



Advisory Council on Juvenile Services

Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2015

Hilton College Station & Conference Center

College Station

Members Present: Estela P. Medina, Chair, Doug Vance, Vice Chair, Homer Flores, Mark Williams, Phil Hayes, Carrie Barden, David Reilly, James Williams, Brandon Caffee, Teresa Stroud, Larry Burgess for Debra Emerson

Members Absent: Judge Larry Thorne, Judge Mario Ramirez, Judge Mark Allen

Others Present: Chelsea Buchholtz (TJJD), Mike Meyer (TJJD), Lisa Capers (TJJD), Diana Norris

Estela Medina called the meeting to order at 10:05a.m.

The meeting minutes of the August 21, 2015 meeting were approved.

Agenda Item III Texas Juvenile Justice Department Updates (TJJD)

David Reilly, Executive Director provided information regarding the work of the Regionalization Task Force and information from the most recent meeting held on October 20, 2015 in College Station.

Mr. Reilly informed the Advisory Council that TJJD will be providing a review and response regarding recent incidents occurring at secure TJJD facilities.

Agenda Item IV Regionalization Planning

James Williams, Sr. Director, TJJD and Chair of the Regionalization Task Force provided additional information regarding the Regionalization Task Force meeting held on October 20. The Task Force is working on identifying the juvenile population that will be defined as eligible for diversion from

commitment to TJJD. A review of 2014 data representing commitments from statewide regions and counties and county size was provided so as to define the population of juveniles to be considered for diversion.

Other mandates of SB 1630 to be reviewed by the Task Force will include developing a framework for the implementation of the Regional Plans. The Plans will include the identification of post adjudication bed availability statewide and an inventory of programs and resources available in the Regions. The emphasis is on research based program and services. Other considerations will include funding for Regional Plans.

James advised that additional information will be provided to stakeholders, which will include a draft definition of the diversion population, a regional inventory of services and a specific inventory of services offered by individual departments. Additionally, stakeholders have been asked to review another document, the 1630 Diversion Checklist.

Estela P. Medina provided the Advisory Council Members with these documents and requested review of the documents, and that feedback be provided to James Williams by November 6, 2015. Advisory Council Members, Doug Vance, Homer Flores and Estela P. Medina are serving on the Regionalization Task Force representing the Advisory Council.

Agenda Item V Update Regarding 2016 & 2017 Biennial Budget

Mike Meyer, Chief Financial Officer, TJJD Executive staff and the Advisory Council members are working to develop important funding considerations for the next fiscal year, to include requirements for the funding of SB 1630 mandates.

Mr. Meyer has requested that the Advisory Council work with TJJD on three key components of the implementation plan which will include, 1) defining "Basic Probation", 2) assist with the development of a new funding formula and, 3) to assist with the development of discretionary funding protocols.

Mr. Meyer prepared a survey that was distributed to all Juvenile Probation Departments, asking for information to help to define basic probation services. Mike presented the aggregate results of the survey.

The Advisory Council Funding Sub Committee will continue its work with Mike Meyer, TJJD Executive Leadership and facilitate similar efforts with our Regions and Juvenile Probation Departments statewide.

Agenda Item VI Regarding the use of Risk Assessment Instruments

At the request of Mr. David Reilly, the Advisory Council has been asked to submit a recommendation to the TJJD Board on whether to consider implementing the use of one or more risk assessment instruments. The discussion was not to consider which instrument, but rather whether statewide

efforts would be best served through the use of one or multiple instruments. The requirements for compliance with SB 1630 include considering the implementation of a validated risk assessment instrument.

Advisory Council members received information from various resources and subject matter professionals to assist in preparing to address this request.

The discussion also included feedback received from Regional Association members and Juvenile Probation Departments.

A motion was presented by Homer Flores that the following recommendation be provided to the TJJD Board at the November 13, 2015 meeting. A second to the motion was provided by Mark Williams.

- The Advisory Council recommends the use of one validated risk assessment to be implemented statewide for use by Juvenile Probation Departments.

Additionally Advisory Council members requested of Estela P. Medina, Chair to include as part of the recommendation other considerations regarding the use of one risk assessment instrument.

If a Juvenile Probation Department determines the use of a different instrument, the Department will need to comply with all reporting requirements for submitting information to TJJD. Also, the recommendation to use one instrument will also include that training for the use of the instrument be provided; and that funding for the implementation of the instrument be made available.

The recommendation as requested by David Reilly is also to include factors that were considered in submitting the recommendation for one instrument. Estela P. Medina will present the recommendation to the Board as indicated at the November 13, 2015 TJJD Board Meeting.

Agenda Item VII Sub Committee Reports

Doug Vance advised that the Standards Sub Committee submitted recommendations to the TJJD Board on August 28, 2015 regarding revisions to standards addressing disciplinary seclusion, and the same were approved. The revisions are to be effective February 1, 2016. Doug Vance will work with TJJD to schedule joint training sessions for the Juvenile Probation Departments regarding the changes. The Sub-Committee has also completed revisions to TAC 341 which will be presented to the TJJD Board on November 13, 2015. The request will include permission to publish the proposed revisions for the required 30 day period in the Texas Register. The revision and effective date for these standards is proposed for the summer of 2016.

The Advisory Council requested of the Chair, Doug Vance and the Sub-Committee to review Chapter 344 of the Texas Administrative Code – Officer Certification and Training Standards for possible

revisions. As with other Standards Sub Committee work, Doug will name a sub-committee to work on this effort. The work is proposed to begin in 2016.

Funding Subcommittee:

Estela P. Medina advised that the Funding Sub Committee will schedule a meeting of the subcommittee to work on the areas presented by Mike Meyer. She reminded Advisory Council members as to who is serving on the committee that include, Judge Thorne, Judge Ramirez, Judge Allen, Mark Williams, Carrie Barden and Estela P. Medina. Homer Flores was asked to serve on the committee as well.

Agenda Item VIII Old Business:

Estela P. Medina informed that On October 1, 2015, at a retirement celebration in honor of Chief Jane Anderson King, that on behalf of the Advisory Council, she presented Chief King with an acknowledgement for her years of service as a member of previous Advisory Councils and for her work statewide.

Agenda Item IX New Business

None presented

Agenda Item X Public Comment

Diana Norris responded to questions raised by Advisory Council members under discussion for Agenda Item VII

Agenda Item XI Advisory Council Member Updates & Announcements

Advisory Council Members expressed their appreciation to William Carter, President, JJAT for assisting with the scheduling of the Advisory Council for the October meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Advisory Council was scheduled for Friday, January 8, 2016 in Austin, Texas.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28p.m.