

Natrona County Community Juvenile Services Board

Meeting Minutes—January 24, 2023

Members Present (via Google Meet):

Traci Blevins, Gareth West, Jim Milne, Becky Burt, Emma Burton-Hopkins, Rebecca Albertson, Paul Fritzler, Cori Cosner-Burton, Gus Holbrook, Christopher Dresang, and Stephanie Arrache.

Amanda Lewallen called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM.

Review and approval of the November 2022 minutes:

November 2022 minutes were reviewed. Rebecca Albertson made a motion to accept the minutes, motion seconded by Paul Fritzler, motion passed.

Review and approval of the November and December 2022 Budgets:

The November and December budget and expenditures were reviewed. Rebecca Albertson made a motion to accept the minutes, motion seconded by Cori Cosner-Burton, motion passed.

Single Point report: The December 2022 and Annual 2022 SPE reports were provided and reviewed. Amanda provided a comparison of 2021 and 2022 annual stats, highlighting: a 27% increase in total cases reviewed, a 52% increase in cases filed in Circuit Court, a 54% decrease in cases filed to Municipal Court, an 87% decrease in cases referred to community service, a 61% increase in cases referred to MFRC, a 64% increase in Breach of Peace citations increased by 64%, Burglary increased by 84%, Fighting in Public increased by 440%, Theft (less than \$1K) increased by 341%, and Curfew decrease by 77%. In 2021, there was 22 Larceny (under \$1K) and in 2022 there were zero. In 2021 there were zero Battery-Cause Bodily Injury and in 2022 there were 19.

Board members requested a full document of the year-to-year comparison. Amanda will email out within the week.

Becky reported that SPE has been running smoothly, however, they noticed fewer cases going to court and found a glitch in filing resulting in kids not receiving a court date. She believes that the issue has been resolved. She reported that Student Court numbers have been the lowest that they have seen in a while.

Old Business:

-Update on re-establishing joint powers board status and bylaws:

Amanda submitted a new draft of bylaws and an updated board agreement addendum to Eric Nelson on November 30th for review and approval. Eric will be leaving the County Attorney's office this week but had hoped to complete this project prior to leaving. The Deputy County Attorney and Heather Duncan Malone will be covering in the interim until the position is filled. Jim Milne offered to keep helping us work with the County Attorney's office to get this project

completed. Amanda and Paul will continue to contact the County Attorney's office for review and approval of the drafted bylaws and agreement addendum, to then go to the governing bodies and the board for approval. Christopher Dresang will try to find original copies from NCSD.

-Nominations and Elections for Board Officers:

Amanda reported that nominations and elections would occur as soon as the bylaws are finalized. She encouraged members to be thinking about nominations, particularly the chairperson position.

New Business:

-Updates from CJSB Reform:

Paul reported that he has not received any updates from DFS administration on the recommendations that they have been preparing to submit to the Legislature this session. Paul stated that he does know that they want to adopt the Reroute System statewide. It is unknown when during the session that DFS will be addressing the Legislature and providing the recommendations. Any updates and information received will be provided to the board via email.

-Updates on WYSAC Diversion Study:

Amanda had not received any updates from WYSAC and members present at the were not aware of WYSAC yet contacting our local Diversion regarding participating in the study.

-Updates on Reroute System:

WYSAC announced the official launch of the Reroute Juvenile Data Collection System on January 12th. Participating CJSBs need to execute a Data Transfer and Use Agreement and WYSAC provided a draft. Paul will work with Stephanie and the DA's office to set up a meeting with WYSAC for a demonstration of the system and to answer all logistical questions.

-Discussion on WyoFile Articles:

Amanda provided the board links to recent articles on the Boys School and PRTFs:
<https://wyofile.com/funding-staffing-shortages-beleaguer-youth-psychiatric-facilities/>

<https://wyofile.com/violence-restraints-isolation-increase-at-wyoming-boys-school/>

<https://wyofile.com/lack-of-oversight-transparency-hid-boys-school-struggles/>

Minimal discussion occurred. Paul mentioned that he and Becky discussed one positive not highlighted by the articles was shorter stays and fewer kids.

-Housekeeping—Member list and Meeting Structure:

The members present provided updates for agency representatives that have changed. Amanda will send an updated list for review for the next meeting.

Amanda requested input on changing the meeting structure to foster more meaningful conversations focusing on concerns, trends, and revisiting any initiatives established to address the issues. Minimal discussion and input occurred. Rebecca appreciated the idea and offered the idea of a shared google doc for members to add topics of important discussion and collaboration to contribute to prior to meeting agendas being set. Amanda will work on drafting one.

AGENCY UPDATES:

MFRC- “Mercer Family Resource Center is gearing up for Family Game Night on Friday, Feb. 17th from 5:30-7:30 at BGC. Feel free to invite any youth and families for free entry, games, and dinner; we would love to have any partner agencies present to volunteer (I will send a flier)! Youth Empowerment Council will have a Bloody Valentine Dance with DJ Nyke on the evening of Feb. 11th at Art321, if you have any youth interested please rsvp to Justine Marton at Mercer. We have been alternating months for Insight into Substance Prevention/Adolescent Level .5 and held a class this month. Anger Management and Corrective Thinking are running as usual (CT has been offered virtually as needed). Strengthening Families was supposed to start this week but our parenting specialist had a medical emergency so it has been briefly postponed. Our all-day Saturday course for Nurtured Heart Approach this month wasn't filled, fortunately, Circle of Security and Love & Logic have been running as usual (LL this session was also offered online). For the quarterly CHINS Report, we have received 76 referrals mid-fiscal year, served 68 parents in classes, and 148 youth in intervention education courses. The class numbers were edited after the report was sent to CJSB, so I will resend the Dec. and Quarter 2 reports to the group.”

DFS- Becky: “Things are going well here at DFS. DFS Student Court Worker Sophie Lamarche will be moving on as an analyst for the state office in our clinical division so Mindy Freese will be joining the Student Court team as the DFS representative. Lisa Bauman-Brown the Supervisor for the CPS Investigations Unit has taken a role at the State office so there will be an open position for a supervisor. All those changes will go into effect, February 1st. We are still looking to hire two Social Services Workers one for probation and the other for reunification. Please send great candidates our way!!! In Probation, we currently have 129 cases: 48 probation, 10 CHINS, 16 Ed Neglect, 34 PreCHINS, 18 Student Court, 3 additional cases and 28 kids in placement.”

Paul: DFS building space is full and they are looking into seeing if other state agencies have open space. He shared information on an upcoming abuse and neglect training hosted by the Children's Justice Project on 3/15 from 1-4 pm at Strausner Hall at Casper College. More information on the training will be emailed.

County Commissioners- Jim shared that Dallas Laird will be the new liaison from the County Commissioners. Jim requested to stay on the email list as he is interested in the work of the Board and appreciates the work of the Board.

Juvenile Detention Center - Things have been quiet and the census has been on the decline. They have not seen the usual uptick that they generally experience this time of year.

CNCHD- Emma reported that they attended leadership training last month. She shared information on an upcoming health workshop, “Healthy U”, running six sessions on Fridays 9:00-11:30 am beginning February 17th at the Mill location. An introductory session will be held on February 10th. A flier will be emailed. Please share with anyone who would benefit from healthy literacy, learning healthy lifestyles, and how to navigate the healthcare system.

DOC– Rebecca reported that Corrie Lynn currently has a Student Court case load of 18, but with staff shortages and keeping weighted caseloads across all agents, she also has a caseload of 37 adults.

NCSD- Chris reported that they have had 8,000 behaviors this semester and that is more behaviors than last year total. It has mainly been defiance and classroom disruption, and they have also seen an uptick in physical harm to others. They just had their 30th expulsion which has been more than the last three years. They have their staffing planning meeting in February to see how many teachers and staff they can afford to hire for next year.

Boys & Girls Club–Amanda Preddice-Milne introduced herself as the new Career Readiness Coordinator. They are currently running curriculum at Dean Morgan and the Main Club and they hope to expand to SSSL, the high schools, USI, and the Mission.

*Meeting adjourned at 11:09 AM (moved by Paul, seconded by Becky, approved).

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 28th, 2023 at 10:00 am via Google Meets