

Natrona County Community Juvenile Services Board

Meeting Minutes—April 25, 2023

Members Present (via Google Meet):

Gareth West, Gus Holbrook, Andy Delgadillo, Paul Fritzler, Becky Burt, Corrie Lyn Whitman, Pam Mann, Cori Cosner-Burton, Christopher Dresang, Amanda Preddice-Milne

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

Review and approval of the March 2023 minutes:

March 2023 minutes were reviewed. Cori Cosner-Burton made a motion to accept the minutes, motion seconded by Becky Burt, motion passed.

Review and approval of the March 2023 Budget:

The March budget and expenditures were reviewed. Monthly expenditures totaled \$4,378.77 leaving a total balance of \$126,524.06. Paul noted that drug testing was down last month and the Meth Conference was canceled but is rescheduled for October. Cori Cosner-Burton made a motion to accept the minutes, motion seconded by Christopher Dresang, motion passed.

Single Point report: The March 2023 SPE report was provided and reviewed. In March 94 cases were reviewed and of those, 29 were filed with the court, and 65 were accepted into pre-court programming (42 to MFRC, 23 to Youth Diversion). The top offense categories reviewed in March were MIP-Tobacco-36; Possession of MJ- 14; Simple Battery-12; Under the Influence of CS-5; MIP-Alcohol-3; Theft <\$1,000-3; Misd. Poss of CS- Fentanyl- 3.

Deputy Delgadillo shared that the DA recently implemented a policy change where most youth will be offered Diversion for their first offenses. He also noted that the team reviewed the two cases involving fentanyl.

A quarterly comparison between Jan-March 2023 and Jan-March 2022, and between Jan-March 2023 and Oct-Dec 2022 was provided and reviewed. Notable changes from same quarter last year included: a 76% decrease in cases filed in Juvenile District Court, a 93% increase in cases accepted into Pre-Court programming (122% increase for MFRC and 42% increase for Diversion), a 325% increase in MIP Tobacco, a 263% increase in Simple Battery, 500% increase in Under the Influence of CS, Fighting in Public went from 0 in Q1 2022 to 18 in Q1 2023, a 95% decrease in Battery Causing Bodily Injury, and 83% decrease in Breach of Peace, and a 67% decrease in Property Destruction. Notable changes from the previous quarter (Oct-Dec 22): 75% decrease in total tickets “Held”, 40% decrease in cases filed to Juvenile District, 90% decrease in Breach of Peace, 57% decrease in Theft, and a 50% decrease in Property Destruction.

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. As of this morning, the County Attorney has sent the draft to ADA Jared Holbrook to review. Special thanks to Gus for helping move this forward. After review and any needed edits, the bylaws will be sent to the board for review and approval.

-Nominations and Elections for Board Officers:

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

New Business:

-Meth Conference Update:

The Meth Conference has been rescheduled for October 4th and 5th. The 2024 Meth Conference will be the first week of April again.

-Update on Diversion Study:

WYSAC sent an email inviting counties to participate on 4/6. The only requirement for participation is entering data in Reroute. District Attorney Dan Itzen has been asked to review and provide final approval for Natrona to participate. WYSAC is also seeking local Diversion experts to serve on the advisory committee to help finalize the key evaluation questions, place the findings in context, and make recommendations for using the findings to improve diversion program outcomes in Wyoming.

-Updates on Reroute System:

District Attorney Dan Itzen reviewed and approved the data sharing agreement and now UW is working on a final draft.

Concerns, Trends, Initiatives, Positives, etc.:

Positives:

- Virtual Learning days have had very high attendance and have been successful all year.
- In CHINS cases where they are able to engage families by taking a team approach with other outside agencies, they are experiencing positive outcomes.
- There are more community events being offered and those events are being better attended.
- Amanda Preddice shared individual success stories of former justice-involved youth, now adults, who are stable and productive members of the community.

Concerning Trends:

- Fentanyl cases involving juveniles

- MJ and tobacco continue to be the most prevalent issues, finding a trend in parents providing the MJ and tobacco to their kids, even going as far as attempting to sneak it into YCC to give their kids
- In Ed Neglect, they are exhausting all resources prior to filing. They are struggling to make contact with families but families do not want to be found and are ultimately not showing up to court when they do file and judges are frustrated.
- Trend in grandparents raising grandkids and being naïve to the child's risky use of technology and the grandchildren taking advantage of the grandparents' lack of tech skills and them not being able to hold the children accountable with various things such as school.
- Increase in CBD shops all over the county. Parents are providing CBD products to their kids. Kids are shoplifting CBD products. Clients are failing their drug tests and then trying to fight with DOC on the legalities of the substance and don't think that they should be testing positive.
- Increase in youth wearing hats and shirts with paraphernalia and substance use messaging.

Possible Initiatives- n/a

AGENCY UPDATES:

MFRC: Submitted via email "Mercer FRC youth intervention classes have been very full, as reflected in the percentage of increased case referrals, and we continue to offer both in-person and virtual options when possible. There are openings in all parenting education courses. We held an all-day Nurtured Heart Approach class last Saturday and participated in a Family Night at Lincoln Elementary last week. Our Parenting Coordinator met with the school superintendent, director of school improvement, director of public relations, and school counselors regarding a two-day Strengthening Families Protective Factors training for community leaders, organizations and parents. The training would focus on community and family connectedness, as well as address risk factors such as abuse/neglect and substance misuse. Stipends are provided for parent participation. Is this something we could consider for the Family Engagement budget line item? The Youth Empowerment Council (YEC) has been busy with Suicide Prevention Awareness Team presentations at NC High School this week, reaching the entire freshman class. They are fundraising for their summer service and retreat trip, possibly to DC in July to attend a Students Against Destructive Decisions Conference. *NC Prevention Coalition will have Ryan Cox from DCI presenting virtually at our next NCPC mtg on Tues, May 2nd at 1pm. *The annual Community Baby Shower is free for partner agencies and participants and will be held at the BGC on Sat, May 13th from 10am-noon. The event will again include a Daddy Den, which was a huge success last year."

NCSD- There are a couple of NCSD board members who are proposing an LGBTQ policy that will make it to that LGBTQ students cannot function in the district. The board is also scrutinizing social-emotional curriculum. Attendance remains steady at 89%. Virtual learning days have better attendance across the board. The next academic year will run from August 28th-

May 31st. They have mandatory summer school for all schools this year, with all schools running on the same dates. Sixth through twelfth will be offered in the morning and K-5th in the afternoon. Special Ed summer school will be offered in August. All schools will send summer school information to parents on May 5th. No lunch will be offered.

DFS- They just finished a very labor-intensive federal review last week. They expressed gratitude to everyone who completed the stakeholder surveys. Natrona had the highest number of surveys completed. They will have a focus group coming up in a few weeks for stakeholders. As of this week, they are fully staffed in the probation unit and have one position in investigations left to fill. Current concerning trends include kids who are totally controlling over their parents in an extreme way or parents enabling, encouraging, or forcing their kids into scary choices/lifestyles. In one case a parent was admitted to WBI due to the stress and fear of their child. They have 14 youth on CHINS, 16 on Student Court, 46 on pre-CHINS, 8 on Ed Neglect, 45 on Probation, and 26 in placement. They are getting good tips on runaways to be able to locate them quickly. They appreciate great collaborations with community partners to ensure juvenile safety.

Diversion- They have about 50-60 kids on Diversion and recently graduated a few. The most common offenses continue to be the use and possession of MJ. They are seeing kids struggling a lot in single-parent homes or with a severe absence of father figures. They have been cracking down on attendance much more now that more students are going through Diversion first rather than Student Court.

Student Court- Their caseload numbers are finally starting to go up, but are still very low.

Juvenile Detention Center – They are now fully staffed.

YCC- The snowstorm and virtual learning days were difficult with every youth attending different schools and some staff being unfamiliar with the virtual learning process.

BGC- They are working on expanding the career development programming to other counties. They are now offering the 8-hour work ethic training which helps with resume building, attendance, and school. Youths are certified upon completion of the 8 hours of training. They continue to offer career exploration via virtual reality headsets and have been working with the PY program and the USI students. They are moving to more individualized career exploration and counseling to best serve the youths' needs. They are hosting teen nights on the last Friday of every month and family BBQs once a month.

*Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM (moved by Becky, seconded by Chris, approved).

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023 at 10:00am via Google Meets