

Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee

4/16/21 Minutes

Date and Time: April 16, 2021 from 9:00 am - Noon

Location: ZOOM Meeting

Pending Approval: June 18, 2021

To access the recording of this meeting please click the link below:

https://kdoc.zoom.us/rec/share/3i_aaQ9vctYFFESBhBpeWI4R372Jlaj-enttZLtsMDY_h3AFN9xDOBJqy8DHOqg.ffdyai_qRTKcufEm

Passcode: B.&+7ng3

Committee Members in Attendance: Shanelle Dupree, Judge Delia York, Lara Blake-Bors, Hope Cooper, Kate Davis, Rep. Gail Finney, Judge Paula Hofaker, Don Hymer, Melody Pappan, Rep. Fred Patton, Sen. Pat Pettey, Amy Raymond, Mary Snipes, Stephanie Springer, Janet Waugh, Ken Winter, Jeff Zmuda

Committee Member Designees:

Criminal Justice Institute:

Tessa Upin

Committee Support:

Nancy Burghart

KOMA statement was read. Shanelle Dupree called the meeting to order and the roll call was taken.

Minutes from February Meeting: Shanelle made motion to accept. Lara approved, Kate 2nded. Minutes were approved. Shanelle introduced Ken Winter, the newest member of the committee.

Program Presentation: Shanelle introduced Robert Vargas, Founder and Executive Director of Warrior for Wyandotte a grass roots organization that received a JCAB Grant.

Warriors for Wyandotte was started June 13, 2019. It is a fairly new organization, but it has had a great impact on the city and students. Mr. Vargas grew up in Wyandotte county and would have been one of the students that they serve. Wyandotte is the largest school district in Kansas. They have 1 swimming pool for 30 elementary schools. There is no skate park and no batting cages. There is a huge lack of proactive activities in Wyandotte County.

Warriors for Wyandotte are currently in 28 schools in 2 districts. Change doesn't happen from 9-5, it is a 24/7 process. They engage the entire family for those they serve. WFW walks the halls with students in the schools. They engage with the students, their teachers and their families where they are at. One of the biggest barriers to the students and their families that they serve is transportation. 43.7% of the homes in Wyandotte are single parent homes. WFW provides transportation to and from programming with Mirrors and Track. The organization started with 35 male volunteers as a male mentorship program. It has grown to 12 men and 12 women with the funding that it receives.

Warriors for Wyandotte believes that today determines your tomorrow. Coaching, mentoring and a tangible support system is what they offer. At Schlage only 63% of students, almost 200 kids were not attending school regularly because of their grades they were not allowed to play sports. With coaching and working with WFW the number of those attending regularly improved to 80% just by allowing them to participate in sports.

Warriors for Wyandotte also offers a Lifeskills Center. Students can learn everything from

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house framing and drywall to auto mechanics to how to mow and maintain a mower.

Judge York expressed that she can't say enough good things about Warriors for Wyandotte. She has seen the good that they do, firsthand.

Gail Finney asked how do you get a kid involved with your organization? Robert responded that they get involved numerous ways. Families can reach out, schools can reach out, and sometimes legal entities (courts, juvenile services) reach out. They do have bi-lingual advocates. They encourage the students to come for an hour. If it's not your thing we will take you home. The majority stay and then return.

Legislative Update: Sen Pettey, Rep. Finney and Rep. Patton.

- There is not much to update with the Juvenile Justice funds that the Governor eliminated. Of the \$21.6 million dollar fund, ½ was retained.
- HB2401 authorizes the SOC to enter into partnerships to renovate buildings. This bill has a lot of potential.

Senator Pettey stated that she does not have a lot of confidence for the Governor signing this budget. She also stated that we (JJOC) really need to paint a much better picture on how these funds are needed and used.

Kate Davis posed the question: Prevention money – Does it require that it is justice involved?

Don Hymer responded that \$14.2 million in base allocation was reduced by a little under 2.1 million. This is a permanent reduction of our funds. The savings that were rolled over into the Evidence based funds are gone and we are back to the yearly budget process.

Program Presentation: Sean Christie presented Youth Disparity at Key Steps in the Juvenile Justice System. (See attached handout).

Kate Davis: There is no cross referencing for particular offenses. Do we have any information on 2 offenders, same offense, different races is there a difference in the sentencing? This data does not show that information.

Shanelle Dupree: How and what are we doing with this information and who should we be getting it to and understanding it?

Sean deferred that question to Hope Cooper. Hope responded that we need to understand that there are limits to our data. KDOC is only a small piece of the picture and right now we can only look at our piece. We can possibly bring in researchers that will generate more questions. We (KDOC) have improved our data system and will be cleaning up our data set.

Shanelle responded that every entity needs to look at their data.

JJOC 2.0 Update: Shanelle posed the question – What is our purpose, what can and can't we do? We need a clear view. Shanelle would like to see us create a subcommittee that she will chair to develop and present a plan on the JJOC's path forward. We need to understand how we operate per statute.

New Business:

Don Hymer – We are constantly asked about funding. When we receive funding, can we blast it out to keep folks in the loop? Have budget updates on budget items between meetings (Hope Cooper will take the lead on this).

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Next Meeting: June 18th meeting 9:00 am – Noon.

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Please send agenda items to Tessa Upin.

****If you cannot attend the June meeting, please contact Shanelle. If we cannot have a quorum we will look at changing the meeting date.*

Secretary Zmuda made the motion to adjourn. Lara Blake-Bors 2nd the motion. Meeting adjourned.