

Arkansas Supreme Court Commission on Children, Youth and Families



Juvenile Justice Reform Subcommittee Minutes November 17, 2015

Subcommittee Members in Attendance

Justice Rhonda Wood, Chair
Judge Bobby McCallister
Michelle Griffin
Marcus Devine
Scott Tanner

Other Attendees

Connie Hickman Tanner
Kate Shufeldt
Brian Johnston

CALL TO ORDER

Justice Rhonda Wood called the meeting to order.

AGENDA TOPICS

Update of Action Plan- Principles 1 & 2

Update on RABS

Connie Hickman Tanner gave an update on the progress of the RABS project to implement the SAVRY risk assessment. The project continues to be implemented in the 4 pilot sites. The pilot sites have developed their service matrices with the help of Paula Stone and Dr. Gina Vincent. The service matrices are also being used to help identify service gaps in the communities. Dr. Vincent also attended the Juvenile Division Judges' Conference the previous week to discuss case planning. After the new year, the group will form a statewide rollout committee to begin planning for expansion of the SAVRY. The Committee discussed avenues for training officers and other stakeholders, including possibly presenting at the upcoming AJOA conference and DYS conference in March. There was also discussion about engaging schools and school resource officers in the reform process. It was mentioned that some judges do an orientation with schools at the beginning of the school year. Contacting the Criminal Justice Institute and their Safe Schools program was also discussed.

Update on Data Team

Kate Shufeldt gave an update of the Data Team's meetings. The group has discussed a definition for recidivism, but felt it would be better to decide on a formal definition after identifying what data we currently have that could lend itself to the definition. Kate discussed a Models for Change tool regarding juvenile justice data. The group is also discussing possible ways to share data between agencies.

Discussion of Action Plan- Principles 3 & 4

The Committee discussed items listed under principles 3 and 4 of the plan. Regarding the education objectives listed in principle 3, Michelle Griffin stated that Debbie Jones of the Academic Services Division would be a contact. That division monitors the academic improvement plans. The Committee discussed the importance of having coordination with schools before a student returns from commitment. The Committee also discussed the possibility of getting a group together that includes representatives from ADE, DYS, courts, and providers to work on the education items.

The Committee discussed moving item 1.5 about service matrices to principle 3. They decided it may be a good project to have interns work on throughout the state in preparation for statewide SAVRY rollout. Brian Johnston will begin making contacts with universities in the state about internship requirements. The interns could also possibly assist with the quality assurance pieces of SAVRY implementation.

State Justice Institute Grant

Kate gave an update of the State Justice Institute grant to do a review of the juvenile probation system. John Tuell of the RFK National Resource Center came to Arkansas the previous week for the Juvenile Division Judges' Conference. He met with the judges from the pilot sites to discuss the process and expectations of the project. They decided the first site visit would be the week of January 25-27. John will begin contacting each site to set agendas and plan for the visit.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on February 16, 2016 at 11:00 AM at the Justice Building in Little Rock.