



Advisory Council on Juvenile Services

Meeting Minutes: Friday, October 17, 2014

11209 Metric Blvd., Austin, Texas

Members Present:

Estela P. Medina, Chair; Doug Vance, Vice Chair; David Reilly; Mark Williams; Mark Allen; Phillip Hayes; Mario Ramirez; Randy Turner; Carrie Barden; Homer Flores; Debra Emerson; and James Williams

Members Absent:

Larry Thorne and Teresa Stroud

Others Present:

Chelsea Buchholtz, TJJD; Carolyn Beck, TJJD; Lisa Capers, TJJD; Jim Hurley, TJJD; Lauren Rose, Texans Care for Children; Ricardo Guerrero, Hidalgo County; and Israel (Buddy) Silva, Hidalgo County

Agenda Item I: Call to Order/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Estela P. Medina, Chair of the Advisory Council. Ms. Medina welcomed everyone.

Agenda Item II: Review of Minutes

The minutes of the August 8, 2014 Advisory Council Meeting were approved.

Agenda Item III: Texas Juvenile Justice Department Updates (TJJD)

Mr. David Reilly, Executive Director of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department provided information regarding the ongoing work of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

Mr. Reilly added that he and TJJD staff continue the efforts to review the merger of the two legacy agencies and described on-going efforts in this regard. He added that TJJD continues to review juveniles in secure placement and considering other options in service delivery, such as placements closer to the juvenile's community.

TJJD continues to search for additional mental health services and service delivery for both locally operated probation programs and state facilities.

Agenda Item IV: TJJD Budget Updates & Discussion

Mr. Reilly and Ms. Chelsea Buchholtz provided an update regarding the Legislative Appropriations Request. Mr. Reilly indicated that two Exceptional Items to be included in the 2016/17 LAR regarding community based services had been re-prioritized to focus on the front end services. Priority Items #4 and #6 include various requests to include funding for aftercare services, training for de-escalation models and implementation, funding for continued diversion programs, and funding for small and medium size counties for diversion efforts. Discussion regarding the distribution of the funds will be held as the process continues. The Advisory Council has requested the opportunity to offer assistance in this regard. TJJD presented information to the House Appropriations Committee on Article V agencies, at a hearing on Monday, October 20, 2014.

Agenda Item V: Council of State Government Recidivism Report

Mr. Reilly provided an update regarding an on-going recidivism study by the Council of State Governments and other entities assisting with the research. The study includes a review of recidivism and programs for both juvenile probation departments and state operated facilities and programs. A meeting was held on October 16, 2014 with representatives of 8 counties included in the study; as well as representatives from TJJD. The release of the report is currently scheduled for January 2015. TJJD will be coordinating a joint response from TJJD and Counties to this report.

Agenda Item VI: Role of the Advisory Council

Ms. Medina stated that Mr. Reilly, in his new role as the Executive Director, had invited the Advisory Council to look at how to strength the partnership and what Mr. Reilly's expectations are in terms of the work the field is doing and what TJJJ is doing. Ms. Medina provided a copy of S.B. No 653 regarding the role of the Advisory Council and some of the requirements; things they need to work on based on the statue; and the overall goals they have. She stated the Advisory Council wants to be a part of assisting TJJJ and assisting him in his role. Mr. Reilly stated that they can work together on the LAR and look at how funds are allocated. The Advisory Council plays a major goal in that process. Mr. Reilly stated he does not want to create any layers that would come between him and the Advisory Council in terms of communication. He stated that with some things, he will go directly to the Chief's Association for input.

Agenda Item VII: PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) Documents Update

Lisa Capers provided updates with regard to the PREA information and documents. The Advisory Council will be facilitating getting the draft documents to the field, to include Regional Associations and other stakeholders to coordinate feedback regarding these documents. Response to these documents is due November 21, 2014 to Lisa Capers.

Agenda Item VIII: Sub-Committee Report (s)

Standards Sub-Committee

The standards sub-committee met in September and October 2014 in Austin, Texas. On October 16, 2014 the subcommittee completed its review of Disciplinary Seclusion standards and definitions. Recommendations from the Sub Committee are going to be presented to the TJJJ Board at an upcoming Board meeting.

Revisions and recommendations regarding Chapter 343 are scheduled to be presented to the TJJJ Board on October 24, 2014 by James Williams and Doug Vance, both members of the committee.

Review of Chapter 341 Standards by the committee is scheduled to begin in January 2015.

The Advisory Council continues to provide acknowledgement and support to the Standards Committee for their work.

Funding Committee

The Funding Committee presented to the Advisory Council a recommendation to recognize costs related to probation and community based programs by using the Legislative Budget Board information. After review and discussion, it was recommended that the Advisory Council, TJJ and others use the information as a resource for costs related to Probation Departments. The Criminal Justice Uniform Cost Report prepared by the Legislative Budget Board is scheduled to be released sometime in December 2014/January 2015.

Agenda Item IX: Legislative Updates

The Funding Committee will be working with Mr. Reilly, TJJ staff and Regional Associations to determine the potential impact and cost that raising the age of jurisdiction will have for Juvenile Justice. At a stakeholders discussion convened in September 2014 in Austin by the Texans Care for Children Organization, a request was made of the Advisory Council to assist in identifying processes to collect data from the counties in a uniform manner. A review of potential resources and agencies to assist with the collection of this data will be on-going.

Agenda Item X: Old Business

None presented.

Agenda Item XI: New Business

Randy stated that there was some testimony provided at the Corrections Committee Hearing that stated "there were over 200 incidents of sexual misconduct and sexual assault happening at county facilities over the last three years". He stated that number alarmed him and bothered him. He stated that statement was inappropriate and he looking at how to get information to that committee that clarifies that issue.

Judie Boyd will no longer be the Judge for Tarrant County. She will finish her term on November 22, 2014.

Judge Larry Thorne is out campaigning.

Agenda Item XII: Public Comment

No public comment was presented at this time.

Agenda Item XIII: Advisory Council Member Updates & Announcements

No public comment was presented at this time.

Agenda Item XIV: Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Next Advisory Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Advisory Council is scheduled for January 2015.

***Minutes approved on January 16, 2015 by members of the council.**