justice Advisory Board Chair, Steve Michael reviewed priorities established by the Board. Some priorities relate to juvenile justice.

VII. “Hill Day” Visit Summaries

Michael reviewed documents shared with Iowa’s congressional delegation during recent virtual meetings: historical federal funding, current delinquency-related efforts, a summary of juvenile justice in Iowa, and a request for letters of support for grant applications.

VIII. Youth Justice Council Progress

Kayla Powell provided the following on youth engagement activities:

- **Youth Justice Council—**
 - The Youth Justice Council (a subcommittee of this Council) will launch in July.
 - A technical assistance request has been submitted to the Annie E. Casey Foundation to provide guidance on policies, membership/eligibility, as well as aging youth in the juvenile justice system. A meeting will be held tomorrow with a provider.
 - Powell and Padgett have met with representatives from the Juvenile Law Center in Pennsylvania to develop policy and descriptions.
 - Nixon Benítez has been hired through AmeriCorps as a Youth Development Specialist. He is in the process of recruiting youth members.
 - Membership will be comprised of approximately 8-12 youth from across the state. Several youth have expressed interest. Powell encouraged members to assist with recruitment and orientation.
- **NYTD Ambassadors—**Brianna Deason has also been hired through AmeriCorps to develop a NYTD Ambassadors group. The goal is to partner with NYTD alumni to develop outreach strategies and youth engagement activities.
- **Youth Justice Summit—**As a result of comments from the Talking Wall, a Youth Justice Summit is under development. The summit will target juvenile court staff and other system professionals. Information will be presented by youth with lived juvenile justice experience and will include adolescent brain development.
- **NYTD Creative Expressions Art Contest—**Youth in out-of-home placement have submitted artwork based on “assumptions and stereotypes of youth in the system”. Council members will be asked to vote on the artwork. Awards in the amounts of \$100, \$60, and \$35 will be provided.

IX. Pre-Charge Diversion Statewide Results

Padgett reviewed a handout summarizing statewide results for pre-charge diversion for 2015 to 2019. Youth served by pre-charge diversion programs had a lower recidivism rate (15.8%) when compared to those who were served by Juvenile Court Services (29.5%). While data for 2020 are not yet available, that information will be included in the next update.

Padgett noted that expanding pre-charge diversion throughout the state is a priority. There are a number of communities piloting pre-charge diversion programs. Recidivism is being tracked and analyses are being conducted on the demographics of youth who recidivate after participating in the programs. One area of concern is with uniformity across the pilot sites—program length, cost, and curriculum.

Information has been shared with Juvenile Court staff and providers in areas where pre-charge diversion programs exist. This information includes a provider specific summary as well as statewide results.

Chad Jensen asked if the data were for all first-time simple misdemeanors. Padgett responded that first-

time simple misdemeanors were compared to the same types of allegations in current pre-charge diversion programs.

Tibbetts requested that gender and race be included in future updates. Padgett agreed.

X. Iowa Legislation

Musel reported the following:

SF357—This bill brings Iowa into compliance with the federal JJDP Act requiring youth waived to adult court be housed in a detention center unless ruled otherwise by a district court judge and in conjunction with hearings at specific intervals to review placement in an adult jail. Musel is providing training to law enforcement at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy as part of his regular training there and also during his compliance monitoring visits. These youth will likely have longer lengths of stay which may be anywhere from 28 days to one year. Some regional issues may arise depending upon detention center capacity and current census. Musel added that due to sight/sound separation requirements for delinquent youth housed in adult jails, these youth are frequently held in isolation. This will alleviate that issue.

Kaiser commented that youth will have access to services not available in county jails. While there are some short-term issues, it is the right thing to do.

HF802—Michael reported that this bill relates to *mandatory* training by public universities, government agencies, and school districts. Specific concepts are defined that relate to sexism and racial bias. The bill does not prohibit the use of curriculum on a variety of related topics. DHR believes we can continue to provide training we have conducted in the past due to the fact that most trainings are not mandatory.

XI. Current Activities (2021 – 2023 Three-Year Plan)

A. Priority One: Prevention and Intervention

Padgett reminded members that pre-charge diversion will be expanded statewide. These efforts include a review of model programs and data collection. She noted how this aligns with Goals 1-2 for this priority area.

B. Priority Two: Behavioral Health—Due to the absence of Andrew Allen, there was no update for this priority area.

C. Priority Three: Transition of Youth

Padgett reported that Goals 1-2 relate to jurisdiction of Juvenile Court Services. Goal 3 relates to standardizing practices. As part of standardizing reentry practices, CJJP and the Juvenile ReEntry Systems Task Force have partnered with the following technical assistance providers on case planning and family engagement—Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, American Institutes for Research, Bureau of Justice Assistance, and Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Performance-based Standards (PbS) has provided technical assistance and guidance on standardizing data collection and outcome measures.

A survey/feedback form was developed and over 300 surveys were completed by juvenile court and facility/provider officials. From this, four themes were identified:

1. Engage youth with school districts
2. Expand access to services in rural areas
3. Family engagement training for Juvenile Court and facility staff
4. Quality assurance and data collection for the above three areas.

April was national “Second Chance” month. Iowa participated through a social media campaign which included information on the reentry effort.

D. Priority Four: Gender Equity

Tibbetts reported that the Iowa Task Force for Young Women continues work on their publication, making sure it is up-to-date and useful.

She noted the importance of Objective A (*JJAC/CJJP uses racial and gender equity lenses intentionally throughout all of its work*) when looking at the intersection of race and gender and the importance of data.

A joint meeting was held in May with the DMC Subcommittee. The two groups reviewed comments from the Talking Wall and began identifying issues that could be addressed jointly.

Nestey noted the recommendations from the Iowa Girls Justice Initiative (IGJI) and the report on deep-end girls. Staff are currently working to update the report and are also mirroring the report for boys eligible for the Boys’ State Training School. The two reports will be released in tandem later this summer.

E. Priority Five: Disproportionate Minority Contact

Padgett noted how Goal 1 (*Minimize system contact for low-risk youth of color by developing formal, statewide diversion opportunities through implementation of structures and policies at early juvenile justice system processing*) relates to previously discussed pre-charge diversion and reentry efforts.

Goal 2 (*Continue Collaboration with Iowa Task Force for Young Women to ensure appropriate systematic response and considerations for young women*) aligns with joint efforts between the two subcommittees regarding girls. A group of subject matter experts has been seated to review data and practices and will make recommendations on ways to support and divert black girls. The next meeting is July 1.

With regard to Goal 3 (*Explore and effect change for deep-end youth of color including those youth under adult court supervision*), reports on deep-end youth will encompass data, needs, and recommendations for these populations.

Additionally, technical assistance is being provided to 10 counties that comprise 80% of Iowa’s minority youth population. Information is being provided on a quarterly basis and local strategies to alleviate disparities are discussed. Second quarter meetings with community stakeholders were recently completed. Padgett thanked Juvenile Court Services for their efforts and help in identifying statewide strategies to effect change.

XII. Unfinished Business—There was no unfinished business.

XIII. New Business—There was no new business.

XIV. Adjourn

Klobnak thanked members for their attendance. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker
Administrative Secretary