



Advisory Council on Juvenile Services

Meeting Minutes: May 16, 2014

11209 Metric Blvd., Austin, Texas

Austin, Texas

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Buddy Silva, Hidalgo County; Chelsea Buchholtz TJJD, Mike Meyer TJJD, Linda Brooke, Tarrant County

Agenda Item I: Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by Estela P. Medina, Chair of the Advisory Council. Ms. Medina welcomed everyone. Advisory Council members and others present introduced themselves.

Agenda Item II: Review of Minutes

The minutes of the March 26, 2014 Advisory Council Meeting were approved. Also approved was a revised version of minutes from the November 22, 2013 meeting. There were minor corrections noted.

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

Ms. Medina welcomed and introduced Mr. David Reilly as Interim Executive Director.

Mr. Reilly, introduced himself further, and stated that he had started in his role on May 12, 2014. He began by offering some background information on himself and described his plans to support TJJD and what he would like to see accomplished during his time as Interim Executive Director.

Ms. Medina and Advisory Council members extended a collaborative interest to work with Mr. Reilly and welcomed him in his role as Interim Executive Director.

Ms. Medina extended an opportunity for TJJD staff members to provide any updates. No other updates were presented.

Agenda Item IV: TJJD Budget Updates & Discussion

Mr. Mike Meyer, Chief Financial Officer, TJJD presented the council members with Budget Updates. He began with some general information. He stated that TJJD is currently in good standing with the midyear budget review.

There has been no change regarding the Corsicana facility. The LBB has requested information on capacity and reduction.

Mr. Meyer referenced a reminder sent out by Mr. James Williams regarding funds with holding procedures. He indicated that another round of supplemental emergency funding will become available and noted a new deadline of June 1st for applications to be submitted. The first awards will be made in June through August. There may be special funding available at the end of the year as well. He would like to see the funds focused on capitol purchases, or one time purchases. There have been some provisions made to the contract for 2014/2015; the county department should notify TJJD if they will be requesting disbursements/refunds at the end of the year. Previously when counties end up not using the funds they are returned to TJJD and are essentially not distributed. When the funds are refunded in such a matter it makes the process more complicated for TJJD to recycle and use them in other areas of need. Hence the need for the above mentioned provision. There was discussion on how the format of the procedure will work. Nothing has been decided at this moment, more information to follow.

Mr. Meyer discussed some topics that will appear in the Strategic Planning Process. One of them includes the grant requesting additional funding to support supplemental pay for JSO's and JPO'S. There was discussion on how each county manages the disbursement of these funds. Are the funds used as a stipend, as a salary allotment? Further research was suggested determining how many new officers there are, and those officers who have not received the supplement. This data will help demonstrate a need for the supplemental pay. It was suggested that the funding subcommittee could help provide regional feedback on this matter.

Mr. Doug Vance requested funding for prevention programs. A suggestion was also made to request state assistance to help with funding for counties to become in compliance with PREA.

Lastly council members discussed a funding formula/funding allocations and plans to help prepare for the 2016-2017 biennium. It was decided Advisory Council members will review information and then collect data from their perspective Regional Associations. Results will be submitted to Mr. Meyer, who will later create a survey to be completed by departments to provide regional feedback.

Agenda Item V: Committee Update

Regarding SB 1769 Fingerprint Advisory Committee

Mr. Mark Williams provided council members with this report. He began by thanking fellow committee members on a job well done. He updated members on a report done by Nydia Thomas that will be presented to the board. It was mutually agreed upon that a juvenile's fingerprints will not be available for various agencies. The only two agencies other than Law Enforcement agencies that will be able to view the juvenile's records prior to adjudication will be TJJD and the Department of Family and Protective Services. Mr. Williams will present council members with a copy of the report after it has been presented to the board. He stated he was very pleased with the outcome of this report and is looking forward to presenting the information to fellow council members. Also noted was that the committee is looking forward to working together again and will soon continue work on Chapter 58.

Agenda Item VI: Update & Discussion Disciplinary Seclusion

Mr. Doug Vance presented council members with this update. Disciplinary seclusion was one of several items reviewed as part of the 343 working group. Further detailed review on the topic will be discussed in the upcoming June meeting. National trends and local trends, advocate concerns and legislative concerns are all topics that will be revised in order to decide what needs to be reviewed concerning disciplinary seclusion. The goal is to come up with strategies to better utilize this disciplinary effort in order to keep facilities safe and secure. Mr. Vance

reiterated it's important to make sure disciplinary seclusion is being used when it is for major rule violations. And when it is used, to make sure the child's rights are still being met. It was suggested that the subcommittee work together with TJJJ in order to have seclusion statistics from facilities across the state in order to be better prepared. Discussion followed on the availability of this information. Mark Williams requested information from TJJJ to help better determine the number of times seclusion is even used statewide.

The discussion included the need to be able to better review this information to help address any questions and or concerns. TJJJ reported some initial concerns with the availability of the information, but agreed to follow up to determine how best to provide the information.

Agenda Item VII: Discussion Legislative Planning

Ms. Medina provided an opportunity for open discussion regarding potential legislative matters. She began by discussing the topics of disciplinary seclusion and raising the age of jurisdiction to 18.

Ms. Medina referenced an informational document from LBJ School of Public Affairs that was provided to the Advisory Council Members. This document was presented at the LBB Forum and highlights some areas to consider in regards to raising the age of Jurisdiction. At some point the Advisory Council may be brought into more discussions or asked to review this topic further.

She added that the LBB hosts monthly forums on various topics.

Agenda Item VIII: Sub-Committee Report(s)

Standards Sub-Committee

Mr. Doug Vance updated members on several tasks the standards subcommittee has been working on. The group has completed their work on TAC 343. Information collected will be presented to the board meeting in May. Several minor and substantial changes were made to 343. He stated the TAC 343 addendum was eliminated. They highlighted pertinent information and merged it into the corresponding standard in which it applied. In regards to PREA and 343 it was decided the two topics would remain separate. Mr. Vance also informed members that disciplinary seclusion and crisis intervention models will be two more topics the committee will be reviewing. One more item the committee will review will be the way TJJJ performs audits. Mr. Vance opened for questions and comments and also asked members for their feedback on which items they would like to see reviewed next by the standards committee. It was suggested that TAC 341 be the next topic to be revisited.

Parole

James Williams provided an update on status of Parole Committee. He mentioned commitments in some areas have gone up. Mr. Williams shared a few parole cases (no identifying data) so as to provide council members with further insight on what Parole staff Have to work with.

Cost of Probation and Program Evaluation/Data Research Committees

The cost of probation report was moved on the agenda and discussed in conjunction with Mr. Mike Meyers Budget Update. Ms. Medina indicated that Mr. Meyer has started to prepare for the LAR 2016/2017 Biennium. She added that discussions were held with Mr. Meyer to help identify what will be the most efficient manner in which to proceed with the study.

The group will begin working on a review process to bring back to advisory council members which will later be presented to the board for final approval. Some topics the committee will be reviewing are; requests, exceptional items, follow up regarding funding formula. In regards to the Cost of Probation study Mr. Meyer suggested the committee review what the LBB has used in their report. The subcommittee would like to come up with the best strategies in order to demonstrate a true viewpoint from the Counties. These include expenditures, fixed costs, direct and indirect cost, and how they vary from county to county. There may be an opportunity for council members to preview the LBB report. These will be some of the items the committee will work on. Plans are to schedule a meeting and or conference call.

Mental Health

Mr. Vance informed council members that this committee has not met. He opened up the agenda item for discussion by council members. Judge Larry Thorne shared some insight and thoughts regarding mental health. He strongly urges the need for more mental health resources. Mr. Homer Flores informed council members about a criminal jurisprudence hearing chaired by Representative A. Herrero, Corpus Christi. Rep. Guerrero was seeking input from counties regarding mental health. Mr. Flores suggested to Judge Thorne perhaps this networking with Rep. Guerrero could provide some direction as far as resource information. Council members are in agreement that there needs to be more measures and resources in to place to help mental health. More work on this to follow.

Performance Measures Committee

Mr. Homer Flores provided the update on Performance Measures. Mr. Flores explained that a couple years ago the Advisory council had agreed on the following factors to be focused on for this particular committee; recidivism rates, new commitments, certifications, successful completion of probation, and re-incarceration rates. He states that Ms. Nancy Arrigona has recently submitted to the LBB the performance measures which are reflective of each other,

with the exception of certifications. It was discussed that with the current time frame there is not enough time in order for substantive changes to be provided to the LBB. It was concluded that the addition of more performance measures will be on hold until the new Executive Director and management team are in place for TJJD.

Agenda Item IX: Old Business

None presented

Agenda Item X: New Business

There was no new business discussed

Agenda Item XI: Public Comment

No public comment was presented at this time.

Agenda Item XII: Advisory Council Member Updates & Announcements

No announcement or updates were shared at this moment

Agenda Item XIII: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Next Advisory Council Meeting

The next advisory council meeting will be held Friday July, 11th, 2014.

***Minutes were Approved August 08, 2014 by members of the council.**