

Minutes

Community Juvenile Services Board

September 24, 2019 Youth Crisis Center

Roll Call: Present were: Paul Fritzler Cory Burton, Traci Blevins, Rebecca Albertson, Wayne Beatty, Michael Scott, , Amanda Lewallen, Joe Newman (Cornerstone Programs), Gareth West, William Howell, Emma Burton-Hopkins, Corrie Whiteman, Tom Ernst, and new C.P.D. Diversion Officer Scott Cogdill.

Paul Fritzler opened the meeting with introductions around the table. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and Traci moved with Amanda seconding they be approved.—-motion carried.

1.) The finances were reviewed and corrections were noted from the July invoice. The August invoice was attached and considered accurate. William moved and Cori seconded the financial pages be accepted.—-motion carried.

2.) The Board reviewed a letter from Brandon on behalf of the State Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice. The letter called for applications to this Board. Much discussion took place and several Board members were encouraged to apply.

3.) Gareth West gave an update on R.J.D.C. centering first on statistics. He gave special appreciations to The Mirror Program, The Health Department, Boys and Girls club (Cowboy Ethics), Youth For Christ and other local groups who come to J.D.C. to provide programming for clients. He also mentioned that school had started with 4 of the clients directly involved. Joe Newman then spoke about the new software program that is replacing Rite-Track at J.D.C. They will not be ready to switch over at the end of September; however, ways to reimburse Handel for that additional month were discussed.

4.) Deputy Scott, Youth Diversion Officer, then discussed the Single point of Entry process and procedure. He traced the process from the original citation being written to the Wednesday morning meeting, where a group of community members, from youth serving agencies meet to review and recommend placements and programs that may be indicated. He mentioned the extensive “dive” into the background and past citation history of the youth. He noted that most first offenders are offered a pre-court Diversion program where they go through a number of classes and educational requirements with the goal of their citation being forgiven. He noted the second page of the S.P.E. report and spoke about both alcohol and tobacco citations. Corrie Whitman added that Judges in Natrona County are very big on encouraging youth to finish their education either by graduating or getting their G.E.D. Deputy Scott mentioned there is a lot of “case by case” decision making. Paul brought up the importance of not ing a date of birth when juvenile names come to D.F.S. Because of the number of people with the same names it makes it really time consuming to check background without D.O.B.

5.) Jennifer Miner gave updates on Restorative Justice noting a number of trainings coming up. Specifically, for the Wyoming State Council of Restorative Justice (coming in November) Jennifer is looking for issues that we, as a group, are particularly concerned about....Concerns can be e-mailed to Jenn. She also mentioned a volunteer facilitator training in November. She mentioned working with Mercer F.R.C. on an adult alcohol offenders program that shows good promise.

Next Jennifer explained a training opportunity coming to Casper in March 2020 that will include roughly 20 people. This training is key to maintaining and growing Restorative Justice in our community and Jennifer asked for financial help to fund this vital training. The cost (for trainers only) will be \$5000.00 and she asked for up to that amount from this Board. Much discussion occurred with Traci moving and Amanda seconding that this Board award R.J. \$1500

initially with the possibility of adding more later, as our budget allows.—
Motion carried.

6.) The official membership list was discussed next with the Board being asked to look first for anyone not on the list that should be. Then to notice if someone was on the list that did not belong. The notation of Board and Committee (on the list) was discussed and consensus was it was o.k. to list all names as both. Relative to that Amanda suggested that for quarterly meetings we focus more on financial matters and things that may require a vote. For other monthly meetings focus the discussion more on programs and sharing ideas and visions. Great suggestion.

Member Updates:

Deputy Scott started the updates by again welcoming Officer Cogdill to the Diversion Program and noting things are going very well. As school ramps up they will be increasingly busy but being fully staffed will help.

Corrie Whitman mentioned that Student Court was very busy and a particular concern was the number of teens on S.C. who are already experiencing school failure issues. She noted the Student Advocate (Amy Dorman) is working hard to find solutions and provide tutoring and other help for these already in trouble grade wise.

Rebecca Albertson reported that D.O.J. is functioning as normal, noting that one of the frustrations was keeping people. Her department is hiring.

Tom Ernst indicated that this school year opening had been the most challenging ever for him. Discipline issues, safety issues, issues coming in from Safe to Tell and a myriad of issues coming from in and outside the schools. He did mention that Mercer F.R.C. had recently brought “corrective thinking” directly to the District’s long term Suspension Lab, which is a huge benefit. He also noted that this year the District is served by 8 School Resource

Officers plus a Sgt.—Next year that number will go to 9 Officers plus a supervisor.

Jenn Miner indicated she going along. She is still looking for someone to help with “Traffic Circle” which is an R.J. program out of Municipal Court for teens with traffic citations. She described an involved intake session followed by monthly circles where offenders tell their stories. Participants go through a number of steps and if successful their traffic citation is not entered on their driving record. This program has been going since last March.

Cori Cosner Burton Mercer Family Resource Center, Natrona County Prevention Coalition, and Youth Empowerment Council held several community events this summer, including Family Day and Zombie Ball. We helped coordinate the 16th Annual Breaking the Silence Walk in conjunction with Festival of Hope. We manned several community booths recently, providing community activities and resources. Family and Parenting classes, as well as Youth Intervention programs are ongoing at the agency, with outreach education at NCSD, Casper College, and partner agencies. We are still providing Insight into Substance Prevention courses and have added Adolescent .5 Drug and Alcohol Education, which needs referrals. We are considering starting adolescent Addiction Severity Index (ASI) evaluations, in addition to adult.

Amanda Lewallen Progressive Youth served a total of 22 youth in August for a total of 230 direct service hours across 37 different activities offered. We wrapped up our Healthy Relationships and Sexual Health curriculum in August which was received very well by the youth. September's classes were focused on study skills, employment skills/opportunities and also the dangers of vaping. The Healthy Relationships course will begin again in October along with Cowboy Ethics. Homework help sessions are being offered on Tuesdays, Thursdays, every other Sunday and by appointment.

Traci Blevins YCC continues to experiences successes with youth and families in our crisis shelter, group home, and wrap-around programs. One of our greatest successes this quarter is the implementation of Kinship dinners, where group home residents plan, prepare, and clean up dinner for their families. Family members come to the dinners to enjoy what has been made for them. Before starting dinner each family member, staff, and resident experience our gratitude circle (which the residents do every night at dinner); families are opening up about the variety of people, things, and experiences they are grateful for. It has been a huge success! The gratitude circle is not only teaching families how to build relationships and communicate positively with each other; it is also teaching youth and their families how to find gratitude in every day things/ tasks, which is increasing the feelings of positivity and growth within their families. We are excited to continue to provide kinship dinners to the youth and families we serve through

William Howell We currently have 4 clients in residential and 2 on the way. School based program is busy with therapist getting referrals. Our early Intervention Day Groups are busy with about 6-7 kids per group. We are having to look at our procedures involving Vaping and residential clients.

Joe Newman asked to add that R.J.D.C. is seeking a permanent Program Manager for The Natrona County Juvenile Detention Facility. Successful applicant must have a B.A. with 5 years experience and extensive experience working with youth.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Sincerely Submitted

Wayne Beatty — -facilitator.