



Governor Terry E. Branstad  
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds  
San Wong, Director

## **Juvenile Reentry Task Force/JReS Minutes of Regular Meeting**

Polk County River Place  
2309 Euclid Avenue, Room 2  
Des Moines, Iowa

March 17, 2016

- Present:** Ralph Allbee; Rick Bartosh for Susan Walkup; Jesse Behrends; Ruth Buckels; Amy Carpenter; Jim Chesnik; Jackie Gray; Kristi Judkins; Eric Kool; Jessica Kropf; Carl Kruger; Steve Miller; Lettie Prell; Doug Wolfe
- Staff:** Steve Michael; Dave Kuker; Julie Rinker; Laura Roeder-Grubb; Jeff Regula
- Others:** David Schmiedt, 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District; Elizabeth Seigle, Council of State Governments Justice Center; Jamie Orozco Nagel, Iowa Economic Development; Ashley Tenney, public Allies Iowa; Jenni Berger, AMP Intern

- **Call to Order, Welcome/Introductions**

Steve Michael, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. A quorum was present. He welcomed members; introductions were made.

- **Elizabeth Seigle, Council of State Governments Justice Center**

Michael noted this week's site visit by national consultants. Meetings were held with state leaders as part of a competitive grant application to improve the juvenile justice system.

Michael introduced Elizabeth Seigle, a reentry consultant with the Council of State Governments Justice Center (CSG). CSG is a national bi-partisan organization that provides research-driven advice to policy makers to improve outcomes for youth and adults in the justice system. Seigle was part of the review team for the competitive grant application. She also works with Second Chance Act grant recipients through the National Reentry Resource Center and joined this meeting in that capacity.

Seigle reported that Iowa was one of three juvenile reentry implementation grant recipients. She commended members for putting together a strong plan. The government is looking at Iowa as a leader in this work. Iowa is unique from other states as it doesn't have a juvenile correctional agency, but has multiple partners involved in the process. She emphasized the importance of clear policies, structure, and communication.

Yesterday, Seigle met with subcommittee chairs. She reviewed the following:

1. Iowa must have comprehensive reentry policies for youth throughout their journey in the system. Work must be institutionalized and include family members.
2. Policies must designate responsibility, resources, monitoring/quality assurance, and technology support.
3. Two judicial districts will pilot the project for youth exiting the State Training School (STS), moving toward other out-of-home placement settings, and eventually going statewide. Juvenile Court Officers (JCO's) will drive the process.
4. Key components for success are Youth Transition Decision Making (YTDM), Multi-dimensional Family Therapy (MDFT), family engagement strategies, workforce development, education, and behavioral supports. Meetings with youth should be held in first 30-40 days and include family, workforce, and education support. Youth should know what's available before they return home.

Seigle noted the technical assistance available through CSG and offered to share information from other states. The implementation guide provides a roadmap. She emphasized the importance of a strong plan, buy-in strategy, staff communication, quality assurance, and sustaining the project over the long-term. A report is due at the end of April and will be reviewed by Iowa's grant manager at OJJDP.

- **Minutes – January 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Lettie Prell moved to approve the minutes from the January meeting, seconded by Amy Carpenter. There was no discussion; the motion was unanimously approved.

- **CJJP Activities**

- **Update since last meeting**
- **Discussions With Committee Chairs**

Michael reviewed AmeriCorps components included in a previous Performance Partnerships Pilot (P3) grant application. Although the application was unsuccessful, portions could be implemented through a coordinated effort between Public Allies Iowa and AmeriCorps. Youth who qualify receive vocational training, are awarded a stipend for working, and earn funding for college.

Jamie Orozco Nagel, Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, provided an overview of the three AmeriCorps programs—State, VISTA, and National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC). The latter includes residential programs for young people aged 18-24. A campus in Vinton is one of five campuses nationwide that conducts training.

Ashley Tenney reported that Public Allies Iowa focuses on disconnected, economically disadvantaged youth aged 18-24. Youth work for non-profits or service-oriented organizations to gain hands-on experience. Although some programs require a high school diploma, there is an exception for youth working toward their high school diploma/GED.

Two youth members from the STS were pleased to hear of the opportunities available to them. Michael asked both Nagel & Tenney to join the Education/Workforce Subcommittee.

- **Overview/Break Into Subcommittees - Roeder-Grubb & Kuker**
  - **ALL Subcommittees**
    - **Major Activities – Performance Measures**
    - **One page documents for identified audiences**
- **Subcommittee reports - Large Group Discussion - Michael & Subcommittee Chairs**
  - **Kickoff Event**

The above agenda items were covered during the following reports and discussion.

Kuker reviewed the action plan and overall goals—reduce recidivism/increase public safety, positive outcomes for youth, and cross-system collaboration. He also reviewed process components and requirements related to pre-placement, placement, and post-placement. He emphasized the importance of checklists and policies.

Discussion included the following:

- Need to implement vocational rehab for kids in placement and policy to support needs.
- Project must include quality assessment(s), youth/family engagement and planning.
- Assessment is the first step, everything else follows.
- Need to develop a strategy to engage staff.
- Need to accelerate implementation. The grant ends September 30.
- Contracts have been developed to provide computer hardware for the STS.
- Policy documents will be drafted and reviewed by June 30.

- **Services – Ralph Allbee**

Ralph Allbee, Chair of the Services Subcommittee, reviewed a handout that listed the required action steps, outcomes and policies for the following services areas: YTDM, Medicaid/Title XIX, MDFT, and community resources.

A lengthy discussion ensued. The following concerns were discussed:

- The importance of YTDM at admission and before/after release. Work includes developing a timeline for YTDM action steps.
- YTDM facilitators need proper training in working with delinquent youth.
- After care providers must be engaged in the YTDM effort.
- Title XIX applications should be started 90 days prior to exit to allow plenty of time for medication arrangements.
- More group care representatives should be part of this task force.
- Meetings will be held with Youth & Shelter Services (YSS) regarding contacts for Multi-dimensional Family Therapy (MDFT).

- **Education/Workforce – Kristi Judkins & Joan VandenBerg**

**Workforce**—Kristi Judkins reported on goals, resources, and strategies/action steps.

Workforce-related programs will develop employable skills, provide education and training, and assist in matching youth to employers. Youth will be paired with local workforce development and vocational rehabilitation offices for further support and

services. Vocational rehabilitation will work with those youth who have more intensive needs because of a diagnosed disability. Other youth will be paired with Iowa Workforce Development offices to ease the transition process to their home communities. Challenges include identifying local contacts, marketing to employers, and youth eligibility requirements. Representatives from voc rehab, workforce, and the AEA will meet on April 11.

**Education**—Kuker reviewed an event held yesterday in Dubuque. Teams from school districts, juvenile court services, and AEA's were in attendance. The event was tied to a Reengagement Plus conference and stressed the importance of: education in placement, transfer of school records/credits, educational goals, and supports. Concerns surrounded communication gaps when youth return to their home schools.

A handout summarized action steps and performance measures. Policies and checklists will be created for record transfers/credit recovery and IEP requirements. The effort will be piloted in two metro school districts.

- **Assessment/Planning**

Eric Kool reported that most of the work relates to technology and policy. Policy recommendations have been submitted to the Chief JCO's regarding assessment and case planning for group care and PMICs. More discussions will take place in April; policies should be issued after that.

Technology—the first step is to develop a universal referral form with attached risk factor-based case plans, mental health history, assessment, and service reports. Challenges include attaching information from other agencies.

Seigle thanked members for their dedication. She will provide resources on policies and best practices. Developing timelines and designating responsibilities are critical for the next steps.

- **Next meeting – Michael**

There was consensus to poll members regarding a date that would work best for everyone.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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