



Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission
9:30 AM December 2, 2021
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 Council (AJJC)** was convened on **December 2, 2021**, notice duly given.

Members Present (15)	Members Absent (10)
Tracy Darmody, Vice-Chair	Cindi Nannetti, Chair
Dorothy Wodraska	Dennis Pickering
Helen Gandara	Earl Newton
Guadalupe Durazo	Jane Kallal
Maria Dodge	Joseph Grossman
Jeff Hood	Jose Gonzales
Nicole Schuren	Alice Bustillo
Randi Alexander (proxy for Michael Faust)	Don Walker
Joseph Kelroy	Shaun Rieve
Erica Maxwell	Tom Callahan
Robert Thomas	
Rep. Shawna Bolick	
Vada Jo Phelps	
James Molina	
Shawna Michie (proxy for Shawn Cox)	
Staff and Presenters (10)	
Tina Mattison, Pima County Juvenile Court	Daniel Pena, Yavapai County Probation
Paul Hancock, Apache County Probation	Emily Uline-Olmstead, GOYFF
Honorable Judge Latham, Apache County Court	Tonya Hamilton, GOYFF
Casie Lightfoot, Coconino County Probation	Kim Brooks, GOYFF
Cydney Boyer, Coconino County Probation	Maridee Jones, GOYFF

Call to Order

- **Ms. Tracy Darmody**, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 09:30 AM with 15 members present and 10 members absent.
 - **Ms. Darmody**, Vice-Chair, provided instructions to members for hybrid meetings.
 - **Ms. Darmody**, Vice-Chair, advised members of the public to submit their comments through the Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) public comment page of the website.

Welcome/Introductions

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

Approval of Minutes

- **Ms. Darmody**, Vice-Chair, requested a review of the **September 2, 2021** meeting minutes.
 - **Ms. Phelps** motioned to accept the **September 2, 2021** minutes.
 - **Ms. Dodge** seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Staff Update

- **Ms. Uline-Olmstead**, Justice Program Manager, Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family, provided a staffing update and updates on Title II RFGA Status.
 - A brief introduction of the new GOYFF staff member, Maridee Jones, serving as the Juvenile Justice Specialist was provided.
 - Title II RFGA update was provided. GOYFF was able to award \$950,000 and is funding ten organizations.

Title II Program Presentations

I. Title II Program Presentation, Pima County Superior Courts, Pima County, Arizona

- **Ms. Darmody**, Vice-Chair, welcomed and introduced **Tina Mattison**, Deputy Court Administrator, Pima County Juvenile Court.
 - Juvenile cases in Pima County have dropped significantly since 2017.
 - Alternative Community Engagement Services (ACES) Center opened in 2017.
 - The ACES Center is a repurposed detention center modeled after the Hope Center in Yuma, Arizona.
 - Goal is to divert youths before they enter the formal criminal justice system.
 - ACES Center Resources:
 - Respite Care
 - Screenings
 - Safety/Success Planning
 - Food and clothing
 - Transportation
 - Recreation areas
 - Case Management
 - Supports Caregivers
- **Ms. Wodraska** asked if this program interfaces with Tucson and other local school districts.
 - **Ms. Mattison** responded that the program acts as a liaison between courts and schools; there is also a school within the Pima County Juvenile Detention Center.
- **Ms. Wodraska** asked how schools are made aware of the programming.
 - **Ms. Mattison** responded that the team visits different districts, superintendents, and partners with districts to explain the program and services available to the youth.
- **Ms. Dodge** asked if the center is only open to kids in the court system.
 - **Ms. Mattison** responded that the Center is open to all youth and guardians.
- **Ms. Dodge** inquired if children are assigned through the court.
 - **Ms. Mattison** responded they can be assigned by probation, family referral, or self-referral.
- **Ms. Dodge** asked how this program works for people not centrally located.
 - **Ms. Mattison** responded that there is an agency-operated vehicle that provides transportation.
- **Ms. Schuren** asked if the Center is tracking outcome measures for new interventions and if they have noticed a shift in mental health concerns.

- **Ms. Mattison** responded that they have hired research evaluators to track outcomes. Pima County Juvenile Court has established a mental health docket and cases are continuing to be evaluated for that program.
- **Ms. Schuren** asked if families participate in the program and use some techniques when they return home.
 - **Ms. Mattison** responded that there are parents and youth that are ordered to go to DV diversion. ACEs program is youth only unless a guardian calls in and requests advice.

II. Title II Program Presentation, Hope Center, Apache County, Arizona

- **Ms. Darmody**, Vice-Chair, welcomed and introduced the **Honorable Judge Latham** and **Paul Hancock**, Apache County Legacy Teen Centers.
 - The Lodge Teen Center (established 2020), is located in Round Valley, AZ; and the Loft Teen Center (established 2017), is located in St. Johns, AZ.
 - Both centers focus on the Proactive Engagement Model, including:
 - Community College access
 - Coordinating with local high schools (dances, tailgate, clubs)
 - Music, art, video/audio editing, tutoring
 - Apache County Youth Council, providing incentives for self-paced learning
 - Objectives of both centers are:
 - Intake and temporary holding area
 - 23-hour respite, stabilization, assessment (“Alternative Centers”)
 - Once the centers opened, juvenile arrests dropped by 50%
- **Ms. Wodraska** shared that she previously was in charge of detention education for the Supreme Court across the state. She visited these centers and the renovations are amazing and thanked the presenters for the success and for the impact on all the kids involved.
- **Ms. Schuren** asked if they plan on publishing this information and if they are using this as a model for other programs
 - **Honorable Judge Latham** responded that he does not have the expertise to publish the outcomes. He stated that the remodel was a great way to reappropriate money that was previously being used inefficiently in a rural county. He continued that this programming builds stronger relationships with schools. The department is currently seeking graduation data. Furthermore, when a youth is caught at school vaping or smoking marijuana, they come to these centers and are educated about the laws and health effects. He stated that they want to inspire and engage these kids because once they are in the criminal justice system, it is a heavy burden on society and taxpayers because a person convicted of a felony has a difficult chance of getting employed and will require government assistance. He continued that this center is a more efficient way to invest to keep juveniles out of the criminal justice system.
- **Ms. Darmody**, Vice-Chair: Thanked **Judge Latham** and **Paul Hancock** for all their work and stated that the center is phenomenal and commendable. **Ms. Darmody**, Vice-Chair, further mentioned that members, including herself, would like to tour the facilities.
- **Ms. Wodraska** asked what the program’s interface with the Navajo Nation is.
 - **Honorable Judge Latham** replied that because it is a diversion program, they cannot use diversion program funds on tribal land and they are working on another way to provide help on tribal lands.

III. Title II Program Presentation, Hope Center, Coconino County, Arizona

- **Ms. Darmody**, Vice-Chair, welcomed and introduced **Casie Lightfoot** and **Cydney Boyer**, Coconino County Hope Center.
 - Purpose of the program is to help deflect and divert low-risk youth from the formal juvenile justice system.
 - Program provides families with supportive services at the ‘front end,’ connecting youth to sustainable community resources, reducing barriers to services, and increasing protective factors.

- Program addresses the following problem statements:
 - Low-risk youth were penetrating deeper into the formal system.
 - There was an over-representation of minority youth at each decision point of the 'system'.
 - Families experienced barriers to enrolling in meaningful services (social determinants of health).
 - There was a lack of resources for our school partners regarding excessive truancy and behavioral issues.
- This program addresses these problems in the following ways:
 - Renovated and unused detention pod.
 - Contract with the Arizona Trauma Institute to become a certified Trauma-informed agency (first probation department in the state).
 - Reallocate staff to the center so that it was staffed 24/7 and created a truancy-response team.
 - Train law enforcement and schools on this option (schools are the primary referring agency).
 - Apply Kids at Hope philosophy to all kids and families entering our system.
 - Collaborate with outside agencies to create a service matrix.
- Program eligibility:
 - Any youth and their family who reside in Coconino County.
 - No formal referral required.
 - Can be initiated by a referring agency
 - Voluntary.
 - Serves youth and families at risk of dependency or delinquency process.
- Program Process:
 - Intake--Assessments--Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System Screening/enrollment—Services (within 7 days)--30-day follow-up.
- Services offered:
 - In-house: youth skill trainers, educational support (prior Title II grant recipient), counseling, parent groups, coaching.
 - Community: Shelter beds, mentoring groups, outside counseling, environmental education, on-the-job training.
 - Success plans: all youth identify four adverse childhood experiences as a part of their success plan
- **Ms. Wodraska** Congratulated the presenters and **Mr. Kelroy** on the center and stated that this type of facility is what has been needed for years.
- **Ms. Darmody**, Vice-Chair, then asked if the facility runs for 24 hours a day.
 - **Ms. Lightfoot** replied that it is a 24 hours a day operation; detention officers work graveyards; probation officers work daytime, and skills trainers are in the afternoon. She further stated that the center's busiest hours are after-school.

IV. Title II Program Presentation, Yavapai County Juvenile Probation Department, Yavapai County, Arizona

- **Ms. Darmody**, Vice-Chair, welcomed and introduced **Daniel Pena, of the** Yavapai County Juvenile Probation Department, who operates the Yavapai County Bridges Assessment Center.
 - The Bridges center is different from detention with a maximum hold time of 23 hours in an unlocked facility.
 - Provides a safe and stable environment for youth with behavior problems to take accountability, develop a plan of action with probation staff and family, and have a cool down period.
 - Eligibility is for youth with new charges who do not qualify for detainment; youth without charges who are referred by law enforcement, behavioral health, or probation; or runaway juveniles.

- Youth are assessed/screened and a plan of action is developed for each juvenile and their parents.
- Staffed by Probation Resource Officers who act as liaisons between law enforcement and community outreach; provides resources for families; identifies high-risk juveniles.
- Facility offers direct supervision with a common room, recreational area, comfortable respite care, and space for school work.
- Facility offers unlocked private juvenile rooms with a full sized bed, weighted blanket, and space for personal property.
- Facility also offers a comfortable and confidential interview room (for law enforcement or crisis intervention) with direct supervision.
- Mr. Pena stated that the facility continues to transition, continuing to make changes to its facility and programming supportive youth of Yavapai County.
- **Ms. Darmody**, Vice-Chair, stated to **Mr. Pena** that everyone has to start somewhere. She further stated that the center is still transitioning, it looks great.
- **Mr. Kelroy** gave his thanks to all the counties and presenters who presented today.
- **Ms. Maxwell** also gave her thanks to the presenters and further stated that collaboration is important, trauma informed practices and kids' hope centers are a direction we want to go as a society.

Future Meeting Dates

- **Ms. Darmody**, Vice-Chair, advised the next meeting will convene February 3, 2022, at 09:30 AM.

Adjourn

- **Ms. Darmody**, Vice-Chair, called for adjournment at 11:04 AM.
 - **Ms. Wodraska** motioned and was seconded by **Mr. Kelroy**.

FINAL

02 December 2021
Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission
Respectfully Submitted By:
Maridee Jones
Juvenile Justice Specialist, GOYFF