

Meeting Minutes - *DRAFT*
South Dakota Council of Juvenile Services
Zoom Call

September 29, 2021

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Council of Juvenile Services Members Present: Beth O’Toole, Chair and Professor at the University of Sioux Falls; Sara McGregor-Okroi, Vice-Chair and Director of Aliive-Roberts County; Dadra Avery, School Counselor at Sturgis Brown High School; Mason Best, Youth Member; Melanie Boetel, Department of Social Services; Kristi Bunkers, Director of Juvenile Services; Kim Cournoyer, Service Provider; Cassidy Frederick, Youth Member; Chuck Frieberg, Director of Court Services; Cindy Heiberger, Minnehaha County Commissioner; Brad Howell, Codington County Sheriff; Dave McNeil, Aberdeen Police Department Chief; and Tierney Scoblic, Youth Member.

Council of Juvenile Services Members Absent: Pat Bad Hand, Rosebud Sioux Tribe Juvenile Detention Center Administrator, Judge Tami Bern, First Judicial Circuit Judge; Keegan Binegar, Youth Member; Daniel Haggar, Minnehaha County State’s Attorney; Doug Hermann, Executive Director of The Club for Boys; Angela Lisburg, Avera St. Mary’s Central South Dakota Child Assessment Center; and Betty Oldenkamp, CEO of Lutheran Social Services.

Others Present: Bridget Coppersmith and Nicole Gednalske, South Dakota Department of Corrections (DOC).

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND AGENDA REVIEW

Chair Beth O’Toole welcomed everyone to the meeting at 1:00 PM on September 29, 2021 and introductions were made. Bridget Coppersmith took roll call, and a quorum was validated by Coppersmith at this time.

2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Coppersmith reviewed the funding decisions coming before the Council from Lutheran Social Services in Minnehaha and Pennington Counties and the Minnehaha County State’s Attorney’s Office.

The following conflicts of interest were disclosed:

Kim Cournoyer – Lutheran Social Services in Minnehaha and Pennington Counties

Cindy Heiberger – Minnehaha County State’s Attorney

3. PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair O’Toole asked if there were any public comments to be brought before the Council at the meeting. After confirmation that no one had comments to share, Chair O’Toole proceeded with the meeting agenda and ended the period for public comment.

4. APPROVAL OF JUNE 2020 CJS MEETING MINUTES

Chair O’Toole provided an overview of the June 2021 Meeting Minutes.

Kim Cournoyer moved to approve the June 2021 meeting minutes; Sheriff Brad Howell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

5. RATIFICATION OF JULY 2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Chair O’Toole provided an overview of the need for the July 2021 Executive Committee Meeting to approve submission of the annual Title II Formula Grants Program Application to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the action taken by the committee.

Charles Frieberg moved to ratify the actions from the July 2021 Executive Committee Meeting; Mason Best seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

6. BUDGET STATUS REPORT AND SUBGRANT UPDATES

Coppersmith reported that the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2018 Award was on track to be closed out by its end date of September 30, 2022. Processed payments through September 22nd gave an unspent budget of \$168,022.66. Coppersmith noted that over \$220,000 had been expended since the June Meeting and that the 2019 award would likely start having expenditure applied to it in Spring 2022.

7. COMPLIANCE MONITORING UPDATE:

Nicole Gednalske presented the compliance monitoring report for October 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021. Gednalske explained that 1,268 records were submitted, and all had been cleared prior to the meeting. Of those records, no potential violations of the three core requirements were identified.

8. DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT (DMC) FUNDING PRESENTATIONS

Nicole Gednalske presented application overviews on behalf subgrant applicants for the DMC program area. Gednalske explained that all three applicants were applying for continued funding of previously approved projects for the funding period of October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022.

Lutheran Social Services in Pennington County: Requested \$35,000 to fund the salary of a DMC Case Manager position. The case manager is a 65% full-time position that works specifically with minority youth and families who are at risk of noncompliance or escalation within the juvenile justice system. Many of these youth face barriers such as lack of transportation, mental health issues, substance abuse, low literacy, and financial struggles.

In the first 3 quarters of FFY21, the program has served 396 youth, primarily with court reminder calls. 330 of these youth served, or 83%, completed program requirements. Due to the pandemic the DMC Case Manager worked remotely for several months. The case manager continued to complete court reminder calls and follow up with youth and families that come through the Reception Center. In April, the case manager began attending court in-person and setting up follow-up meetings to answer questions or aid in setting up services right away.

Lutheran Social Services in Minnehaha County: Requested \$35,000 to fund the salary of a DMC Case Manager position. The case manager is a 66% full-time position that works specifically with minority youth and families who are at risk of further involvement in the system. The case manager position is devoted to helping these families by reviewing community resources, determining program eligibility, assisting in contacting and signing up with services, developing transportation plans, and working through any other barriers to participation.

In the first 3 quarters of FFY21, the program served 77 youth. 53 of youth served, or 69%, completed program requirements. Due to COVID-19 the scope of services was still limited; however, the case manager was able to meet with families virtually and assist in setting up Zoom court hearings. The case manager continues to arrange bus passes and help with school enrollment. Although fewer clients were referred and less in-person services were available at times, the case manager was able to be flexible in order to meet the needs of the referred youth. By the third quarter of FFY21, the applicant reported an increase in in-person services and court hearings. Additionally, the case manager has continued to improve and expand interpreter services to youth and families.

Minnehaha County State's Attorney's Office: The most recent data from the State of South Dakota indicates that 62% of juvenile arrests in Minnehaha County are youth of color. Thus, this grant application requests funding for 62% of a Diversion Coordinator position, with the remaining 38% to be covered through other funding. The position was first filled in September 2019 and has had a full caseload since

October 2019. The Diversion Coordinator is a full-time position that facilitates pre-arrest diversions, helping to prevent youth from deeper involvement in the juvenile justice system. The Diversion Coordinator provides an initial assessment of the risks and needs of each youth to connect them with appropriate resources and programs. The position works closely with juvenile prosecutors and school resource officers.

In addition to continuing the Diversion Coordinator position, the project also focuses on improving culturally informed programming for youth of color who are at risk of or involved in the juvenile justice system. The applicant has continued to collect and analyze data. In the first 3 quarters of FFY21, the program has served 261 youth. The total amount requested for this application is \$49,999.90

9. DOC RECOMMENDATIONS AND FUNDING ACTION ON DMC SUBGRANT APPLICATIONS:

DOC staff recommended funding each application based on previous performance and services outlined in the applications.

Tierney Scoblic moved to approve the Lutheran Social Services in Minnehaha County application as written, Sheriff Brad Howell seconded. Motion carried unanimously with Kim Cournoyer abstaining from discussion and action.

Cindy Heiberger moved to approve the Lutheran Social Services in Pennington County application as written, Cassidy Frederick seconded. Motion carried unanimously with Kim Cournoyer abstaining from discussion and action.

Sara McGregor-Okroi moved to approve the Minnehaha County State's Attorney's Office application as written, Kim Cournoyer seconded. Motion carried unanimously with Cindy Heiberger abstaining from discussion and action.

10. JUVENILE JUSTICE UPDATES

The Council and DOC Staff congratulated Youth Member Tierney Scoblic on passing her Bar Exam and securing a job as a clerk in the 2nd Circuit.

11. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled for December 2021 with the exact date and location to be determined.

At 1:33 PM, Cindy Heiberger moved to adjourn, Kim Cournoyer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Bridget Coppersmith, Juvenile Justice Specialist