



**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 March 18, 2021, via teleconference, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (17)	
Cindi Nannetti, Chair	Randi Alexander proxy for Michael Faust
Joseph Grossman	Tracy Darmody
Dorothy Wodraska	Shaun Rieve
Dennis Pickering	Earl Newton
Joseph Kelroy	Shawn Cox
Maria Dodge	Helen Gándara
Don Walker	Jeff Hood
Nicole Schuren	Guadalupe Durazo
Erica Maxwell	
Staff/Guests Present (4)	Members Absent (7)
Dr. Deborah Jones, ADJC	Jane Kallal
Chris Barnes, ADJC	Tom Callahan
Kristin Sorensen, GOYFF	Jose Gonzales
Steve Selover, GOYFF	Alice Bustillo
	Vada Jo Phelps
	James Molina
	Dr. Robert Thomas

**Call to Order**

- **Ms. Cindi Nannetti, Chair**, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. with 17 members and four staff and guests present.
  - **Ms. Nannetti** provided instructions to members for teleconference 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.
- **Ms. Erica Maxwell** introduced herself as a new member of the commission. **Ms. Maxwell** stated she is the first associate superintendent of equity, diversity and inclusion at the Arizona Department of Education, and that she has a passion for juvenile justice and equity.

**Approval of Minutes,**

- **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, requested a motion to approve the December 3, 2020, meeting minutes.
  - **Mr. Joseph Grossman** motioned to approve the minutes as drafted.
  - **Ms. Shawn Cox** seconded the motion.

- The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

## Youth Exit Survey

- Continuous Improvement Bureau Chief **Dr. Deborah Jones**, and **Chris Barnes**, who serves as the research and statistical analyst II at the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC), presented on the Youth Exit Survey (YES) given to youth committed to ADJC prior to release to community supervision.
  - The survey was created in 2006 and the first results from the tool were collected in 2007. The tool was administered electronically for the first time in February 2020. It can be provided in Spanish or English, and it usually takes about 10 minutes to complete.
  - The purpose of the YES was described as a method for evaluating internal operations of the department from the perception of the population served. Results provide valuable input, which is used to inform the agency on performance and improve various programming strategies and increase positive outcomes. More recently, data has been used to support employee engagement efforts.
  - The YES is voluntary, anonymous, and is completed online using a link provided by the juvenile's caseworker. The completion rate in FY 20 was 74.83 percent.
  - The survey focuses on several domains, including safety, treatment, medical services, clinical services, pro-social activities and community transition. Resources that were considered helpful to the youth (education, ADJC staff, caseworker, etc) are listed to allow the participant to select any particular intervention they viewed as beneficial to their experience.
  - Results from the most recent survey were presented by each domain. Overall, responses rated the various domains assessed as overwhelmingly positive, ranging between 94.6 and 71.8 percent favorability.
  - A comments section allowed participants to express themselves with their own words to describe staff who exhibited positive role model qualities, changes they have made since committed to ADJC, who they feel is important in the community and any additional matters regarding their stay at Adobe Mountain School.
  - Input from the comments section is a useful way to highlight staff who make a significant impact on the youth's progress. A corrections officer was recognized for the numerous references he received as a positive role model from youth completing the survey.
  - Participant comments may be included in the agency newsletter. Negative comments or concerns expressed in the survey may be addressed by the bureau.
  - Because the survey is owned and produced by ADJC, other potential uses or additional surveys that track feedback from youth prior to entering juvenile corrections could be developed and presented to the AJJC. **Dr. Jones** stated that the department is potentially willing to work with the commission or other interested agencies to create a separate survey.
- **Mr. Joseph Kelroy** thanked the presenters and Director Hood for the data provided in the survey. He agreed with the presenters that youth surveys conducted at different points in the justice system would be helpful for informing providers and services for court-involved youth. **Mr. Kelroy** advised that he will be reaching out to Director Hood to discuss how leadership within the juvenile courts can participate in this process.
- **Ms. Cox** asked whether the survey can help to encourage recognized staff to mentor other staff members. **Mr. Barnes**, who reads all survey comments, stated that positive comments regarding staff typically showcase how the adult provided helpful advice, that someone was extra patient, or someone who treated them like regular a kid. These comments are shared with supervisors and the rest of the team, which does often lead to the exemplary staff being recognized by their colleagues as a positive role model in the work environment. **Dr. Jones** added that a wide range of supportive staff, such as maintenance workers, kitchen staff, teachers and administrative officers also receive praise in the survey comments, demonstrating the meaningful impact any staff member can have on the youth's life.

- **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, asked for input regarding the department's offer to assist with developing a survey that reaches different populations of youth.
- **Ms. Tracy Darmody** asked whether staff attend any standard training to develop skills that help them bond with the youth. **Mr. Hood** stated there is annual training that the department continues to expand for all staff, but the bulk of this focuses primarily on direct contact staff. De-escalation and crisis intervention tactics are major components of these trainings. **Mr. Hood** agreed that the survey data could be used to develop training that emphasizes qualities that are important to youth and seem to make the biggest impact, which could be codified and used for coaching new staff. **Mr. Hood** added that the utilization and sharing comments with staff began a relatively short time ago, and since doing so it has been interesting to see how staff in different roles can make a positive difference. He advised he will consider using the more frequently given comments to inform future refresher trainings on techniques for reaching the youth they serve.
- **Ms. Nicole Schuren** thanked the presenters for the information provided. She asked if it would be possible to conduct an additional survey post-release after they have been discharged by ADJC for a certain length of time to capture recidivism data, how they are using the skills they learned and the impact services are having in the long term. Dr. Jones advised they continue to track outcomes while the juvenile is on parole, and recidivism data is continuously being collected. Dr. Jones added that while the department is looking for ways to improve and expand recidivism tracking methods, and a longitudinal survey would likely be an interesting tool to support the process, following up with formally committed youth once they reach adulthood is usually very challenging. It is difficult to stay connected with them after discharge in a way that would allow the department to locate and send out a subsequent questionnaire to assess long term outcomes.
- **Ms. Maxwell** thanked the presenters for the information provided. She expressed interest in data regarding instructional, education services youth are provided in order to ensure a smoother transition into the community. **Mr. Hood** stated the department has been convening a workgroup over the past several months to examine the process of education transition and develop methods for ensuring greater consistency and improved outcomes. **Mr. Hood** offered to share data the department currently collects on educational programs and attainment.
- **Mr. Hood** advised that the department is willing to assist the AJJC in creating a new survey for committed youth that would provide information of direct interest to the commission. He stated this could be a start to further engagement between the commission and systems-involved youth, which may lead in the future to a panel discussion with selected youth or other activities that would strengthen the AJJC's ability to interact with this population. **Ms. Nannetti** agreed with developing a new survey, possibly one completed at intake that provides insight into the youth's experiences in the county system.
- **Ms. Dorothy Wodraska** agreed that developing a new survey that provides an avenue for youth to provide their voice on issues that affect them would be a prudent initiative for the AJJC.
- **Ms. Schuren** expressed interest in capturing data on chronic illness and other medical conditions to support the youth transitioning to adulthood.
- **Mr. Dennis Pickering** asked the presenters to share how trend data collected through the exit survey is used improve outcomes. Dr. Jones advised trend data is analyzed over a three-year period, which is noted in the PowerPoint slides. She added that this data is used to inform the department on various issues that may require attention. Since transitioning to the electronic version of the YES, significant concerns can be addressed immediately rather than waiting until the year-end review.
- **Ms. Helen Gandara** stated this project would fit appropriately in the AJJC three-year plan in utilizing youth voice to share which prevention and intervention services were and were not considered to be helpful.

## **AJJC 3 Year Plan/Title II Application**

### **Juvenile Crime Analysis Narrative**

- **Mr. Steve Selover**, GOYFF program administrator, provided an overview of the Title II Formula Grant application narrative, which includes various data sources to identify needs in the system. He advised the report includes information routinely requested by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), in addition to content relating to the specific needs of the state.
- Highlights of the report included:
  - Juvenile justice five-year trends related to referrals, diversion, petitions, detention, probation, juvenile corrections and juveniles charged as adults.
  - Outcomes from the county and tribal juvenile justice surveys that provided professional stakeholders' perspectives on community juvenile delinquency issues and programs needed to address these problems.
  - Outcomes from the 2018 Arizona Youth Survey conducted by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission containing statistics on substance use trends and risk factors.
  - Review of the 2012 Adverse Childhood Experiences in Arizona study.
- **Mr. Hood** advised the 2020 Arizona Youth Survey is currently posted on the website, indicating more recent data is available pertaining to this report.
- **Ms. Cox** referenced the Supreme Court striking down the gang sentencing enhancement and asked whether it may have impacted the 2020 data. Mr. Selover opined that it could have some impact related to the types of dispositions for youth involved in criminal gang activity.
- **Ms. Maxwell** advised that the Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System from 2019 is available. **Ms. Maxwell** explained this is a national study conducted by the Center for Disease Control that measures health-related behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence, i.e. alcohol/substance use, sexual behaviors, unhealthy dietary behaviors and physical activity.
- **Ms. Maria Dodge** asked if the AJJC has access to the overall state populations broken down by race. She expressed it would be helpful to assess racial and ethnic disparities if the total populations, involved and not involved in the justice system, were known and compared to those represented in the system. Mr. Selover advised that these numbers are available and are more thoroughly explained in the state's Racial and Ethnic Disparities plan that is submitted with the application to OJJDP.
- **Mr. Hood** advised that while ADJC has very little discretion on which juveniles are committed to their care, they are looking at internal discretionary procedures to assess whether decisions made by staff lead to disparate minority outcomes. **Mr. Hood** added that although some of the census data available does not completely mirror the age cohorts that make up the population at ADJC, he is willing to share the sources they use if needed.

#### **AJJC Implementation Plan**

- **Mr. Selover** continued to describe the federal application by presenting the proposed goals and implementation plan developed proposed by staff and the planning workgroup that will guide the AJJC activities over the next 3 years. Mr. Selover advised that the plan attempts to address the problems illustrated in the previous section by identifying action steps that support programming and by providing resources to the state for reducing gaps that may contribute to delinquency and further involvement in the justice system.
- **Mr. Selover** concluded by asking members to continue reviewing the content of the plan under each of the goals and to provide additional feedback, ideas or edits over the next several days to ensure input from members is captured.

#### **Grants Workgroup Update**

- **Ms. Wodraska** provided a status report from the Grants Workgroup.
  - The Title II grantee partner survey has been approved for distribution and staff have collected the names and contact information of the recipients. All grantees expressed interest in the survey, several stating they are interested in learning of any additional needs their partners may express. The survey is ready to send and should be sent out the following week.

- The Title II request for grant applications (RFGA) is expected to be released in July. AJJC members interested in serving on the review committee are invited to contact Mr. Selover.
- **Ms. Darmody** asked whether the RFGA referenced in the update will be the only solicitation to be released. Mr. Selover stated this is the main funding source for programming by the AJJC. He advised this is a competitive solicitation and tribal entities may apply. **Ms. Darmody** expressed concern that some tribal communities do not have adequate resources to comply with various requirements listed in competitive solicitations. Mr. Selover responded that tribal governments also have the option of setting up a direct contract for Title II funds with an ISA. This allows the office to assist the tribe in providing the required documentation, which is often less than what is needed for the RFGA. **Ms. Darmody** stated she wants to promote the grant and requested some type of fact sheet or frequently asked questions for distribution.
- **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, asked whether a technical assistance webinar can be provided to prospective applicants. Mr. Selover advised that GOYFF routinely staffs events to answer questions for those interested in applying, but also stated that state procurement law does not allow staff to provide any information or assistance outside of what is noted in the solicitation due to the concern of providing event attendees with an advantage over those who do not participate.
- **Ms. Cox** asked whether staff and the commission could recruit any Arizona State University (ASU) social worker interns and tribal stakeholders to increase engagement and decrease disparities. Mr. Selover stated that he is following up with the tribal law programs at ASU and the University of Arizona to introduce them to the AJJC and possibly have them participate in an upcoming meeting. The office is also looking into possibly bringing on interns in the fall with staff increasingly returning to the office.

### Staff Updates

- **Mr. Selover** explained that the federal solicitation is still pending and once it is released, the portions of the application discussed during this meeting will be finalized and submitted by the solicitation due date.
- **Mr. Selover** advised that the Coalition for Juvenile Justice Conference is scheduled for June. The conference will be virtual. If scholarships are available, Mr. Selover will email the details to the AJJC so interested members can apply.
- **Ms. Darmody** suggested issuing a letter to Officer Bower, the gentleman recognized as an exemplary staff member during the YES presentation, and possibly others, to acknowledge and express gratitude for those who go above and beyond in their work. **Ms. Nannetti** agreed that this is a good idea to show gratitude for those making a significant difference and asked Mr. Selover to follow up and report back to the group.

### Adjournment

- **Mr. Selover** advised the next meeting will convene on May 6, 2021.
- **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, requested a motion to adjourn.
  - **Ms. Wodraska** moved to adjourn the meeting.
  - **Mr. Grossman** seconded the motion.
- Motion carried with no dissenting votes. Meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Dated March 22, 2021  
Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission  
Submitted by Steve Selover  
Program Administrator, GOYFF