



**Advisory Council on Juvenile Services
Meeting Minutes July 11, 2013
Texas Juvenile Justice Department
11209 Metric Blvd. Bldg. H
Austin, Texas**

Advisory Council Members Present:

Mike Griffiths, Estela P. Medina, Doug Vance, Mark Williams, Phil Hayes, Carrie Barden, Randy Turner, James Williams, Commissioner Matt Shaheen, Audrey Deckinga, Homer Flores.

Judge Larry Thorne and Judge Mario Ramirez were not able to attend because of prior commitments.

Others Present:

Linda Brooke, Mike Meyer

The meeting was called to order by Estela P. Medina Chair, at 10:10a.m.

The meeting minutes of the May 16 meeting of the Advisory Council were approved.

Agenda Item III

TJJD Update - Mike Griffiths

1. Mike introduced the new TJJD Chief Financial Officer, Mike Meyers.
2. TJJD lost \$33 million off the base budget - and \$23 million of that was from Goal B - TJJD state schools. Mr. Griffiths reported that each of the TJJD divisions was there for looking to cut up to 20% from each of their respective budgets.
3. TJJD has introduced a new philosophy within its state operated programs, and it is "One Facility One Mission". The goal is for each secure facility to try to

specialize on one of their 4 core treatment domains (sex offenders, Aggression, Substance Abuse, and Mental Health).

4. Mr. Griffiths also reported that TJJD has plans to “out-source” specialized services to three different vendors for residential services - (G4S - in Brownwood, Rite of Passage, out of state, and Cornerstone - in Garza County). The specific of which services would be provided by each has not yet been determined, but the plan by TJJD is for each to specialize in one of the 4 core domains and each one will be a “secure program.” TJJD’s institutional capacity will remain about 1375 beds. It was stated by Mr. Griffiths that TJJD will not remove many of the juveniles in care to the new vendors. The current number of contract beds is 78 - and they do not anticipate going to more than 200 contract beds. No more than about 125 kids will be outsourced, at least within the first few years, based on how the plan progresses.

In discussion a few questions were raised as to one of the vendors, Rites of Passage, and the fact that they do not have a facility in Texas at this time; and how that contract would be determined.

5. Halfway house programs will also be transformed into the “One Facility One Mission” model and as such will specialize on step down / transition services for one of the 4 core domains.
6. Educational philosophy is to have more a career academic focus. TJJD will work more closely with community colleges and technical trade schools.
7. PBIS is the new behavior management model for all the institutions. It has replaced the Connections Program.
8. TJJD wants to increase accountability for TJJD as to how they handle ANE. It was reported by Mr. Griffiths that they might start sending notification letters to parents of Juveniles on probation when an ANE investigation is initiated like they do now for the state institutions.

Agenda Item IV

Appropriations – Presentation by Mike Meyers (TJJD Chief Financial Officer)

Estela Medina informed members that the Finance Sub Committee of the Advisory Council had met the day before, July 10th with Mr. Griffiths, Mike Meyers, Linda Brooke and James Williams, and that much discussion had been held. The formula that had been used was the one used in prior years; with other considerations. Ms. Medina requested that a follow up presentation be provided to the field during the upcoming Budget Workshop so that departments would know the process that was used affecting the distribution of the funds.

1. Mike reported that in Goal A Juvenile Probation/Community Based Services had seen a loss in funding of \$7,322,897 over the biennium for Grant A. The expectation is that all counties will receive some loss in this grant, of up to approximately 5%.
2. He added that the Legislature approved the LBB's population projections and as such they predict referrals to be less in FY 15, than in FY 14. Thus there will be an additional loss to state financial assistance grants in FY 2015. Approximate amount of about \$1.2 million state wide.
3. The amount of funding that each of the Juvenile Probation Departments will receive is forthcoming from TJJD once all of the data is completed. TJJD is still tweaking the grant totals for both Grant A and the new mental health grant.
4. Prevention - TJJD is evaluating the current prevention programs and will either continue to fund the existing ones, or a few may be eliminated. This will provide an opportunity for other juvenile probation departments to apply for those prevention grant funds. TJJD will let everyone know once this is determined.
5. JJEAP – the mandatory referral reimbursement rate will go up from \$79.00 to \$86.00 for next year.
6. Grant C – No changes in the funds being received by Counties. However, if Collin County joins in Grant C - (they are the only large county not participating with Grant C), then the Grant c dollars could be reduced for each county. Further information will be provided during the budget conference.
7. Commitment Targets - It is projected that the total number of TJD commitments state wide will be about 800 this year, well under the 1111 cap. The new target cap has been reduced to 925. TJJD will send each department their new commitment target.
8. TJJD is keeping \$1.75 million of grant A in a discretionary funding. Counties will be able to apply for these funds based on unusual circumstances or emergent issues. TJJD will provide further direction during the budget conference.

With regard to the mental health funding much discussion was had once again, regarding the distribution of the Funds. Estela Medina informed the members that discussion in this area had also been held with TJJD staff and the Finance Sub Committee. In discussion and review of the information, and distribution plan, several factors came up. The Advisory Council suggested a review of the proposed formula so provide more of an equalization of the funds. TJJD will continue to work on the distribution and provide the update and information, also during the upcoming Budget Conference.

Mike Griffiths provided that he will be proposing the recommendation to the TJJD Board on July 16, 2013 at its next board meeting, the closure of one facility. TJJD will recommend the closing of the Corsicana State School. With the propose closure, that will leave 5 state facilities. TJJD anticipates capacity of about 1200 kids per day in state schools. Facility size and cost of upkeep were major factors on which facility to close.

TJJD will also be closing 2 of the 9 half-way houses and will reconfigure staffing and program considerations.

Agenda Item V: TJJD Board Meeting

Doug provided that the report by the Advisory Council provided to the TJJD Board in May had been well received. The discussion focused much on the work of the standards and the work being done on appropriations.

Agenda Item VI: Sub Committee Reports

Standards Update - Doug Vance

The Standards committee completed the draft for TAC 355 non-secure standards. They will be presented at the July 26 TJJD Board Meeting for initial publication in the Texas Registry and scheduled for final adoption at the September or October TJJD Board meeting. The standards committee members - representatives from all over the state including TJJD - did an awesome job - within only 5 months they not only drafted a set of emergency rules for non-secure facilities that was adopted by the TJJD board in May, but also completed from scratch a complete draft of new standards for non-secure facilities that not only provide for safety and well-being of children. The recommendations to the standards are flexible enough to accommodate any unique type of non-secure facility being operated by a juvenile probation department.

The next standards committee project has not been determined, but may involve a complete review of TAC 343 as well as TAC 341.

Parole Update-James Williams

Ms. Medina informed the members that the Parole sub-committee of the Advisory Council had also met the day before with TJJD staff. She indicated that James Williams had provided an update of much of the work being done in the parole area.

James reported that TJJD will provide parole services in urban areas and contract with counties for the remainder of the state. James passed out a hand-out detailing the changes in parole. It was well received and recognized for much work being done in this area. The Advisory Council again re-iterated its Interest to work with Parole services and the development of the programs.

A reminder was provided by Estela Medina that the Post Legislative Conference is scheduled for July 30-31, 1013 in Austin Texas, followed by the Budget Workshop Conference on August 1.

Agenda Item VIII: Old Business

There was not old Business discussion provided or requested.

Agenda Item IX: Public Comment

Adrian Moore with the CARY Program in Austin, Texas, addressed the Advisory Council. He provided information regarding interest and support o prevention programming, both for local communities and state programming. The Advisory Council thanked him for his work and interest in the area of prevention.

Agenda Item X: Announcements

Members provided information regarding upcoming Regional Association Meetings.

Scheduling Next Meeting:

Next Advisory Meeting - Thursday September 19, 2013 in Austin at TJJD offices. It was also determined that if TJJD needed a meeting prior to that, that one would be arranged.

With no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00p.m.

Submitted and Approved: September 19th, 2013

Estela P. Medina
Chair, Advisory Council on Juvenile Services