

**Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice**  
**March 31, 2006**

The Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ), of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice met Friday, March 31, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the Nebraska State Office Building, Lincoln, Nebraska. Notice of this meeting was published March 20, 2006 in the Lincoln Journal Star.

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Judge Lawrence Gendler, Vice-Chairperson, at the request of Tom McBride, Chair of the NCJJ.

**II. Introduction of members**

Self introductions were made by the committee members.

**III. Roll Call**

**Members present:** Michael Behm, James Blue (arrived 10:25), Austin Brockmeier (arrived 10:30), Lawrence Gendler, Kim Hawekotte, Kay McMinn, Elaine Menzel, Mark Montgomery, Tim O'Dea, Gerard Piccolo, Todd Reckling, Gerald Ruiz, and Tanya Terry.

**Members excused:** Linda Benjamin, Charles Brewster, Ellen Brokofsky, John Clark, Christopher Connolly, Kylee Hoffmaster, Ron Johns, Tom McBride, Justin Mickles, Kathy Moore, Danielle Reinke, Reggie Ryder, and Jerry Watson. **Members absent:** Audra Liebig.

**Staff present:** Chris Harrifeld, Monica Miles-Steffens, Deb Hunter, and Stephanie Vensky.

**IV. Approval of December 9, 2005 Minutes**

**Motion**

***A motion was made by Montgomery and seconded by Piccolo to approve the December 9, 2005 meeting minutes. (Motion carried unanimously.)***

## **V. Crime Commission Report**

### **a. Introduction of new Crime Commission staff**

Miles-Steffens introduced Chris Harrifeld as the new compliance monitor and Deb Hunter as the new Grants Division secretary.

Miles-Steffens stated Judge Dorwart has retired and Nancy Oats was not reappointed to the Coalition. Neither were able to attend the meeting, however, appreciation gifts will be sent to them on behalf of the Coalition. She asked for suggestions of any one who would be interested in filling those two positions.

### **b. Chadron site visits**

Miles-Steffens reported on the site visit to Rushville/Gordon's after school program, which will be discussed later in the agenda. She also visited the Title V program in Dawes County. They are doing Sons and Daughters of Tradition curriculum in four counties, Dawes, Sheridan, Box Butte, and Sioux. She said the program seems to be working well. In the Sheridan County High School this is being offered as a class and many students are choosing the sons and daughters of tradition curriculum over other classes offered. They are also working toward implementing this curriculum in the other high schools.

### **c. Upcoming JABG, Title V, County Aid apps. – grant review schedule**

Miles-Steffens reported the JABG, Title V, and County Aid applications are due on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Grant review for those grants will be held on May 11, 2006.

### **d. NCJJ Report to Governor status**

Miles-Steffens commented that it is time for the Coalition's report to the Governor. She will be working on a draft for review by Coalition members and will need approval at the June meeting.

Miles-Steffens briefly stated the Crime Commission is working toward putting the grant applications on-line. She said applicants would be able to apply on-line, reviewers would have the option to review all the application on-line and in the long run would save time, money and paper.

## **VI. Sub-Committee Reports**

### **a. Executive: Appointments; legislative update**

Hawekotte reported the budget bill is still alive that would give OJS \$75,000 to update the Chinn study on Kearney, Geneva, and Hastings. This would include a meth treatment study and reviewing the substance abuse program in Hastings.

Hawekotte said LB1181 Detention review was put in with a bunch of other bills but survived. This would require a detention hearing within 48 hours if a motion was filed for detention review and then again every 14 days after adjudication.

Gendler briefly commented on LB1256 Early childhood education bill. Private donors pledged \$20 million if the state would put up \$40 million, which would go toward educating 0-3 year olds. He said an organization like the Nebraska Children & Families would administer the grant.

**b. DMC: Report on DMC initiatives**

Janovec reported the DMC committee met prior to the Coalition meeting. She gave an update on the Minority and Justice Implementation Committee which submitted a letter to the Supreme Court requesting the use of a criminal cover sheet to be used by Prosecutors to identify racial and ethnic minorities in the court system.

She reported Douglas & Lancaster counties have the only active DMC sub-committee's in the state. She said while working with counties doing comprehensive plans, they were able to identify several other communities within the state that have DMC issues. Sarpy, Colfax, Cherry, and Platte counties are interested in developing sub-committee's to start looking at DMC local initiatives.

**c. Grant Review**

Piccolo reported they are getting ready to review another round of grant application on May 11, consisting of JABG, Title V, and County Aid.

Piccolo thanked every one who participated in reading the Title II and Juvenile Services grant applications. He pointed out the listings and a copy of the summary comment sheets for each grant with staff review comments and recommendations were enclosed in the mail-out.

**d. Youth**

Nothing to report

**VII. Approve payment of lunch**

**Motion**

***A motion was made by Menzel and seconded by Hawekotte to approve funds to provide lunch. Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Blue, Hawekotte, McMinn, Menzel, Montgomery, O'Dea, Piccolo, Reckling, Ruiz, and Terry. (Motion carried).***

**VIII. Update on Juvenile Data Sharing Project**

Overton gave an overview of the NCJIS (Nebraska Criminal Justice Information System) which is the primary port for data sharing among criminal justice agencies as well as other related data. This has been up and running since May of 2000 and approximately 300 agencies access the system with approximately 3800 users. This system has core criminal justice information such as criminal history, jail bookings, corrections, probation, and sex offender registry. The courts provide protection orders and warrants as they are available, pardon board information, and all court data except adoption cases.

Overton said they have been enhancing the system with specific juvenile information. When a juvenile is booked into jail, that information will show up in NCJIS, which is helpful to local agencies and for the Crime Commission for compliance monitoring. HHSS-Wards data has been added, which tells the juvenile's current status, case worker and contact information. He said they are working with HHSS on the HHSS CPS Intake information, which include calls to the hotline and allegations of abuse. They project it to be up and running by July 10<sup>th</sup> and will be available to law enforcement and county attorneys.

NDEN (Nebraska Data Exchange Network) is a run off of NCJIS to help some of the non criminal justice agencies that still need to access information such as HHSS workers and Child Advocacy Centers. NDEN has much of the same information as NCJIS, but due to statute limitations those non criminal justice agencies will not have access to certain information, such as criminal histories. Overton said there are currently 500 HHSS workers and all Child Advocacy Centers using NDEN.

Overton stated that the Department of Education is in the process of developing a student identification tracking system. This will give every student in the state an identifier and will stay with that student if they move from one county to another. This is scheduled to go live in the next couple months.

#### **IX. Update on Probation and OJS YLSI implementation**

Hawekotte reported in March the University of Cincinnati conducted train the trainer training for 18 trainers from each of the five service areas across the state. There are now about 16 trained trainers on the YLS and in April each of the service areas for HHSS will be receiving training. The goal is to have everyone throughout the OJS system trained on the YLS tool by the second week in May.

Hawekotte briefly explained the YLS (Youth Level Service/Case Management Inventory), which is a validated risk needs assessment tool that the state did a pilot on in 2002 to determine if OJS and Probation should use this as their common risk needs assessment tool. The YLS consists of a structured interview done with both the youth and family. A score sheet is used in the interview, which translates into an individual score. A youth is low, moderate, high or very high risk to re-offend and what domains the youth has significant needs in. From that, the worker can develop a case management plan.

The YLS will go into effect May 15<sup>th</sup> for OJS. The implementation plan will be for the YRTC's to begin using the YLS at the time of intake and any new OJS evaluation. It is recommended that the YLS be done on the youth every six months due to change in circumstances and is not recommended for youth under the age of 12.

Gendler suggested it would be helpful to present the YLS tool to the judges.

Reckling stepped out 10:55.

#### **X. Approval of 2005 Title II & 2006 Juvenile Services Grants**

Miles-Steffens gave a brief overview of the Title II grant funds and reasons for either award or denial.

#### **Motion**

***A motion was made by Menzel and seconded by McMinn to approve the 2005 Title II grant funds. Voting in favor of the motion: Behm (abstained 01), Blue (abstained 05, 06, 16, 19, 20, 23, 24), Brockmeier, Hawekotte (abstained 21, 22), McMinn, Menzel, Montgomery, O'Dea, Piccolo (abstained 11, 14), Ruiz (abstained 11, 14), and Terry. (Motion carried).***

**Approve:**

05-JJ-01	Nebraska Crime Commission-Lincoln (Compliance Monitoring) (\$22,492)	\$30,000.00
05-JJ-02	Lutheran Family Services-Lincoln (Johnson & Pawnee Co. Juvenile Pretrial Diversion Program) (\$43,500)	\$40,884.00
05-JJ-03	Buffalo County-Kearney (Buffalo County Juvenile Diversion) (\$30,794)	\$23,065.00
05-JJ-04	Cuming County-West Point (Cuming County Diversion) (\$30,690)	\$32,500.00
05-JJ-05	CEDARS Youth Services-Lincoln (Youth As Resources) (\$36,563)	\$27,422.00
05-JJ-06	CEDARS Youth Services-Lincoln (Southwest NE Juvenile Diversion Services) (\$29,625)	\$19,750.00
05-JJ-07	Sarpy County Sheriff's Office-Papillion (Sarpy Co. Juvenile Day/Evening Reporting Center) (\$0)	\$75,000.00
05-JJ-08	Sarpy County Attorney's Office-Papillion (Sarpy Co. Pretrial Juvenile Assessment Ctr.) (\$0)	\$43,444.00
05-JJ-09	Sarpy County Sheriff's Office-Papillion (Sarpy Co. Juvenile Assessment Center) (\$23,000)	\$11,500.00
05-JJ-10	Dakota County Commissioners-Dakota City (Juvenile Electronic Monitoring) (\$8,616)	\$4,177.00
05-JJ-11	Hall County-Grand Island (Juvenile Accountability/Probation Intake Officer) (\$40,000)	\$30,000.00
05-JJ-13	Platte Valley Diversion Program-Columbus (Bilingual Diversion Officer) (\$13,320)	\$14,664.00
05-JJ-15	Winnebago Tribe-Winnebago (Traditional HoChunk Restorative Justice) (\$0)	\$25,000.00
05-JJ-17	Board of Regents of UNO-Omaha (Nebraska DMC & Evaluation Initiative) (\$69,532)	\$68,259.00
05-JJ-18	Otoe County-Nebraska City (Otoe County Juvenile Diversion Program) (\$36,000)	\$27,000.00
05-JJ-21	Douglas County-Omaha (Douglas Co./City of Omaha Juvenile Assessment Ctr.) (\$144,815)	\$96,165.00
05-JJ-22	Heartland Family Service-Omaha (Douglas County Victim Empathy Program) (\$0)	\$41,309.00
05-JJ-23	Lancaster County-Lincoln (Project Here to Overcome H2O) (\$0)	\$30,000.00
05-JJ-24	Lancaster County-Lincoln (The HUB) (\$82,549)	\$61,911.00

**Deny:**

05-JJ-12	Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital-Hastings (Delinquency, Offending, & Violence Elimination) (\$0)	\$0
05-JJ-14	Mid Plains Center for Behavioral Healthcare-Grand Island (Alternate Route) (\$0)	\$0
05-JJ-16	Lancaster County-Lincoln (“Movin’ on Up” Pilot Project) (\$0)	\$0
05-JJ-19	Lancaster County-Lincoln (DEFNS) (Was Title V \$10,000)	\$0
05-JJ-20	Lancaster County-Lincoln (DMC Community Empowerment) (\$0)	\$0

Miles-Steffens opened the floor for any discussion on the Juvenile Services grant funds. There was discussion about 06-JS-404. Miles-Steffens explained they were funded for the first time last year for an after school program. She stated the program has had a difficult time getting started because of communication issues and has changed focus somewhat in serving also as a diversion option. She did a site visit and found the program is running, but not exactly in the manner in which the original grant was intended. The grant review committee determined that the quality of the continuation grant was not good.

**Motion**

***A motion was made by Piccolo and seconded by Menzel to approve the 2006 Juvenile Services grant funds. Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Blue (abstained 406, 430), Brockmeier, Hawekotte, McMinn, Menzel, Montgomery, O’Dea, Piccolo (abstained 403, 421), Ruiz (abstained 403, 421), and Terry. (Motion carried).***

**Approve:**

06-JS-400	Lutheran Family Services-Lincoln (4 County Mentoring Program) (\$33,412)	\$33,412.00
06-JS-402	Sherman County-Loup City (Youth Prevention & Diversion) (\$14,850)	\$11,138.00
06-JS-403	TeamMates-Grand Island (TeamMates Mentoring Program) (\$0)	\$9,996.00
06-JS-405	Franklin First United Methodist Church-Franklin (Franklin After School Program) (\$18,000)	\$18,000.00
06-JS-406	CEDARS Youth Services-Lincoln (CEDARS Central Nebraska Wraparound Services) (\$37,125)	\$24,750.00
06-JS-407	YWCA Adams County-Hastings (After School ZONE) (\$23,617)	\$11,808.00
06-JS-408	YWCA Adams County-Hastings (High School ZONE) (\$0)	\$18,317.00
06-JS-409	Crete Public Schools-Crete (Crete Cardinal Zone) (\$35,000)	\$35,000.00
06-JS-410	Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands-Omaha (Mentoring Children of Prisoners) (\$0)	\$35,000.00
06-JS-412	Blue Valley Community Action Partnership-Fairbury (FYI After School Program) (\$0)	\$40,000.00

06-JS-413	Sidney Public Schools-Sidney (Youth As Resources) (\$30,000)	\$22,500.00
06-JS-414	GLW Children's Council-Burwell (GLW CC Juvenile Services Program) (\$30,000)	\$30,000.00
06-JS-416	Seward County Bridges-Seward (Seward Co. After School Program) (\$13,000)	\$6,500.00
06-JS-417	Camp Fire USA Midlands Council-Omaha (Action Pact South) (\$17,625)	\$8,813.00
06-JS-418	Lutheran Family Services-Omaha (Program for Children & Adolescents with Sexual Behavior Problems) (\$34,897)	\$47,000.00
06-JS-419	Girl Scouts-Homestead Council-Lincoln (STUDIO 2B After School Program) (\$50,000)	\$46,744.00
06-JS-423	Lancaster County-Lincoln (Positive Choices:Lincoln High's Anger Management Program) (\$0)	\$12,214.00
06-JS-424	I Believe In Me Ranch-Kearney (An Ounce of Prevention) (\$0)	\$28,650.00
06-JS-425	People United for Families-Nebraska City (Otoe County After School Program) (\$0)	\$35,500.00
06-JS-426	Otoe County-Nebraska City (Otoe County STARS Project) (\$22,646)	\$15,097.00
06-JS-428	Lancaster County-Lincoln (TeamMates Project MOAST) (\$0)	\$30,000.00
06-JS-429	Creighton University-Omaha (Occupations Empowering Youth) (\$0)	\$37,373.00
06-JS-430	Lancaster County-Lincoln (Skills & Asset Building in Juvenile Justice Programs) (\$0)	\$30,000.00

**Deny:**

06-JS-401	JOURNEYS-Omaha (JOURNEYS Recovery Solutions & Continuing Care) (\$0)	\$0
06-JS-404	Rushville/Gordon Public Schools-Gordon (Achievers Consortium) (\$40,000)	\$0
06-JS-411	Minnechaduza Foundation-Valentine (Valentine Cherry County After School Program) (\$0)	\$0
06-JS-415	Kearney Public Schools Foundation-Kearney (Paw PRIDE) (\$0)	\$0
06-JS-420	Lincoln Southeast High School-Lincoln (2006 State Juvenile Services Grant) (\$0)	\$0
06-JS-421	Mid Plains Center for Behavioral Healthcare-Grand Island (Alternate Route) (\$0)	\$0
06-JS-422	Indian Center, Inc.-Lincoln (PRIDE) (\$0)	\$0
06-JS-427	Uta Halee Girls Village-Omaha (Intensive Aftercare Program) (\$0)	\$0

The meeting broke briefly at 11:30 to distribute lunch.

Reckling returned to the meeting 11:30.

**XI. Report on OJJDP January conference**

Hawekotte gave a brief overview of the conference and a few of the seminars she attended. She said the Pre-Conference seminar on Federal Grants was one of the best seminars of the week. They talked about having four requirements for any federal grant, but stressed the use of Evidence Based Programs. The First Lady Laura Bush's new program HAY (Helping Americas Youth) was also discussed.

The best seminar was Recent Studies in Child Abuse and Neglect. It looked at three main studies that are just being completed. Hawekotte said her favorite was Dr. Thornberry who talked about whether timing matters when the abuse/neglect happens.

She said she attended the PBS Standards with regard to juvenile facilities. Both of the YRTC's are members of this organization. They presented how their system works, the use of restraints as well as the physical type of aspects to a program.

McMinn reported that she felt the conference was worthwhile and attended several good sessions.

**XII. Approve Travel to: CJJ spring conference-Washington DC, May 4-7  
Child Welfare League JJ Conference, May 31-June 2  
Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association, Grand Island, May 4-5**

**Motion**

***A motion was made by Behm and seconded by Menzel to approve travel to CJJ spring conference in Washington, DC, May 4-7 for 3 people at \$2,000 per person, Child Welfare League JJ Conference in San Fransico, May 31-June 2 for 3 people at \$1,750 per person, and Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association in Grand Island, May 4-5 at \$500 per person. Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Blue, Brockmeier, Hawekotte, McMinn, Menzel, Montgomery, O'Dea, Piccolo, Reckling, Ruiz, and Terry. (Motion carried).***

**XIII. Approval of 2006 JABG, Title V and Title II federal applications**

Miles-Steffens presented all three grant applications for discussion. Federal awards have decreased to \$56,250 for Title V, \$375,200 for JABG and \$600,000 for Title II. The priorities for JABG state retained funds continue to be juvenile information sharing. Title V priorities continue to focus on DMC and the Three Year Plan priorities remain the same with the addition of working with younger offenders and truancy. The Three Year Plan is what helps drive our funding decisions. Miles-Steffens state she will put the Three Year Plan into an Executive Summary/work plan that will be easy reference for the Coalition and to be posted on the Crime Commissions website.

**Motion**

***A motion was made by O'Dea and seconded by Menzel to approve the 2006 JABG federal application. Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Blue, Brockmeier, Hawekotte, McMinn, Menzel, Montgomery, O'Dea, Piccolo, Reckling, Ruiz, and Terry. (Motion carried).***

**Motion**

***A motion was made by Menzel and seconded by Blue to approve the 2006 Title V federal application. Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Blue, Brockmeier, Hawekotte, McMinn, Menzel, Montgomery, O'Dea, Piccolo, Reckling, Ruiz, and Terry. (Motion carried).***

**Motion**

***A motion was made by Menzel and seconded by Hawekotte to approve the 2006 Title II Three Year Strategy federal application. Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Blue, Brockmeier, Hawekotte, McMinn, Menzel, Montgomery, O'Dea, Piccolo, Reckling, Ruiz, and Terry. (Motion carried).***

**XIV. Discussion of support for NJJA conference**

Miles-Steffens commented in the past the Coalition has supported NJJA with \$2,500 to help with the key note speaker for the conference. This year's speaker is internationally known Psychologist and Author Dr. Stanton Samenow.

**Motion**

***A motion was made by Menzel and seconded by O'Dea to approve \$2,500 in support of the NJJA conference speaker Dr. Stanton Samenow. Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Blue, Brockmeier, Hawekotte, McMinn, Menzel, Montgomery, O'Dea, Piccolo, Reckling, Ruiz, and Terry. (Motion carried).***

**XV. June Meeting: location?**

Hawekotte suggested Hastings as a location for the June meeting. The group could tour the OJS facilities/programs there. Miles-Steffens will work with her to arrange the meeting.

**XVI. Public Comment**

None

**XVII. New Business/Future Agenda Items:**

Gendler announced Officer Mattson from OPD will be doing a presentation on drugs June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the Sarpy County Courthouse.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:45.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Vensky  
Staff Support