



Governor Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
San Wong, Director

**JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL
IOWA TASK FORCE FOR YOUNG WOMEN**

One purpose, one passion - transforming systems to empower every girl.

MINUTES OF MEETING

August 5, 2022

Google Meet

Present: Jennifer Tibbetts, Lori Rinehart, Co-Chairs; Ashley Artzer; Bethany Kohoutek

Staff: Steve Michael; Kathy Nesteby; Scott Musel; Jill Padgett

Others: Evan Johnson, LSA; Megan Hoxhalli, LSI

Introductions/Announcements

Jennifer Tibbetts, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order, introductions were made. A quorum was not present. Lori Rinehart read a poem.

Approval of Minutes

- Feb and May

Due to lack of quorum, the minutes were not approved.

JJAC/CJJP Update

Steve Michael reported the following:

- **Youth & Family Engagement Summit**—In conjunction with Judicial Branch staff, CJJP staff are helping plan this event to be held August 9 in Ankeny.
- **Pre-charge Diversion (PCD)**—We are in the process of awarding contracts to three communities for PCD—Fort Dodge, Scott County, and Johnson County.
- **Staff openings**—Openings exist for both a Juvenile Reentry Navigator and a Justice Systems Analyst. Additionally, Angela Leonetti, Budget Analyst, has resigned effective September 1. Her position will be posted later.
- **Chief Justice's Juvenile Justice Task Force**—Steve Michael reported that the Task Force work is ongoing. CJJP staff sit on each of the six subcommittees.
 - **Juvenile Reentry Workgroup**—Jill Padgett reported that recommendations that focus on a variety of areas are being finalized: housing, resiliency, health/well-being, education, DMC, and family engagement.
 - **State Training School Workgroup**—Scott Musel reported that a lot of discussion has surrounded how the school is meeting requirements from the federal court case and progress. There has also been discussion on an equivalent placement for girls.
 - **Congregate Care Workgroup**—Kathy Nesteby reported that the ITFYW has been asked to provide comments and recommendations on girls. She has shared the Iowa Girls' Justice Initiative (IGJI) report and recommendations. As a result, a special meeting of ITFYW members was held to review and update those recommendations prior to submission.

Nesteby reviewed the updated recommendations which were categorized by services and system recommendations, as well as a variety of related resources.

Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning

Members reviewed and made minor changes to the recommendations. The information will be shared with the Congregate Care Workgroup. A future meeting will be set to review possible legislative recommendations.

Joint Meeting Follow-up

- SROs/school-to-court

Tibbetts provided an overview of the joint meeting held between this task force, the DMC Subcommittee, and the Youth Justice Council. The meeting centered on reducing school-related referrals and the removal of school resource officers. A variety of data was shared. A toolkit is being developed for use in removing school resource officers in other school districts. The November ITFYW meeting will include discussions regarding 'next steps'.

Tibbetts added that the African American Museum of Iowa and the Cedar Rapids Public Library will be teaming to provide an exhibit on the school-to-court pipeline.

Find Our Sisters

- Trauma-informed detention project
- Volunteer for next meeting

Megan Hoxhalli provided information on the trauma-informed services program at LSI for youth in detention. The program began in Polk County as a result of judges requesting these services. Polk County Decat put together an RFP and LSI was awarded the contract for services.

LSI has served Polk County youth in Polk County detention for five years. During the past year, they have expanded services to youth from the 2nd Judicial District housed in three detention centers—Northwest Iowa (Cherokee), North Iowa (Waterloo), and Central Iowa Juvenile Detention (Eldora).

Their work encompasses trauma screening and counseling. Meeting with youth once a week and working with them to understand how their trauma(s) affect them and providing coping skills. Each quarter, JCO's and youth are surveyed regarding coping skills. The data show that youth are increasing their coping skills, especially in the court setting. Ninety percent (90%) hope to continue counseling post-discharge and most are able to connect past behavior to their current situation. Hoxhalli noted that everyone is pleased with the services.

Hoxhalli also noted the number of youth who are staying in detention more long term than what was done in the past and the importance of this type of therapy in group care. Even staff have recognized triggers and are doing more to help youth work past these issues.

Ashley Artzer noted how this effort began as a pilot in Polk County. Over time, there has been a total shift in thinking as well as the number of youth served as a result. She would like to see it replicated throughout the state. Nesteby wondered if decats could work together, utilizing one agreement, and provide funding for more therapists. Tibbetts asked if it was possible to look at outcomes for girls and whether conversations should be held to get this program expanded statewide?

Hoxhalli noted staffing difficulties and shortages, primarily due to salary amounts. As a result, a lot of youth are on a waiting list for services.

Michael asked what other settings could provide these services outside of a detention setting and be used as a pre-charge diversion strategy. Hoxhalli noted that the girls she has met with like the structure of detention and feel safe. They know that staff are well-trained and held accountable. In other settings, staff are young and don't have the experience. She added that yoga can help those with trauma, but girls are reluctant to participate when there are males around. She also stated that highly-traumatized youth need more therapy.

Tibbetts and Nesteby invited Hoxhalli to become a member of the Task Force. Nesteby added that Julie Stevens, who was unable to attend this meeting, would present information at the November meeting.

Detention Home Fund

Scott Musel reported that legislation was passed that moves oversight of the Detention Home Fund from DHS to CJJP, effective July 1, 2023. As a result, Administrative Code Chapter 105 is being reviewed. The chapter relates to licensing and approved standards for juvenile detention centers and shelter care homes. Meetings with detention directors are being held. Other groups and the public will have an opportunity to provide feedback as well.

Tibbetts suggested comparing recommendations from the IGJI report to the code section. There was consensus to seat a workgroup to review and propose changes and share that information at the November meeting.

Tibbetts asked that the information be shared with the DMC Subcommittee and the Youth Justice Council (YJC) as well. Musel noted that some of the personal hygiene information brought forth by YJC members has already been shared.

Youth Led Initiatives Update

Padgett reported that four of the YJC members just returned from attending a youth engagement summit sponsored by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice. Since they just returned, she had no further information to report.

DMC Update

- Black Girls in JJ workgroup

Padgett invited members to attend the next DMC meeting to be held August 31. The Cultural Equity Alliance, staffed by DHS, is interested in starting conversations on ways to partner.

Goals and Objectives

This item was not discussed.

New Membership – Kelsie Kuhnert

Nesteby reported that Kelsie Kuhnert has become a new member, but was unable to attend today's meeting.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker
Administrative Secretary