

**CHILDREN'S JUSTICE PROJECT  
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date and Time:** March 15, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

**Location:** Supreme Court Building, Room 237

**Call-In Information:** Conference Call-In Information: (307) 316-5574; Conference ID: 87258414#

*See also Skype Meeting link in calendar appointment (if attending via video)*

**Attendees:** Lily Sharpe, Michele Heinen, Whitney Agopian, Crystal Girolami, Justice Fox, Deb Hibbard, Dan Wilde, Jeff Lamm, Marty Nelson, Korin Schmidt, Dan Cowan, Judge Rumpke, Jennifer Davis (phone), Jennifer Neely (phone), Lauren Radakovich (phone), Caitlin Harper (phone, for Leigh Anne Manlove), Ed Heimer (phone), Judge Snyder (phone)

Discussion	Action Items
<p><b>Call to Order</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and approval of minutes. <b>Motion to approve minutes, motion passed, and minutes approved.</b></li> <li>• CJP Rules amended to increase membership by 2 adding positions for a parent attorney and the Department of Health and extending the rules through September of 2021. <b>Motion to approve rule change, motion passed, rules approved.</b></li> <li>• Member renewals/changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judge James will need replacement</li> <li>• Judge Young will need replacement</li> <li>• All others up for renewal will stay.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Grant Activity Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget review with burn rate (<i>See Handout – Budget</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible ideas for budget allocations include online training modules and a pilot program for pre-petition prevention</li> <li>• Pilot Program modeled after the Center for Family Representation and the Detroit Center for Family Advocacy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Look at Albany County. Work with DFS to set criteria for families. Families willing to participate will be assigned a law student for domestic violence, custody, and other legal help and a social worker for social services. Parents involved in the pilot would be a support group in lieu of parent advocates.</li> <li>▪ Identified families could help define a candidate for foster care under Family First Services Prevention Act (FFSPA).</li> <li>▪ Consider using CJP funds for the pilot.</li> <li>▪ Could compliment Families First Services Act, but would not be a kickoff to Families First.</li> <li>▪ Whitney would likely manage at first.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Meeting update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atlanta meeting with Casey Family focusing on prevention through upfront collaboration.</li> <li>• Washington DC meeting is a continuation of the Atlanta meeting.</li> <li>• April 4 meeting at LCCC sponsored by WY Community Foundation as the WY Kids Count partner. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DFS may attend</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DFS would like to see a description of the program from Whitney. Whitney would like to talk to social worker and Dona Playton at the law school to start flushing out obstacles first.</li> </ul>

Discussion	Action Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best Practice Court Teams               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MDT teams for the juvenile court system. Judge Sharpe will pilot. Initial meeting to discuss vision for the local system, discuss issues identified in data and elsewhere, discuss strategies for overcoming, prioritize, and action plan on prioritized goals.</li> <li>▪ Justice Fox would like to ensure good pre- and post-data points for the pilot project.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Data/CQI update               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Whitney met with Christopher Church to discuss data through the Fostering Court Improvement project. Christopher was able to pull data specific to Albany and Converse counties and some statewide data.</li> <li>▪ Washington DC team will meet with Christopher to explore data in April.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Prevention Reentry Audit update (Jen Davis)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Report from Jeff provided good data points. Team will look in detail at re-entry, especially kids re-entering at 3 and 6 months and continue to see what they can find from the data and possible recommendations.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Parent Attorney and GAL Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on Denver trip – attended by multiple CJP members.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team that attended was very motivated to apply lessons in Wyoming.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Interim Request Form update               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request for two, independent agencies overseen by voluntary boards appointed by the Supreme Court. Request is to move the GAL program and create an Office of Parents’ Counsel</li> <li>• Office of Parent Council                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Currently counties pay, and system differs county by county. Limited oversight for quality of work. An office would assist with predictability in cost and ensure quality control.</li> <li>▪ Topic is on Management Council’s Agenda. Hope is for an assignment to Joint Judiciary. Working group will need to decide on when to ask (next session or the following), what the legislation should look like and the cost/appropriate request. Best approach is to have a draft bill by the first meeting and cost information by the second, assuming it is a one-year project. Could consider a smaller pilot initially.</li> <li>▪ Working group: Justice Fox, Josh Eames, Dan Wilde, Korin Schmidt, Jill Kucera, Lisa Finkey, Whitney Agopian, placeholder for outside attorney, Stacey Obrecht (advisor), Jerimiah Rieman (as needed)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Justice Fox will send an invite for the working group to meet after the Management Council Meeting.</li> <li>• Gather information on cost for counties and DFS.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ICWA and Tribes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICWA data through DFS and new case management system – court working on this new system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whitney will continue to investigate what other states are doing and will look into attending Access</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jen Neely is looking into DFS system ensuring a mandatory reporting field regarding if child or family is Native American. Ramona Cook, State Tribal Unit, is working on spreadsheet to contact supervisors on a regular basis. Would start to provide an idea of how many Native American families DFS is coming into contact with.</li> <li>DFS contracts with both tribes to provide their own services using State General Funds. This is unique.</li> <li>Children involved in protective service cases on the reservation are not involved in district court and ICWA is bypassed since the tribe provides the services directly and matter is handled in tribal court.</li> <li>Tribes in Wyoming do not get IV-E funds like many states; however, this is something the tribes and DFS are looking into.</li> <li>What do we want to do with ICWA and tribes as a committee? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CJP is open to a relationship and would like to collaborate, looking for suggestions.</li> <li>Lily Sharpe suggested Whitney attend the Tribal Relations Committee. Senator Ellis supported this suggestion.</li> <li>Justice Fox suggested attending the Access to Justice Commission which supports the tribes. Judge Smith has been great to work with. Tribes needs support in updating forms and training GALs and parent's counsel.</li> <li>Whitney will continue looking at what other states are doing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>to Justice Commission and Committee on Tribal Relations to gather additional information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Justice Fox will reach out to Judge Smith regarding a community training of tribal stakeholders.</li> <li>Whitney will talk more with Jen Neely to identify possible ways for the CJP to collaborate.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Citizens Review Panel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update via email after the meeting.</li> <li>Robin will attend the Children's Justice Act grantee meeting at the end of April and will share information and resources that are relevant to CJP. CRP will use data and recommendations from 2018 fatality reviews to create an action plan. The action plan will align with federal grant requirements, for DFS PIP and the Children's Trust and CFP.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CRP will be reaching out to Whitney (CJP) in the coming weeks to see how the CJA Task Force can collaborate and support the work of CJP.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Parent Legal Representation Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Still looking for new members from each judicial district. Meeting next week. Nominations will occur and member will be selected to sit on CJP.</li> <li>Lisa Finkey – parents and others are starting to reach out more for resources. First newsletter went out. Listserv was not used often. Slack channel has helped and started to see some questions. Tip sheets will begin going out statewide in the future.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Justice Fox will send email out once list of names is collected.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Trainings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prosecutors trained in Laramie, Weston, Niobrara, Platte, Basin, Washakie, and Hot Springs counties.</li> <li>Wyoming Joint Symposium on Children and Youth - June 25-27, 2019 (Cheyenne) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Golden Award – one nomination. Deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup>. An executive group looked at nominations and made decision in the past. Similar plan this year.</li> </ul> </li> <li>CANI update</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Golden Award nominations due by March 31<sup>st</sup>.</li> <li>Check boxes will be reviewed to see if additional language could add clarity or if new orders should be drafted.</li> </ul>

Discussion	Action Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judge Smith is going, still recruiting for the other three spots.</li> <li>• Remove check the box orders from website?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whitney has heard mixed reviews on these. Concern that boxes are unintentionally checked and may not be working as hoped. Request made to bring them down. Substitutes are available.</li> <li>• Justice Fox suggested that substitutes would need to be quick and not in a manual. Would need to be easily accessible.</li> <li>• DFS mentioned that forms have helped with IV-E and court orders. They do see double boxes checked. They would like the group to consider other mechanisms, as well, so that there is not a reversion regarding IV-E language.</li> <li>• DFS/Korin, would like to look at language around PRTF's, as well.</li> <li>• Justice Fox suggested recirculating these forms back out once suggestions are incorporated.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Sex/Human Trafficking Taskforce Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update. Deb and Whitney are attending, but there is no need to keep this as an ongoing agenda item.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove from ongoing agendas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Department of Family Services Collaborative Efforts Family First Services Prevention Act (FFPSA) and Federal Initiative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CFSP update (Deb Hibbard)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveys were distributed. 700 responses (10 judges, 100 parents, 100 youth, DFS staff, etc.). Questions included safety assessment, needs assessment, service gaps, and more.</li> <li>• Senator Ellis asked if Education/Dept of Education has been involved – Mental health for children is an issue they are focused on. DFS said education is involved.</li> <li>• Calls were also conducted. 100 participants and great feedback.</li> <li>• 5 focus groups created including prevention services, court, foster care recruitment and retention, congregate care</li> <li>• They will put a formal plan together and will share with administration and others involved to identify next steps for the 5-year plan.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• FFPSA update (Marty Nelson)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DFS has taken a delay but are implementing as they can with a final implementation date of September 29, 2021.</li> <li>• Request for very specific requirements with foster care programming. DFS must report on April 1<sup>st</sup> what they can do, will do, and what they need a waiver on.</li> <li>• Interstate compact work– deadline is 2027, and they went live on March 11<sup>th</sup>. NIECE is the electronic system for children moving across state lines who are in state custody.</li> <li>• Prevention and prevention services. The 'list' of prevention services that will allow for IV-E recoupment will be provided in May. This list will let DFS know start to identify gaps and inform stakeholders.</li> <li>• DFS requested Management Council consider FFPSA as interim topic. Need to look at QRTP (qualified residential treatment provider) requirement for an additional court hearing. A QRTP is</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judge Rumpke will be a resource for DFS on QRTP legislation.</li> </ul>

Discussion	Action Items
<p>an RTC with additional requirements. FFSPA requires an independent assessment of any child placed in a QRTP within 30 days and the assessment must be reviewed by the court within 60 days of the placement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lily Sharpe mentioned that Labor Committee had made request that the Judiciary attend the mental health discussion portions. Whitney may look into attending. Discussion is around more money/services to children while in the home, before placement, and a treatment continuum.</li> <li>• Justice Fox mentioned future thinking on specialized juvenile court judges.</li> <li>• Judge Rumpke mentioned the possibility of using court commissioners to handle some juvenile matters. DFS thought this was an excellent idea.</li> <li>• Justice Fox addressed the desire to remove a clean UA as criteria for visitation. Judge Rumpke mentioned that he does make that discretionary. Judge Snyder concurred. Mostly relating to marijuana.</li> <li>• Jennifer Davis mentioned importance of informing law enforcement and first responders, who take kids into custody, if the rules about working with families in the home change.</li> <li>• PIP (Jeff Lamm) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Court observation pilot project is working on data collection in Laramie County.</li> <li>• Judge mentorship update. Casey Family Programs will provide more information on a possible Jurist in Residence program. Judge Snyder and Judge Wilking are currently mentoring new judges.</li> <li>• Case triage is prioritizing cases by length of stay of children and working on triage process. Looking at data. Hopefully by the end of March and then end of May they will have good data to report to federal partners.</li> <li>• Incarcerated parent, non-custodial parent and locating absent parents starts in Quarter 3. Starting with educating DOC, GALs and DFS.</li> <li>• Looking to make MDTs less formalized and calling it a family meeting, and making MDT's more consistent across the State.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>2019 Meeting Schedule</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 17, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – <i>Calendared</i></li> <li>• September 13, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – <i>Calendared</i></li> <li>• December 13, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – <i>Calendared</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Adjournment – 11:48 a.m.</b></p>	