



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

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

One purpose, one passion - transforming systems to empower every girl.

MEETING MINUTES

May 20, 2022

Present: Jennifer Tibbetts, Lori Rinehart, Co-Chairs; Tiffany Berkenes; Andrea Dickerson; Jackie Ellenbecker; Bethany Kohoutek; Maria Valdez

Staff: Kathy Nesteby; Shayla Gilleland; Arena Horn; Jill Padgett; Julie Rinker; Alison Roe; Brianne Messer; Maria Harrington

Introductions/Announcements

Jennifer Tibbetts welcomed all in attendance at 10:07 a.m. A quorum was not present. Members requested meeting notices for the remainder of the year.

Approval of Minutes – February, 2022 – Due to lack of quorum, the minutes were not approved.

JJAC/CJJP/COVID Update

- **CJJ Conference**—In the absence of Steve Michael, Jill Padgett provided an overview of the CJJ conference held in Washington, DC. This year, there were more attendees than in the past: Andrew Allen, JJAC Chair; four staff members, Endi Montalvo-Martinez and Lyric Sellers, former Youth Action Squad members; and Audi Espinoza and Ava Palmer, members of the newly-formed Youth Justice Council (a subcommittee of the JJAC).

The trip included visits with Iowa's congressional delegation where Allen and youth attendees discussed support for race/equity, Title II concerns, and support for a grant application.

Yesterday during the conference, Montalvo-Martinez and Sellers presented information on the removal of SRO's, while Espinoza and Palmer presented information on Iowa's YJC, youth leadership, and engagement. The presentations were very engaging and both groups received standing ovations, twice. Today, they are having lunch with CJJ leadership regarding ways to increase youth leadership. Tomorrow, Palmer will represent Iowa at the Council of SAGs meeting and vote on behalf of Iowa. The group returns tomorrow. Each presentation was 90 minutes in length.

Tibbetts asked if the workshops were recorded. Padgett offered to check into the matter.

- **Chief Justice's Juvenile Justice Task Force and workgroups**—Nesteby reported that this task force is composed of approximately 50 stakeholders. There are six workgroups: Community-based services, Congregate Care, State Training School, Transition to Reentry, Dual System Youth, and Governance-Funding-Data Collection. By November/December, a report with recommendations will be released. CJJP staff sit on each

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workgroup, Nesteby serves on the Congregate Care workgroup. That workgroup has requested information from this task force regarding girls in the system. While disproportionality is a part of each workgroup, girls are not. She noted past recommendations from both the DMC Subcommittee, this task force, and the number of reports related to disparity and needs for girls in the juvenile justice system.

- **Recommendation to JJAC for repurposing fund (girls grant)**—Nesteby reminded that \$52,000 was originally allocated to match funding for a grant application for services for Black girls. Since the grant was not approved, this task force voted to have the funds used towards juvenile reentry efforts for Black girls. At their March meeting, the JJAC unanimously approved the motion and these funds will shift to the reentry effort.
- **Pre-Charge Diversion grant**—Nesteby reported that the RFP has been posted. The purpose is to expand pre-charge diversion in Iowa. The RFP will be awarded to local units of government.

Legislative Update

- **Detention Home Fund**—Nesteby reported that through legislation, oversight of these funds will move from DHS to CJJP. CJJP may have more influence over detention due to this oversight.
- **Graduated Sanctions**—Also through legislation, oversight of these funds will shift from DHS to the Judicial Branch. These funds are used to provide services to juvenile justice involved youth.

Find Our Sisters

- **TF members in new positions**

Nesteby reported that several members have changed agencies:

- Bethany Kohoutek is now with NAMI
 - Jennifer Tibbetts is now with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services
 - Tiffany Berkenes is now with the 4H Career Pathway Academy
- **Reentry**—Alison Roe, Juvenile Reentry Navigator, reported that she is working in the 6th Judicial District (D6) with youth in placement who are transitioning home. She works with these youth for 12 months after they exit placement, some students are outside of D6, and some are in detention—there are a lot of variables. Most are boys. These services fall under PreETS (Pre-employment Transition Services).

Arena Horn, Juvenile Reentry Navigator, reported that she is working in the 5th Judicial District (D5). All of her clients have a disability, including trauma and addiction.

Tibbetts asked about detention and whether girls were also receiving services since many girls are being held longer in detention.

Padgett noted that, originally, reentry was envisioned in residential placement and at the Boys' State Training School. However, after receiving an inquiry regarding a youth in a long-term detention placement who was waived to adult court and would be released, Roe stepped in to help navigate his release in June. The new reentry grant application includes reentry efforts for youth held in detention over 30 days.

Members discussed services for girls in long-term detention while awaiting placement and ways to screen and provide appropriate services. Detention was never intended to be used long term nor to provide services, however, as detention use has changed, consideration should be given to system changes, trauma-informed services, and placement opportunities for girls.

Nestey suggested the group continue to think about this for future discussions, especially if the grant is awarded.

- **Volunteer for next meeting**

Kohoutek offered to have a representative from LSI's trauma informed services present at the next meeting. A pilot project that started in Polk County detention has expanded to four juvenile detention centers. The project has had good results backed up by data.

An alternative to the above is Julie Stevens, a former ISU researcher, who oversaw a seven-year project to overhaul space at Mitchellville to create a more trauma-informed environment. She is now working with YSS on their new campus.

There was consensus to invite both individuals to the August meeting.

Youth led initiatives Update

In the absence of Kayla Powell, Nestey reported on the Youth Justice Council (YJC), a JJAC subcommittee composed of youth with lived experience. They have already identified priorities: a bill of rights for youth in detention; providing care packages to youth in out-of-home placement; and access to period products and hair/skin products for minority youth in detention. A retreat is being planned to further define priorities and mission/vision statements.

Nestey and Powell have met with detention directors regarding period products. They explained the need for variety, privacy, and that these are basic needs that should not have to be purchased. Detention directors were on board and some have already made changes.

Padgett reported that YJC members, with support from Drake Law School, have drafted letters to both JCS and DHS to change Administrative Code wording surrounding hygiene products and language requiring training on culture and gender-specific needs. The PnP met last week and reviewed the letters. The JJAC will vote upon them at their June meeting. The Administrative Rules Committee will meet in June. While DHS is in favor of the changes, the YJC wants a specific approach so that the wording is not left to interpretation.

Nestey added that the joint meeting DMC-ITFYW will include YJC members. The purpose will be to build relationships amongst the three subcommittees.

DMC Update

- Black Girls in JJ workgroup

Padgett reported that the DMC will meet virtually on June 15. She encouraged task force members to attend.

Goals and Objectives

Nestey reported that the Congregate Care Workgroup of the Chief Justice's Juvenile Justice Task Force (JJTF) has asked this group to make recommendations related to girls in the juvenile justice system. Nestey shared the membership roster of the Congregate Care and other workgroups. She encouraged members to contact JJTF allies to further efforts for girls.

Members discussed the timeline and strategies to be used by the JJTF to bring forth recommendations. Nestey stated that the final report will be released in November/December and will include legislative and policy recommendations. Most likely, the Chief Justice will include the recommendations in her January, 2023 address on the State of the Judiciary.

Nestey stated that the Congregate Care Workgroup has asked this task force to do the following:

1. Identify research-based solutions for providing high-risk delinquent females with appropriate treatment options.
2. Identify the resources and supports needed to establish appropriate treatment options for high-risk delinquent females.

Nestey suggested that members review the Task Force goals and objectives, especially Goal 2, Objective A which relates to the recommendations to elevate from the "Serious, Violent and Chronic Juvenile Female Offenders" report. Members provided comments through a "jamboard".

Nestey will take the additional suggestions from the ITFYW and create a supplement to the existing recommendations from the original report to be provided to the congregate care workgroup of the JJTF.

New Membership—This item was not discussed.

Old Business—There was no old business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m. The next meeting will be held August 5, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker
Administrative Secretary