



**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 February 6, 2020, at the Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith and Family, 1700 West Washington Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (17)	
Cindi Nannetti, Chair	Earl Newton
Helen Gándara	Mindy Flannery
Jane Kallal	Dorothy Wodraska
Alice Bustillo	Robert Thomas
Joe Kelroy	Shawn Cox
Maria Dodge	Dennis Pickering
Leslie Quinn	Jeff Hood
Nicole Schuren	James Molina
	Vada Jo Phelps
Staff/Guests Present (13)	Members Absent (13)
Celena Angstead, Pinal County Juvenile Court Services	Debra Olson
Dr. David Dohm, Mingus Mountain Academy	Michael Faust
Howard Wykes, Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections	Jose Gonzales
Kate Howard, Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections	Shaun Rieve
Kim Brooks, Program Administrator, GOYFF	Heather Carter
Steve Selover, Program Administrator, GOYFF	Joseph Grossman
Nicole Valenzuela, Intern, GOYFF	Robert Brutinel
Erin Galloway, Intern, GOYFF	Jason Holmberg
Scott Naegele	Don Walker
Kirke Cooper	Tom Callahan
Kim Amos	James Beene
Rob Wilkinson	Guadalupe Durazo
Rachel Phipps-Jones	Navin Crump

Call to Order

- Ms. Cindi Nannetti, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. with 17 members and 13 staff and guests present.

Introductions

- Ms. Nannetti asked members to introduce themselves. Ms. Nannetti recognized and welcomed the newly appointed member of the commission, Nicole Schuren, M.S.W, L.M.S.W.

Approval of Minutes

- Ms. Nannetti requested a motion to approve the December 5, 2019, meeting minutes.
 - Ms. Dorothy Wodraska motioned to accept the minutes as drafted.
 - Dr. Robert Thomas seconded the motion.

- The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Training for Group Home Providers to Address Youth Behaviors

- **Ms. Celena Angstead**, Division Manager with Pinal County Juvenile Court Services, presented an overview of their initiative to address increase in arrests of youth in group homes.
- **Ms. Angstead** shared that through the lens of the Crossover Youth Practice Model the department identified that a large portion of youth arrests were originating from group homes. The department noted that this population included a disproportionate number of youth of color, youth who experienced a greater number of group home disruptions, and a greater portion of cross-county cases.
- **Ms. Angstead** stated that Pinal County Sheriff's Office reached out to the juvenile court to discuss the high volume of calls they were receiving from group homes.
- With collaboration by the Department of Child Safety and community health care providers, the juvenile court and sheriff's office developed a curriculum for group home staff.
- **Ms. Angstead** advised that eight Pinal County group homes have received training on the Crossover Youth Practice Model, the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, the juvenile justice system and law enforcement practices. The training also includes reviewing their data and past cases, in addition to the provision of resources.
- **Ms. Angstead** reported that since 2017, the rate of group home arrests disruptions has decreased 69 percent.
- **Ms. Nannetti** asked were the most common types of arrests. **Ms. Angstead** stated that there was a significant increase in the number of AWOL arrest. **Ms. Angstead** stated that the department advised the group home could use more discretion to avoid reporting a child AWOL if they suspected where the child had gone.
- **Ms. Nannetti** asked if law enforcement would have discretion to issue a referral. **Ms. Angstead** stated that if law enforcement was called they would issue a referral. **Ms. Nannetti** asked if the department looked at the data regarding the type of referrals or just at the number of arrests. **Ms. Angstead** stated that they only looked at the number of arrests.
- **Ms. Shawn Cox** asked why there was a high turnover in group home staff. **Ms. Angstead** stated that the caliber of the staff may be contributed to the turnover.
- **Dr. Thomas** asked what classified as disorderly conduct. **Ms. Angstead** stated that it is a broad term for disrupting the peace of another person.
- **Ms. Wodraska** asked if the group homes bumped up the staffing during the times of the most incidents. **Ms. Angstead** stated that the group homes tried to bring on seasoned staff to the evenings, but those staff members preferred to work days.
- **Dr. Quinn** asked if the number of youth in the home contributed to the issues. **Ms. Angstead** stated that the number of youth in the home did not necessarily contributed to the issues, it depended on the youth in the home at the time.
- **Ms. Cox** asked if there were other counties replicating the training. **Ms. Angstead** shared that Yuma County has also implemented the program.
- **Ms. Schuren** asked if the training for the group homes were ongoing. **Ms. Angstead** stated that it is not ongoing, but if requested additional training they would provide it.

Engaging Parents during Reentry

- **Mr. Howard Wykes**, Deputy Parole Administrator with the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections, reported how the department engages with parents and families during the youth's reentry into the community
- **Mr. Wykes** shared that the department researched the importance of family engagement to engage the families from the beginning of the process. He referenced a study by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention on Family Engagement in 2018 and highlighted the five principles for a transformed system and their characteristics.
- **Mr. Wykes** explained the most common barriers that can inhibit engagement with families, such as visitation challenges and the parents' lack of familiarity with the system.

- **Mr. Wykes** then reported on the department's procedures for engaging parents, which begins the first day of the youth's commitment to the facility in order to build a strong relationship from day one.
- **Mr. Wykes** concluded the presentation by reporting on other methods to increase engagement, such as using the Arizona Youth Assessment Survey (AZYAS) reentry tool to assess risk, supervision levels recommended and dosage of treatment needed. He added that the department staffs an Arizona management team to continue working on engagement. He also shared that the department is finalizing the process to provide youth with ID cards and will provide the education and testing for their driving permit.
- **Dr. Thomas** commented on the presentation last month by a Payson Youth Diversion program that were also experiencing poor engagement; challenges with the referral; and reported fear of the stigma associated with attending service at a behavioral health agency. **Dr. Thomas** recommended that **Mr. Wykes** reach out to the program administration. **Mr. Wykes** thanked **Dr. Thomas** for the recommendation.
- **Ms. Nannetti** commented about how technology will allow to the youth to Skype and that she has seen the benefits of using this service in juvenile court. **Ms. Nannetti** stated that it is important for youth to know that the family there is some capacity.
- **Ms. Cox** asked that if the parents are working will the department coordinate with the parents to have access to visit. **Mr. Wykes** stated that this is when they schedule the video visits on an alternate day.
- **Ms. Kallal** shared that she has seen improvements in engagement and had been advocating to be able to reach in and provide services before it was time for the youth to go home and be able to prepare the home for the youth as well.

Residential Treatment for Girls

- **Dr. David Dohm**, Clinical Supervisor and Therapist at Mingus Mountain Academy in Prescott Valley, presented on Mingus Mountain Academy treatment services.
- **Dr. Dohm** explained the program for commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) known as Empowerment Over Exploitation. **Dr. Dohm** shared that the facility had 152 beds for Level 1 & 2 youth. The facility treats CSEC, substance abuse disorders, self-harm, trauma, and suicidal ideation. **Dr. Dohm** shared that the average ACE score for their youth is an 8 out of 10. He then provided details on the primary treatment and educational services they provide.
- **Dr. Dohm** shared that Mingus Mountain is one of the few facilities that offers a program for CSEC for in-state and out-of-state clients. He presented the history and future directions for the Empowerment Over Exploitation program, and shared that the definition of human trafficking has been updated to include protections for minors that have been trafficked.
- **Dr. Dohm** reported that 60 percent of runaways are recruited by peers within 48 hours. Youth are enticed by money, housing and a sense of protection. He explained that 1 in 7 children will be trafficked per year, and the average age of a trafficking victim in their facility is 14 years old. The crackdown and take down of the Back Page website reduced the number of ads per day; however there are underground avenues that youth are being trafficked.
- **Dr. Dohm** shared that the risk factors for CSEC children include:
 - Childhood sexual abuse
 - Domestic violence in the home
 - Family background in sex work
 - Poverty increases risk, but CSEC is across all socioeconomic statuses
 - Children often have an unstable home life
 - Parental Neglect/abuse
 - Department of Child Safety involvement
 - Runaway and juvenile justice involvement
 - An underrepresented youth are LGBTQ individuals, especially due to the higher risk for LGBTQ youth to be targeted

- Racial minorities and undocumented individuals have an increased risk of becoming CSEC
- Substance abuse by the youth and parent
- When youth disengages from school and social supports (no social interactions)
- No sense of belongingness and love
- **Dr. Dohm** explained that CSEC youth often talk about the pimp in polarizations. The youth understands that the relationship was harmful and detrimental; however feel a sense of guilt because the person took care of them. The CSEC youth have a difficult time identifying as unhealthy. It is challenges for individuals to want to do well because they will go back to foster care. The youth often do not want to go to a system where they feel unloved and that is easier to deal with the streets.
- **Ms. Nannetti** asked how the child is identified as exploited. **Dr. Dohm** stated that many of the youth are picked up through law enforcement and most children were reported as runaways. He added that sometimes police are called out for different reasons and then the child will self-disclose.
- **Ms. Schuren** asked what the average stay is for a youth in their care. **Dr. Dohm** stated that the average is six months, but that could extend to nine months to a year.
- **Dr. Quinn** asked if the placement was voluntary. **Dr. Dohm** stated that many referred placements are involuntary, but once in care and receiving services, the youth are compelled to stay.
- **Ms. Dodge** stated that judges hope to look at least of restrictive options and residential treatment is not always chosen as alternative. **Dr. Dohm** shared that due to the location in the mountains and wilderness conditions, they do not have many children that pose an AWOL risk.
- **Ms. Nannetti** asked about the types of charges the victims receive. **Dr. Dohm** shared that many individuals have substance use, delinquency, domestic violence, assault, and runaways and receive referrals.
- **Dr. Quinn** asked if they house boys and girls. **Dr. Dohm** stated that Mingus houses only girls 12-17; however they are expanding to house boys that his colleague Mr. Cooper will share.
- **Ms. Nannetti** asked about the type of follow up evaluation tools and measures they utilize. **Dr. Dohm** stated that they currently log follow up calls at the six, nine, and 12 months. He added that they, unfortunately, receive more negative than positive data. He explained, however, that when they receive news about a departed resident, it is usually because they have reconnected with the justice system, and he believes there are many youth they do not hear from because their lives have improved.
- **Dr. Dohm** then invited his colleague, **Mr. Kirk Cooper** from Sequel Youth and Family Services, to report on a new facility.
- **Mr. Cooper** reported that they will be opening a facility for boys with sexually maladaptive behaviors and male sex trafficked victims. There will be a 32 bed facility in Casa Grande in April 2020. The facility will focus on CSEC, sexual maladaptive behaviors, CSEC, substance abuse, and general mental health. **Mr. Cooper** shared that the next phase will include an expansion of Mingus to grow with 24 more beds.

AJJC Committee Reports

Racial and Ethnic Disparities Committee

- **Ms. Gándara** shared that the workgroup is meeting monthly and members were able to join virtually online. **Ms. Gándara** reported that more members were able to join the meeting and representative from agencies around the state.
- She then shared that Yuma County presented on their RED and JDAI efforts. **Ms. Gándara** stated that Pima County members shared that Tucson Police Department is piloting a program similar to “Handle with Care.” This program provides a system for law enforcement to report to the school when a child has experienced a significant incident in the community. The school is then aware of the contributing factors of presenting behaviors and can address the issues with the appropriate support and resources. **Ms. Gándara** stated that the workgroup will be looking at efforts to potentially create a toolkit and best practices model for statewide distribution.
- **Ms. Gándara** also reported that the workgroup will be receiving updated information of grantees funded by the Title II Grant Program and will be gaining an understanding of their programming and expected performance outcomes.
- **Ms. Nannetti** asked if Pima County would be able to share their Tucson program. **Ms. Gándara** advised that the program recently launched as a pilot, but there will be efforts to receive a report out later in the year.

Grants Committee

- **Ms. Wodraska** advised that the Title II funded programs were renewed in October for their second year. She added that the committee has had difficulty scheduling meetings recently, but is working on a meeting schedule for next year.
- **Ms. Wodraska** shared that the workgroup had a conference call on January 30, and received updates on the Title II sub-grantees.
- **Ms. Wodraska** stated that they received the tracking sheets and all subgrantees submitted their information on time and advised that most sub-grantees were meeting their performance outcomes and in compliance.
- **Ms. Wodraska** noted that one program was struggling with capacity building and were receiving technical support.
- She also added that the workgroup is working on a survey for the end users of the programs funded to gain an understanding of their experiences of the services being offered.
- **Ms. Wodraska** reported that the new Children's Justice Grant Administrator Gaelyn Davis gave a briefing on the newly awarded programs under the grant.

Staff Updates

Children's Justice Act Grant

- **Mr. Steve Selover** shared that Ms. Gaelyn Davis was promoted as the new Domestic Violence and Children's Justice Program Administrator. **Mr. Selover** stated that the Children's Justice Grant Application received 10 applications and the following subgrantees were awarded:
 - Flagstaff Medical Center
 - Prevent Child Abuse Arizona
 - Childhelp, Inc.- Maricopa County
 - Childhelp, Inc.- Gila County
 - Amberly's Place, Inc.
 - Southern Arizona Children's Advocacy Center

Title II Formula Grant

- **Mr. Selover** explained that this was the last year in the federal grant cycle and the new application will be submitted in March 2020. The application will address the new amendments included from the Juvenile Justice Reform Act; including trauma informed and evidence based programming, reentry, and family engagement and will be included in the narrative of the application with the compliance report. The racial and ethnic disparities workgroup work plan will be included and supporting efforts that are required.
- **Mr. Selover** stated that they were still looking for recommendations to appoint a member of a tribal community to join the commission. **Mr. Selover** explained that a member from tribal community needed to be added as soon as possible as required by the reform act and could affect their funding.
- **Mr. Selover** then shared positive outcomes and success story from Arizona Youth Partnership in Mohave County, which recently expanded its programming to a juvenile detention center in the tribal community of Peach Springs in the Hualapai Tribe. He advised that this population is reported to be among their most engaged groups. Staff report that the kids are excited to be a part of the program. **Mr. Selover** stated that this could be a great model for other sub-grantees to for other tribal communities.

Juvenile Justice System-Involved Youth

- **Mr. Selover** reported that he and the ASU interns are developing a tool to gather feedback from justice involved youth regarding their experiences in detention and juvenile justice system to be able to include in the federal reports. **Mr. Selover** advised that the youth can be in a facility or on probation in the community. He stated that they are

looking at survey data, potentially bringing youth in to meet with the commission to ask questions and get their feedback.

- **Mr. Selover** explained that the commission needs to appoint youth members between the ages of 18-24 years of age and welcomes recommendations from the current commission members.
- **Ms. Wodraska** asked if bringing the commission to the youth was an option. **Mr. Selover** replied that since the commission was a public meeting it would present some challenges, but added that ADJC offers an opportunity for the commission to tour the facility and allows youth to talk to the members. **Ms. Wodraska** stated she understands the restrictions, but believes it is a good perspective to gain. **Ms. Nannetti** said that Washington, DC, a group of juveniles she worked with had a slogan, "Nothing about us without us."
- **Ms. Gandara** expressed that she would like to have youth engage as a youth advisory group to the commission and that in this group the youth would create more synergy and it can facilitate a better conversation with a meaningful purpose. **Ms. Kallal** proposed evening hour options and the including of household members to sit in on meetings.
- **Mr. James Molina** mentioned that DCS has a youth advisory board and offered to email the coordinator regarding the commission's efforts.
- **Ms. Nannetti** thanked Mr. Selover for all of his efforts and with all of the staff changes he has continued to do great work and the commission appreciate all he does.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- **Ms. Nannetti** stated that she wanted to circle back and formally introduce and welcome the commission's newest member, Ms. Nicole Schuren.
- **Ms. Nannetti** asked her to share her experiences with the commission. **Ms. Schuren** shared that she is originally from New Jersey and has been living in Arizona for 20 years. She stated she completed her Masters in Social Work at Arizona State University, and has worked in infant mental health as a specialist at Southwest Mental Health, working in trauma and child abuse at Phoenix Children's Hospital for 14 years and is now working at Mayo Clinic.
- **Ms. Schuren** added that she just piloted a program for youth with chronic illnesses to have support as they age out of pediatrics and transition to adult health care. She serves as the Chair of the Child Mental Health Coalition.
- **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair, asked members to reference the list of upcoming meeting dates and to add them to members' calendars.

Adjournment

- **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair, advised of a new policy for public comment that requires comments be submitted to the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family website.
- **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair, requested a motion to adjourn.
 - **Dr. Thomas** moved to adjourn the meeting.
 - **Ms. Wodraska** seconded the motion.
- Motion carried with no dissenting votes. Meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Dated February 11, 2020
Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission
Submitted by Steve Selover
Program Administrator, GOYFF