

**TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

October 2, 2012

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department Advisory Council was held on October 2, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the Brown Heatly Building, Room 5357, 4900 North Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas, 78751.

Call to Order

Chairman Medina called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Judge Thorne and Judge Ramirez were absent due to being in court. Chairman Medina commented that some reconsideration might be in order in terms of scheduling Advisory Council meetings on Tuesdays, as these are difficult days for Judge Thorne and Judge Ramirez due to hearings. Audrey Deckinga was also absent but sent Claire Hall on her behalf and Judge Thorne sent Ed Cockrell. The Agenda for the day's meeting was reviewed. Public comment was asked for but there were none.

Review of Minutes

There was a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Introduction of Executive Director

Chairman Median welcomed Mike Griffiths on behalf of the Advisory Council. Mike Griffiths is the Executive Director of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department as of September 10, 2012.

TJJD Updates: Mike Griffiths, Executive Director

Mike Griffiths, Executive Director of TJJD, said it is important that the legislature understands that TJJD is a system that is tied very closely with the counties. At least half of the system is funded due to county cooperation, and Mr. Griffiths stated that policymakers in Austin need to understand that this relationship is important. 70% of felony offenders are handled in the community, and if that relationship is unbalanced, then the state may be overwhelmed. This is being emphasized in visits and presentations. There are always going to be challenges to funding strategies, and that's why this emphasis is important.

Mr. Griffiths stated that the policy team that is being put together will be based on a model that will empower them to do their work, but will still hold them accountable. And this model will extend from JCOs up to the Board and Mr. Griffiths. This also means strong involvement with the Advisory Council in terms of the work being done with the Board.

Mr. Griffiths introduced Chief of Staff Linda Brooke, General Counsel Brett Bray, and Senior Director of Finance and Technology Bill Monroe. Some efficiency was found in collapsing some units into one. Mr. Griffiths mentioned ongoing work in the secure facilities in terms of education by Amy Lopez. Senior Director of Administration is Lisa Capers. Two current

positions are open; Senior Director of Probation and Community Services and Senior Director of State Programs.

The focus for the next three to six months will be the legislative session and the LAR. Mr. Griffiths stated that shutting down facilities is not the answer, doing away with Prevention and Intervention is not the answer, and doing away with Parole is not the answer. There were some difficult decisions that the Board had to make, and there needs to be even more input. The fear is that if they shut down three secure institutions and commitments remain at 900 or above, then this would have serious implications for current programs, and if Prevention is shut down this will result in more youth in the system. There were savings due to the merger of the two previously existing agencies, and the question is whether that is enough or whether TJJD will be asked to give 10% more in cuts. Maintaining the security and safety in the facilities is the second challenge. The reports being seen and the results of scheduled visits have revealed that things are improving.

Chairman Medina expressed the hope that the Advisory Council can work with Mr. Griffiths together on a variety of initiatives. The Advisory Council has been very deliberate in its efforts to make sure that they are communicating information back to the field and bringing back information from the field with respect to Regional Associations and respective areas represented by individual Council members. The Council has worked closely with TJJD staff in the area of the LAR. Chairman Medina further noted that she and Mr. Griffiths have discussed the opportunity to work on the Council's meeting agendas together so that Mr. Griffiths will have the opportunity to add items to the agenda for discussion. Additional meetings outside regular meetings were also discussed in the interest of preparing agendas and getting information out to the field. Mr. Griffiths will also have the opportunity to add another person to the Council; the person who will oversee Probation and Community Based Services; this is Bill Monroe.

A question was asked regarding parole and the situation wherein a youth is committed to a facility and within a month they're already at a halfway house and ready to get out. The response was that there are two specialized halfway houses; one is for girls, the other is McFadden Ranch, for youth with serious chemical dependency problems. So this question is probably referencing McFadden Ranch. TJJD's methodology is that if chemical dependency is the overriding issue, it must be addressed. Youth still have to be assessed through the orientation process to be at a moderately low level of risk to make that program. The concern expressed was that the rapid turnover time to a halfway house is a waste of a commitment. The process to get a youth from orientation to a halfway house goes through a level of scrutiny. Mr. Griffiths believes that this question is based on that prevailing special need, and said that those with the concern should feel free to call him directly to address it.

Mr. Griffiths stated that at least every day he will call a Chief just to talk with them about their concerns and issues. With the emphasis on security and control, the length of stay is going up; some youth are going at least two or three months over their set length of stay on average. The budget is being exceeded due to this. Youth stay as long as they have to, but there needs to be more conversation on ways to deal with this and do things differently. General Counsel has recommended some ideas to double the amount of release review panels. Right now there are youth that are ready to go but can't because their review has not been conducted. TJJD needs to

work on finding ways to get the youth than can leave processed quickly. Mr. Griffiths stated that responsiveness and transparency were important to him, and reiterated his invitation for people with concerns to call him directly.

A question was asked regarding the current average length of stay. Mr. Griffiths responded that it depends on the risk level, but he's seeing that it's approximately two or three months over with some youth, and this isn't budgeted in the LAR. There need to be programs that are effective and positive and that get youth ready for release. When the focus on security and control is increased and certain Level Two hearings are mandated, it may happen that a youth will be doing well in the program and then they do something that will send them to a Level Two, and this will delay them from consideration. Mr. Griffiths has perceived that the therapeutic model was a foundation and security was on top of it, and he believes it needs to be the other way around, with firm control and structure in the facilities, and then overlay that with treatment.

Chairman Medina asked a question regarding the LAR and the challenge of making recommendations for proposed reductions. It was difficult to suggest any one facility over another, so the Council did not recommend any facility specifically. Mr. Griffiths commented that halfway houses are at about 50% capacity because youth are not prepared to go there, with the exception of the specialized programs. These facilities therefore are being underutilized because the youth are higher risk. In regard to the facility closures, Mr. Griffiths commented that the model created three sessions ago was that large congregate care facilities were not preferred, and if a static population is maintained in secure settings and we go from six facilities to three, those facilities will be filled to the brim, and the classification of youth will be a challenge. Mr. Griffiths highlighted the work of Ms. Thomas and her staff. They had a very detailed matrix of variables that they looked at, and Ms. Thomas has begun to look at that in order to be prepared if closures happen.

Chairman Medina asked if Mr. Griffiths believed that information on closures won't be released until after the session. Mr. Griffiths stated that it has to be staged differently than last time; the planning was there last time, but the staging was not and it was rushed, and Mr. Griffiths believes that has a lot to do with what happened with Giddings or Evans. When populations and staff move, there is a change in the internal culture of an organization. Mr. Griffiths would propose that if closures are slated to happen, that the staging be more methodical and take a longer period of time so integration can be implemented properly.

A question was asked regarding outsourcing youth should the number of facilities be reduced to three. A number of possibilities are being looked at; Mr. Griffiths stated that he doesn't want to get to a point where there are 350 youth in a facility that holds 360. Mr. Griffiths further stated that the Advisory Council did not receive enough input or time to rank requests in the LAR. In the future there will be a lot more inclusion in that process.

Chairman Medina addressed parole as well, and how significant and important it is. The Advisory Council had proposed some kind of comprehensive review of all of it; to look at its current operation and see where strengths and challenges may exist, and whether it stays with TJJD or gets contracted out. Other discussions included the cost of \$12.50 per youth per day based on what everyone imagines parole could be, and what it may cost. The hope is that all these areas can be revisited. Mr. Griffiths agreed. There are about 675 youth on parole, which is

a pretty small number. It's manageable in terms of numbers, but geography is a big challenge. Policy makers often do not understand all the work that probation officers do ahead of time to keep a youth out of court, so educating them is necessary regarding the huge group of young offenders that are diverted and have nothing to do with adjudication. The age of the youth needs to be taken into consideration as well. The youth being paroled now are 17 and above.

Mr. Griffiths stated there will be some important decisions to make for the system that the Advisory Council and the field may not always agree with, and that's okay, and conversation is important. Regarding Mr. Bray's suggestions to increase review panels, this will help the system and will require considering reorganization to implement it. Mr. Griffiths also discussed the backlog of employees that are awaiting disciplinary action. Historically this process has sometimes taken nine to twelve months, and this is too long. The system will be looked at in order to push those cases through in a quicker fashion. Right now it goes from A&E to HR. The backlog occurred when it was decided that there has to be a review of that in terms of equity, but tied into that was a delay in preparing it. The backlog will be reviewed, and Mr. Griffiths will do away with the review panel. This is a regulatory function; reports will go to General Counsel, and their staff will look at it and make a determination, which will speed up this process. TJJJ is vulnerable as an Agency if these cases are allowed to delay; if an employee is terminated in one county, and there is a delay in the process, another county may not be aware of the termination. Essentially the process will now be that the case will go to A&E, who will investigate it and will send findings to the legal department, skipping HR. There isn't anything in any statute that calls for a peer review.

Chairman Medina commented that this was one of the areas that had been drafted for the Advisory Council's review, and the Council created a workgroup for this issue with HR staff. A question was asked whether the attorney will have the ability to call the Chief and discuss feedback regarding the case. The response was that there will be opportunities for feedback. Mr. Bray suggested that self-reporting may be considered to be on a faster track. Further discussion ensued regarding the recent work done to review this process.

As a whole, the regions just want a process that's fair to the employee and takes into consideration actions done on the local level. In secure facilities there are 1500 employees and it's important to make sure there are appropriate disciplinary systems in use. The matrix that has been constructed can be applied there. So this work will not go unused, the issue is regarding cases that need to be resolved as soon as possible because they are part of a backlog.

A question was asked regarding the matrix and whether it had been sent out. It's at a point where it needs to be reviewed, and it will be sent out for review. The matrix was making some people nervous because it was perceived to be something that would be strictly held to, so the name was changed to a guideline matrix in order to make it clear that it is a document that helps give a starting point but does not restrict anyone's decisions.

A related improvement will be made involving the legal process. When there's an accusation of some sort of violation, a formal document is sent that is not necessarily clear to people who are not lawyers. Not much can be done about the formal document because there are standards for that, but Mr. Bray commented that he believes the transmittal process needs to be changed. Lawyers may not be making the communication simple enough for people, outlining the basics

of the accusation and what the individual's rights and options are. So it is a goal of General Counsel to come up with a communication that is more clear and simple in order to help streamline the process.

Update Regarding TJJJ Legislative Appropriations Request

Bill Monroe reported that there are three general topics; the first is whether there may be a chance to tweak some of the LAR given the presence of a new CEO, and there have been some receptive audiences for this. There seem to be two schedules for getting this to the Capital. A base bill is being built this month, and if TJJJ wants a change in the base bill which is filed by the LBB, then changes would have to be in by the end of this month. The base bill is the General Appropriations Act; it's the base bill of the GAA and it is filed on behalf of the Chair of each chamber within 10 or 15 days after the session begins. The LBB is the group that prepares this bill.

A comment was made that people shouldn't be shocked when they see the base bill; it isn't necessarily the LAR request submitted, it's the perception of the LBB of what they would like it to be, not what TJJJ has requested. So when the base bill says something other than what has been represented or seen, it's because there are ongoing conversations with the LBB about it.

The second item is the structure. There is a certain kind of structure for how the appropriations bill should look. TJJJ staff is working to see whether there may be a chance to alter that structure. In response to a question from Chairman Medina, Mr. Monroe clarified that the structure pertains to how many line items are listed in a bill and what kind of activities belong where. Further discussion ensued regarding what this may entail and what challenges may arrive from a restructuring. This issue has created different priorities, so people are being talked to who are being affected by this.

Chairman Medina asked Mr. Griffiths to let the Council know when will be the opportune time to share thoughts on this. In the meantime it is important that Mr. Griffiths continue to deliver the message of how successful the consolidation of alphabet soup was, and what it allowed everyone to do during the current biennium, to absorb the cuts given to probations successfully, continue to decrease commitments. The importance of keeping the message positive was stressed. Another comment was made that there may be other platforms of budget proposals; there may be a platform that restores what everyone wants to maintain.

A question was asked why there is a lack of satisfaction regarding coming back and reporting how the budgeted funds are spent, and why it would need to be broken out beforehand. Mr. Monroe commented that some of this is standardization and there is a part of the state government where things work better at the next level up if things can be standardized. A comment was made that that model is set on post-conviction rather than the work that happens before then.

The third issue regards pending reports that are relevant to the LAR. Every two years a group of reports are produced that are utilized during the session. One of these is the Uniform Cost Report. This report contains data about cost per day in the adult prison and probation systems as well as all the various juvenile areas. The next report is on recidivism, and there have been visits from LBB staff who have gathered sample information and interviews from the field. Another

one is population projections; this report is done more regularly. Another report is at risk youth services. There is one more relatively large report -- a performance review for the actual formulas. Jennifer Cuterra [phonetic] leads this report, and Brendan Briggs [phonetic] is on staff with her and used to work for the TJCP.

Mr. Monroe handed out the exceptional item on mental health. The Governor's Office requested more information on this item. Mr. Monroe asked for advice from the Council on how to seek that information from the field. He proposed that within the month the central office receive information from those who have information already in their county department on how they would theoretically utilize mental health funds, who they may partner with, et cetera, and then something can be prepared to be presented around Christmas. There is a need for samples, examples, and stories from the counties. This funding is for the counties. Mr. Monroe has heard from people who have said that it may be possible that state funding could be matched at the county level. Discussion ensued regarding the details of this item and of matching funds. There are eligibility requirements for matching funds, but they are not too difficult.

Chairman Medina stated that those who requested more information on this item wanted to see a licensed mental health professional in the facility, but that it was all the other funding being asked for that spurred the request for further detailed information on how those funds will be spent. Further discussion ensued on the reasons behind this request and the need for details. The Justice Center of the Council of State Governments has volunteered to help TJJD prepare for the session and assist in creating an effective presentation.

Chairman Medina stated that historically gathering this type of information has involved each Council member going to each of their respective regions to work on some deadlines, collect the information, and get it back to those requesting it. The Council asked Mr. Monroe for deadlines. Mr. Monroe requested the information within the month, and stated that it would take him approximately one week to send details on what he needs.

A question was asked how JCMS is going to fit in with this. Mr. Griffiths commented that he'd like to see JCMS grow. What is the timeline for JCMS implementation? Mr. Monroe stated that 17 departments were live, and there should be another six or eight before Christmas. Questions were asked regarding the rollout process and delays in that process, and discussion ensued regarding the details of that process. The goal was 50 a year for implementation, but this was very ambitious. One of the exceptional items is to pay the CUC bill and to continue to finance individual department transition costs for JCMS.

Discussion ensued regarding the detention module. A comment was made that the detention module was a Juvenile Probation initiative and was a Tarrant/Dallas/Bexar County Commissioner's Court initiative to get a system, and then TJJD was invited to be involved and make it a state-wide initiative. Currently caseworker does not have the institutions model available to it now. Further discussion ensued regarding JCMS, and it was suggested that this be a future agenda item. Chairman Medina summarized that by October 9, Mr. Monroe will get a structure to the Council; then the Council will get the information back to him by October 31.

A comment was made regarding the specific definition of mental health and mental health services, and the importance of clarity in this definition. It was further noted that \$6 million is

not going to treat every individual's mental health needs. A response was made that generally the concern is not with youth that are psychotic or have delusions or serious suicidal ideation, et cetera. These youth are in other institutions. It was affirmed therefore that these definitions are important. There are a lot of statistics involved, and it's important to have these definitions so to make clear what will and will not be addressed with the \$6 million being requested. Further discussion ensued regarding examples and details for this as well as the importance of recognizing that these will be community based services and not clinics. One comment was made regarding the importance of responding to previous criticisms regarding the amount of funding spent on administration for these services. Another comment was made regarding the push to create supercenters around the state. It was suggested that individuals with more information regarding mental health services meet with Mr. Monroe to discuss it further.

Mr. Monroe commented regarding the hypothetical situation where it was proposed that TJJD choose between funding for mental health services and funding for parole, and the necessity of communicating the nuances of need as the LAR is constructed. A question was asked regarding if a counselor was on staff at a facility, would the facility be prevented from receiving funds. The response was no; this would enhance or add to that.

Review and Discussion Regarding Non-Secure Residential Standards

Mr. Griffiths reported there are 11 or 12 facilities in the state that are not licensed by anyone and the legislature requested that this be fixed and gave the Agency the responsibility to do it. In 2010 the legislature said the TJCP will develop standards for non-secure residential programs, but it has yet to be done. Mr. Griffiths asked for the Advisory Council's help with this, and that after the work with the CRM is finished that the focus be placed on non-secure residential standards instead of rewriting 343.

There is a current working group with representation from across the state and it seems that this task would fit with the work that the subcommittee is already doing. This work is already part of their long-term goals. Mr. Griffiths asked whether it would be possible to get it done by the summer. The response was that this could be possible.

These would be minimum standards. A new standard has to be open to public comment for a minimum of 30 days. A suggestion was made that someone from one of the regions who has experience with the running of these non-secure residential programs join the committee. Further discussion ensued regarding this item and the timeline for this versus the timeline to complete the work with 343s.

A question was asked whether another department currently monitors these facilities but doesn't want to continue to do so. The response was that in Dallas County there were three facilities licensed by PRS and they didn't want to have that responsibility, and it wasn't clear whether the monitoring is informal or not.

Sub-Committee Reports

Doug Vance reported the CRM is almost finished. Basic approval has been given. There have been some changes made since then. The subcommittee will meet on October 3 in Austin.

There are a couple items to discuss regarding a couple of standards but these are minor. The final document will be finished and emailed to all the Chiefs in a week or so. Then there will be a state-wide webinar on October 11. Nobody has to change anything. Nothing was added to the standards themselves. Changes involved the cutting of a lot of commentary material, which makes it easier to prepare for an audit. Important definitions that were in the commentary section were pulled out for inclusion in the standards. Important rules that should have been part of the standards were also pulled from the commentary section. And important exceptions to following the standards were also pulled.

There are also four recommendations for the audit process. The first is that once TJJJ Auditor's find the policy and procedures 100% compliant, it isn't necessary to review them again unless changes are made to them. The second is regarding the measuring of facilities; it was recommended that if no changes to the facilities are made there is no reason to measure them after they are initially measured. The other two are regarding room checks. The standards state that random intervals are not to exceed 15 minutes, but the definition of random was not included anywhere, and this may need to be included. The fourth recommendation was regarding scoring methodology on room checks and while the standards still have to be met, points should not be taken off if only a small percentage is off.

Mr. Vance commented on the excellent work of the subcommittee. There will be a blanket amendment going out that will require following the 343 addendums to the CRM. This work will make things easier and more efficient for everyone. A comment was made that Mr. Vance has done an excellent job as well.

Chairman Medina asked Mr. Vance to give an overview of his report to the Board at their September 28 meeting. Mr. Vance stated that he covered essentially what he just covered in this report, and that the Board had a few questions, but that it went well. The Board did not ask the Council to work on anything else at that time and stated appreciation for the work being done by the Council.

Updates from Chief's Meeting

Chairman Medina presented this item. The Chief's Meeting was a good meeting. It was well attended, approximately 100+ attendees.

1. Request for Webcast of TJJJ Board Meetings

There was a request at the Chief's Meeting by some that the TJJJ Board Meetings be aired online in a webcast format so that interested parties could join in the conversation. Mr. Griffiths stated that he would contact the Chairman of the Board and tell him about this request. There are requirements for this, and each county and jurisdiction would have to have the equipment for it, but if there is an opportunity to do it, it seemed to be of interest and promotes inclusion. A suggestion was made to see if it would be possible to post the webcast live and then have it recorded to watch later.

2. Public Comment Schedule at TJJJ Board Meetings

It was suggested also that TJJD consider some opportunities for public comment to appear at a different place in the agenda. This would allow individuals to listen to the details and/or discussion on an item and develop a position for public comment. This is also subject to the Chairman and the Board. This can also be presented on behalf of the field. Mr. Griffiths will bring this to the Chairman as well.

3. Perspectives Received from the Regional Associations

There were a couple of items discussed and Chairman Medina invited comment on these. Mr. Griffiths asked the Council as well as field and facility staff to look for opportunities to work collaboratively together. Suggestions included the opportunity to invite Mr. Griffiths to the Regional Associations meetings. The conference in Waco was also mentioned. In addition to these meetings, there were some who proposed working on the standard subcommittee and inviting some facility staff to be a part of that. The opportunity for shared training in each of the respective regions or conferences was also suggested. Most of the training curriculum TJJD's.

There was some discussion surrounding having a regional association meeting at a state facility such as Gainesville or Corsicana. Another comment was made in terms of family inclusion; this would only be practical in medium and large communities, but the suggestion was for having a parole representative with the family before the youth is taken to the orientation unit. This establishes a relationship so that the family knows what's going on, and information about advocates can be given to them, etc. A proposal will be written and submitted for input.

Chairman Medina commented that the Council extended an invitation to nearby facility staff to visit probation facilities. The Advisory Council has talked about going out to different areas or regions for meetings to make themselves available to the field. A comment was made that when TJJD was merged into a new Agency, there wasn't a lot of sharing regarding what different branches of the system do and how they function, and people that work in the facilities who have never worked on the probation side may not know about the kind of work that goes on in probation, so they don't understand what the staff does or what the youth's experiences are before they arrive in the facilities. Therefore there exists a great opportunity to share this information in order to create a better understanding of the system as whole.

Mr. Griffiths commented that a great way to do that is to get information out to the field and to make sure that the field knows that if they need information from a halfway house, probation, or other experience, they know how that happens. The superintendents of the secure facilities have a monthly meeting, and Mr. Griffiths has gone to talk to them there. They talk about issues relevant to what they're doing, but they could also discuss issues from the perspective of what the Council and regional associations need. There are a variety of ways to communicate, and this kind of knowledge will be helpful on both sides. Resources that the secure sites have could be shared. Further discussion ensued regarding this.

A comment was made regarding transportation and whether there could be some sharing of those resources. Comments were made regarding the use of vans and the sharing of these resources and the flexibility that would need to be in place to do so. Mr. Griffiths stated that there used to be an issue regarding paperwork associated with transportation that needs to be addressed. A comment was made that there is a process that can be gone through to get paperwork in ahead of

time, and there has been some training on this. Some people are still turned away or held if they don't have original commitment orders. There could be a webinar for departments that have been delinquent in getting out consistent information. Further comments were made regarding the details of this paperwork.

A question was asked whether TJJD has had an opportunity to address the attorneys, judges and/or prosecutors with regards to their perception on where a youth is being sent and what TJJD does. Mr. Griffiths stated that after the merger, the Agency lost focus of the General Bar Associations and partnerships with prosecutors; the hope is to renew those relationships. A suggestion was made that a cheat sheet of a kind would be helpful for judges and attorneys so everyone is on the same page regarding the process in its entirety. A comment was made that there should be an orientation video used in trainings that could be helpful. A lot of people are still operating under anecdotal information.

Chairman Medina stated that it looked like there was interest in the Chief's Meeting being held annually. A comment was made that historically the Chief summit has been held in February, and this may be a better time during the year due to there being fewer conferences in February versus the fall. Chairman Medina stated that this was a different opportunity than the summit that involved a lot more dialogue and information sharing, and that if there could be more of this kind of time involved in the summit, this might be a good blending of the two. Discussion ensued regarding the scheduling of these meetings and summits.

State Mental Health Hospitals

Randy Turner reported there is currently a youth who has been sitting in detention for 120 days waiting to go for a fit-to-proceed activity at the state hospital. This is a considerable delay, and TJJD has been doing some of its own investigating into alternatives to this. Contact has been established with someone in a mental health agency to examine some other options. For example, why does the fit-to-proceed activity have to take place within the walls of a state hospital. Why is that the best place for the activity and could that be done through a local mental health authority who has trained people who can make that assessment, and then if a youth needs follow up care at a state hospital, then they can be sent there. There is a waiting list and there are other counties with youth sitting on that list. Mr. Griffiths commented that Dallas does their own fit-to-proceed for the MH youth.

Mr. Turner stated that some conversations have been initiated and what has been reported is that there isn't enough space or resources. Mr. Turner asked for feedback about whether looking into the situation further would be considered worthwhile by the Council. One comment was made about the reception of grant money that was earmarked for restoration for trial, but they were unsure if those funds were available for juveniles.

A suggestion was made to put together a position paper to discuss what to do about youth with these needs. There are only seven state hospitals in Texas and not all of them take juveniles. There was a lawsuit several years ago for a similar issue involving adults who were being held in jail longer than their sentence due to a lack of space in the state hospital. There are closed beds at some of the facilities right now, so it's more of a lack of funding. There aren't enough beds overall for adults and juveniles. A comment was made that from a taxpayer's viewpoint, it may

be less expensive to have a youth at Corsicana than a state hospital. Another comment was made that the cost per day is \$460 for a youth at a state hospital. Strategic Behavioral Health of North Carolina is building an acute care psychiatric hospital in College Station.

Some discussion ensued regarding a facility that was going to be built in Conroe but was never completed. This was a project wherein TJJD was going to assist in reopening a facility in partnership with a mental health authority in the area; an appropriation of \$3 million was received in the previous session to get this up and running, but then in January there was a budget reduction, and these funds were returned to save existing programs. There's a lot of rehab that would need to be done at the facility; it's a great setting for this kind of program, but it would cost about \$3 million to get the facility rehabbed.

This issue will continue to be addressed and Mr. Turner will report back to the Council. Chairman Medina stated that part of this will involve the pre-adjudication process, as well as more discussion about a program or facility that could help everyone statewide and provide services for difficult placements like this. The options for facilities and programs for youth with these needs are decreasing. This item will be readdressed at a later meeting.

Advisory Council Updates/Announcements

1. TJJD Board Meeting November 15-16, 2012 in Austin

The Board Meeting on November 15 and 16 will not be in Austin due to the Formula One race. The meeting will be in San Antonio. Ms. Cantu is currently looking for a site.

2. Standards Sub-Committee Meeting October 3-4, 2012 in Austin

This meeting will be at the Juvenile Probation Department for anyone who would like to attend.

3. Presentation at Texas Juvenile Detention Association Conference (October 17, 2012)

The TJDA conference is in Waco and the Advisory Council is invited to present. This presentation is scheduled for that Wednesday the 17th from 8:30 to 10:00, and is followed by Mr. Griffith's presentation. There is a brochure on the TJJD website for the conference.

Chairman Medina had an additional announcement. The Advisory Council was prepared to make a presentation before the LBB in support of the action that TJJD staff has taken regarding the LAR specific to the exceptional items and previous discussion in that area. A question came up regarding whether or not the Advisory Council, because it is a council that reports directly to the Board, can present in public forums and public meetings. In response to this, the Advisory Council agreed to do more investigation into whether this is possible. Chairman Medina called for comments on whether the Council wants to follow up with the Board and schedule a meeting to discuss how they would like the Council to proceed with public meetings.

There will be some opportunities for the Council to come out in support of some of the work being done. In this case the Board had asked the Council to review the LAR, so it was consistent

with what the Board had asked the Council to do, but it wasn't confirmed that a presentation was expected. Mr. Griffiths recommended that he and Chairman Medina talk to Brett Bray with General Counsel for his advice. There have been instances where Board members have been at meetings and have provided public testimony. The concern was expressed that consideration would have to be made in the instance that a member of the Council is giving oppositional testimony against the Executive Director or the Board, and it's important to know how to approach this situation as members of the Council.

Chairman Medina summarized that the general consensus was that the question would need to be vetted and investigated to find out what the best course of action would be. This will include advice from General Counsel and the recommendation of the Board. Mr. Griffiths volunteered to send a note to Mr. Bray and copy Chairman Medina.

Public Comment

A comment was made regarding the retirement of Debra Trotter. The work of Ms. Trotter was acknowledged and appreciated. A certificate was created for her and it was asked that it be passed on to her. Chairman Medina stated that she would be glad to pass it on.

Schedule next meeting/Adjourn

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, December 5, 2012, at 10am to 2pm in Fort Worth, and the meeting was adjourned.