Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development Council  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  

Jessie Parker Building  
510 E. 12th Street, Starkweather Room  
Des Moines, IA  

March 27, 2019  

Present:  
Steve Michael, Chair, Department of Human Rights, for San Wong  
Jim Hennessey, Child Advocacy Board  
Julie Hibben, Department of Public Health  
Kristi Judkins, Iowa Workforce Development  
Gary Niles, Juvenile Court Services, Third Judicial District  
*Sibani Ram, Chair, State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council  
Dale Woolery, Office of Drug Control Policy  

Others Present:  
Professor Josephine Gittler, University of Iowa School of Law  
Taylor Barry, CJJP  
Tracy Loynachan, CJJP  
Julie Rinker, CJJP  
*Joined via phone  

I. Introductions and Announcements  

Steve Michael called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. A quorum was present. Introductions were made.  

Michael reported that Iowa’s graduation rate increased to an all-time high of 91.4% in 2018. A copy of the press release from Governor Reynolds and graduation rate-related data were included in the meeting packet.  

II. Approval of the Minutes from December 12, 2018 ICYD meeting  

Kristi Judkins moved to approve the minutes from the December meeting, seconded by Jim Hennessey. The motion was unanimously approved.  

III. State of Iowa Youth Advisory Committee (SIYAC) Update  

Sibani Ram, SIYAC Chair, provided the following update:  

- Currently, two SIYAC-proposed legislative bills remain active—the SAVE sales tax for schools; the other encourages youth representation on school boards.  
- The next quarterly meeting will be a group service project.  
- Kevin Drahos represented Iowa as delegate to the U.S. Senate youth program. Over the past three years, a SIYAC member has been chosen to participate.
Michael added that membership applications for SIYAC and Iowa Youth Congress (IYC) were included in the meeting packet. He asked members to share the information with interested youth.

IV. **Guardianship and Conservatorship Reforms**

Josephine Gittler, Professor of Law, and Director of National Health Law and Policy Resource Center, University of Iowa

Jim Hennessey introduced Dr. Josephine Gittler and provided information on her credentials which include working on the development of Iowa’s juvenile law, child abuse, neglect, and intervention. Dr. Gittler served as staff and consultant to the Iowa Supreme Court’s Guardianship and Conservatorship Task Force.

Dr. Gittler reported that over a two-and-a-half-year period, the Task Force developed more than 242 recommendations on adult and minor guardianships and conservatorships. The recommendations included a change in the oversight of minor guardianships from district court to juvenile court. Through the reallocation of caseloads, the Task Force thought the change was administratively feasible with current juvenile court judges. Cases will gradually be transferred from district court.

Dr. Gittler provided information on the current and proposed statutory criteria for adult/minor guardianships and conservatorships as well as court monitoring requirements. She also noted the impact of Iowa’s aging population on future adult caseloads in district court.

Dr. Gittler reported the following:

- SF425 seeks to provide more protections to minors by establishing oversight of guardianships to the juvenile court and tightens monitoring of these cases.
- The legislation permits the filing of a petition for adult guardianship when a minor is 17 years of age and takes effect immediately.
- The proposed legislation seeks to provide more protections for both adults and minors by providing more oversight and monitoring requirements with regard to conservatorships and does the same in adult guardianship cases.
- The court may appoint counsel for minors if they are inadequately represented.
- The proposed bills are SF424, SF425 and companion bills HF610 and HF591.

Michael thanked Dr. Gittler for her time and presentation. The ICYD Council will continue to monitor the aforementioned legislation.

V. **National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) – Update**

Taylor Barry reported that NYTD collects information from current and former foster care youth to better inform necessary system changes or improvements. The project is a requirement for DHS to receive Chafee funds and the project is contracted between DHS and CJJP. Each year, cohorts of youth aged 17, 19, or 21 are surveyed. Currently, the cohort is age 19.

A project entitled the “Talking Wall” seeks to collect suggestions on system improvements from foster care youth in placement. The project began last fall and is facilitated by AMP
Councils and facility personnel. (These youth are outside of the NYTD youth cohorts.) Since that time, the project has expanded to delinquent youth in placement. Barry provided a handout on preliminary results as of January 25, 2019. Most of the suggestions relate to concerns surrounding communication, managing relationships, and training for foster parents.

Barry also provided information on a newly-created youth resources website: bit.ly/IAYouthResources. The website provides information on housing, education, medication, employment, etc. Seven “Got Resources” videos were developed to provide further details. Links to other agencies and resources can be found on the website. She invited members to share the information with colleagues and provide suggestions on resources that should be added.

Gary Niles suggested Barry present information at district JCO/DHS meetings, the JCO conference, homeless youth shelters, or host a “GoTo” meeting for those audiences.

VI. Legislative Updates

The following was discussed:

- Michael reported that HSB253, the Health & Human Services Committee appropriations bill, requires that CJJP seat a work group to study the transfer of funding from DHS to State Court Administration for graduated sanctions and group care for juvenile offenders by July 1, 2021. Recommendations are due December 15, 2019.
- Niles discussed concerns regarding youth vaping in schools. Woolery agreed that it is a statewide issue and reported that proposed legislation did not pass that would have both raised the legal age to 21 and the tax rate for these products. Julie Hibben reported that the Department of Public Health is conducting tobacco prevention efforts in all 99 counties and offered to present information to coalitions, school districts, or other audiences.
- Woolery reported that the Iowa Drug Endangered Children’s Conference is April 8 at Prairie Meadows’ conference facility.

VII. Other Business

There was no other business

VIII. Adjourn – Next meeting – Wednesday, June 26, 2019, 2:00 – 4:00pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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