

Arkansas Supreme Court Commission on Children, Youth and Families



Juvenile Justice Reform Subcommittee Minutes November 21, 2014

Subcommittee Members in Attendance

Hon. Rhonda Wood, Chair
Scott Tanner
Keesa Smith
Paul Kelly
Deborah Coffman
Dr. Michael Twyman

Other Attendees

Drew Shover (in place of Petie Cobb)
Connie Hickman Tanner
Kate Shufeldt
Brian Johnston

CALL TO ORDER

Hon. Rhonda Wood called the meeting to order.

AGENDA TOPICS

Welcome & Introductions: Hon. Rhonda Wood

Judge Rhonda Wood thanked the committee members for their service and asked the group to introduce themselves since a few people were new to the group.

Update on RABS Risk Assessment Grant: Connie Hickman Tanner

Connie gave the committee an update on the RABS Risk Assessment Grant through the MacArthur Foundation and OJJDP. The grant would provide technical assistance and training for the selection and implementation of a validated risk assessment. The application was submitted on time and Arkansas is in the top three states. Two states will be chosen for the project. Dr. Gina Vincent conducted a site visit in Arkansas on November 13 as part of the selection process. She spoke with the judges in the proposed jurisdictions, their chief probation and intake officers, and the AOC's Director of Court Information Systems. The visit seemed to go very well and we received great feedback from Dr. Vincent. We were told that decision will be made by the end of the month.

Discussion of Objectives in Action Plan: Hon. Rhonda Wood and Committee

The committee discussed the draft action plan that included proposed objectives submitted by committee members. There was much time spent discussing objectives under Principles 1 and 2. Most of the objectives under Principle 1 are correlated with receiving the above mentioned grant. Regarding Principle 2, there was much discussion on the inclusion of local universities in the evaluation planning, collection of data, and analysis. There was also Judge Wood, Keesa and Debbie discussed working together to conduct trainings with education co-ops regarding juvenile justice and zero-tolerance policies. The members felt the action steps included for Principle 3 were sufficient and moved to discussion on Principle 4. Regarding the transfer of minors to criminal division, the committee agreed to promote the model of juvenile judges taking all youth 18 and under on their docket regardless of the offense so as to mitigate confusion and delays in process that come with transfers. The committee also agreed on promoting the use of Extended Juvenile Jurisdiction to help with this issue. Overall, the committee discussed the need for training for judges and probation officers on a variety of topics including juvenile confinement, trying adolescents as adults, and the use of VCOs to detain status offenders. Kate and Connie will update the action plan and distribute it to the group.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Update action plan	Kate & Connie	12/31/2014
Research and recommend definition of recidivism	Kate & Scott	01/23/2015

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on January 23, 2015 at 10:00 AM at the Justice Building in Little Rock.