

Committee on Juvenile Courts

Committee Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, October 26, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Judge Quigley at 10:04 am

Minutes taken by: Natalie Foster

Roll Call

Present:

Honorable Bryan Chambers, Honorable Robert Higgins, Joseph Kelroy, Connie Koch, Honorable Margaret McCullough, Eric Meaux, Honorable Allan Perkins, Honorable Kathleen Quigley (Chair), Honorable Mark Wayne Reeves, Ernest Rose, Tyson Ross (proxy for Honorable Mathew Newman), Honorable Corey Sanders (phone), Denise Smith, Honorable Monica Stauffer (phone), Jennifer Torchia, Honorable Daniel Washburn, Honorable Rick Williams (phone), Honorable Anna Young

Excused/Absent: Caroline Lutt-Owens, Honorable Thomas Fink, Honorable Tim Ryan, Sheila Tickle and the Honorable Karl Elledge.

Guests/Staff Present: Theresa Barrett, Honorable Craig Blakey, Jerry Landau (phone), Amy Love, Lauren Lowe, Casey Melsek, Jenn Ortiz, Charles Parkins

Introductions were made around the room.

Adoption of Minutes:

Motion: To accept and adopt minutes from the August 24, 2017 meeting. **Action:** Approve; **Moved by:** Judge Young; **Seconded by:** Eric Meaux.
Motion passed unanimously.

Topic: Data Sharing Task Force Report (Discussion Item – Handout)

Speaker: Judge Craig Blakey (Ret.)

Summary of Discussion:

Judge Blakey thanked Lauren Lowe from DCS and Beth Broeker from ADJC for their work as it was instrumental with finalizing the report. He also thanked the AOC staff, Regina Rodriguez and Rob Shelley for their efforts.

PowerPoint and handout provided/discussed

- Task Force Purpose
- Recommendations

- Reviewed Principles 1-12
 - Recommendations
 - Key Considerations

Next steps: Review and discussion

Judge Quigley thanked Judge Blakey for his time.

Topic: Ombudsman Discussion

Speaker: Casey Melsek, DCS

Summary of Discussion:

- Two documents were distributed to the committee for review/discussion
- Documents were sent to Kathy Gillmore for distribution to those on the phone

The DCS Office of the Ombudsman is responsible for offering assistance to DCS complainants receiving assistance or services from DCS to resolve service-related complaints and issues in an impartial manner. The DCS Ombudsman may also respond to members of the public who express concerns regarding child welfare.

- The goals are:
 - To resolve complaints, provide information and education
 - Look at policy and procedures
 - Track and report to Executive Leadership
- Complainants of DCS may contact the DCS Office of the Ombudsman for assistance in the following manner:
 1. Online: <https://dcs.az.gov>;
 2. Telephone/Advocacy Line;
 3. Email
 4. In writing
- The Client Grievance process consists of Level I – Level III
- The DCS Office of the Ombudsman does not handle personnel issues.
- They receive approximately 550 inquiries and/or complaints per month
- Investigations are usually behind the scenes, and used as a tool for DCS to educate themselves.
- Pamphlets were also made available for distribution to families

Q & A opportunity

Topic: Rite of Passage Update

Speaker: Joe Kelroy, Director, JJSD

Summary of Discussion:

- Joe Kelroy provided a brief history regarding the concerns the AOC Contracts and Monitoring had with Rite of Passage about six months ago
- A six-month status review has been completed with the leadership of Rite of Passage and the Executive Office of the AOC
- There were six areas that were captured within the correction action plan:
 - Appropriate behaviors controls and reduction of restraints
 - Staff supervision of clients
 - Grievance process
 - Medication administration
 - Reporting protocol
 - Crisis intervention and suicide prevention protocols
- The primary concern was the zero tolerance of the type of restraint they were using
- Contracts and Monitoring staff will be putting together a response letter for Rite of Passage indicating they are in compliance with the areas of concerns
- Monitoring will continue in the future
- Contact JJSD if any concerns, with any program, that may come up

Judge Quigley: Canyon State Academy has an open house tomorrow from 2-5pm

Topic: DCS Update

Speaker: Lauren Lowe, DCS General Counsel

Summary of Discussion:

DCS Stats:

- Out of home numbers are released on the 20th of each month
- Total out of home number has dropped below 16,000 children
- DCS started tracking percent of cases that have a safety decision made
- As number of open reports have gone down, safety decision cases have gone up
- Congregate care population continues to fall; area of emphasis
- DCS continues to see more exits than entries
- Service referral waitlist has dropped quite a bit since spring/summer; now around 100 for all referral categories
- Push to get care at the front end
- Onboarding program-reaching out to kinship and foster care placements to ensure kids have received needed care and track if claims are coming in

News/initiatives

- Monday DCS submitted their public comment for Court Authorized Removal
- Safe Model continues to be a strong emphasis; trained entire field with a focus on the investigations aspect; targeting the on-going portion of model
- Mobile solution rolled out to the field
- Development of Guardian continues evaluation stage of Technical Integrator
- The Placement Unit, through their (Amy Fox, Program Manager) exceptional work, has seen a drop in time it takes to place children
- Push for field standardization (tracking, visual management, case plans, case plan staffing). Transformed individual placement units into a statewide administration that will be under Amy Fox
- Directive related to congregate placement - want to be very deliberate to place a child outside congregate care.

Q&A session:

Investigations – 12-14 per case worker

Ongoing case worker cases is tracked regionally. Maricopa and Pinal is a little higher than rest of state, but trending downward. DCS reports out on caseload numbers on quarterly basis; Legislature requires reporting out by office

Placement team to be made aware by case manager team when child is ready to be stepped down

Steps to match children in congregate care to appropriate placement

- Demographics
- Child info (siblings, behaviors, needs, etc.)

Topic: Legislative Update

Speaker: Amy Love

Summary of Discussion:

Amy Love had one bill to present and distributed an article that was printed in the Arizona Capitol Times.

A few years ago, at the request of Yavapai County, their detention was fairly new but did not have any kids in it. They wanted to possibly rent the space out and allow non-profits to come in and run a shelter or provided treatment out of the detention center. Legislation was added to a bill that would allow the juvenile court judge, with permission from the presiding judge, to contract out any available and appropriate facilities for treatment or shelter services. The statute is not quite clear if court personnel or staff could be running the programming. The statute will be revised slightly, in the coming session, to clarify.

AJC already approved

Topic: ICWA Judicial Roundup (Information Item)

Speaker: Judge Quigley

Summary of Discussion:

- Judge Quigley addressed the COJC as a member of the State Tribal Federal Forum, subcommittee ICWA Co-chair
- Approximately a year ago, Judge Portley addressed the COJC regarding having a Casey sponsored judicial/tribal state roundtable
- The IWCA Committee is interested in having a roundtable with the juvenile courts in 2018
- The thoughts presented include:
 - Invite tribal members to COJC meeting
 - Invite tribal member to Judicial Conference
 - Roundtable – ½ day
 - If having a session is a possibility, a commitment would be needed from each county to attend

Members of the committee expressed interest in a roundtable. Several agreed with having it at the judicial conference.

Judge Portley is going to check with Casey to see if there is any funding availability available.

Topic: System Improvement

- Burns Institute Training Update

Speaker: Jenn Ortiz, JDAI State Coordinator

Summary of Discussion:

A PowerPoint update regarding Racial and Ethnic Disparity Training was presented.

- W. Haywood Burn's Institute Training
 - Definition of what racial and ethnic disparities are
 - Cochise County update
 - Pinal County update
 - Yuma County update
 - Pima County update
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Topic: Juvenile Justice Ad hoc Committee (Telephone – Information Item)

Speaker: Jerry Landau, AOC Legislative Officer

Summary of Discussion:

- Legislature appointed an Ad hoc committee to look at a small part of juvenile justice, having predominately to do with the Adobe Mountain facility and part with Department of Juvenile Corrections
 - The intent is to focus on the facility; the acreage, population, etc.
 - The members of the committee are Jerry Landau, Director of ADJC, Director of Department of Corrections, four legislators, two public members from the district where Adobe Mountain is located, the Director of State Land Department.
 - At the last meeting, they heard an excellent presentation from the Department of Juvenile Corrections regarding the status of the number of juveniles in and out of custody and programming that is made available.
 - November 1 Joe Kelroy will offer a presentation on the status of referrals, detention, JDAI Task Force and the results of the Detention Realization Task Force
 - Information gathering continues
 - This began because of concerns from some members of the community about the expansion of the physical land and placing of community corrections on a portion of the land
 - No decision making at this point; more informational
 - More will be known after November 1
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Topic: ADJC Update

Speaker: Beth Broeker

Summary of Discussion:

Director Hood sends his apologies for not being able to attend today's meeting.

- Current population: 170 kids in secure care
 - 155 boys
 - 15 girls
- 141 children on parole
 - 40 boys
 - 2 girls
 - 91 ICJUs
- 33 children who are dually adjudicated
- October 1 started adding judicial officers assigned in dependency to the monthly progress report.
- Working on doing a better job with registration hearings
- Psychosexual evaluations are done outside agency. They must be court ordered.
- Piloting a new reenter class for children who are being release to parole. There is a separate class for kids that have already been back as parole violators.
 - Collecting outcome data.

- Classes just started so data will be available in the near future
 - Piloting video visitation in rural committees
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Topic: System Improvement

- Fairness Committee Update

Speaker: Charles Parkins, Maricopa County

Summary of Discussion:

PowerPoint and handout provided/reviewed

- Juvenile Justice Steering Council
 - Four groups: Prevention, Fairness, Targeted Services, Process Improvement
 - Fairness Committee goals
 - Practice Changes and Impact on Minority Youth statistics
 - Training and Focus
 - Avoiding Disparities
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Topic: Committee on Superior Courts – Member from COJC (Discussion Item)

Speaker: Joe Kelroy/Theresa Barrett, JJSD/Court Services

Summary of Discussion:

- Discussion and thoughts on having a COJC member serve as a liaison between Committee on Superior Courts and COJC
 - COJC is a subcommittee for Committee on Superior Court
 - Suggestion: Provide an annual report to Committee of Superior Courts to update them on the work COJC is doing
 - Topics of interest/projects worked on that may be been a benefit to have a COJC committee member attend are: Courts Security Standards, Digital Evidence, Time Standards
 - Suggestions:
 - Judge Wasburn- suggested the Chair be the representative for COJC if this is ongoing participation
 - The Chair can create a rotating assignment.
 - Members believe this is a good opportunity. No objections from group.
 - Joe Kelroy suggested him and Caroline Lantt-Owens may be able to take on this role.
 - Any ideas/thoughts should be emailed to Joe Kelroy.
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Topic: Old Business

Speaker: Judge Quigley

Summary of Discussion:

Judge Washburn inquired about an interactive map that breaks down dependency process.

- Joe will obtain and share with group.
- The goal is to push it out to the juvenile bench as a training piece for judicial officers.
- Eric Meaux will work with Joe Kelroy to see where it is at in the process.

Change of Venue – handout provided

- Dependency cases that change venue will get a hearing set up in new county before the family leaves court.
 - Judge Quigley asked the presiding judges to consider sharing this with their juvenile bench to see if this will work for them.
 - Information will be kept on website
 - Send any contact changes to Joe
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Topic: Call to Public

Speaker: Mary McIntosh

Summary of Discussion:

Mary McIntosh, public member, addressed the committee regarding a personal experience.

Topic: Around the State/Upcoming Training

Speaker: Members

Summary of Discussion:

Judge Williams (Mohave) - Annual Infant/Toddler Mental Health Symposium in Laughlin, NV, April 10-11.

Director Joe Kelroy (JJSD)- Thanked the judges who attended All-State CYPM event Tuesday and Wednesday. Thanked counties that are coming on next year for attending.

Judge McCullough (Coconino) - suggested that a possible rule change is needed that would allow a video conference without consent from counsel.

Judge Washburn (Pinal) - Pinal is working on putting together something similar to the My Kids Mentor Program currently being used in Mohave County. 2016 legislation was passed allowing youth detention centers to hold juveniles who are being charged as an adult in nonviolent offenses and who are being held in juvenile detention center. Pinal started it this year and had a few growing pains. Judge Washburn suggests that judges hold off on accepting the

plea perhaps until sentencing so that the juvenile can be held in the youth detention center longer, until they have to be moved to adult detention, if applicable. Pinal has made all law enforcement agencies aware that rather than bringing youth in, to inform them that they have within 24 judicial hours to contact or to come in. They have success with this program.

Judge Stauffer (Greenlee) – Reevaluating the use of the detention facility in Graham County.

Judge Young (Yavapai) – CYPM event tomorrow. Members of the community, behavior health, CASAs, attorneys, etc., were invited. It is a relaunch event. Family Involvement Center runs the Parent Mentoring Program. Judge Young has been getting rave reviews from parents involved in dependency cases who have signed up for a parent mentor. At a parenting class a few months ago, 12 signed up and 11 showed (1 had to reschedule).

Ernest Rose (Public Member) - Courage to Listen, which is a discussion about mass incarceration in minority communities in Arizona, will be held November 15 at Bobby Renee Parsons Leadership Center, 1611 E Dobbins Rd. Mr. Rose will send info to Joe Kelroy.

Jennifer Torchia (Pima Director) – On Monday and Tuesday, they have the National Center of Juvenile and Family court judges doing the School Justice Institute. School districts, two law enforcement agencies, behavior health and the court will be looking at the Responder Model. It's how the school will work with, primarily behavioral health, to do interventions so kids don't end up being involved with the justice system. The second day is a system mapping process. Information is available on their website.

Denise Smith (Rural Director) – They are contracting their detention facility out to Navajo, Pima and Apache County. It has been going smoothly. They have recognized that it is so important to have less hands in the pot for a better transition and an easier process. They have one point person to communicate with. Ms. Smith brought up the concern about juvenile staff detention staff transporting youth who are housed in the ADJC for trials/hearings/etc. at a recent JAM meeting. They are now in process of working on video conferencing so staff do not have to drive a great distance.

Eric Meaux (Maricopa Director) – Efforts to identify opportunity to bring more positive youth development experiences for kids in the system. On the detention side: They are using pet therapy, community service, positive youth role models, working tiny houses for homeless vets.

Judge Perkins (Apache) – Provided an update on their repurposed detention youth center. They had their opening approximately 30 days ago. They are seeing an average of 40 kids per night. That number is drawing from a high school that has about 250 kids. It has been very successful. They have guitar lessons, voice lessons, computers, tutoring, etc. They have purchased property in Springerville and hope to start another center in a year.

Judge Reeves (Yuma) - They continue working on their Parent Coaches Mentor program. They are rolling out the next round of Successful Futures.

Next COJC Meeting:

The next COJC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 25, 2018 at the Arizona Courts Building, Rooms 119A/B.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.