



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

May 7, 2021
Zoom

Present: Jennifer Tibbetts; Ashley Artzer; Tiffany Berkenes; Andrea Dickerson; Mandy Engel-Cartie; Stephanie Hernandez; Bethany Kohoutek; Julie Martin; Danielle Masten; Lori Rinehart; Maria Valdez

Staff: Kathy Nesteby; Scott Musel; Jill Padgett; Kayla Powell; Julie Rinker; Brianne Messer; Tiara Mosley; Kylie Spies

Others: Gina Bullard; Pete McRoberts; Scott Reed

Introductions/Announcements

- Welcome new members: Mandy Engle-Cartie and Tiffany Berkenes

Jennifer Tibbetts called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. A quorum was present. Due to COVID-19, the meeting was held virtually via Zoom. New members were welcomed.

Approval of Minutes

- February 5, 2021

The minutes were accepted as presented.

JJAC/CJJP/COVID Update

In the absence of Steve Michael, CJJP Division Administrator, Kathy Nesteby reported the following:

- SF357--This bill brings Iowa into compliance with federal law (JJDP Act) and prohibits holding youth waived to adult court in adult jails unless special circumstances are met and approved by a judge. The bill has been signed by the Governor.
- HF802—This bill has been amended several times. It relates to educational training by schools and governmental agencies on racism and sexism. If signed, it may be challenged in court. Tibbetts added that it limits transgender participation in sports.
- SF252—Allows landlords to refuse housing for Section 8 participants. It will disproportionately affect women and women of color. It is effective January 2023.

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Nestey noted the overall housing shortage and how this will impact youth aging out of foster care.

Nestey will update the previously shared legislative actions document and email the information to members.

- Nestey provided information on the upcoming Girls Circle Foundation training to be held virtually on June 24-25—'Mitigating Gender & Racial Bias: Intersectionality & Allyship Training'. While seats are limited, this training was paid for by the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJAC) and is open to all JJAC council and subcommittee members. Other seats are available through the Foundation at a cost of \$285 per person. Members discussed target audiences such as providers and others who would benefit from attending this training. Nestey noted that some scholarships are available through the Foundation.
- Coalition for Juvenile Justice Conference—This conference will also be held virtually on June 9-11. The JJAC has also approved registrations for JJAC council and subcommittee members.
- The next JJAC meeting is June 3. Members were encouraged to notify Julie Rinker if they were interested in receiving meeting notices and other related information.

Mission Discussion

- *New option:* Federal law requires states to conduct an analysis of the juvenile justice system using gender as a lens. The ITFYW exists to advise, make recommendations and address related systemic issues, particularly as they pertain to gender. The ITFYW includes subject matter experts who are invested in comprehensive system change that reflects valuing and empowering young women.
- *Tagline options:*
 - One purpose, one passion – transforming systems to empower every girl.
 - One purpose, one passion – empower every girl.

Nestey reviewed guidelines related to mission statements and taglines.

Members discussed the above options. The following highlights that discussion:

- 'subject matter experts in female responsive services in juvenile justice',
- 'driven by passion of those who wish to make a difference for girls in Iowa',
- address racial disparities,
- 'using gender as a lens, the Task Force exists',
- and include 'comprehensive system improvements'.

There was consensus that the tagline would be: "One purpose, one passion--transforming systems to empower every girl".

Nestey will edit the mission statement and share via Google docs to allow comments from members.

Joint Meeting Reflections/Follow-up

Kayla Powell provided an overview of the joint DMC-ITFYW meeting that was held May 5. During that meeting, members reviewed gender-related categories from the “Talking Wall” to identify areas for potential joint action and/or projects. The Talking Wall is a tool used to obtain comments on system changes or improvements from juvenile justice youth in out-of-home placement.

Kathy Nesteby reviewed a summary of the categories: Gender Specific Education; Services and Support; Justice; Training and Education; Court and Police; and Family Connection. A copy of this summary is attached to these minutes. Nesteby noted that the Talking Wall quotes reviewed in the joint meeting were only from youth of color or LGBTQ youth

The following concerns were expressed:

- Need to consider both short- and long-term projects
- Don't want to cause harm or widen the net
- Juvenile Court Services does not necessarily focus on self-esteem as a criminal behavior

Members discussed human trafficking, the types of programs available and cautioned that 'self-esteem' could widen the net with more girls referred to Juvenile Court Services.

Tiara Mosley commented on the use of “human trafficking” versus “sex work”. She noted that individuals choose to do sex work, but people don't choose to be trafficked. Members agreed and noted the importance of getting youth to the appropriate services needed.

Members also discussed how some youth are still discovering their gender identity and may not feel comfortable identifying as one particular gender.

Tibbetts asked that the next agenda include the Talking Wall comments and suggested holding another 'jamboard' session to further discuss action. Nesteby suggested adding the discussion to the monthly workgroup meetings. Tibbetts asked that notices be sent to all members on monthly workgroup meetings. Nesteby will email the Talking Wall information following the meeting.

Find Our Sisters

- Tanager Place girls program staff – tentative
- Volunteer for next meeting

Tibbetts reported that staff from Tanager Place will be invited to join the next meeting. Nesteby provided information on the purpose of this agenda item.

Goals and Objectives

Nesteby noted that the current goals and objectives end September 30 and the August meeting will focus on the goals and objectives for the next three years.

New Membership—This item was not discussed.

Old Business—There was no old business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Joint Meeting: Final Board Results

Gender specific education

Use a sticky note to tell us one thing you would like to see happen to improve Iowa's juvenile justice and/or foster care system, specifically for girls and young women.

Youth quote: *Find programs to help females love themselves, work on self esteem and self-efficacy.*

Supporting ideas:

- Separating classes about personal development by gender to really dig into these topics
- Look for model programs to address this
- Look for grant opportunities to cover cost
- Research programs and other models across the US that are being implemented and successful
- Create an ambassador group of girls/women to help lead these programs and opportunities. And compensate them!
- Partner with corporations like Dove for funding, advocacy, and free curriculum that is easy to implement

Services and support

Use a sticky note to tell us one thing you would like to see happen to improve Iowa's juvenile justice and/or foster care system, specifically for girls and young women, LGBTQ+ youth, and youth of color.

Youth quote: *Community help instead of system involvement*

Supporting ideas:

- Replicate the successful parts of the HOPES program for families with DHS/ JJ involvement, using trained volunteers and a longer term strategy/ process
- Research EBP for early intervention and prevention services.
- Research EBT that are designed for early intervention and prevention
- Identify what entities are already doing this and ask what kind of support is needed to help their efforts be successful
- Respond to grants that could provide funding to address these needs

Justice

Use a sticky note to tell us one thing you would like to see happen to improve Iowa's juvenile justice and/or foster care system, specifically for youth of color.

Youth quote: *Equality, people that aren't of color tend to be less punished but people of color seem to be punished worse and maybe try talking to us- we tend to have a not so good background*

Supporting ideas:

- Have youth (including new youth council) analyze data collected
- System of reporting for youth and follow-up (with training and consequences) by adults who are outside of "the system" for addressing disparate treatment
- Teach and encourage advocacy skills. Provide support to teach how the system looks and effective ways they can help make change.
- We need parent partners for JJ youth so they have navigators that can help them advocate for their youth.
- We need to ensure there is accountability for the court system when these things occur.
- We need to provide the data and ensure community leaders, service providers, legislators are reviewing this. We need to develop plans to address it in each district.

Training and education

Use a sticky note to tell us one thing you would like to see happen to improve Iowa's juvenile justice and/or foster care system, specifically for youth of color.

Youth quote: *If we don't have families of color to take in youth of color, we need to have proper trainings*

Supporting ideas:

- Are there goals around recruitment BIPOC and outreach objectives to meet this need that need to be addressed?
- Prioritize placing youth with family or fictive kin
- Require foster families to get training on these areas before becoming a foster parent and annually
- Provide more assistance and resources for individuals who want to be a foster parent and don't think they have the means to do it.
- Make sure ALL foster families are inclusive and accepting
- We need to look at the regulations and make them more flexible for BIPOC staff and families
- Tracking system to identify foster families that are inclusive and accepting

Court and police

Use a sticky note to tell us one thing you would like to see happen to improve Iowa's juvenile justice and/or foster care system, specifically for youth of color.

Youth quote(s): *Youth of color should be seen and treated equally. Cop behavior- should know how to approach a youth better.*

Supporting ideas:

- Training and coaching that ACEs, trauma, historical trauma, racial injustice, can all impact youth behavior, supportive services more effective than incarceration.
- Create mentoring between police and young people
- De-escalation training
- Direct DEI training requirements to police certification bodies and associations so that it is as much a part of a certification process for local departments as safety training and weapons training.
- Create partnerships/ events between police and community.
- More training for law enforcement.
- Stop over policing in diverse communities.
- Adolescent brain training for cops, that is done in partnership with young people
- A recruitment plan that focuses around professional growth opportunities...youth counselor to police officer, correctional officer, etc.
- Youth campaign to change mindset of media, leaders, community, etc.
- Creating JJ youth councils around the state, each district.
- Legitimize mental health issues of diverse youth.
- Hold police accountable for racist behaviors.
- Recruit more diverse police departments
- Look into the benefit and harm of SROs

Family connections

Use a sticky note to tell us one thing you would like to see happen to improve Iowa's juvenile justice and/or foster care system specifically for youth of color.

Youth quote: *Learn about their family*

Supporting ideas:

- Family mentors to help them navigate and advocate through the system so kids are kept together and families have resources and support.
- Family therapy that addresses parental/ family issues, not just the adolescents
- Stop basing family values on dominant culture
- Being inclusive that family is subjective to the youth themselves and can include “non-traditional” people
- Look at the family with a more holistic approach and not just focus on the behavior. Most families don't have basic needs and it results in more ongoing issues.
- Get to the root cause of family dynamics/issue
- Provide trainings that there are other cultures besides white, small town, middle class