

VII
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Child and Youth Services Committee Meeting

Douglas County, Nebraska

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

The meeting convened at 1:00 P.M. in Room 903 of the Omaha-Douglas Civic Center, 1819 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE 68183. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is located on the wall near the entrance of the room. A notice of the meeting was published in the September 27, 2016, issue of *The Daily Record*. County Commissioners present at the meeting were Chris Rodgers and Mary Ann Borgeson. Others present at the meeting were Patrick Bloomingdale, Catherine Hall, and Pam Murphy, Administration; Brad Alexander, Douglas County Youth Center; Shelly Hug, Juvenile Probation; Shawne Coonfare, Juvenile Assessment Center; Mary Jane Truemper, Public; and Constance Mierendorf, Douglas County Clerk/Comptroller's office. Commissioner Rodgers chairs the Committee.

A video recording of the meeting is available on the Douglas County Website:

<http://commissioners.douglascounty-ne.gov/board-meetings/videos>

Douglas County Youth Center Update

- Commissioner Rodgers asked Brad Alexander, Superintendent, Douglas County Youth Center, about how his staff was doing after a recent event at the Youth Center.
- Mr. Alexander answered that the staff member was shaken up but was doing fine. The staff reviewed video tape of the incident, but much of what occurred was not covered on camera since it was in a staff area off camera.
- Two youths were involved in a planned escape attempt. Staff did an exceptional job. The use of force protocol was followed to the "T." The escape attempt was thwarted.
- Mr. Alexander presented census numbers for the Youth Center (Attachment A). Today there are 72 youth in secure detention; 5 in staff secure; 7 in EPIC; and 24 in the HOME program.
- Through September 2016, the average daily population was 64.56 in secure; 10.44 in staff secure and 28 in HOME.
- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA): Mr. Alexander explained that this was an act through the Department of Justice. Administration at the Youth Center attended training last week. This was their second training. The Act goes into effect in October 2017 for juvenile facilities. The Youth Center has already begun preparing for compliance.
- The staffing ratios required by PREA are 1:8 when youth are awake and 1:16 when they are sleeping.
- Staff will begin training this month one year in advance of the implementation next fall.
- PREA requires that the Youth Center have an agreement with an agency that has an investigator who specializes in sexual abuse investigations involving youth. The Center

also has to make available a third party phone number for youth to report allegations of sexual abuse. The Center will meet with Project Harmony to establish an agreement that will fulfill both of these PREA requirements.

- Mr. Alexander said he will meet with juvenile court because PREA applies not just to youth at the Center, but to anyone being held 24 hours.
- The County needs to have language in its contracts with other facilities where the County pays for youth to be held (e.g., Boys Town, Clarinda, Geneva) that states that they are going to be PREA compliant.
- Commissioner Borgeson asked if the Youth Center gets proof of their PREA compliance through a certification process.
- Mr. Alexander said yes and the Douglas County Youth Center will be applying for certification in the spring. The Department of Justice will work with the Center if it needs to adjust any procedures in a 90-day correction period.
- Commissioner Borgeson asked how far off the Center was in meeting the staffing ratios PREA requires.
- Mr. Alexander said they were off, but they are working through some of the issues that affect the ratios. Some units are currently closed, operational capacity needs to be considered as well as their classification system and still be under the 75% number.
- Commissioner Borgeson asked what the maximum number of youth is at the Center. Mr. Alexander replied that it is 120 in secure, 24 in staff secure, and 50 in home.
- Mr. Alexander referred to the exact PREA language regarding "contracting with other entities for the confinement of residents" (Attachment B).
- Read Right: the Omaha Public Schools have decided to continue their support of the program. Students are raising grade levels.
- Pledge for Peace: the program is conducted on the first Friday of each month in conjunction with the Adopt a Unit Program. Adopt a Unit is a program where a community sponsor can reward a unit with pizza for achieving certain goals such as earning credits, attending class, or other criteria.
- EPIC Center: youth are attending Blackburn and Boys and Girls Club at 27th and Hamilton twice a week. The program is going well and an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) is being crafted to make this a permanent location. Three participants graduated in May with their class (no one expected this to happen) and one has recently gone back to senior class where he is playing football, participating in ROTC, and earning mostly A's and B's. 7 youth are participating in the program and 2 more are being interviewed for participation.
- Parent-Teacher Conference: Ten families attended the last conference in August and indicated through surveys that they appreciated the opportunity. The next conference will be held on October 12 and 13. The conference is now open for youth who have been at the Center for 30 days: previously, the requirement was 60 days.

- Barnes and Noble Book Drive: the drive will tentatively be held on December 14. On September 28, Commissioner Kraft dropped off 250 books and renewed subscriptions for 5 magazines that will be delivered to the Youth Center.
- Multi-disciplinary Treatment Team Meetings: the team meets weekly to review any youth with an order to release and all youth experiencing a mental health crisis. The team consists of representatives from Douglas County Youth Center Mental Health, Education, Medical, and a Transition Specialist; NFC (Nebraska Families Collaborative) and Probation.
- Commissioner Rodgers asked whether the Youth Center had an official expediter. Mr. Alexander said that there was a representative from the Public Defender's office. Commissioner Rodgers said this was not a full-throated effort and that in planning for the next budget process, this position should be considered.
- Commissioner Borgeson clarified that Commissioner Rodgers was asking for an independent expediter not tied to the Public Defender's office.

Juvenile Assessment Center

- Shawne Coonfare presented the update for the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC). She reported that JAC is putting emphasis on staff training. Next week the staff will attend computer-based aid training. They have recently participated in compassion fatigue, cultural competency, and coercive control training.
- The Policy Group and the Case Processing Group are cooperating to write up diversion standards.
- Ms. Coonfare discussed the quarterly comparisons of youth served by JAC (Attachment C). From July through September 2016, 263 youth were referred to JAC. Some referrals come from other areas outside of Douglas County. JAC is cooperating with Sarpy County to transfer youth who are cited in Douglas County but live in Sarpy County. The goal is to transfer them to the county where they live.
- All delinquencies and any police contact comes through the County Attorney's office.
- From January to September 2016, 191 youth were placed on Diversion. 180 completed Diversion successfully; 50 received warning letters. 23 were status referrals and 6 were truancy referrals.
- The 6 new truancy referrals have been recorded since the beginning of the school year. The number is lower this year because JAC held open the truanies from the end of the last school year and is already meeting with potential truanis. Previously, the truancy list at the end of the year would be erased during the summer; now it is being held over so staff can interact with students before problems arise.
- JAC just began taking truancy referrals last fall. Three full-time attorneys were handling truancy prior to fall 2015.
- 826 youth were placed on Diversion in 2015.

Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI)

- Shelly Hug presented the JDAI update (Attachment D). JDAI has 2 target populations it looks at: warrants and disproportionate minority contacts (DMC).
- The numbers presented are for 2015 and the first two quarters of 2016 (Attachment D). There has been some slight improvement in DMC numbers from Quarter 1, 2015 to Quarter 2, 2016. While the decline in DMC's is small, it does show progress.
- The Average length of stay for Quarter 2, 2016 is 35.7 days and the average daily population for the same quarter is 74.9.
- Once the new data people join JDAI, they will analyze these numbers to determine whether some changes can be made to improve the numbers.
- Case processing will be getting technical assistance from the Casey Foundation to see what can be done to expedite youth without jeopardizing any of their rights. The group is also working with DMC to begin system mapping of youth movement in Douglas County.
- Alternatives to Detention (ATD) and Case Processing would like to initiate a locator pilot to track youth who have unlawful absence warrants. They would like to extend tracking to 48 hours for some youth to allow a grace period and prevent detention. A warrant could still be issued, but this would be on a case by case basis. Most youth do return and JDAI wants to work with families with youth who are not runaways, who do not leave the jurisdiction, to avoid arrest.
- DMC has been working on training. The first 2 trainings with the Center for Children, Law and Policy were held earlier this year, and DMC plans to hold trainings in the community later in October or November. DMC has completed its 2017 work plan.
- The data group committee continues to focus solely on issues related to DMC.
- Youth Impact! has participated in a statewide Crossover Youth Practice Model meeting with representatives from several counties (Attachment E). Many have come to Douglas County to see how the County does its crossover work.
- Work continues on the 2016 and 2017 work plans.
- Commissioner Rodgers said official notice from the State has been issued for Community Based Aid money. There is a tight timeline for applying for 2017-18.

The meeting adjourned at 1:46 P.M.

DOUGLAS COUNTY YOUTH CENTER

Brad Alexander,
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To: Child and Youth Services Committee
Chris Rodgers, Chair
From: Brad Alexander
Date: October 4, 2016
RE: Report

Average Daily Population -

Average for 2007 = 167
Average for 2008 = 142
Average for 2009 = 146
Average for 2010 = 128.75
Average for 2011 - 104.1
Average for 2012 - 95.8
Average for 2013 - 91.42 - Secure = 70.75 Staff Secure = 20.67 HOME = 36
Average for 2014 - 99.6 - Secure = 82.9 Staff Secure = 16.7 HOME = 35.3
Average for 2015 - 87.5 - Secure = 75.83 Staff Secure = 11.67 HOME = 28
Average for 2016 - 75 - Secure = 64.56 Staff Secure = 10.44 HOME = 28
(To date)

January 2016 - 55 (secure) 4 (staff secure) 39 (HOME)
February 2016 - 53 (secure) 13 (staff secure) 28 (HOME)
March 2016 - 52 (secure) 15 (staff secure) 22 (HOME)
April 2016 - 67 (secure) 16 (staff secure) 28 (HOME)
May 2016 - 73 (secure) 15 (staff secure) 28 (HOME)
June 2016 - 75 (secure) 4 (staff secure) 24 (HOME)
July 2016 - 71 (secure) 8 (staff secure) 22 (HOME)
August 2016- 62 (secure) 12 (staff secure) 19 (HOME)
September 2016 - 73 (secure) 7 (staff secure) 26 (HOME)

Today October 4, 2016 -
Secure detention = 72
Staff Secure = 5
Total = 77

HOME Program = 24
18 - HOME; 5 - Truancy diversion; 1 - Tracker
EPIC = 7

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) - Becomes effective for juvenile facilities October 2017.

- Staffing ratios – 1:8; and 1:16 while sleeping
- Policies have been written and adjusted due to recent information.
- Staff Training begins this month.
- We will meet with Project Harmony – we must have an agreement with an agency that has an investigator specialized in sexual abuse investigations involving juvenile victims. In addition, we must make available a third party number for youth to report allegations of sexual abuse. Project Harmony should allow us to comply with this standard.
- Contracting with other entities 115.312 (PREA Standards)

Education –

Read Right – We had thought this program would move to from OPS to Metro. OPS has decided to continue their support of this program at DCYC.

Creighton has agreed to be our testing site for GED testing. Creighton will provide this service at DCYC. Metro has provided us GED materials.

Pledge For Peace – Greg Hepburn is conducting the pledge for peace on the first Friday of each month. This occurs with the Adopt a Unit Program.

Adopt a living unit – An agency, group or individual can adopt a unit and provide pizza to that unit as a reward for achieving certain goals – such as earning credits, attending class, meeting criteria spelled out in the IEP. This is conducted on the first Friday of each month. Release Ministries has been very generous. This program was featured on KETV.

EPIC Center – Ray Curtis visited the Youth Center to meet the EPIC staff. Ray was pleased with the program and took information back to the Judges. Juvenile Court Judges are excited about this program. Information has been provided to UNO so that they can conduct an evaluation of the program.

Our kids now attend Blackburn and Boys and Girls Club, 27th and Hamilton, two times a week. This is going well and we are working on a MOU to make this a permanent location. This will be presented to County Administration and then to the County Board soon.

Three of our participants graduated in May, with their class. One has recently joined his senior class and is now starting fullback for a local high school; he is earning A and B grades with one C; and he is now participating in the ROTC Program. His Grandmother cannot thank us enough.

We currently have 7 youth participating. Two youth are being interviewed this week.

Parent – Teacher Conference – last one was August 4th and 5th. Ten families attended. Those families completed surveys – all survey showed that the parents appreciated this opportunity. Next conference scheduled for October 12 and 13. We have adjusted the conference from youth who have been with us 60 days to those that have been with us 30 days.

Barnes and Noble book drive will be held on December 14, 2016 (this is a tentative date). Commissioner Kraft visited the Youth Center on September 28, 2016. Commissioner Kraft dropped off 250 books and renewed subscriptions for 5 magazines that will be delivered directly to the Youth Center. 30 of the 250 books delivered have not been released. The students at DCYC will use these to write book reports.

Multi Disciplinary Treatment Team Meetings – These are conducted weekly. Participants include DCYC Mental Health; DCYC Education; DCYC Medical; DCYC Transition Specialist; NFC; and Probation. This group discusses all youth with an order to release and all youth that are experiencing a mental health crisis.

Standards for Juvenile Facilities

Prevention Planning

§ 115.311 Zero tolerance of sexual abuse and sexual harassment; PREA coordinator.

- (a) An agency shall have a written policy mandating zero tolerance toward all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment and outlining the agency's approach to preventing, detecting, and responding to such conduct.
- (b) An agency shall employ or designate an upper-level, agency-wide PREA coordinator with sufficient time and authority to develop, implement, and oversee agency efforts to comply with the PREA standards in all of its facilities.
- (c) Where an agency operates more than one facility, each facility shall designate a PREA compliance manager with sufficient time and authority to coordinate the facility's efforts to comply with the PREA standards.

§ 115.312 Contracting with other entities for the confinement of residents.

- (a) A public agency that contracts for the confinement of its residents with private agencies or other entities, including other government agencies, shall include in any new contract or contract renewal the entity's obligation to adopt and comply with the PREA standards.
- (b) Any new contract or contract renewal shall provide for agency contract monitoring to ensure that the contractor is complying with the PREA standards.

§ 115.313 Supervision and monitoring.

- (a) The agency shall ensure that each facility it operates shall develop, implement, and document a staffing plan that provides for adequate levels of staffing, and, where applicable, video monitoring, to protect residents against sexual abuse. In calculating adequate staffing levels and determining the need for video monitoring, facilities shall take into consideration:
 - (1) Generally accepted juvenile detention and correctional/secure residential practices;
 - (2) Any judicial findings of inadequacy;
 - (3) Any findings of inadequacy from Federal investigative agencies;
 - (4) Any findings of inadequacy from internal or external oversight bodies;
 - (5) All components of the facility's physical plant (including "blind spots" or areas where staff or residents may be isolated);
 - (6) The composition of the resident population;

JUVENILE ASSESSMENT CENTER 2016	Jan-Mar 2016	Apr-Jun 2016	July-Sept 2016	Jan-Mar 2015	Apr-Jun 2015	July-Sept 2015	Jan-Dec 2015
REFERRED TO JAC for Assessment <youth with delinquency charges>	398	301	263	285	297	266	1210
(*** If youth has a current open case, and a new case is referred, it is NOT counted here) (except Truancy)							
REFERRAL SOURCE							
LAW ENFORCEMENT	397	298	261	238	295	265	1159
CITY PROSECUTOR TRANSFER	0	0	0	45	0	0	45
COUNTY COURT TRANSFER	0	1	0	2	0	0	2
TRANSFER FROM ANOTHER JURISDICTION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SARPY COUNTY	1	2	2	0	2	1	4
TRUANCY (referred to JAC if there is an already existing open delinquency at JAC)	12	18	0	7	19	1	37
Omaha Fire Dept. (not included in Ref#)	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
2nd JAC REFERRAL (not included in Ref#)	9	4	11	4	9	3	17
GENDER							
MALE	220	165	153	161	148	159	679
FEMALE	178	136	110	124	149	107	531
RACE							
CAUCASIAN/WHITE	170	142	119	151	151	140	584
AFRICAN/AMERICAN/BLACK	157	104	95	83	104	77	407
HISPANIC	51	44	36	43	35	42	182
NATIVE AMERICAN	4	0	4	0	1	1	7
ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER	4	2	4	3	4	2	13
MIXED	9	3	2	4	0	1	14
OTHER/ Unknown	3	6	3	1	2	3	3
AGE OF YOUTH:							
7-11 YEARS	9	4	11	7	9	11	33
12-15 YEARS	191	131	115	99	145	114	547
16-18 YEARS	198	166	137	179	143	141	630
8, 9, & 10	5	1	3	5	6	7	23
11	4	3	8	2	3	4	10
12	16	11	14	4	13	14	46
13	34	25	13	15	26	24	104
14	49	33	36	34	45	37	165
15	92	62	52	46	61	39	232
16	106	80	65	81	68	74	305
17	87	83	70	91	73	63	306
18	5	3	2	7	2	4	19
YOUTH ASSESSED ASSESSMENT (Risk/Needs and BH)	290	317	212	240	340	217	1038

	Jan-Mar 2016	Apr-Jun 2016	July-Sept 2016	Jan-Mar 2015	Apr-Jun 2015	July-Sept 2015	Jan-Dec 2015
YOUTH PLACED ON DIVERSION	214	233	191	186	276	156	826
GENDER							
MALE	115	114	102	111	131	87	451
FEMALE	99	119	89	75	145	69	375
RACE							
CAUCASIAN/WHITE	91	107	100	72	168	79	416
AFRICAN AMERICAN/BLACK	86	80	61	70	76	47	260
HISPANIC	27	29	22	38	26	25	126
NATIVE AMERICAN	2	3	2	0	2	1	5
ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER	1	3	2	0	4	1	8
MIXED	5	8	1	5	0	0	9
OTHER	2	3	3	1	0	3	2
AGE OF YOUTH:							
7 - 11 YEARS	2	1	2	4	5	3	18
12 - 15 YEARS	102	112	78	85	108	64	371
16 - 18 YEARS	110	120	111	97	163	89	437
8 - 9 & 10	1	0	0	2	3	3	12
11	1	1	2	2	2	0	6
12	9	6	6	6	6	6	28
13	16	24	11	12	28	12	78
14	26	30	23	27	31	19	113
15	51	52	38	40	43	27	152
16	60	63	51	49	67	47	208
17	45	56	58	45	93	40	218
18	5	1	2	3	3	2	11
YOUTH DIVERTED FROM SYSTEM							
DIVERSION COMPLETE	120	163	180	131	200	196	653
WARNING LETTERS	49	63	50	60	49	45	192
Status Referrals Received	32	30	23	n/a	27	32	112
Truancy Referrals Received	332	500	6	n/a	n/a	34	Academic year
Youth Impact Identified	52	72	38	35	59	39	184
Youth Impact Team Meetings	34	32	26	20	20	17	79

The Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) provides the cornerstone of evidence-based practices for juvenile justice youth service: screening and assessment. The JAC serves as the focal point for comprehensive assessment for youth coming to the attention of the Douglas County Attorney's Office (DCAO). The JAC provides to the DCAO recommendations for the most efficient and effective interventions and supervision levels for each youth.

The JAC strives to divert all eligible youth from formal processing, while recommending interventions to prevent further law violations, and enhance productive growth of young citizens. The JAC utilizes evidence-based principles such as the risk/need principle by making targeted referrals, based on screening and assessment, and referring to service providers in the community utilizing evidence-based principles, as well as monitoring utilization and effectiveness of each of these services.

Targets: Warrants and DMC

2015:

	<u>ALOS</u>	<u>Warrant (%)</u>	<u>DMC (%)</u>	<u>ADP</u>	<u>Court Orders</u>
Q1	36.2	30	81	70.7	14%
Q2	32.4	26	82	83.9	13.7%
Q3	35.3	36	84	81.7	11%
Q4	35.7	38	75	72.7	17%

2016:

	<u>ALOS</u>	<u>Warrant (%)</u>	<u>DMC (%)</u>	<u>ADP</u>	<u>Court Orders</u>
Q1	29.5	40	73	58.4	8%
Q2	35.7	33	69	74.9	13%

JDAI Updates

October 2016

Alternatives to Detention Committee Update September 2016

The ATD Committee reviewed and updated the 2017 work plan this month. The Committee will be focusing on enhancing collaboration with Probation in the development and utilization of Alternatives to Detention in the upcoming year. The Committee will continue to evaluate data to assess gaps in the continuum for youth scoring 6-9 who are overridden to detention. Another area of emphasis for the committee will be on warrants and the runaway population, as well as DMC.

The ATD chairs will be meeting with Probation to discuss utilization of ATD's at the point of intake and to problem-solve any barriers to accessing ATD's.

Case Processing:

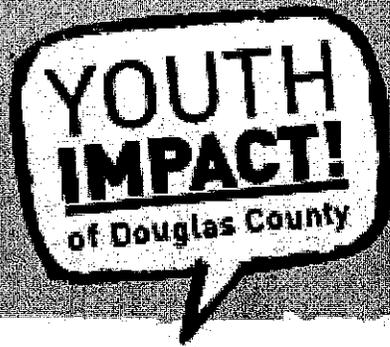
The group continues to work with the Annie E Casey Foundation to obtain technical assistance regarding Case Processing in Douglas County. The group is also collaborating with Probation, the County Attorney's office and the defense bar (public and private) regarding the procedure for the revocation of Probation. This working group will meet with the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) committee to begin system mapping of youth movement in Douglas County. The Case Processing co-chairs have also provided information to Probation regarding data collection related to pre-detention staffing hearing calls.

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC):

The DMC working group will be providing the third session of training for Douglas County. The first two trainings, completed with the Center for Children Law and Policy (CCLP) were held at Goodwill Industries earlier in the year. The DMC team plans to create and provide training to the community later in October or early November. The 2017 work plan has been completed. In December of this year, the DMC Co-chairs and the JDAI Coordinator will attend the National DMC Conference in Baltimore by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice. The DMC group is also working with Boys Town to provide information to youth and families regarding the Boys Town Family Helpline.

DATA:

-The data group continues to work to provide a separate data memo, quarterly, that will focus solely on issues related to disproportionate minority contact. They have completed their 2017 work plan. The data committee has lost a co-chair, Erin Bock of the Sherwood Foundation. The group will consider a replacement for Erin in the coming weeks.



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Youth Impact! Subcommittee Report
September 2016
Co-Chairs – Judge Douglas Johnson and Nick Juliano

1. The Douglas County team participated in statewide Crossover Youth Practice Model meeting with representatives from Sarpy, Dodge, Lancaster and Gage counties, Georgetown Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, and the Court Improvement Project Team.
2. Nick Juliano spoke on Youth Impact! at the Juvenile Justice Symposium on September 23rd at the UNO Community Engagement Center.
3. Youth Impact! team meetings in September were held at North High School in to accommodate students and school staff to be able attend the staff meetings.
4. Work continues on the 2016 Youth Impact! work plan and the 2017 work plan.
5. Discussion about implementing a permanency tool provided by Georgetown to further emphasize the need to address permanency issues as part of the Youth Impact! initiative.