

Natrona County Community Juvenile Services Board

Meeting Minutes—June 27, 2023

Members Present (via Google Meet):

Becky Burt, Emma Burton-Hopkins, Stephanie Arrache, Gareth West, Paul Fritzler, Corrie Lyn Whitman, Pam Mann, David Hulshizer, Dallas Laird, Ashleigh Suko, (Christopher Dresang submitted votes via email)

Amanda Lewallen called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

Review and approval of the May 2023 minutes:

The May 2023 minutes were reviewed. Paul Fritzler made a motion to accept the minutes, a motion seconded by Gareth West, motion passed.

Review and approval of the May 2023 Budget:

The May budget and expenditures were reviewed. Monthly expenditures totaled \$4,750.75 leaving a total balance of \$117,235.85. Becky Burt made a motion to accept the minutes, motion seconded by Emma Burton- Hopkins, motion passed.

Single Point report: The May 2023 SPE report was provided and reviewed. In May 102 (up from 78 in April) cases were reviewed and of those, 45 (up from 41 in April) were filed with the court, and 55 (up from 35 in April) were accepted into pre-court programming (47 to MFRC, 8 Youth Diversion), and two tickets were held. The top offense categories reviewed in May were MIP-Tobacco-33; Simple Battery-10; MIP-Alcohol-8; Property Destruction <\$1,000 -7; Criminal trespass- 6; Possession of MJ- 5. See report for others.

Old Business:

-Review and ratify approved motions via email:

-On 6/5 via email, Paul Fritzler made the motion to accept the State's proposed contract amendment. The motion was seconded by Cori Cosner- Burton. Nine votes were received to approve the motion. Motion passed. During the meeting, Paul moved to ratify the email vote, motion seconded by Gareth West, motion passed.

New Business:

-Elections for Board Officers:

Nominations were received via email for the following slate of officers:
Chairperson—Becky Burt, Vice Chairperson—Corrie Lyn Whitman,
Secretary—Christopher Dresang, Treasurer—Cori Cosner Burton. Nominations were accepted by all nominees. Paul Fritzler made a motion to accept the late of nominated officers, motion seconded by Emma Burton-Hopkins, motion passed.

-Vote on not holding a July meeting:

Corrie Lynn made the motion to not hold a regular meeting in July, motion was seconded by Emma Burton-Hopkins, motion passed.

-Update on Bylaws and Agreement Amendment:

Dallas reported that Heather Duncan Malone has been hired as the county attorney. Amanda will email the amended agreement and bylaws to her directly for the County's final approval.

-Update on Diversion Study:

No update.

-Updates on the Reroute System:

The User Agreement has been finalized and signed. The system is now up and running. Paul will schedule a meeting with the DA's office to make a plan and identify needed 'users'. WYSAC has offered technical support (funded through a grant) to input previous data.

-Update on the contract with the state:

The state finalized the contracts, but they have not yet been sent out to counties.

Concerns, Trends, Initiatives, Positives, etc.:

Positives:

- More mental health interventions occurring in district court cases, positive results
- CHINS families are taking advantage of court involvement, connecting to supports/services and are given early dismissals

Concerning Trends:

- Reduction in funding impacting providers and nonprofits, providers becoming more limited
- Recent fentanyl use in juveniles—two charged, another admitted use—NCSO reported MJ laced with fentanyl
- Gang activity continuing, families supporting/ promoting their child's gang affiliation and delinquency

Possible Initiatives-

The idea of forming a subcommittee to create a formal document outlining community capacity was revisited. It was discussed that other boards/groups may have already compiled this information and other boards may be more appropriate to take this project on as the CJSB has a more limited/focused scope. The project was tabled.

AGENCY UPDATES:

CNCHD- They have set up sunscreen stations all over the community, but unfortunately, people have been very rough with them. They have seen new HIV cases, but not in juveniles. There has been an increase in syphilis and gonorrhea across the community and an increase in chlamydia among teens.

DFS- They are seeing gang activity continuing. They are seeing more repeat offenders. Youth being placed at WBS are experiencing shorter stays and then reoffending right away after returning home. WBS is usually open to a youth returning, but they are also looking into other programs. They are fully staffed in the probation unit, but recently had two staff put in notice in other departments, so they are hiring again.

Student Court- Caseloads continue to grow. They are seeing younger youth with criminal thinking who are usually unwilling to make any changes.

YCC- Their numbers are fluctuating as they usually do in the summer. They are spending lots of time outside. Their in-house therapist has started a new youth group SOUL (Support. Optimism. Understanding. Love) which will begin tonight. The group is open to the community, ages 10-17. Youth will learn preventive skills and solution-focused thinking.

JDC- Business as usual and numbers are consistent. They are only down by one staff which has been nice to give the staff a bit of a break.

BBBS- PY served seven youths last month, three from probation. In volunteer mentoring, they served 16 matches, with 12 in enrollment, and seven ready to be matched.

DA's Office- Over the weekend they had to authorize three detentions, but other than that, they report that things have been pretty quiet. They are seeing some drug-related cases that may be better suited for district court and would like to start a conversation about that.

*Meeting adjourned at 10:58 AM (moved by Paul Fritzler, seconded by Garth West approved).

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 22nd, 2023 at 10:00am via Google Meets

