



**Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission  
 Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith and Family  
 1700 West Washington Street, Suite 230, Phoenix, Arizona 85007**

A general meeting of the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission (AJJC) was convened September 2, 2021, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (17)	
Cindi Nannetti, Chair	Tracy Darmody, Vice-Chair
Joseph Grossman	Guadalupe Durazo
Dorothy Wodraska	Shaun Rieve
Dennis Pickering	Vada Phelps
Joseph Kelroy	Shawn Cox
Maria Dodge	Helen Gándara
Rep. Shawna Bolick	Jeff Hood
Alice Bustillo	Jane Kallal
	Donald Walker
	Robert Thomas
Staff/Guests Present (5)	Members Absent (8)
Kate Howard, ADJC	Erica Maxwell
Kim Brooks, GOYFF	Michael Faust
Emily Uline-Olmstead, GOYFF	Tom Callahan
Melissa Kawalski, ICAN	Jose Gonzales
Gayla Jensen, BBSAZ	Nicole Schuren
Howark Wykes, ADJC	Earl Newton
	James Molina

**Call to Order**

- **Ms. Cindi Nannetti**, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. with 17 members and five staff/guests present.
  - **Ms. Nannetti** provided instructions to members for remote meetings.
  - **Ms. Nannetti** advised members of the public to submit their comments through the Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) website.

**Introductions**

- **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair, asked members to acknowledge their attendance during roll call.

**Approval of Minutes**

- **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair, requested a motion to approve the May 6, 2021, meeting minutes.

- o **Mr. Joseph Grossman** motioned to approve the minutes as drafted.
- o **Mrs. Shawn Cox** seconded the motion.
- The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

## **Title II Program Presentation, ICAN**

- **Ms. Melissa Kawalski**, ICAN Chief Program Officer, provided an overview of ICAN programming supported through the Title II grant.
  - o ICAN's mission is to provide free, comprehensive programs that empower youth to be productive, self confident, and responsible members of the community.
  - o ICAN's Strengthening Family Units are provided to strengthen the family unit and expose youth to uninterrupted time with their parents. ICAN also partners with Chandler Unified School District to provide each youth a daily meal.
  - o The S.T.E.A.M. programs promote academic success and problem solving skills while exposing students to different career activities.
  - o All of ICAN's programs are evaluated and the data is reported through the Title II quarterly reports.
- **Ms. Grossman**: What did ICAN do during COVID-19? **Ms. Kawalski** replied that at the beginning of COVID-19 ICAN could not provide in person programming but quickly adapted and began providing at-home kits for families to participate in bonding activities.
- **Ms. Darmody**, Vice-Chair: As kids age out of the program, what additional programming is provided? **Ms. Kawalski** replied ICAN does hire alumni and hopes these alumni will inspire the youth. An example being, a youth leader who just graduated from college is now running one of the elementary school programs.
- **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair: How are individuals referred to the program? **Ms. Kawalski** explained the program model is word of mouth and through school partnership referrals. Unfortunately, ICAN often has to turn participants away because there isn't enough space.
- **Ms. Darmody**, Vice-Chair: How do families provide feedback? **Ms. Kawalski** explained each family has access to provide feedback through the Listen4Good online survey tool. This tool provides outcome and output data to the organization to help improve services.

## **Juvenile Justice System Updates**

### **Report from the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections**

- **Ms. Kate Howard**, Government Affairs and Public Relations Administrator at the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC), provided an update on agency operations.
  - o There are currently 145 youth in secure care at the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections. The 145 youth in secure care consists of 127 boys and 18 girls.
  - o ADJC's Community Correction Officers are supervising 70 youth in the community. The 70 youth on parole consists of 56 boys and 14 girls. Community Correction Officers are also supervising 68 youth through Interstate Compact.
  - o ADJC has been able to fully vaccinate 19 youth and is working to vaccinate additional youth through obtaining parental consent.
  - o In a partnership with the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) and Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), ADJC has been able to obtain seven state-issued ID cards for youth who were

eligible prior to release. The ID requirement includes having an original birth certificate and a social security card. Through the GOYFF grant, ADJC has been able to secure out-of-state birth certificates.

- **Ms. Darmody**, Vice-Chair: Are masks being mandated at the facility? **Ms. Howard** replied everyone is required to wear masks and each staff member is being tested regularly. ADJC is continuing to encourage virtual visitation though many of the regular activities have resumed.

### **Report from the Administrative Office of the Courts Juvenile Justice Services Division**

- **Mr. Kelroy**, the Juvenile Justice Services Division Director at the Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), provided an update on the county juvenile probation system, which included procedural updates impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.
  - In partnership with ADJC, Probation continues to operate with precautions and is holding off on expanding services due to the increasing COVID-19 cases.
  - The Cochise County detention center has closed and the facility has been converted to a receiving center with prevention and diversion programming.
  - AOC has entered into the second phase of a detention screening instrument. Judicial staff and county attorneys throughout the state have been trained and will be given technical assistance until they are comfortable with the tool. AOC continues to work on the risk assessment tool and correctional program checklist which have both been discussed during previous meetings.
  - AOC is working with Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz to establish a timeline and implementation plan for sex trafficking trainings to each of the county departments which includes two STAR Program trainers who will help expand the sex trafficking prevention programming within the department.
- **Ms. Dodge**: Does the detention tool determine which kids will stay on the detained judicial calendar? **Mr. Kelroy** replied this tool is used on each referral and provides direction on who should be held.

### **Title II Program Presentation, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona**

- **Ms. Jensen**, the Certified Trauma-Informed Care Practitioner at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona, provided an overview of the Title II Empower Mesa Project.
  - The Title II Empower Mesa Project provided training sessions to Caregivers/Parents and Mentors through COVID-19 via Webinars. Topics included: Parenting through Trauma; Ways to Boost Your Child's Brain; How to Help Youth Build Resilience; Coping Skills; and Ways to Help Boost Youth Littles' Brain Power.
  - Mentees who participated in the Empower Mesa Project were provided self-care toolkits which included: a drawstring backpack, a journal, play doh, crayons, stress balls, and a mindfulness workbook for youth.
  - All Big Brothers Big Sisters Staff received trauma-informed care training and continue to receive ongoing training.
- **Mr. Grossman**: How did COVID-19 impact the programming? **Ms. Jensen** responded that school based programs continue to practice limitations and mentor outings depend on the comfort level of the mentor and the child's family.
- **Mr. Grossman**: Does the organization have a vetting process for the mentors? **Ms. Jensen** explained all mentors have to have a fingerprint clearance card and go through an interview process. The national organization has established best practices for vetting all volunteers. Big Brothers Big Sisters has continued communication with the parents and mentors to ensure all participants are comfortable.

## Interstate Compact for Juvenile Report

- **Howard Wykes**, Deputy Parole Administrator and Interstate Commission for Juveniles Administrator at the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections, provided the annual Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ) report.
  - ICJ National Office launched the new reporting platform called UNITY (Uniform Nationwide Interstate Tracking for Youth) in May 2021.
  - During state fiscal year 2020, 139 youth from outside Arizona were supervised in the state under ICJ. 99 outgoing Arizona youth were served by other states. In FY 2021, 76 out-of-state youth were served under ICJ in Arizona, while only 63 youth were sent out to other states for supervision. As of August 2021, AZ ICJ is supervising 68 incoming youth from other states and 53 Arizona youth are being supervised in other states.
  - In state fiscal year 2020, Arizona returned 25 Arizona youth from other states that were either runaways or absconders.
- **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair: Will a seventeen year old runaway youth be booked into an adult facility? Mr. Wykes replied that no, they should be booked into a youth facility and the department is continuing to provide training throughout the state. **Mr. Hood** explained ADJC continues to offer all new judges an inter-state compact bench-book and continues to provide any additional technical assistance.

## Staff Updates

- **Ms. Uline-Olmstead** provided a status report of current staff functions:
  - The Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family is currently in the hiring process to support the work of the Title II formula grant. This includes a juvenile justice specialist and a compliance monitor.
  - The Title II Request for Grant Applications closed on Friday, August 13, 2021 and the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family is currently in that procurement process. New contracts should begin on October 1, 2021.
  - Arizona has reported the 2020 compliance data to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Arizona reported a rate of 0.34 for deinstitutionalization of status offenders and a rate of 6.18 for juveniles held over six hours in adult facilities. Arizona reported no juveniles who were not sight and sound separated from adult inmates.

## Adjournment

- **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair, advised the next meeting will convene December 2, 2021.
- **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:11 am.

Dated September 7, 2021  
Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission  
Submitted by Emily Uline-Olmstead  
Justice Program Manager GOYFF