



Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission
May 4, 2023 9:30 AM
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 **May 4, 2023**, notice duly given.

Members Present (16)	Members Absent (4)
Cindi Nannetti, Chair	Don Walker
Tracy Darmody, Vice Chair	Dorothy Wodraska
Alice Bustillo	Earl Newton
Douglas Sargent	Jose Gonzales
Guadalupe Durazo	
Erica Maxwell	
Helen Gandara	
James Molina	
Jane Kallal	
Joseph Kelroy	
Maria Dodge	
Nicole Schuren	
Shawn Cox	
Shaun Rieve	
Suzanne Nicholls	
Vada Jo Phelps	
Staff and Presenters (10)	
Director Ed Gilligan, YCJJC	Lucy Noriega, GOYFF
Deputy Chief Lance Leslie, MCSO	Conrad Lindo, GOYFF
Commander Bridget Mack, MCSO	Emily Uline-Olmstead, GOYFF
Director Denise Smith, PCYJC	
Division Manager Adrienne Kelso, PCYJC	

Call to Order

- **Ms. Cindi Nannetti, Chair**, called the meeting of the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission (AJJC) to order at **9:36 AM** with **16** members present and **4** members absent.

Welcome / Introductions / Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes

- **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, requested approval of December 1, 2022, and February 9, 2023 meeting minutes.

- **Vada Jo Phelps** motioned, **Joseph Kelroy** seconded, and meeting minutes were approved at **09:37 AM**.

I. Juvenile Detainment Petition Updates Arizona Office of the Courts

- **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, welcomed the Arizona Office of the Courts (AOC) **Director Joe Kelroy**. **Mr. Kelroy** has served as the Director of the Juvenile Justice Services Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts, Arizona Supreme Court since 2014. Prior, he served 32 years with the Lake County, Illinois Juvenile Court, Juvenile Probation and Detention Services, and has served as a member of AJJC since 2015.
- **Director Kelroy** discussed the Juvenile Justice Reauthorization Act (JJRA) of 2018. He stated that as of December 2021, JJRA put into effect a new requirement that juveniles charged as adults must be sight and sound separated from adult inmates. **Director Kelroy** added the Interest of Justice (IOJ) exception within the JJRA allows courts to determine where juveniles who are tried as adults are placed.
- **Director Kelroy** explained that criminally charged juveniles may be placed in adult facilities if the court determines IOJ findings. Additionally, he stated that courts must hold hearings every 30 days to determine if continued placement in an adult facility is appropriate. **Director Kelroy** added that juveniles must be removed from an adult facility after 180 days unless the court determines an extension is necessary or the juvenile waives this limitation.
- **Director Kelroy** discussed the seven factors the courts must consider when determining a transfer youth's placement and provided an additional explanation of the recent rule changes within Arizona statute to align with federal regulations. **Director Kelroy** stated that the Arizona statute change R-22-0038 Petition to Amend Criminal Rule 1.5 and Juvenile Rule 227 were approved on an emergency basis in December 2022 and that the court will decide to adopt criminal rule 7.7 and juvenile rule 228 is expected to be finalized by August 2023. **Director Kelroy** stated there are currently 270 juveniles in juvenile detention, 47 charged in criminal court, 45 are housed at Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department and the remaining two are in Pima and Pinal County.
- **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, asked **Director Kelroy** where the 47 juveniles charged in criminal court are having their initial appearance stating that they are still appearing in the adult docket, however that a juvenile judge is the one that makes the housing decision. She added this was not done before. **Maria Dodge** stated that juveniles do have their initial appearance at juvenile probation first before the decision is made whether to house them at an adult facility.
- **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, asked **Director Kelroy** what happens with juveniles in the outlying counties. **Director Kelroy** stated that if the counties don't already have a contract, the juveniles are housed in an adult facility. **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, asked if they are still sight and sound separated from adult inmates and **Director Kelroy** responded yes.

II. Rural County Juvenile Detention Operations Yuma County Juvenile Justice Center

- **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, welcomed **Director Ed Gilligan**. **Mr. Gilligan** is the Juvenile Court Director in Yuma County, a position he has held since February 14, 2022. His

20-year career in the Arizona Courts has enabled him to work in three Arizona counties and the Arizona Supreme Court. He has worked as a probation officer, specialty court coordinator, Chief Adult Probation Officer, State Director of Adult Probation Services, and County Administrator. He holds a Master of Science in Management and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

- **Director Gilligan** thanked the chair and commission members for the opportunity to present. He discussed how he started working in shelter care and returned to juvenile corrections in 2013, serving as the Chief Probation Officer at the Arizona Supreme Court in Cochise County. He explained that running a juvenile detention facility is extremely difficult and after partnering with adult jails, he began collaborating with the Cochise County Board of Supervisors to pass laws that would keep juveniles in juvenile detention. **Director Gilligan** explained that the Yuma County Juvenile Justice Center is the better place for youth, stating they have the necessary resources and their philosophy is to never file a request to have juveniles moved into adult facilities. **Director Gilligan** explained that the Yuma County Juvenile Justice Center currently houses eight juveniles and four are being tried as adults. He added that Yuma County is the only juvenile detention facility in a rural county still in operation. Furthermore, he stated that he is seeing juveniles come in with more mental health needs and co-occurring disorders. **Director Gilligan** mentioned **Director Denise Smith** and how she will give a presentation on operating with the other contracting counties.
- **Director Gilligan** stated that staffing numbers are lower than usual but the facility is staffed to safely house up to 15 juveniles. He stated that he is a proponent of “close-to-home services.” However, as with any other facility, he says that a challenge has always been with staffing because of the amount of staff to youth ratio needed. **Director Gilligan** discussed that they are working to provide better services to juveniles. He relayed a story of a youth who has been there for over a year and how this sparked the initiative for the county to design an environment for longer-term services. He added that juveniles should be in a better place when exiting the facility than when they entered.
- **Director Gilligan** emphasized there needs to be more creative thinking to bridge gaps.
- **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, asked if Yuma being next to the border impacted the county. **Director Gilligan** replied that yes, the two border counties that he has worked in have been impacted. When he worked at another border county in 2014, he stated that drug trafficking was an issue as kids were being used to bring in drugs. There were harder consequences and the federal agencies would return them to Mexico. Local facilities said they would take them but then they would be sent to prison. He said that Yuma does not have those policies, but that Yuma does see the impact of being a border town on drugs and violence and the pressures of them. He added that gun violence is another issue concerning Yuma County.
- **Shawn Cox** asked what the co-occurring disorders are and if **Director Gilligan** is speaking generally or if he is seeing co-occurring disorders in the eight youth, adding if he knew what the diagnosis was for them. **Director Gilligan** responded that most commonly, the juveniles are being arrested with substance use as a primary factor. He added that a decade ago, he was seeing at least one kid on medication; today, that number is a 90% increase. They are seeing juveniles come in with suicide, depression, and other family situations. The girls brought in are being exposed to sex trafficking, and all of this affects their mental and social health.

- **James Molina** asked how group homes come in and **Director Gilligan** responded that it is a challenge because when he started in shelter care the housing prices went up and community placements were non-existent. They rely on searching for the family of the kids or residential care. Then they look at sending juveniles to Maricopa County per their Cost-Benefit Analysis. **James Molina** asked if the juveniles being sent to Maricopa County become dually adjudicated. **Director Gilligan** stated that it is on a case-by-case basis.
- **Director Kelroy** commented that he hit the “nail on the head” on the alternatives to detention. In the 2014, he hired one therapist to serve Greenlee and Graham County. Now in 2023, there are 34 therapists in Arizona to serve juveniles with the dual needs of behavior management.
- **Shawn Cox** asked if with the mental health increase, would the staff be able to address the needs. **Director Gilligan** stated he is hopeful they are able to make some changes. For example, there have been changes to staff dress codes so employees are not fully uniformed, creating a more welcoming and safe facility. Further, he mentioned that with the declining population in the facilities, funders can take away any extra money. Finally, he added that they are considering adding Comedy Improv and team-building services.
- **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, asked if members had any questions or comments. **Nicole Schuren** commented that youth learn through activity and play, expressing themselves through their bodies; especially for kids with a history of trauma and likely lower social-emotional skills, this activity is an awesome strategy. She gave kudos to **Director Gilligan** for thinking outside the box, advocating for the unique needs of children, and thanked him for all he does. **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, stated that she is looking forward to updates on the Comedy Improv services in the future.

III. Juveniles within Adult Detention Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office

- **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, welcomed Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) **Deputy Chief Lance Leslie** and **Commander Bridget Mack**. **Deputy Chief Leslie** is currently assigned over Region II of the Custody Bureau, which includes the Sheriff’s Information Management Services (SIMS), Inmate Medical Services, Estrella Jail, and Court Operations Divisions. **Deputy Chief Leslie** received his bachelor’s degree and a Secondary Education Certification in Social Studies from Iowa State University. He has nearly 36 years of service with the MCSO. **Commander Mack** is currently assigned as Commander over the Custody Support Division, which includes the Juvenile and Adult Education, Juvenile and Adult Programs, Reentry Programs, Volunteer Services, Religious Services, and the MCSO Animal Safe Haven. **Commander Mack** received her bachelor’s degree from California State University - Fullerton and her master’s degree from Webster University. She has nearly nine years of service with the MCSO.
- **Deputy Chief Leslie** gave an overview of how many juvenile inmates go through the court system to determine if IOJ findings are currently in their custody. He stated there are currently 23 juveniles, adding that the juvenile population has been trending downward. Overall, the jail population fell dramatically during the first year of COVID-19, but numbers are beginning to increase. **Deputy Chief Leslie** stated that juveniles in their custody are housed at the Lower Buckeye Jail (LBJ) and that the area where they are housed has 16 available classrooms, including a computer lab and a chapel.

- **Deputy Chief Leslie** further explained that the housing pods at LBJ have 36 cells, a large day room, and a recreation yard attached. This helps to ensure there is no contact with the adults. Inmates are managed according to their classification, as determined by weekly meetings from a Special Management Review Committee composed of Classification, Mental Health, and Detention Staff. Correctional Health Services (CHS) Mental Health Staff walk the juvenile units daily to check on them. There is a TV and phones in the pod for the inmates to use while they are out of their cells. The inmates also have tablets assigned to them. While in their cells they can use them for programming, phone calls, emails, reading books, movies, requesting information, games, learning a language, visits (legal and non-legal), news feeds, seeking non-emergency medical care, etc. In addition, CHS offers a suicide hotline on the tablets and inmates can reach out to someone for immediate assistance.
- **Deputy Chief Leslie** discussed the programs provided to juveniles on the tablets, stating it is just a sampling of the free courses offered and that their vendor will let them add courses as needed. This list does not include what CHS offers to inmates. There is also Canteen in which juvenile inmates may order, but their list is restricted to healthier items as items high in sugar and fat content were eliminated to meet Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA)
- **Deputy Chief Leslie** stated that in the past they allowed student groups to come into the jail and talk to juveniles. This gave inmates the opportunity to discuss the choices they made in their life and gave them a chance to influence others in a positive manner.
- **Commander Mack** gave a presentation of the school within MCSO for juveniles called Hard Knocks High. She explained that the school is part of the Education Section of the Custody Support Division and also part of the Maricopa County School Superintendent. The goal is to lend hope to juveniles by providing educational opportunities in a nurturing environment.
- **Commander Mack** said that they provide quality education to remanded juveniles (and adults) in a safe, nurturing, academically stimulating, supportive, and individualized environment. They believe all students deserve an education regardless of the life events that have caused them to be housed within their facility. They create a kind and caring learning environment where each student can thrive, achieve, and develop a belief in themselves and their abilities as they move forward in their personal journey. The goal is to positively shape student minds. Success is measured by a student's demonstration of Honesty, Ownership, Perseverance, and Excellence (HOPE) in and beyond the jail walls and that starts by earning a GED.
- **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, asked **Commander Mack** what is the percentage of youth obtaining their GED. **Commander Mack** replied that she can provide an exact percentage at a later time as she did not have that number currently available. **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, stated she was very impressed with all the programming that they offer and as a prior prosecutor, she would look at behavior to offer a plea. She then referred to **Maria Dodge** as this helps in advocating for their clients.
- **James Molina** asked if there is a possibility to bring youth from the group homes to the facility and **Deputy Chief Leslie** stated he supports the idea and they can exchange information.
- **Tracy Darmody, Vice Chair**, asked **Commander Mack** how they are tailoring education for middle-school aged juveniles differently from high-school aged juveniles. **Commander Mack** stated they do not have much of a difference in school ages and that

their average age is about 16 to 17 years olds, but juveniles are evaluated when they enter to see where they are.

IV. Multi-County Juvenile Detention Operations Pinal County Youth Justice Center

- **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, welcomed **Pinal County Youth Justice Center (PCYJC) Director Denise Smith** and **Division Manager Adrienne Kelso**. **Denise Smith** began her career at the Pinal County Juvenile Court in 1986. She has served as a Probation Officer, Safe School Probation Supervisor, Division Director for the Probation and Administrative Services Division, and Deputy Chief. In May 2015, she was appointed to serve as the Director of Juvenile Court Services. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Arizona State University (ASU) and a Master in Public Administration from Northern Arizona University (NAU).
- **Adrienne Kelso** is the Division Manager at PCYJC where she and her team are continuing to provide youth with new programs aimed towards increasing positive social and emotional development. **Adrienne Kelso's** experience ranges in Juvenile Justice, Residential Treatment, Sex Offender Treatment, Counseling, and Juvenile Corrections. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Rehabilitation from Montana State University - Billings and a Master of Social Work from Widener University.
- **Director Smith** gave a presentation on the intake process at PCYJC. She described that juveniles can go through a Grand Jury Indictment, the County Attorney files adult criminal charges, a juvenile court judge makes a custody decision during an initial appearance or the juvenile is court ordered into the youth facility. She stated that if a juvenile is transferred to an adult facility, that adult probation prepares a report for the criminal court judge to make the housing determination every 30 days. **Director Smith** said that there are some challenges when it comes to housing juveniles that are transferred back into the youth facility such as communication with the courts and transportation, and meeting the youth's mental health needs. She stated that PCYJC is not designed to be a Long Term Placement.
- **Adrienne Kelso** continued by providing an overview of the facility operations and how they are contracted with the following counties: Apache, Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz. Juveniles are detained on average 18.61 days. Juveniles from Pinal County on average stay for 17.20 days, Crossover Youth stay around 24.73 days and the average daily population of the facility is about 19.9 youth. **Adrienne Kelso** gave a breakdown from the counties they receive more juveniles from with Gila County being the least, and Santa Cruz and Pinal County the most.
- **Adrienne Kelso** provided the top five offenses that juveniles are detained for at PCYJC: assault, domestic violence, criminal damage, shoplifting, and status offenses. While the juveniles are housed at PCYJC, they receive many resources and programming such as Yoga, Narcotics Anonymous, Vocational Opportunities, and a variety of Treatment Groups such as Power Source, Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), Individual Counseling, and Crisis Intervention.

Adjournment

- **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, stated before they adjourn, she would like to introduce **Conrad Lindo** as GOYFF's new Deputy Director. **Deputy Director Conrad Lindo** gave a brief introduction on his experience working in the State of Arizona at the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections, Pima County Juvenile Court Center, the Early Childhood and Health Board (First Things First), Maricopa County Department of Public Health, and Child & Family Resources, Inc.
- **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, gave a reminder that the next meeting will convene on September 14, 2023, at 9:30 AM.
- **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, called for adjournment.
- **Joseph Kelroy** motioned, **James Molina** seconded, and the meeting adjourned at **11:08 AM**.

04 May 2023
Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission
Respectfully Submitted By:
Lucy Noriega, Juvenile Justice Specialist

DRAFT