

Natrona County Community Juvenile Services Board

Meeting Minutes—February 28, 2023

Members Present (via Google Meet):

Traci Blevins, Gareth West, Emma Burton-Hopkins, Rebecca Albertson, Paul Fritzler, Cori Cosner-Burton, Gus Holbrook, Christopher Dresang, Andy Delgadillo, Emily Quarterman-Genoff, Corrie Lyn Whitman, Ashleigh Suko, and Commissioner Laird

Amanda Lewallen called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

Review and approval of the January 2023 minutes:

January 2023 minutes were reviewed. Paul Fritzler made a motion to accept the minutes, motion seconded by Rebecca Albertson, motion passed.

Review and approval of the January 2023 Budget:

The January budget and expenditures were reviewed. Monthly expenditures totaled 5,208.24 leaving a total balance of 135,937.35. Rebecca Albertson made a motion to accept the minutes, motion seconded by Cori Cosner-Burton, motion passed.

Single Point report: The January 2023 SPE report was provided and reviewed. In January, 65 cases were reviewed and of those, 22 were filed with the court, and 40 were accepted into pre-court programming (27 to MFRC, 12 to Youth Diversion, 1 to Community Service). The top offense categories reviewed in January were MIP-Tobacco-19; MIP-Alcohol-13; Simple Battery-8; Fighting in Public-6; Under the Influence of a Controlled substance- 4.

Amanda provided a comparison of January 2022 vs January 2023 SPE stats, highlighting: a 51% increase in total cases reviewed (43 to 65), a 68% decrease in cases filed in Juvenile Court (19 to 6), a 60% increase in cases filed to Circuit Court, a 200% increase in cases referred to MFRC, a 140% increase in cases referred to Diversion, 533% increase in MIP Tobacco, and a 700% increase in Simple Battery. A document of the comparisons will be emailed out to board members with the minutes.

Members requested continued comparisons quarterly analyzing trends from both the previous quarter and from the same quarter the previous year.

Old Business:

TABLED:

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

The draft bylaws and agreement addendum were sent to Deputy County Attorney Charmaine Reed on February 5th. Commissioner Laird reported that they are still interviewing for the County Attorney.

-Nominations and Elections for Board Officers:

Nominations and elections will occur as soon as the bylaws are finalized.

New Business:

-Meth Conference Registrations:

We have a budget of \$4,500 for this year which covers 30 spots for any juvenile justice serving professionals. Paul requested that agencies send him the names and emails of whom they would like to attend within the next 2-3 weeks and he will work with CPD on the easiest way to register the CJSB paid spots. The conference is held on April 5th and 6th.

-Discussion on CJSB Reform Recommendations:

A brief discussion occurred on the recommendations. It was discussed that we will need to plan to do a community needs assessment, need to take inventory of evidence-based/informed programs currently being used within various points of the JJ continuum, and need to identify and implement a needs-based assessment and where within the continuum to implement. The board will need to continue to collaborate with the state and participate in future workgroups.

-Updates on WYSAC Diversion Study:

No one has received any updates on the status of the study.

-Updates on Reroute System:

Paul has reached out to WYSAC and the DA's office to schedule a demonstration of the system and to discuss the next steps. After the initial meeting, the system will be presented to the entire board to review and discuss users and how to track individuals across time.

-Review of Updated Member List:

An updated list of members was provided and reviewed and no need for edits was reported.

-Discussion on resuming in-person meetings quarterly:

Paul made the motion to resume in-person meetings for the April and October meetings, motion was seconded by Rebecca, motion passed.

AGENCY UPDATES, CONCERNS, and TRENDS:

MFRC- (provided via email) "Mercer FRC had 17 CHINS cases in January, 9 caregivers in parenting education, and 33 youth in intervention for the month. We have room in all parenting classes, offered at various times and focusing on children of any age, issue, or concern. Youth classes have been full so we have been adding extra courses and alternating some online google-class options. Substance evaluations and courses have also been busy. Youth Empowerment Council (YEC) will be presenting their Suicide Prevention Awareness Team to the second half of

the freshman class at NCHS and also back at Transitions. They started their book club back up and will be focusing on eating disorders if anyone has trained professionals to speak to the group. YEC hosted a Bloody Valentine Dance at Art321 with about 70 youth in attendance. The majority of the evening went well, however following trends discussed, a few youth were cited for vaping and vandalizing the restroom. Mercer held Family Game Night this month as well, with about 225 attendees (129 children and 96 adults) at the Boys and Girls Club. Surveys were completed with five in Spanish.”

WBI- (provided via email)- “WBI Outpatient Clinic continues to offer Mental Health IOP for youth struggling with a variety of mental/behavioral health concerns. Youth have found success managing symptoms of depression, coping with suicidal and self-harm thoughts, dealing with anxiety, working through grief, and learning how to use their own strengths to build resiliency (and more). We are currently taking referrals for youth ages 13-17. Referrals can be made by calling 307-439-2139.

We anticipate having services available for individual and family tele-therapy for youth and children ages 10-17 by mid-April. We are excited to be increasing these services and moving forward to increase access to care.”

DOC- Rebecca reported Fentanyl as being a concerning trend they are seeing—both knowing users and users that think they are using a different substance, but it is actually fentanyl or laced with fentanyl. They also see many on their caseloads with significant mental health needs. They continue to work with and refer to community partners and are thankful for all of the services being provided in our community.

Emma asked if there was any interest in Fentanyl test strips among individuals who are actively using. As harm reduction they are a great tool for individuals to have if they are worried about fentanyl in the drugs they are planning on using. Rebecca stated that their office has been using them and it has helped to detect and address. Corrie Lyn added that the instant UA cup used for Youth Diversion and Student Court does test for Fentanyl.

DFS- Paul asked board members to complete the DFS Stakeholders Survey that was emailed out last week stating that local results are very important for them to send to the Feds. All surveys are anonymous.

CNCHD- Emma reported concerning trends of high rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea with some gonorrhea cases now being antibiotic-resistant.

Student Court—Corrie Lyn reported that their numbers continue to be way down and she only has 16 on her caseload currently and she was unsure how many Mindy had on her caseload.

Diversion—Andy reported that they have roughly 52 youth on Diversion between the two of them and the trends that they continue to see are Possession of MJ/THC and MIP Tobacco via vaping devices.

Juvenile Detention Center – Their numbers have been down with 16 NC admissions last month. They have been struggling with long stays of out-of-county kids. They continue to hire for male staff.

County Commissioners– Dallas Laird was welcomed to the board. He encouraged the board to keep the Board of County Commissioners informed of our work via a quarterly letter and if we need money, we need to be very precise in what the funds will be used for and the impact that it will have. He looks forward to serving as the liaison for this board and he can be helpful in finding the money to support the work done by the board.

NCSD- They are in staffing stages for next year, looking at budget and staff retention. There have been 35 expulsions at this point in the year- 1/3 for weapon or drug use.

BBBS-Ashleigh is the new PY staff and started at the beginning of February. She worked with BBBS/PY for her BSW practicum last school year and was employed with the agency over the summer. They are picking back up with new referrals and more participation.

*Meeting adjourned at 10:58 AM (moved by Rebecca, seconded by Cori, approved).

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