

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice
June 6, 2008

The Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ), of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice met Friday, June 6, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the Nebraska State Office Bldg, Lincoln, Nebraska. Notice of this meeting was published May 23, 2008 in the Lincoln Journal Star.

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Chris Connolly, Chair of 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: Michael Behm, Linda Benjamin, Mark Benne, James Blue (arrived 10:55), Jennie Cole-Mossman, Christopher Connolly, Kay Glidden (arrived 10:07), Ron Johns, Thomas McBride, T.J. McDowell, Elaine Menzel, Kathy Moore, Alex Moreno, Terri Nutzman, Todd Reckling, Kent Turnbull, and Derek Vaughn (arrived 10:26).

Members excused: Ellen Fabian Brokofsky, John Clark, Lawrence Gendler, Tim O'Dea, Gerard Piccolo, Danielle Reinke, and Reggie Ryder. **Members absent:** Andee Hardesty, Cheryl Miller, and Kevin Stukenholtz. **Staff present:** Audra Cook, Jennifer Kirkpatrick, Jamie Rivera, and Stephanie Vensky.

IV. Approval of March 28, 2008 Minutes

Motion

A motion was made by Benjamin and seconded by McDowell to approve the March 28, 2008 meeting minutes. (Motion carried unanimously.)

V. Crime Commission Report:

a. Membership information updated

The membership list has been updated. Cook added that Kylee Hoffmaster and John Clark have resigned from the Coalition. John Clark will be retiring from the Nebraska Department of Education in July.

b. Coalition Budget Information

The breakdown of the 2005/2006 Coalition budget information was provided in the mail-out.

c. National Coalition for Juvenile Justice Conference

A handout was provided in the mail out summarizing and highlighting the meetings and training sessions that were provided at the conference. Leadership Training for New and Continuing SAG Members provided an overview of the Federal-State partnership created out of the JJDP Act. This included the requirements for State Advisory Groups and discussion about the make up of State Advisory Groups. There was focus on difficulty with retaining youth members, as this is an issue nationally. Training was provided and suggestions made on how to have an effective Hill Day visit among several other training sessions.

d. FACJJ Report

Connolly discussed the April FACJJ meeting which he attended on behalf of NCJJ. He stated that there has been turnover within the group and the meetings were of a less contentious manner than in the past. Connolly was involved in a working group regarding the question of whether legal representatives of youth should be mandated to have a certification. Connolly states that in a rural state such as Nebraska, this would be very difficult and spoke out at the meeting regarding his concerns.

Connolly discussed the role of the FACJJ and the fact that it does not have a budget. The FACJJ also cannot approach legislators representing the FACJJ, the group does not have that authority as created.

e. New Compliance Monitor

Cook introduced Jamie Rivera as the new Compliance Monitor for the Crime Commission.

f. 2007 Compliance Monitoring Report

Cook gave a brief overview of the latest compliance monitoring report. Nebraska continues to remain in compliance and although the office letter has not been received we have been told verbally that there should be no concerns. Cook stated that if anyone is interested in a copy of the report to contact her.

VI. Sub-Committee Reports

a. Executive:

Connolly stated the executive committee met by phone to finalize the agenda. Discussion of how to approach the September meeting location was discussed. Facilitation for statewide 3 year plan was also discussed during the call to come to consensus regarding facilitator to be contracted.

b. DMC:

McDowell reported that the DMC Subcommittee met that morning prior to the full coalition meeting. Discussion was held on the Passport to Competency curriculum. Cook requested that each person review the curriculum and come to the next meeting to discuss whether it was outdated or whether pieces of it could be utilized, as there is

mixed reviews regarding the curriculum. Discussion was also held on the Voices for Children Press Conference set for June 12th which will touch on DMC in Nebraska.

c. Grant Review:

Cook reported Grant Review was held for the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants (JABG) and Title V grants on May 12th. The grant review was made up of people from the DMC committee and the Grant Review committee. Three of the four JABG applications are targeted by the federal government to communities based on their crime rate but they must meet Crime Commission requirements. In 2007 the Coalition agreed to use the remainder of the money of \$175,615 to fund the School Intervention Program managed by DHHS.

Cook reported Title V had \$75,250 to be awarded. Four applications were received and two were chosen award.

Cook stated that every year there are Title II tribal funds set aside specifically for a tribe to apply and in 2006 and 2007 no tribe applied. Cook was able to work with the Winnebago tribe this year to apply for those funds of \$7,000 and will be requesting approval today.

d. Youth:

Cook reported two youth have applied to be a part of the coalition and their applications are at the governor's office awaiting approval.

VII. Probation Report – Presentation Corey Steel:

Corey Steel, Juvenile Justice Specialist with the Nebraska State Probation Administration provided a handout outlining his presentation on Improving Dispositional Outcomes and Creating Successful Organizations and Systemic Change for Nebraska's Juvenile Population. The presentation covered strategies to produce effective outcomes that reduce recidivism, such as cognitive groups, setting boundaries and engaging families. He also presented on eight evidence-based principals for effective interventions that Probation will be utilizing, they include; assess risk/needs, targeted interventions, increase positive reinforcement, and measure relevant processes/practices.

VIII. DHHS/OJS Report:

Nutzman provided a hand out outlining the proposed policy and practice changes for (OJS) wards. The practices developed address violent behaviors and youth needs, and propose eight solutions.

OJS Policies and Procedures are being reviewed and modified to assure they are in line with best practices. OJS continues to enhance the initial and on-going training and supervision practices of all workers, supervisors and administrators working with OJS youth.

IX. Approval of Lunch Expenses:

Motion

A motion was made by Menzel and seconded by Benne to approve funds for lunch.

Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Benjamin, Benne, Blue, Cole-Mossman, Glidden, Johns, McBride, McDowell, Menzel, Moreno, Nutzman, Reckling, and Vaughn. Turnbull abstained. (Motion carried)

X. Working Lunch:

XI. Approval of Title V/JABG grants:

Motion

A motion was made by Menzel and seconded by Behm to approve the Title V grant applications as recommended by the staff/grant review.

Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Benjamin (abstained 31), Benne, Cole-Mossman, Glidden, Johns, McBride, McDowell, Menzel, Moreno, Nutzman, Turnbull, and Vaughn. Blue, and Reckling abstained. (Motion carried)

See Attachment A

Motion

A motion was made by Benjamin and seconded by Menzel to approve the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant applications as recommended by the staff/grant review.

Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Benjamin (abstained 31), Benne, Cole-Mossman, Glidden, Johns, McBride, McDowell, Menzel, Moreno, Turnbull, and Vaughn (abstained 601). Blue, Nutzman, and Reckling abstained. (Motion carried)

See Attachment B

XII. Approval of 2006/2007 Title II Tribal funds grant:

Motion

A motion was made by Behm and seconded by Vaughn to approve the Title II Tribal grant application with contingencies noted as recommended by the staff/grant review.

Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Benjamin, Benne, Blue, Cole-Mossman, Glidden, Johns, McBride, McDowell, Menzel, Moreno, Nutzman, Reckling, Turnbull, and Vaughn. (Motion carried)

XIII. Approval of expenditure for professional facilitation of 3-Year Statewide Juvenile Justice Plan:

Cooked reported discussion has been held in the last coalition meeting regarding hiring a profession facilitator to facilitate the priority development of the next statewide 3-year plan. She stated there are adequate Coalition funds available to cover the expense. Cook made suggestions based on estimates she received. Facilitated Resources, Deb Burnight, was agreed upon by the group.

Motion

A motion was made by Menzel and seconded by McBride to approve the hiring of a professional facilitator not to exceed \$1,800.

Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Benjamin, Benne, Blue, Cole-Mossman, Glidden, Johns, McBride, McDowell, Menzel, Moreno, Nutzman, Reckling, Turnbull, and Vaughn. (Motion carried.)

XIV. Approval of NJJA Conference Expenses for Coalition Members:

Motion

A motion was made by Vaughn and seconded by Blue to approve mileage reimbursement per state regulations of .50.5 per mile not to exceed \$150.00 to attend the NJJA Conference. *Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Benjamin, Benne, Blue, Cole-Mossman, Johns, McBride, McDowell, Menzel, Moreno, Nutzman, Reckling, Turnbull, and Vaughn. Glidden abstained. (Motion carried.)*

The meeting broke at 12:15.

Blue left the meeting at 12:15.

McDowell left the meeting at 12:15.

The meeting resumed at 12:30.

XVI. NE Dept of Education Presentation – Barb Schliesser/Michele Borg:

A handout was provided outlining the education of students in out-of-home placements.

There are 26 interim-program schools located in juvenile detention centers, emergency shelters and institutions, which are approved by the State Board of Education and provide regular education along with special education. The juvenile continues to be enrolled in their home school district.

There are five special purpose schools located in the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers in Kearney and Geneva, Nebraska Department of Corrections, Pine Ridge Job Corp in Chadron and UNL Independent High School. These schools are accredited by the State Board of Education and are intended for a longer length of stay. The schools are similar to public schools and issue academic credits and diplomas, unlike the interim-program schools.

Approximately 1,350 students attend the interim-program schools and special purpose schools. There are more than 7,000 admissions per year.

Turnbull left the meeting at 1:00.

XV. September meeting location and plan:

Cook stated the plan was to hold the September 12th meeting in Scottsbluff. Due to travel arrangements and traveling time it was suggested the meeting be held on Wednesday, September 10th in Scottsbluff. A formal meeting will be planned as well as a tour to the Scottsbluff co-located juvenile facility. Members would need to make a

formal commitment to attend, as a quorum is needed for the meeting. Taking an informal show of hands regarding who could commit to that date, it appeared there would be enough members to make a quorum. Therefore, plans will continue to have the September meeting in Scottsbluff. It was decided that Cook would send out a doodle scheduler the middle of July and would need an official quorum commitment to travel to Scottsbluff for the meeting by August 1st.

Motion

A motion was made by Menzel and seconded by Moore to move the September 12th meeting date to September 10th in Scottsbluff contingent upon a quorum by August 1st.

Voting in favor of the motion: Benjamin, Benne, Cole-Mossman, Glidden, Johns, McBride, Menzel, Moore, Moreno, Nutzman, and Vaughn. Behm and Reckling abstained. (Motion carried.)

XVII. New Business:

None

XVIII. Future Agenda Items:

None

XIX. Public Comment:

None

XX. Adjournment:

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:30.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Vensky
Staff Assistant