

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice December 7, 2007

The Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ), of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice met Friday, December 7, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the Nebraska State Office Bldg, Lincoln, Nebraska. Notice of this meeting was published November 24, 2007 in the Lincoln Journal Star.

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Chris Connolly, Chair of the NCJJ.

II. As Amended by LB 898, 2005 Legislature, a copy of the Nebraska Open meetings Act was available for public review.

III. Roll Call:

Members present: Mike Behm, Mark Benne, Ellen Brokofsky, John Clark, Christopher Connolly, Lawrence Gendler, Thomas McBride (arrived at 11:47 a.m.), T.J. McDowell, Elaine Menzel, Kathy Moore (arrived at 10:13 a.m.), Gerard Piccolo, Reggie Ryder, Kevin Stuckenholtz, Tanya Terry, Kent Turnbull and Derek Vaughn (arrived at 11:18 a.m.).

Members excused: Linda Benjamin, James Blue, Austin Brockmeier, Kay Glidden, Ron Johns, Cheryl Miller, Alex Moreno, Terri Nutzman, Tim O'Dea, and Danielle Reinke. **Members absent:** Andee Hardesty and Kylie Hoffmaster. **Staff present:** Audra Cook, Sonja Dooley, Jennifer Kirkpatrick.

Others present: Doug Kramer, Mike Reddish, Joanna Lindberg and Corey Steele. Todd Reckling arrived at 1:26 p.m.

IV. Introductions

Cook stated there was a new member of the Coalition, Cheryl Miller, who is a mental health provider. She was unable to attend the meeting today. Cook will be meeting with Miller to familiarize her with the role of being a member of the Coalition. Cook also introduced Jennifer Kirkpatrick who is the interim Chief for the Grants Division.

V. Approval of September 14, 2007 minutes:

Motion

A motion was made by Menzel and seconded by Stuckenholtz to approve the September 14, 2007 meeting minutes. (Motion carried unanimously.)

VI. Crime Commission Report:

- a. Title II/JS announcement
 - i. Schedule in packet

Cook noted that with the new grant season approaching she wanted the Coalition to be aware of the upcoming grant schedule. A schedule was enclosed regarding grants due dates, reviews dates, and the date the Coalition will approve grants was provided.

- b. 2008 Federal Grant application planning
 - i. Title II
 - ii. Title V
 - iii. JABG

Cook's next endeavor will be completing the grant applications for Title II, Title V, and JABG which had previously been completed by Nancy Steeves, Grants Division Chief, prior to Cook being hired. Cook was unsure how much input the Coalition has had with such decisions but she would like the Coalition to have a voice in deciding purpose areas to target for the state. Title II has 34 purpose areas, and Cook stated that generally individuals can come in on any of those purpose areas and it's a large enough amount of money for a competitive process. Title V focuses on DMC, this year the amount will be a little over \$75,000.00 and Cook would like to keep the focus on DMC as this focuses the money for the largest impact and fewer grant applications.

The Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) was discussed as a more complex grant. The federal government decides where a portion of the money must go. This is based on juvenile population and other factors. With 2007 JABG the mandated distributions are to Douglas County/City of Omaha; City of Lincoln/Lancaster County; and Sarpy County. There is a remaining amount that is open for a competitive process or for the Coalition to decide on the use. Last year the remaining portion was used for a DHHS grant for School Intervention Workers in 5 areas of the state. The grant was written by Steeves for the upcoming grant season for the purpose area of Juvenile Courts and probation. Cook stated that she would like some a decision from the Coalition regarding the 2007 funds that remain for distribution, and whether this should be a competitive process or if they would wish to vote to continue to fund the School Intervention Worker program.

A discussion ensued weighing the pros and cons of a competitive process or a vote to keep funds with DHHS. Consistency in distribution of grant funds was discussed. Piccolo discussed the benefits of keeping all grant funds competitive, to give another opportunity for programs to compete for funds. Brokofosky stated that this program has proved very effective and is making a difference with youth on probation in these 5 areas of the state. There was a question of whether there are other programs out there that could utilize this funding and it was confirmed that if there was funding available

there would be programs that would apply as funds have been cut consistently for the last few years.

Moore stated that we should consider fairness as well as best leverage of funds to make an impact in the state. It was suggested that in the next funding year the money should go to DHHS for the School Intervention Program and before the next grant season the Coalition would like a presentation with information showing the statistics of the program that show success. It could then be decided if this is the best use of the JABG funds or if it would be better used as a competitive grant. Connolly state that by the discussion today it sounds as though the JABG funding should support the DHHS School Intervention Worker grant but it is something that should be reviewed on an annual basis.

Motion

A motion was made by Moore and seconded by Menzel to leave the funds in the probation/OJS combination, and prior to the decision next year a report will be given on how the dollars were spent, what communities they are being spent in, and some of the outcomes that have resulted. (Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Benne, Clark, Gendler, McDowell, Menzel, Moore, Ryder, Stuckenholtz, Terry, and Turnbull. Brokofosky abstained. Piccolo against.) (Motion carried)

c. Coalition Budget Information

i. 2005 funds to be spent by March 31, 2008

ii. Planning for 2006 funds

Cook discussed 2005 Coalition budget funds remaining. They need to be expended by March 31, 2008. She offered the suggestions of printing more Juvenile Justice handbooks; translating the document into 2-3 or more languages and printing those. Cook suggested that they could target a training or conference that takes place before the end of March and send Coalition members, two conferences were noted as possibilities. A decision on these funds should be made today or the Coalition may be at risk of having to turn back some funding to the federal government.

Cook discussed the 2006 Coalition budget funds remaining and suggested doing some planning to use these funds to make an impact on the state of Nebraska, possibly a statewide DMC study or some type of training. Moore brought to light some information regarding a training that deals with race matters, and its impact on the juvenile justice. She provided some general knowledge and offered to get more detailed information for the next meeting. Menzel stated that additional handbooks in different languages plus training, as funds were available would be appropriate. Moore noted that the CJJ membership could also come out of the funds, which would be discussed later in the meeting.

Motion

A motion was made by Moore and seconded by Menzel to allocate up to \$5,000.00 to translate into up to 3 languages and print a proportionate amount of copies of the Juvenile Justice handbook. (Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Benne,

d. FACJJ Conference

Connolly reported on the FACJJ conference. He stated that there were numerous breakout sessions, and noted one which dealt with mental health issues. The chair of the break out committee was Robin Jenkins, who is the national chair of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice. One issue that came up was certification of juvenile attorneys, a procedure some states are doing. Connolly stated that juveniles are entitled to good representation but didn't feel a certification was necessary. Connolly stated that, from discussion at the conference, our juvenile justice system is progressive.

e. OJJDP/DMC Conference

Cook stated that information will be presented on the OJJDP/DMC conferences. She stated that she learned some valuable information pertaining to the OJJDP. The second half of the conference was DMC related, and she received some vital information from this conference. Cook discussed the New State Advisory Group Member training power point slide handout contained in the mail out. Since several members are rather new Cook felt it would be beneficial for some members.

f. Youth Membership Recruitment

Cook stated that there will be re-appointments coming up in January for several of the members. Cook has initiated contact with those members to see if they would like to be considered for reappointment. Two of the youth members, Terry and Brockmeier, will not be seeking re-appointment. Terry will be studying abroad next semester. Brockmeier feels that as he continues in his college career, his path is taking him away from involvement in juvenile justice issues and has chosen not to submit for reappointment.

Cook asked the members to think about the youth in their communities and feel free to approach them regarding youth membership. Connolly stated that Cook had offered to recruit through the school system but would prefer that the coalition recruit for the youth appointments. Clark suggested that informal e-mails be sent to high schools principals with information regarding the coalition and ask them to talk with youth that may be appropriate. Cook stated that the age requirement for youth members is 17-24 at the time they are appointed. Brokofosky added that she would like to see youth that had actually been involved with the juvenile justice system. Gendler spoke of an individual that he thought may be appropriate for a position. Turnbull stated that he also knew of some young people, but recommended that the group focus on youth that may be from a different area of the state but that may attend college locally.

There was more discussion regarding youth member issues that may arise regarding traveling, class schedules, as well the specific characteristics that the group would like to have within the individual. Moore recommended that the Foster Youth Council be contacted for any individuals they may have that would be a good fit. Cook stated that 5 youth members are needed after January 1, 2008. Moore suggested that prior to the youth coming into the group, a training guide be utilized for the new youth that are

coming in. The Coalition developed a training guide that focuses on the adults working with youth members and provides suggestions on how to relate to the youth and how to make them more a part of the coalition.

g. Statewide Juvenile Justice Plan

i. Update current 3 year plan due March 2008

ii. New Three Year Plan due March 2009

Cook reported that the new 3 year plan will be due in March of 2009. It has been decided that the Executive Committee will put the plan together, and then it will be presented to the Coalition as a whole. Cook stated that since there is a year to put the plan together it would be presented for discussion by the Coalition. Brokofosky questioned as to the role that the community forums will play into the statewide plan, and how the process will work on both updating the current plan and creating the new plan. Connolly suggested that anyone interested in helping with the plan was welcome to do so. Brokofosky stated that she as well as Nutzman will volunteer to help put this together as probation and DHHS should be actively involved in putting this plan together as it relates to juvenile justice.

Moore suggested that a discussion involving the community forums would be valuable. Cook stated that at the next coalition meeting she would be presenting on the information obtained from the Community Forums. Moore suggested that a facilitated discussion at each of the coalition meetings be held, have Brokofosky and Nutzman review the information to be presented ahead of time, and then the information could be applied to areas of the state. This would provide a better integrated plan rather than words just being put onto paper. Connolly stated that it had been discussed to have longer presentations regarding the statewide plan at each Coalition meeting next year. Turnbull suggested hiring someone to put the plan together. He stated that in his previous experience it had been beneficial to have an outside source, usually someone that does this professionally, put the plan together, and then only approval was needed to put it into place. Cook stated that she believed the last plan had been put together with the help of the Juvenile Justice Institute. Cook stated that combining the information obtained from the community forums would be beneficial as well as an analysis of the juvenile justice system in Nebraska. Connolly stated that this should be one of the topics for the Executive Committee to talk about. Cook stated that she will inquire in to a couple of options for facilitators for the group.

VII. Sub-Committee Reports

a. Executive:

Connolly stated that a 40 minutes phone conference was held, with all of the executive committee participating. The by-laws, which he apologized not getting out prior to the meeting, was the core of the conversation.

b. DMC:

McDowell reported that the DMC Subcommittee met that morning prior to the full coalition meeting, and stated that anyone was welcome to attend. The meeting consisted of discussing information regarding the OJJDP DMC Conference as well as a

conference the DMC Coordinator attended in Iowa. Cook and Lindberg also discussed information obtained in the conferences they had attended. Action steps were discussed, with a focus on law enforcement training being developed. Upcoming legislation was discussed and another meeting was scheduled for February, in addition to the scheduled meeting times before the full coalition meetings.

c. Grant Review:

Piccolo addressed the deadlines of the grants for the upcoming year. Discussion on how to split the grants for review ensued. Piccolo invited anyone that was interested in volunteering to read and review the grants to let them know. Cook stated that she has recruited a large pool of reviewers from her program monitors. Piccolo stated one of the reasons he enjoyed reading the grants was that at times you are able to find a program or idea that would work well within your area of the state.

d. Youth:

Hoffmaster was not present. No report given.

VIII. Probation Report:

Brokofosky introduced Corey Steel as the new Juvenile Justice Specialist in Probation Administration. Steel discussed upcoming changes in juvenile probation. New supervision strategies will be implemented across the state. Probation is striving to spend more time with youth, rather than just a 15 minute meeting per month. Risk domains will be looked at intensively. Officers will do cognitive behavior groups which will help get to the core of the youth's issues. In communities across the state, each Probation district will be tasked with having one officer that is well trained in juvenile issues and will focus their time strictly on juveniles. Motivational interviewing will be utilized which will help youth process their issues and solve their own problems. Steel stated that a lot of work needs to be done and they will be working across the state to build a bridge between DHHS and probation. They will also be coordinating with other agencies.

Brokofosky stated that next month Steel would be going to Missouri to observe models that are being used, and to see what can be utilized in Nebraska. Brokofosky discussed that AmeriCorp members have been introduced into communities to work exclusively with youth and adults that are on probation. Probation will be very hands-on to ensure high risk youth are either employed or in school, which current research says is key to youth being successful. Youth that come through probation's door averages about 5300 to 5500 per year. OJS has approximately 1400 and 1700 youth.

IX. DHHS Report:

Mike Reddish reported for Nutzman. Reddish discussed the development of the Juvenile Services triage center in Omaha. They are now selecting a provider that will run the facility. This facility will house Juvenile offenders as well as status offenders. An OJS evaluation will be used, which they hope will pull a number of the juvenile detention youth out of facilities guide them into appropriate services. Those youth with higher level needs would continue to be placed in residential treatment centers. The triage

center will also have a component for the YRTC youth returning to the Omaha/Sarpy County area to allow for a supported transition back into the community. The program's goal is to help youth in the eastern service area succeed.

Detention Services are under negotiation with Lancaster County and some of youth have been moved on a short term basis to other facilities. They are hopeful that negotiations with Lancaster County will be successful.

Reddish stated that the YLS/CMI partnership with probation is of the utmost importance. DHHS will be going to Missouri as well to observe the models they are using. Brokofosky provided additional information regarding Missouri and how it is like Nebraska in that probation is under the judiciary branch and youth services are under DHHS. Missouri's success can be attributed to community based youth services on the state level and probation level. The juveniles that have went through every program, failed all others, now attend these community based programs. The programs have a culture committed to doing everything possible to keep the youth out of the system. Family is engaged and involved in their youth programming. Behavioral pieces are woven through every element. Moore stated that Missouri has received much national recognition and it would be in the state's best interest to model their system. Clark briefly discussed how the school system fits into this scenario.

X. Approval of Lunch expenses:

Motion

A motion was made by Moore and seconded by Clark to approve funds for lunch. Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Benne, Clark, McBride, McDowell, Menzel, Moore, Piccolo, Stuckenholtz, Terry, and Vaughn. Brokofosky, Gendler, Ryder, and Turnbull abstained. (Motion carried)

Break for lunch at 11:49 a.m.

Meeting re-adjoined at 12:03 p.m.

Brokofosky left at 12:04 p.m.

IX. CJJ Membership Discussion:

Connolly began the discussion regarding potential membership back into CJJ. Moore reported that she there is a new chair, Robin Jenkins and has been observing what has been taking place with CJJ. She stated that she would speak in favor of re-joining the CJJ. McBride stated that he was familiar with Robin Jenkins and admires him a great deal. He thought prior concerns were due to poor leadership. Now that there is new leadership he would encourage rejoining.

Motion

A motion was made by Moore and seconded by Menzel to allocate the funds of \$5,000.00 to join CJJ for the next year.

Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Benne, Clark, McBride, McDowell, Menzel, Moore, Piccolo, Stuckenholtz, Terry, and Vaughn. Gendler, Ryder, and Turnbull abstained. (Motion carried.)

X. Approval of Printing Expenditures for Juvenile Justice Handbook in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese:

Connolly stated that this was the actual printing of the juvenile justice handbooks in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. These costs also include the translation fees to prepare these handbooks for print. A printout with the break down of cost for translations and for printing in the 3 languages was provided to the members.

Motion

A motion was made by Behm and seconded by Stuckenholtz to approve the amount of \$5156.00 for printing expenses for the Juvenile Justice handbook.

Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Benne, Clark, McBride, McDowell, Menzel, Moore, Piccolo, Stuckenholtz, Terry, and Vaughn. Gendler, Ryder, and Turnbull abstained. (Motion carried.)

XI. Conference Funding request:

Cook received a conference funding request for the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association Conference from President Corey Steel. The Coalition has historically funded this conference for juvenile justice providers across the state.

Motion

A motion was made by Menzel and seconded by McDowell to approve \$2500.00 for the NJJA conference. Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Benne, Clark, Gendler, McBride, McDowell, Menzel, Moore, Piccolo, Ryder, Stuckenholtz, Terry, Turnbull and Vaughn. (Motion carried.)

Cook stated that another request for funding had been received after the mail out. State probation and office of Juvenile Services are hosting a YLS/CMI Train the Trainers. Cook received information that this training will bring people together from Probation, OJS and Diversion and teach them how to implement the tool and then teach them how to administer training to others. This training plans to include 2-3 Diversion Coordinators. Cook stated they are asking the coalition to provide approximately 1/3 of the funding, and Probation and OJS will each pay 1/3 as well.

Motion

A motion was made by Menzel and seconded by Benne to approve \$2500.00 for the YLS training. Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Benne, Clark, McBride, McDowell, Menzel, Moore, Piccolo, Stuckenholtz, Terry, and Vaughn. Gendler, Ryder, Turnbull abstain. (Motion carried.)

XII. Review and Approval of 2006 report to the Governor and Legislature:

Connolly stated that the report for the Governor has been prepared and a date to meet with him has been set for January 4, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. Connolly invited any member of the coalition to attend this meeting if they were able, and to let him know prior to the meeting. Connolly stated that if time permitted he would like to meet with the Executive Committee that day as well. A short discussion followed regarding the time that would be allotted for this meeting. Moore, Stuckenholtz, and Vaughn volunteered to attend the meeting, schedules permitting.

Cook discussed the report, changes that have been made and addition of the Executive Summary. Cook briefly discussed the executive summary to be used as a way to make an impact with the information. Ryder stated he was working on some additional information that could be included in the report, which includes an estimate of sending a juvenile through the traditional court system and other related expenses. Connolly stated that it may be difficult to get precise numbers for the cost, but a range would be useful. Discussion continued on the best way to present information to the Governor. Doug Kramer discussed a Buffalo County Attorney estimate of sending a youth through the court system, with only one trial. The estimate of \$1500-\$2000 does not include probation or any other costs outside of the costs associate with the courts. Moore stated that the estimate from Buffalo County would be sufficient. She added that dollar amounts included in the Executive Summary would be beneficial for the Governor to use as a quick reference, detailing what is Federal and what is State dollars. Connolly stated that for next year a draft would be sent out earlier. Moore suggested that the table be put into alphabetical order or onto a map, which would allow legislators to see what was being done in their counties.

Motion

A motion was made by Menzel and seconded by Gendler to approve the 2006 Report to the Governor and Legislature. Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Benne, Clark, Gendler, McBride, McDowell, Menzel, Moore, Piccolo, Ryder, Stuckenholtz, Terry, Turnbull, and Vaughn. (Motion carried.)

XIII. New Business

a. Adoption of amended by-laws

Connolly stated that he had gone through the by-laws and that there were some items that needed to be updated and he had discussed these with the Executive Committee prior to the changes being made. A handout was provided that showed potential changes. The group posed a few questions and praised Connolly for updating the by-laws and ensuring consistency with state statute.

Motion

A motion was made by Menzel and seconded by Moore to approve the amended by-laws. Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Benne, Clark, Gendler, McBride, McDowell, Menzel, Moore, Piccolo, Ryder, Stuckenholtz, Terry, Turnbull and Vaughn. (Motion carried.)

Ryder left at 12:38 p.m.

XIV. OJJDP/DMC Conference Information Presentation:

Cook, Doug Kramer, and Joanna Lindberg presented on the conferences they had attended in Denver, Colorado and Kramer attended an additional conference in Des Moines, Iowa.

Cook explained the Core Requirements that OJJDP requires as well as guidelines on the functioning of the Coalition. She also explained activities that the coalition can participate in as well as the 4 core requirements. Benne explained the rural rule that applies to detaining juveniles in rural communities—they can be held 48 hours before taken to a youth facility. Cook reviewed the grants and the requirements for each. She also explained the grant review process.

Kramer presented information on the conference he attended in Denver, Colorado as well as the one in Des Moines, Iowa. Kramer stated that the push he would like to make is awareness, particularly on a local level. Kramer discussed some of the myths that surround DMC. Cultural Awareness was a vital part of the training. Kramer presented information on immigrant states. Nebraska is one of the fastest growing states on immigrant youth population. Point of entry to the system was discussed, as it is important to examine all entry points, although detention is where much focus is at this time.

Lindberg presented information regarding risks to youth when they are detained and why alternatives to detention are vital. Lindberg stated that she was impressed by three foundations that do a lot of community and state DMC work (Haywood Burns Institute, Annie Casey Foundation, and McArthur foundation). These foundations focus largely on detention.

Connolly asked Reckling to add to the DHHS report that was presented earlier. Reckling stated that they are going forward with a cognitive behavior approach. Another focus is examining behavioral health, looking at services available, and finding gaps in services. DHHS is focusing on community services and family engagement. Federal government will be monitoring DHHS in July and will be reviewed on various outcome measures such as safety, permanency, and well-being of youth. Reckling mentioned several groups that will be working on future improvements.

XV. Future Agenda Items:

Approve grants
Legislative Discussion

XVI. Public Comment:

None

A question was posed regarding membership. Cook stated that there are 5 members that will be up for reappointment and reported status: Turnbull-will reapply for appointment; Glidden-waiting for a response; McDowell-waiting for a response; Terry-will not reapply; and Brockmeier-will not reapply. Connolly thanked Terry for her services with the coalition.

XVII. Location for March 28 Meeting:

The coalition agreed to meet on Friday, March 28, 2008 in Lincoln.

XIX. Adjourn:

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sonja K. Dooley
Secretary