



Advisory Council on Juvenile Services

Meeting Minutes: Friday, August 8, 2014

11209 Metric Blvd., Austin, Texas

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Larry Thorne

Others Present:

Mike Meyer, TJJJ; Katrena Plummer, TJJJ; Chelsea Buchholtz, TJJJ; Lisa Capers, TJJJ; and members of the Standards Sub Committee

Agenda Item I: Call to Order/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:20 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 May 16, 2014 Advisory Council Meeting were approved. There were minor corrections noted.

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

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

He provided an update regarding an on-going recidivism study and the continued review of data. Mr. Reilly added that he would provide additional information as more is determined as to process and input by stakeholders.

Agenda Item IV: TJJD Budget Updates & Discussion

Mr. Mike Meyer, Chief Financial Officer provided a draft list of Exceptional Items to be included in the 2016/17 Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR). The proposed list includes 13 items with an approximate \$55-57 million in requests related to operations, technology, staffing for state facilities, training for Juvenile Probation departments, education and services enhancements for state facilities, requests for funds to expand probation programs and services, new construction costs at state facilities, proposed salary change for ED, and other capital costs. Mr. Meyer represented that the requests are subject to review and approval by the TJJD Board. The TJJD Board may be approving the requests at the meeting scheduled on August 22, 2014.

The Advisory Council members re-iterated an interest to have no reductions in the base funding structure. Other items discussed included:

- Consideration for an increase in the daily reimbursement rate for Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Programs.
- Adding flexibility to expenditure of funds in Grant N

Funding Committee

The subcommittee has been tasked with working with TJJD staff on two specific priorities. The Committee will be working with TJJD with Mr. Reilly and TJJD staff to determine the potential impact that raising the age of jurisdiction will have for Juvenile Justice. Secondly, the Committee will be working with TJJD staff to further review the need and or plan to accomplish a cost of probation study. Both of these tasks are to have further discussion and direction as to next steps by the October 17, 2014 meeting of the Advisory Council.

Proposed Study of Salary and Turnover Rates for Juvenile Probation Departments and Juvenile Justice Department Personnel

Ms. Lisa Capers presented information regarding a Proposed Study of Salary and Turnover Rates for Juvenile Probation Departments and Juvenile Justice Department Personnel. TJJD staff requested the support of the Advisory Council to assist TJJD with the preparation of the report. It was presented that the purpose of the proposed study is to determine what critical factors may contribute to personnel turnover for Juvenile Justice Professionals. Specifically the proposed study will review existing salary information and turnover rates and how these factors can be addressed. Advisory Council members offered their support of this work and a commitment to assist with the preparation of the report. TJJD staff has identified proposed timelines and phases for the study. The process to collect and to review information will include participation by important stakeholders; Juvenile Probation Departments, statewide Professionals Associations, Regional Associations and the Advisory Council.

Agenda Item V: Disciplinary Seclusion & De-escalation Strategies: Standards Review & Discussion

The standards sub-committee met on June 19-20; and again on August 7-8th, 2014. The subcommittee continues its work and review of Disciplinary Seclusion standards and definitions. The meeting notes for the meeting held in June is included as part of this update.

The Sub Committee is scheduled to meet again September 17-20th in Austin at the Travis County Juvenile Probation Department.

Members of the standards sub-committee were able to attend the Advisory Council meeting. Those committee members present received continuous acknowledgement and support by the Advisory Council for their work.

Agenda Item VI: Strategic Planning Update

The Advisory Council in partnership with TJJD staff will be working to develop a document that identifies Juvenile Justice priorities that will guide the work of juvenile probation and state programs, in preparation not only for the upcoming legislation; but that also identifies a plan for any changes or potential new legislation.

PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act)

Ms. Lisa Capers provided updates with regard to the PREA Audit process and on-going efforts by TJJJ. She provided several documents for review and requested input by the Advisory Council of the documents. TJJJ will be providing this information to the field once the information review is completed.

Agenda Item VII: Sub-Committee Report(s)

Standards Sub-Committee

Mr. Doug Vance stated that standards sub-committee met on June 19-20; and again on August 7-8th, 2014.

The subcommittee continues its work and review of Disciplinary Seclusion standards and definitions. The meeting notes for the meeting held in June is included as part of this update.

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Parole

Mr. James Williams stated that the Research department is reviewing commitments and making projections on where the parolee's will be going and if they are able to get services once they go home. Commitments have slowed down.

Cost of Probation and Program Evaluation/Data Research Committees

Ms. Medina stated that the Funding Committee will be meeting with David Reilly and TJJJ staff to further determine the need for the completion of the Cost of Probation Study.

Mental Health:

Mr. Doug Vance informed council members that this committee has not met; therefore he had nothing to report.

Performance Measures Committee

Mr. Homer Flores informed council members he did not have anything to report.

Agenda Item VIII: Old Business

No old business was presented for review.

Agenda Item IX: New Business

Mr. Homer Flores announced that Chief Marla Ruvalcaba of San Patricio County JPD will be retiring.

Agenda Item X: Public Comment

No public comment was presented

Agenda Item XI: Advisory Council Member Updates & Announcements

No Advisory Council Members Updates or Announcements.

Next Advisory Council Meeting

The next advisory council meeting will be held Friday, October 17, 2014 in Austin at the offices of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30p.m.

***Minutes approved on October 17, 2014 by members of the council.**