

# Arkansas Supreme Court Commission on Children, Youth and Families

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## Juvenile Justice Reform Subcommittee Minutes August 18, 2015

### Subcommittee Members in Attendance

Hon. Rhonda Wood, Chair  
Judge Bobby McCallister  
Deborah Coffman  
Drew Shover  
Marcus Devine  
Scott Tanner  
Paul Kelly

### Other Attendees

Connie Hickman Tanner  
Kate Shufeldt  
Lucas Harder (AR School Board Association)

### CALL TO ORDER

Hon. Rhonda Wood called the meeting to order.

### AGENDA TOPICS

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#### *Welcome & Introductions: Hon. Rhonda Wood*

Justice Rhonda Wood welcomed everyone to the meeting. Lucas Harder from the Arkansas School Board Association attended to discuss the Education Records Release Form by request of Deborah Coffman.

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#### *Update on RABS Risk Assessment Grant- Connie Hickman Tanner*

Connie gave the committee an update on the RABS Risk & Needs Assessment Grant. The SAVRY is currently being used in Pulaski and Faulkner Counties. Implementation was delayed in Craighead and Crittenden with the sudden passing of Judge Fergus and a probation officer and the resignation of a probation supervisor. They should be back on track by the end of the month. For commitments to DYS, DYS currently gets the summary report for the SAVRY since they are not using the SAVRY. If DYS adopts the SAVRY, they will receive the full SAVRY assessment instead of just the summary report. Marcus stated that he was open to it and likes the idea of having one assessment system-wide. Justice Wood suggesting piloting it in the RABS pilot sites. There was discussion of the need to provide training on the SAVRY to the providers as well. Marcus and Connie will meet on the SAVRY adoption and implementation. The RABS team is also assisting with the validation and implementation of the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) diversion tool. Pulaski has been collecting OYAS forms during intake so that Dr. Vincent and her team can validate the cutoff scores for Arkansas. The OYAS tool should be available towards the end of the year.

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#### *Update on JJ Reform Data Committee- Data Team*

Kate discussed the Data Team's recommendation of utilizing a process conducted in Michigan's juvenile justice reform efforts to examine what data is needed and ways of gathering the data. The process engages courts, law enforcement, service providers, and human services. The Arkansas group will also include prosecutors, public defenders, and members from the Youth Justice Reform Board. There will be a pre-survey to collect information about what data the various groups have access to. Then, the group will meet to discuss what data they need and to facilitate exchanging data. The Committee approved moving forward with the Data Team's plan. The data team will meet to discuss who should be included in the process and logistics for the meeting.

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### ***Recidivism Definition- Scott Tanner and Kate Shufeldt***

Scott and Kate discussed the need for a new definition of recidivism. Historically, we have used the number of youth in DYS who are released and then return to DYS custody. It was agreed that this definition was too narrow and only counted a small population of youth. Scott and Kate discussed the national recommendations for measuring recidivism. Several sources state using multiple portals for contact (adjudication, probation, etc...) is preferred. The committee agreed that an issue Arkansas has with measuring recidivism is the various identifiers used for youth in the system. It would be very difficult to track youth across systems. The Committee agreed that this topic should be discussed as part of the Data Team's process.

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### ***Education Records Release Form- Deborah Coffman***

Deborah introduced the Education Records Release Form that the Department of Education created with Brian. The form is a template that officers can use to obtain education records and access to the parent's Home Access Center. All school districts are on the Home Access Center except those in Pulaski County. Deborah said that part of there is to have those schools on by June 30, 2016. The form is FERPA compliant and ties access to specific officers, not offices. Each school district will be able to determine if they accept the release form or if they require a different release form. Lucas stated that he would be able to post the release form on the ASBA website and send notice to their subscribers. Justice Wood suggested a joint letter between the court and Commissioner Key to introduce the letter. Deborah said they would send the form to the superintendents. Paul suggested also sending it the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators. Brian and the Department of Education will coordinate communications for schools and courts so that the courts do not receive the form before the schools have been notified.

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### ***Next Steps- Committee***

The Committee agreed to look at the action plan and make recommendations for revisions, especially for Principles 3 and 4 which were not discussed in as much detailed as Principles 1 and 2.

<b>Action items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Data Team meet to discuss project	Kate	
Finalize Education Record Release Form	Brian & Deborah	8/18/15

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### ***Next Meeting***

The next meeting will be held on November 17, 2015 at 11 AM at the Justice Building in Little Rock.