

Child & Youth Services Committee Meeting
Douglas County, Nebraska
Tuesday, March 19, 2019

The meeting convened at 1:01 P.M. in Room 903, Omaha-Douglas Civic Center, 1819 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE. 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 March 12, 2019, issue of *The Daily Record*. County Commissioners present at the meeting were Mike Boyle, Chris Rodgers, James Cavanaugh, Clare Duda, P.J. Morgan and Marc Kraft. Others present included Tom Riley, Public Defender; Catherine Hall, Pam Murphy, Administration; Mark LeFlore and Yosef Seigel, Youth Center; Shawne Johnson-Coonfare, Juvenile Assessment Center; Janee Pannkuk, Operation Youth Success; Cara Stirts, County Attorney; Sara Roberts and Lindsey Randow, Category One Consulting; Ryann Glenn, Jodie Crawford, Adam Charlsen, Maria Fernandez, Mark Vondrasek, Kane Push, Kathleen Jamrozy, Larry Storer, Nicole LeClerc, Norma LeClerc, Tyler Wilson, Luis Jimenez; and Kim Bollow, 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>.

Time markers for when each topic/item occurs during the video are in parentheses.

Introduction (0:00 to 1:48) Commissioner Rodgers called the meeting to order, began introductions around the table, and asked for brief updates on agenda item number one.

1. **Brief updates:** (1:48 to 12:55)

a. **Douglas County Youth Center (DCYC)**

Mark LeFlore, Youth Center: provided an update on the Douglas County Youth Center (DCYC) data including YouTurn, Home Program, Dusk To Dawn, and an upcoming psychiatric program starting in April. He also explained which ages are affected by the July 1, 2019 law and that there is not a global screening tool which is used over all of the detention alternatives, but it would be useful (i.e. where the youth are going, how long they're staying, status at discharge, etc.). He relayed possibly three of the eighty-two children at the Youth Center would be included in the new law (age 12 and under).

Commissioner Kraft: mentioned a television article about those programs.

Commissioner Boyle: asked about youth diversion programs, how certain agencies are performing; concerned about relation to the new justice center and upcoming votes; referred to other cities and programs.

Commissioner Cavanaugh: asked about the new law for youth and about current population in that age group.

b. **Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI)**

Commissioner Rodgers relayed these representatives are not present for today's meeting.

c. **Operation Youth Success (OYS)**

Janee Pannkuk, Operation Youth Success: provided an update on Operation Youth Success including a recent event, current programs, curriculums and trainers; gave an update on Families Work Group including purpose, funding (by State), contracts and upcoming video vignettes.

Commissioner Boyle: asked about funding and for further explanation of the vignettes.

Commissioner Rodgers: clarified purpose of the Families Work Group.

Mr. LeFlore: added information about similar parent information programs at DCYC, relayed funding source also.

2. **Presentation: Juvenile Assessment Center Evaluation** (12:55 to 1:09:12)

Commissioner Rodgers introduced the presenters and their project to assess the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC).

Sara Roberts and Lindsey Randow, Category One Consulting: presented Attachment A, "Juvenile Assessment Center Evaluation Overview March 2019 Prepared by Category One Consulting" and Attachment B, "The Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC)." This included points such as an overview of a juvenile assessment center evaluation study including 4 components and 2 phases; provided details about each component, general timeline of youth process beginning with a citation, how youth interact with different entities, and multiple levels in the approach of the JAC. They also gave background info of the current study including purpose & type of approach; they explained the two phases in detail (#1 is complete, #2 is in progress); they explained data collection & metrics goals; gave example of youth needs and which are addressed by the JAC; long term goals; data collection & preliminary findings for both youth & stakeholders; goal of final numbers is January 2020; explained evaluation questions being used in phase 2 and how to possibly use results for improvements; relayed what's expected in the evaluation process from data that is gathered, and next steps in data collection.

Commissioner Boyle: asked for more details with terminology, asked about youth needs & diverting youth from court; wants actual figures and a complete report from specific agencies; asked about types of charges seen in the JAC, if family life is addressed, and relayed it to a Washington, D.C. school district. He also inquired about the role of trauma.

Shawne Johnson-Coonfare, Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC): added information about youth behavior needs; relayed how the JAC is separate from the Youth Center; gave insight on why yearly numbers change although it's consistently growing; explained case management staff & numbers; explained types of charges and correlation of trauma & youth in the JAC, including revised questions & trauma trained staff.

Cara Stirts, County Attorney: gave information about the types of charges seen with youth in the JAC.

Commissioner Kraft: asked for clarification on initial findings by Category One Consulting including information from youth and guardian interviews; gave insight on research in retail for when people go to basement-like areas.

Mr. LeFlore: asked about some results from phase 1 (the youth request for more contact with JAC); gave explanation of JAC roles and Probation roles.

Commissioner Rodgers: relayed that the Board already receives monthly numbers from Shawne Johnson-Coonfare in her regular JAC budget presentations. He stressed that this presentation by Category One Consulting is not related to the new building, but just to improve the system and keep the Board informed on initial findings. He also gave an explanation of the role of Probation.

Mark Vandrosek, citizen: asked for the speakers to elaborate on some aspects.

Commissioner Cavanaugh: asked about the presentation in regards to analysis and interviews, diversion process, connection between JAC and Youth Center and any yearly variances in numbers; asked about case loads for staff.

Larry Storer, citizen: relayed concerns about unintended consequences, youth, stakeholders and power.

Tyler Wilson, citizen: asked presenters about referral numbers and sources, especially related to an alternative to courts; asked about process with Probation & referrals; concerned about justice system and cycle, and also about demographics with referrals to JAC.

Luis Jimenez, citizen: relayed concerns about programming, preventative measures, blueprint and program timing, and relayed that the nonprofit has a design.

3. Other Business (1:09:13 to 1:17:30)

Commissioner Rodgers: explained services in relation to the new building; offered to include this in a future agenda including programs currently getting built. He relayed the focus on state law and resources, importance of not waiting on programs to already be in place, and not building a facility on current programming but planning for the future.

Commissioner Boyle: relayed concerns for voting related to building the detention center; wants programs to already be up and running; concerned about current number of youth and the proposed space available in the new facility; concerned about closing the current facility.

Mr. LeFlore: provided information on current numbers of youth (five 13-year-olds; two of them are 12-year-olds who recently had birthdays).

Tom Riley, Public Defender: relayed he needed to talk to JAC staff after the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:18 P.M.