



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Juvenile Justice and Youth Development Policy Board February 27, 2023 MINUTES

Appointed Members Present: Ann Santos, Bryan Davis (NLPD), Joella Gerber, Jon Green (BOS), Mary Abboud, Susan Vileta, Zachary Slocum

Ex-Officio Members Present: Alton Poole (U of I Police), Brad Barker (City of IC), Chris Wisman (JC Sheriff), Denise Brotherton (ICPD), Erin Altheide (JCS), Jayne Finch (ICCS Board), Kyle Nicholson (CPD), Shane Kron (CPD), Tracey Mulcahey (City NL)

Guests Present: Blake Termini (JCS), Dawn Schott (LCDD), Tony Branch (UAY)

Staff Present: Laurie Nash

Welcome and Introductions

Approve previous minutes. Motion Jon Green, second Mary Abboud. No discussion, approved unanimously.

Review 2nd Quarter Reports. Most funded programs are ongoing and have received previous JJYD funding. Working with NCJC to update G! World report format to include all activities including case management. Laurie will begin sharing Decat-funded Shoplifters Diversion progress reports with this group, as it relates to the pre-charge diversion expansion program for which this group is responsible.

Pre-Charge Diversion Expansion Update. Johnson County has grant through Iowa CJJP and subcontract with UAY to expand pre-charge diversion opportunities for Johnson County youth. Tony reports that November-February was spent building out program, developing forms, identifying program content, etc. Shoplifters Diversion will not change expect to add 4th Degree Theft. Large group session includes loss prevention specialist, law enforcement, and juvenile court representatives to discuss their work, processes, etc. Participants break into groups (parents, youth) and UAY staff facilitates parent session focused on teen brain development, parents supporting teens through this process, and general parent support of teens. Other UAY staff facilitates youth session reflecting on teen's decision making process that led to this involvement, how to make better decisions in the future, teen brain development. Substance Misuse will include a similar group-based model with parents and youth discussing harm reduction practices and then break into smaller groups. Prior to classes, there is individual pre-screening by a substance abuse counselor to assess substance abuse risk factors which may include individual session. Other SMMS are being addressed on an individual case-by-case basis until we have better information about the types of offenses, etc. Currently Tony contacts families within 5 days of receiving referral and schedules a family/individual session. Often that is the entire diversion Families and youth are referred to other community-based resources which may include crisis advocacy and mediation, SPARK, therapy, etc. To date there have been 7 referrals, most of which were for theft. One participant has successfully completed (Other). That individual was successfully enrolled in the UAY Crisis, Advocacy, and Mediation Program.

Blake shared that Tony developed an efficient referral form and process. Laurie noted that referrals may be to UAY programs or other supportive youth development programs such as G! World, Dream City, school extracurriculars, etc.

Erin shared that she is appreciative of the work of all of the agencies and especially of law enforcement. They have been extremely supportive of this program and the ultimate outcome of the program will be to reduce disparity of youth coming in to the system. If we can keep those very young kids out of the system then they are less likely to enter the system at all, let alone get into the deeper end of the system. Erin noted that having law enforcement on board is critical and everyone should be celebrating that. If law enforcement has ideas about how they can participate in programming, please reach out to Tony with those ideas and to brainstorm how that might work. Laurie reinforced that, including that law enforcement agencies have been on board since before the application was submitted. Johnson County is unique in including multiple law enforcement agencies in a single pre-charge diversion program. The inclusion of all county law enforcement agencies is critical to equity across the county.

We have submitted a few quarterly reports to the state, but that was before we had actually served any youth. Laurie will be sure that future reports are shared with this group as well as the Pre-Charge Diversion Advisory Committee. Development of evaluation tools and processes continues to evolve and finalize.

Policy & Practice: School Notification. This is a multi-pronged issue and we will start with rules regulating confidentiality of law enforcement interactions with youth. Laurie explained that this has been quite a process for her, learning that Iowa law and Iowa Code is not entirely clear and her experience has been that different entities interpret it in different ways. Some interpret law enforcement contact as falling under the same rules and regulations as juvenile court records regarding confidentiality, etc. Others note that because the law doesn't say anything specifically about law enforcement records, they are not included in those rules. This different interpretation is occurring throughout the state, not just in Johnson County. Laurie has sent several emails to the state Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning office but has not had a response. Laurie suggests that this board address this topic as part of its policy and practice change agenda. She suggests looking at the rules/laws of other states, talk to other LEAs across the state, and perhaps make policy and practice recommendations. Laurie feels that, at a minimum, Iowa Code should address how juvenile law enforcement contact is handled. Even if it doesn't address it the way she would recommend, she feels it should at least be included/addressed. So far, she has not found any citations, rules, laws, etc. that provide a right or wrong answer about how to handle juvenile law enforcement records. She asked if there were questions or if others had additional information they could share. None. In Johnson County this came up because we were discussing notification to schools even when youth were not charged or it was not a founded allegation, but in other areas there have been other examples. In general the media seems to have a policy to not identify juvenile contact with law enforcement, but it isn't anywhere in law or code on how the system handles it. Each law enforcement agency has their own internal processes and seem to handle that consistently within their entity. Laurie asked for a small work group to work on that in between Policy Board meetings since we meet only quarterly. Volunteers: Ann Santos, Chris Wisman, Zachary Slocum. Zachary will explore how other states handle this type of information.

Policy & Practice: Codes of Conduct. Another part of the issue is what school districts do with information about juvenile contact with law enforcement. School district Codes of Conduct are being discussed in multiple groups/realms in which Laurie participates. She started hearing/talking about it in the context of how schools handle the information when they are notified of juvenile law enforcement contact in the absence of a charge or formal allegation. It has also come up in terms of how districts handle incidents that might also be related to social-emotional issues and how mental health might impact behavior which might then come up against a Code of Conduct. ICCSD is taking a fresh look at their Code of Conduct, but Laurie's not sure about other districts. For us, this came up related to pre-charge diversion because we hoped that if a youth was eligible for pre-charge diversion in the juvenile justice system they could then go through a diversion-type system at the school-district level. Rather than going through the punitive practices, we would like them to have diversion opportunities at the school district level. Some districts were unsure whether this is something they could do, given rules in statewide systems such as the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA). We have learned the IHSAA says schools need to have a Code of Conduct and need to follow it, but do not say what that should include.

Tony and Laurie have talked about having more outreach to local school districts to learn what they are currently doing and what conversations they are having, to see if any of them are interested in being part of this pilot project to determine if diversion from punitive school consequences has any impact on recidivism in the juvenile justice system. If a district offers alternative options such as restorative justice and building upon the idea of team supports. Laurie gave an example of an internal diversion where a youth caught with alcohol may have a meeting with their coach, explain what happened, together with the coach create a plan and make a commitment to stay away from substances and follow the team and school rules. Maybe they identify a couple of other team members who they pull in as support people and they commit to supporting each other to make good choices. Acknowledge that they could have gotten kicked off the team but were given a second chance and are making a commitment to make better choices in order to support the team. Does this alternate consequence of wrapping supports around them makes a difference in recidivism. Susan shared that there is a small group within Community & Family Resources that includes other community agencies and who are meeting with Johnson County schools to go over school substance-use policies specifically, not all of Codes of Conduct. Laurie shared that she will be a part of that group and that is a good connection to this work. Laurie asked for additional information, citations, examples, etc.

Updates and Announcements.

Dawn shared that numbers have gone up in the LINK program. That program includes intervention counselors working with moderate to high risk kids, conducting assessments, connecting them with community services, finding employment, completing community service, crisis intervention, etc. Alternative Detention Initiative (ADI) is an in-home detention program to be utilized when a youth can be released from detention with a high intensive level of supervision in their home; then if they violate any of the conditions, they return to detention without an additional order. It's about keeping kids in their homes, schools, and communities with a high level of supervision (e.g. daily meetings with staff, ankle monitors). Unfortunately, both of those contracts will end June 30. Dawn is unsure if detention numbers will increase with fewer options available in the community. They will continue to have a tracking program in the community, which is currently maxed out with 18 enrollees. But that program does not provide any skill-building. Erin is not aware of other community-based services that may be able to provide that type of support to those youth; it was a financial decision and it is unclear what will happen in the future. JCS is sad to lose this service. Laurie shared that local Decat will have a budget in FY24 of about 1/3 of the typical budget. This will impact Decat-funded positive youth development programs and primary prevention to keep youth and families out of systems. LADDERS pre-charge diversion will continue.

Laurie shared an idea after meeting with staff from DHS this morning talking about disproportionate minority contact of youth/families in the child welfare system. The discussion centered on the work of addressing that disparity frequently being an add-on to staff's regular duties and that it doesn't get the time and attention that it deserves. As a very important piece of our work, it shouldn't be tacked on to other positions. This is true of not only the child welfare system, but also juvenile court and other systems. Laurie suggested a shared staff position specifically to address disproportionate minority contact in systems that is jointly funded through child welfare, Juvenile Court, Department of Education, County, and other sources that have a stake in addressing this issue. The staff would work across systems to address disproportionality and disparity. Laurie recognizes that as we talk about a lack of funding in many systems, this may sound impossible but may be feasible with a braiding of multiple funding sources.

Laurie shared that there is a Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Committee in Johnson County, but it is not "owned" by and doesn't have an official role in any of the systems. The DMC Committee doesn't report to any entity and doesn't have dedicated staff other than some of Laurie's time as a county employee. It is not an official County committee and doesn't have official membership but is very much community-driven. It could be a vehicle for this kind of work, but is under resourced to make much of an impact. Susan shared that they discuss this frequently within Public Health; equity considerations are everyone's job but it's not a well-defined part of the roles. If anyone is interested in learning more about the Disproportionate Minority Contact

Committee or has suggestions about how that Committee could be more effective, please contact Laurie. There are plans for some joint planning sessions that will bring together folks from JJYD, Decat, DMC Committee, Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, Prevent Child Abuse-Johnson County, school districts, youth-serving agencies, and others. The intent is to share information amongst ourselves and identify ways to more effectively and efficiently work together, share information, and streamline our work. Laurie may ask folks to participate in planning and presenting during this event. Volunteers are encouraged.

Laurie would like to host the August meeting in person to increase networking and have in-person presentations from the agencies. This would be an annual in-person meeting, but could have a zoom-in option if needed.

Adjourn

Approved 05/01/2023

Next Meetings: Monday, May 1, 2023 3:30 – 5:00 hybrid

Monday, August 7, 2023 3:30-5:00 in-person

Questions about these meetings and minutes can be directed to Laurie Nash at 319-356-6090 or lnash@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

Google Folder <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1HZRDtHgvUSZF0d7IE15U4s4aUss2dxtk?usp=sharing>