



Advisory Council on Juvenile Services

Meeting Minutes: March 26th, 2014

11209 Metric Blvd., Austin, Texas

Austin, Texas

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Linda Brooke, TJJD; Buddy Silva, Hidalgo County; Dr. Terry Smith, Dallas County; Lisa Capers, TJJD; and Kavita Gupta, TJJD;

Agenda Item I: Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 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: Advisory Council Updates and Committee Assignments

Ms. Medina informed that the Advisory Council appointments are all in place. She introduced new appointments to the Advisory Council, and they include Judge Mark Allen, County Judge in Jasper County; and Ms. Debra Emerson, Department of Family and Protective Services. She announced that the TJJD Board re-appointed three (3) Chiefs to the Board;

Mark Williams, Doug Vance and Estela P. Medina. The Advisory Council members re-appointed Estela P. Medina as Chair; and Doug Vance as Vice-Chair of the Advisory Council on Juvenile Services.

Agenda Item III: Review of Minutes: November 22, 2013

Ms. Medina provided the minutes from the November 22, 2013 Advisory Council Meeting for review. The minutes were approved by the Advisory Council Members.

Agenda Item IV: Texas Juvenile Justice Department Updates

Executive Director, Mr. Mike Griffiths, extended his appreciation to the Advisory Council Members upon his resignation scheduled for March 31, 2014.

He introduced Ms. Linda Brooke as the Interim Executive Director.

He informed the Advisory Council members of an upcoming study. The Council on State Government will be conducting a review of data in Texas regarding Juvenile Justice. The study will focus on recidivism and program information comparing state youth to county youth served from 2009 to 2011. Nancy Arrigona and her research team are participating with the report. The study is similar to the Breaking School Rules report. Mr. Griffiths stated that the results of this study could have national implications. Six to ten Texas counties will be used as a participant group for the review. A comparison will be done between youth who have been in post adjudication programs and youth committed to the TJJD. The timetable for launching the survey would tentatively be December. Mr. Griffiths referenced various points of date review that include recidivism, programs and variables which may be specific to county operations. He stated that Ms. Linda Brook and Ms. Nancy Arrigona will be involved throughout the process of this study.

One question asked in regards to the survey was whether or not there would be an opportunity for stakeholder review and participation. Mr. Griffith stated that he would look into to this during the next meeting with staff of the Council of State Government.

In another update, Mr. Griffiths referenced the Path Forward Document, or the TJJD Strategic planning document. Lisa Capers will continue to facilitate the strategic planning efforts and updates on behalf of TJJD.

Ms. Medina extended a thank you and appreciation on behalf of council members to Mr. Griffiths acknowledging his work in Juvenile Justice. She announced that a reception honoring Mr. Griffiths would be held on March 28, 2014 upon adjournment of the TJJD Board Meeting.

Agenda Item V: TJJJ Budget Updates & Discussion

Mike Meyer informed that the TJJJ Board will be discussing information regarding the upcoming budget request or Legislative Appropriations Request. He added that TJJJ will be presenting a recommendation regarding funds distribution to the Counties that includes a 1.5% decrease instead of the 2% that had been discussed. He added that the budget expenditures for Goal A and B are in accordance with expected year to date spending.

Agenda Item VI: Update, Committee Regarding Chapter 343: Handling Aggressive Youth in Secure Settings

Ms. Medina introduced Dr. Terry Smith, Director of Dallas County Juvenile Probation Department, who chaired the committee appointed to review the recommendations and any changes or modifications to the language stated in the standard. Dr. Smith indicated that the committee had assigned three sub committees which included a review of De-escalation models, one on policy development and one to review involvement by the office Ombudsman. After much discussion and research the subcommittee concluded with the recommendation to leave the standard as is.

Ms. Medina presented various options as to how to proceed with the recommendation.

Advisory Council members voted to approve the recommendation presented by the appointed Sub Committee; and for the Advisory Standards subcommittee and the appointed subcommittee to continue the work of reviewing de-escalation techniques, strategies and models. The review will consider potential recommendations to implement models and practices that may be relevant for operations by Counties. The follow up will include review of resources and costs that could impact counties.

Ms. Medina thanked Dr. Smith and Committee members of the appointed committee for their important work on this standard review.

Agenda Item VII: Discussion & Update regarding Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

Ms. Lisa Capers provided council members an update regarding requirements and information on the upcoming PREA audits. Currently audit expenses range from \$3,000- \$12, 000. This factor will be a major component for some counties. Mr. Griffiths provided the Department of Justice (DOJ) with a letter requesting that TJJJ be allowed to assist in performing PREA audits of counties if agreed to by the individual counties. This would help offset costs for counties. TJJJ

is awaiting a formal response. The time frame for counties to begin initial audit of their facilities was from August 20, 2013 through August 19, 2014.

Another option available to help offset costs is to have counties work in consortium and audit each other. Ms. Capers addressed questions regarding PREA enforcement action. She stated that PREA Standards do apply to county facilities however; no enforcement penalties have been identified in the standards for the counties or for state facilities.

There are plans by TJJJ for a statewide conference to prepare counties for this audit. Although no date has been set, October 2014 is the tentative time frame. Ms. Capers will keep the Advisory Council informed as to any further information pertaining to the PREA audit process.

Agenda Item VIII: Sub-Committee Report(s)

Ms. Medina provided a draft on committee appointments and highlighted information on the work of the sub committees. The Advisory Council members agreed to the committee appointments. The sub committees will include: Standards, Funding and Cost of Probation Study, Mental Health, Performance Measures and Parole. The Committees are to reconvene in May 2014.

Standards Sub-Committee

Mr. Doug Vance started by thanking all of his fellow committee members. He provided an update regarding Chapter 343 review. The goals are to complete this part of the committee work in May, 2014. Doug will keep members up to date. The Advisory Council members were provided with agendas and meeting minutes for review as part of the update by Mr. Vance.

Parole

James Williams provided an update and informed that the current number of parolees is about 526; numbers have decreased from previously 700. TJJJ is currently working on more releases for those who qualify.

Cost of Probation and Funding

Ms. Medina provided some background on this study. The goal of the survey is to look at statewide costs, county expenditures and state funding. Further follow up will be scheduled so as to prepare priority areas for the committee.

Agenda Item IX: Old Business

Ms. Medina provided the Advisory Council report to be presented to the TJJJ Board on March 28th.

Agenda Item X: New Business

Ms. Medina introduced Ms. Chelsea Buchholtz as the new TJJJ General Counsel effective April 1, 2014

Agenda Item XI: Public Comment

Judge Thorne presented information regarding the potential for a new resource opportunity. The state has given the vacant Al Price facility to Jefferson County. Mr. Nick Lampson has helped rehabilitate the facility to a residential/charter school facility. Initially the program will serve Jefferson and surrounding counties with future plans to serve statewide. He provided Mr. Lampson's contact information. Plans are to provide services to 500 youth.

Agenda Item XII: Advisory Council Member Updates & Announcements

No Public Comment was presented

Agenda Item XIII: Adjourn

The next advisory council meeting will be held Friday, May 16th 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:33p.m.

Submitted:

Estela P. Medina
Chair, Advisory Council on Juvenile Services

Approved:

May 16, 2014
Advisory Council Members