

Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development Council

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Jessie Parker Building
510 E. 12th Street, Starkweather Room
Des Moines, IA

March 25, 2015

Present:

San Wong, Iowa Department of Human Rights
Sarah Brown, Iowa Department of Education (by phone)
John-Paul Chaisson-Cardenas, ISU Extension, 4-H – Youth Development
Jim Hennessey, Child Advocacy Board (by phone)
Steve Lukan, Office of Drug Control Policy
Michaela Malloy Rotert, Iowa Workforce Development
Gary Niles, 3rd Judicial District
Kathy Stone, Iowa Department of Public Health (by phone)
Doug Wolfe, Iowa Department of Human Services

Results Team:

Steve Michael, CJJP
Terri Bailey, AMP
Kile Beisner, CJJP
Nate Connealy, AmeriCorps Member
Dave Kuker, CJJP
Kathy Nesteby, CJJP
Betsy Penisten, SIYAC Coordinator
Addie Rasmusson, Iowa Department of Public Health

Others Present:

Shay Bilchik, Georgetown University and consultant to the National Reentry Resource Center
Cathy Conly, Program Manager, Juvenile Justice Reform and Reinvestment Initiative
Jim Swaim, Facilitator, Juvenile Reentry Planning Project

Meeting Objectives:

- Update on the activities of the Juvenile Justice Reform and Reinvestment Initiative (JJRRI) and Juvenile Reentry Planning project.
- Learn about SIYAC's recent activities.
- Review Iowa's proposed Performance Partnership Pilot for disconnected youth.
- Consider potential strategies to address achievement gap for minority students

I. Introductions and Announcements

Steve Michael called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. A quorum was present. He reported that Director San Wong appointed him to serve as Chair; Kile Beisner will lead the Results Team.

II. Approval of the Minutes from December 10, 2014 ICYD meeting

Michaela Malloy-Rotert moved to approve the minutes from the December meeting, seconded by Steve Lukan. There was no discussion. The motion passed with one abstention by John Paul Chaisson-Cardenas.

III. SIYAC Update

a. Status of Legislation

Betsy Penisten, SIYAC Coordinator, discussed the status of legislation supported by SIYAC members: cyberbullying, gay conversion therapy, underage tanning, suicide prevention and human trafficking.

b. Recent and upcoming activities

March 31 Cody Woodruff and Pablo Haake will speak at “We Are One—Student Voices Matter”
April 3 Governor’s LGBTQ Conference—will present information against gay conversion therapy
April 13 TJ Foley will have a conference call with Senator Grassley regarding education

Service projects included collecting household items in Cedar Rapids; school supplies for AmeriCorps Appreciation Week; and removing debris/trash from a marsh in Davenport.

Several SIYAC members were offered academic awards to attend Ivy League universities next fall. Nine students were selected to participate on the Governor’s Youth STEM Advisory Council.

There are 14 vacancies next year. The 4th quarter meeting will be in late May/early June.

IV. Juvenile Justice Reform and Reinvestment Initiative

Kathy Nesteby provided an update regarding the Juvenile Justice Reform and Reinvestment Initiative (JJRRI). By using the SPEP tool (Standard Program Evaluation Protocol) several residential and community-based services have been evaluated. Nesteby reviewed a handout of aggregate scores. The process has revealed a high number of social skills services are offered in Iowa. Meetings have been held to review scoring with individual providers. A structure will be developed that incorporates the various stakeholders—Juvenile Court Services, DHS, State Court Administration, etc.

a. Report from National Partners

Dr. Bilchik provided information regarding the SPEP tool, which identifies ways to improve programming.

b. Sustainability efforts

Michael reported that funding for the JJRRI project will end this fall. To sustain the project and allow for future expansion, funding requests have been made to the Justice Systems Appropriations Committee. He discussed other ways the project could be funded which includes coordinating funding from other areas.



V. Juvenile Reentry Planning Project

a. Report from National Technical Assistance Provider

Shay Bilchik, Georgetown University and consultant to the National Reentry Resource Center, a project of the Council of State Governments Justice Center, provided an overview of his credentials and work in the area of juvenile justice. The Juvenile Reentry Planning Project allows sites to be more effective with resources by aligning assessments with services and providing high quality services to reduce recidivism. The assessments relate to placement and supports when youth return to their home communities. Services must meet needs—both pre- and post-release. Upon return to the community, juvenile court officers keep in contact with youth and their progress. Supports include a team of community members, family, treatment stakeholders, JCO's, educators, and others. Dr. Bilchik considered JJRRI and reentry as part of continuum.

b. Progress on Strategic Plan

c. Next Steps

Jim Swaim, Facilitator for the reentry planning grant, reported that Iowa is one of six demonstration sites. A task force has been seated to develop a reentry plan for youth at the Boys State Training School and boys/girls in group care. Work to date includes several task force meetings; a survey of providers, juvenile court officials, and others to determine key issues, challenges, strengths, etc. This information and data will be used in developing a plan. Swaim anticipated that recommendations will include policy changes, reallocation of resources, the development of uniform/statewide practices, and services. Once the plan is submitted, Iowa would compete for an implementation grant in the amount of \$1 million per year for two years.

VI. Performance Partnership Pilots

a. Review submitted proposal

Steve Michael and Michaela Malloy-Rotert reviewed a grant proposal that allows states to more flexibly use federal funding for youth aged 14-24. The age range chosen was 16-24 and focuses on system-connected youth in foster or aftercare. Barriers faced by these youth include: low income, child welfare history, homelessness, and a lack of engagement in school or work.

Credit was given to other agencies listed in the project. Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) is the applicant. IWD, the Iowa Department of Human Services, and the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services have committed federal funds to be used more flexibly as part of the project. The proposal provides basic framework and if awarded, a coordinator will be hired. The project includes a cohort service delivery model providing for 10-12 youth per cohort and two to three cohorts per year. It will utilize the funds from partnering agencies for two years, and may possibly extend to a third year.

In addition, youth will be assessed to inventory of work skills, provide work experience and career readiness. The project will be piloted in the Des Moines area.

Michael noted that ICYD is the oversight group for the project and sees the next step as having the Results Team meet to further discuss ways to implement portions of the proposal.



VII. Request for ICYD's Leadership – Student Achievement Gap
a. Targeted Strategies for Minority Students

John Paul Chaisson-Cardenas discussed the role of 4-H and extension in positive youth development over the past 100 years. He noted changing demographics in minority populations, gaps in programming, and how it relates to success. ISU extension offices are in every county and have the capacity to serve youth of color, low income, disabled, and ESL. He discussed a program, "Clover Kids", for kids in kindergarten to 3rd Grade. Chaisson-Cardenas would like to strategize ways in which the various agencies can address the needs of youth of color, low income, and disabled.

Michael suggested that the Results Team explore ways to coordinate services and address the achievement gap.

VIII. Other Business

There was no other business presented to the Council.

IX. Adjourn – Next meeting – Wednesday, June 24, 2015, 2:00 – 4:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker
Administrative Secretary
Iowa Department of Human Rights
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning

