

**JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
VIRTUAL MEETING (MICROSOFT TEAMS)**

**February 21, 2025**

**10 AM – 12 PM**

**MEMBERS:** Andrew Allen, Diamond Denney, Stephanie Hernandez, Joshua Seltz, Judge Cheryl Traum, Mary Kate Tuftee, Zoie Points, Jeralyn Westercamp

**STAFF:** Tim Johnson, Kayla Powell, Sam Johnston, Scott Musel, Kathy Nesteby, Deidre Darold-Wilson, Alison Roe, Don Varner, Alaina Gerdes, Blair Oakley

**OTHERS:** Audi Wodrazka Espinoza, Andrea Dencklau

**WELCOME & CENTERING ACIVITY – ANDREW ALLEN**

- Andrew Allen opened the meeting at 9:03 am and extended a welcome. Tim Johnson led the introduction/centering activity.

**APPROVE MINUTES (DECEMBER 2024) – ANDREW ALLEN**

- Judge Cheryl Traum made a motion to approve the minutes from December 2024 and was seconded by Stephanie Hernandez. All in favor. So, moved.

**YOUTH JUSTICE COUNCIL ACTIVITIES – ZOIE POINTS**

- Zoie Points shared that Youth Justice Council has been busy lately and provided updates which included:
  - YJC Yearly Retreat was held in January 2025
    - During the Retreat there was new leadership: Chair: Zoie Points, Vice Chair: Jack, and a new member was added: Monica. Audi shared her reflections regarding her tenure as Chair.
    - YJC distributed self-care packages to several out of home placements including Ellipsis.
- State Training School (STS) Student Council met with Melvin and Jack in January as they facilitated a discussion to create recommendation on hygiene products needed.
- Youth Shadow Week was last week. Those who shadowed as well as those being shadowed had a great time and learned a lot.
- Zoie and Monica are members of the Safe Kids Advisory, participating in monthly meetings, working to reimagine child welfare.
- Audi has worked on A Guide to Juvenile Justice; Guide to the Court that will be transformed into a magazine.
- Andrew shared that YJC is the most active sub-committee with the most engagement getting some of the best results. He also extended a congratulations to this sub-committee.

## **IOWA TASK FORCE FOR YOUNG WOMEN – KATHY NESTEBY**

- ITFYW has recently met; looked at the JJAC priorities and picked a few for themselves to prioritize:
  - Minimum age for delinquency proceedings
  - Reducing detention holds for probation violations
  - Requiring female and culturally responsive training for all facilities
- Updating the publication that helps people know how to provide female responsive services with work group meetings.
- Sam Johnston has helped put together new data around Deep End Girls and ITFYW is going to oversee putting together a new report for population.

## **RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES – DIAMOND DENNEY**

- Sub-committee has established R/ED Coordinators from each district meeting monthly to align statewide.
- R/ED has been paying attention to HSB 155: elimination of any DEI offices, boards, and commissions. And how this affects the work of this sub-committee. At this point they will continue work and reimagine the scope of focus if necessary.

## **NATIONAL AND STATE UPDATES – SCOTT MUSEL**

- This is Tim Johnson's last meeting as he has taken another position with Great Oaks Charter School in Des Moines. His responsibilities have been transferred to Kathy as the point person as well as Scott, Kayla, and Blair to assist. At this point it is unclear when this position will be reposted.
- CJJ has a Compliance Monitor Meeting will be held next week and hopefully updates will be provided regarding executive orders recently signed.
- Kathy shared information on pass through funds. The contracting process has started. There are five diversion and five Title II grants. By next meeting, a write-up will be drafted and shared. Starting April 1, 2025, organizations will be able to use these funds.

## **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – ANDREW ALLEN AND STEPHANIE HERNANDEZ**

- Stephanie briefly recapped the Legislative Priorities previously established.
- Legislative Priorities have been developed, and discussion was had regarding how that information would be shared to legislators as staff cannot lobby or advocate in their role. Ideas shared:
  - Reaching out to individual legislators
  - Reaching out to advocate groups to collaborate with
  - Check Legislative Forums at community colleges in your area
  - Andrew advised that an email will be drafted which will include the Legislative Priorities, will be shared with JJAC to forward to legislators

## **PRIORITY AREAS (1-1-1, 1-1-2, 2-2-3, 3-1-2) – TIM JOHNSON**

- Tim provided brief updates regarding the Priority Areas created by JJAC which included:
  - Credible Messengers- a six-year contract including a three-day training with Academy for Transformational Change; has been awarded to Children's and Families of Iowa in District 7.
  - Courtroom Experience- YJC is going to partner with Drake's Children Rights Clinic to do courtroom observations for delinquency hearings.
  - Kayla is presenting to judges in May about creating better courtroom experiences.
  - The Guide to Court was sent to multidisciplinary review team of judges, attorneys, youth, and families with lived experience. With feedback due March 1, 2025.
  - Increasing Access to Families- as of February 1, 2025, previous COVID procedures and policies have ended at a detention center in Scott County. Also, working with group homes and shelters regarding the availability of mailing stamps to ensure communication with families.

## **COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNUAL CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE – MAY 28-31, 2025**

- Discussion around how many people the JJAC would be able to support.
  - Stephanie Hernandez made a motion that JJAC support five (5) participants to participate in the conference. Seconded by Jeralyn Westercamp. All in favor. So, moved.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Next meeting is currently scheduled in May although staff is out of the office so team will look at possibly rescheduling.
- A survey will be sent out, after a meeting with Andrew, next week.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- None.

## **ADJOURN**

- Andrew adjourned this meeting at 11:19 am.