

Natrona County Community Juvenile Services Board

Meeting Minutes—March 28, 2023

Members Present (via Google Meet):

Gareth West, Stephanie Arrache, Emma Burton-Hopkins, Paul Fritzler, Becky Burt, Brooke Benson, Corrie Lyn Whitman, David Hulshizer, Amanda Preddice-Milne

Amanda Lewallen called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

Review and approval of the February 2023 minutes:

February 2023 minutes were reviewed. Paul Fritzler made a motion to accept the minutes, motion seconded by Stephanie Arrache, motion passed.

Review and approval of the February 2023 Budget:

The February budget and expenditures were reviewed. Monthly expenditures totaled \$5,034.52 leaving a total balance of \$130,902.38. Emma Burton-Hopkins made a motion to accept the minutes, motion seconded by Brooke Benson, motion passed.

Single Point report: The February 2023 SPE report was provided and reviewed. In February 97 cases were reviewed and of those, 47 were filed with the court, and 50 were accepted into pre-court programming (40 to MFRC, 10 to Youth Diversion). The top offense categories reviewed in February were MIP-Tobacco-30; Fighting in Public-10; Simple Battery-9; MIP-Alcohol-6; Theft <\$1,000-5; Possession of MJ- 4.

Corrie Lyn shared that last month there was a group of kids receiving multiple citations involving big game hunting violations.

Paul noted an increase in 13 and 14 years olds and asked if they were being cited for Tobacco or if those ages were being cited for more serious offenses. Corrie Lyn reported that she would need to look though citations, but she thought that they were mostly tobacco and possibly some for battery. Stephanie noted that some of the younger kids seem to be getting in trouble with older siblings or with older friends.

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 for review and approval on February 5th.

-Nominations and Elections for Board Officers:

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

New Business:

-Meth Conference Registrations:

Paul reported that we have 27 people registered for the Meth Conference on April 5th and 6th. The board budgeted for three more slots. Paul requested that the board think of anyone outside of the CJSB membership who works with youth or families who may benefit from attending and to send them to Paul.

-Review of Amended Application:

The drafted amended application was emailed out for members' review and approval. JDC emailed updated services. With the addition of JDC's services, it was moved by Corrie Lyn to accept the draft and approve for submittal to the state. The motion was seconded by Becky, motion passed. Paul reported that he believed that progress on data collection will be the most important piece for the legislature and the next priority will be establishing an assessment tool to be administered early within the continuum of care.

-Updates on Reroute System:

A meeting was held on 3/10 with WYSAC, the DA's office, Paul, and Amanda. WYSAC provided a very helpful demo and set the DA's office support staff up with access to test and practice the system. There will be three levels of access, with program level users only having access to input the specific services and data to the specific youth that they are serving. Michelle and Angel from the DA's office will have admin level access to input all initial data such as charges and juvenile demographics. The next step will be to sign and MOU with WYSAC and possibly some program level MOUs. The hope is to have agreements reviewed and signed to be able to start inputting data on July 1st.

Concerns, Trends, Initiatives, Positives, etc.:

Positives: No group violence recently

Concerning Trends:

-Increase in all STDs across the board

-Increase in runaways, but seems to have calmed down and only one youth has not yet been found

-Ed Neglect cases continue to be an issue and there is an uptick in the number of Ed Neglect cases turning into CHINS cases. The longer-term impact of kids not getting educated is them ending up in the juvenile justice system. Hard to tell if parents are lacking initiative or if kids are getting tougher for parents to get them to school. Stephanie would like to see more work with the Ed Neglect cases on focusing on both the parents and child's needs before filing a CHINS.

-Student Court kids are having tons of missed classes

-10,11, 12-year-olds so far behind academically and not yet connected to remedial services

-Youth are using THC wax daily for 2-3 years before getting to Student Court

-Struggles with 381 process--YCC can't get the PD to help transport youth to the hospital. The process is broken between the hospital and the PD. The PD is working hard to get a meeting set up with Banner's executive board, but they are all out of state. If the PD transports, the hospital makes them stay for hours with the patient and the problem with YCC staff transporting is that they don't have self defense training while transporting. Dave hopes the issue can be addressed legislatively. Paul suggested reaching out to Ray Pacheco to discuss with the SIMS group through the Collective Health Trust.

Possible Initiatives- Stephanie shared a possible funding source to provide more prevention outreach on fentanyl and all drugs. She will look into it and pass along the info.

AGENCY UPDATES:

DFS- They are still down three workers are actively hiring for probation, investigation, and reunification. Last month they had 142 open cases; 49 on probation, 14 on CHINS, and 27 in placement. A trend that they have seen recently is parents giving up or not using resources, suggestions, or connections. They are seeing an increase in battery and vehicle theft. They are now doing more assessments prior to placements which is helping them to get to the root of the issues- educational, mental health, and/or behavioral. The new assessments are going very well overall. Staff have been overwhelmed with being down a worker, but they have kept positive.

CNCHD- The last class for the Healthy U course in Mills will be this Friday. They will start an online course for cancer soon. Emma continues to provide education around the community.

Juvenile Detention Center – They only had 12 admissions in February, but their March numbers have increased quite a bit. Female admissions create a lot of shuffling for them and hardship on staff. They are always hiring and are in need of male staff. They had their first fentanyl case recently.

YCC- They have been busy per usual. They are actively looking at options for a partnership with CWCC to open a third wing to offer youth a slower integration back home after in patient treatment. CWCC would provide the clinical services and YCC would provide the operations and working with family transitions. Costs would be \$250K per year.

BGC- Amanda is now certified work ethic trainer. She can provide 8 hours of training to any youth groups (JDC or PY). They also offer career readiness and career exploration using VR. They have developed career works partnerships in the community offering 2–7-week courses including Culinary Arts, Hospitality (at Ford Wyoming Center), and Moser Energy. They have started a partnership with USI. The new teen center is now open and they will have a grand opening in May. The cost is \$10 per student per year.

*Meeting adjourned at 11:03 AM (moved by Becky, seconded by David, approved).

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 25th, 2023 at 10:00 am at DFS