

# Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee

## March 19, 2018 MEETING SUMMARY

On March 19, 2018 the Utah Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC) convened for the eleventh time. The meeting took place at the State Capitol, Senate Building, Copper Room. The meeting was led by Representative Lowry Snow, chair of the JJOC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the recent passage of House Bill 132 (H.B. 132); to review data from the data working group; receive a progress update from the non-judicial adjustment sliding scale ad-hoc committee and the funding and services working group; and, to provide other committee working group updates.

### *Chair's Update*

Representative Snow informed the JJOC that H.B. 132 passed in both the house and the senate, and is effective immediately upon the Governor signing the bill. The bill was signed into law on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Representative Snow thanked Juvenile Justice Services (JJS), the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), and others who supported the effort to pass H.B. 132.

### *Detention Risk Assessment Tool Update*

On behalf of Donovan Bergstrom, Chair of the detention risk assessment working group, Cuong Nguyen informed the JJOC that the detention risk assessment working group is preparing a presentation to deliver to the JJOC at the April meeting. Mr. Nguyen explained that the working group has been meeting regularly to follow an implementation plan geared towards development and validation of a detention risk assessment tool which will go into effect July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Members from the working group will attend and deliver the presentation at the April JJOC meeting.

### *Data Working Group Presentation*

Ben Peterson, chair of the data working group,

presented the JJOC with preliminary data findings from the first three quarters of calendar year 2017. The data collection process involved the AOC, JJS, Utah School Board of Education (USB), and the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) providing the working group with updated data each quarter for the working group to review and discuss if any data collection adjustments are needed. The working group selected specific performance measures from the previously approved list to share with the JJOC that show early impacts of the juvenile justice reforms in Utah. JJOC attendees were provided with the opportunity to ask questions about the data, and discuss ways to streamline performance measure reporting and create consistent definitions across the agencies. While the data is currently in draft form, while awaiting additional data from the last quarter of the current fiscal year, the working group plans to provide data for inclusion in the JJOC annual report this fall.

### *Funding and Services Working Group*

Judge Mary Noonan provided the JJOC with a progress update on the feedback being collected regarding service needs across the state. So far the working group has received 66 responses, representing over 100 individual perspectives from juvenile justice stakeholders around the state. The working group plans to provide the JJOC with more detailed information on the findings of the working group and recommendations for how to address the service needs. The working group has drafted an implementation plan identifying major activities and tasks that the working group must complete throughout the remainder of the year. The working group will continue to collect feedback, develop a plan for ongoing data collection on service needs and identify resources of funding solutions to address the service needs. Additionally, in response to feedback from the JJOC, the working group will

reach out to tribal agencies and tribal community members to obtain their perspective on services needs for youth in Utah.

#### *Non-Judicial Adjustment Sliding Scale Ad-hoc Committee*

The Non-Judicial Adjustment (NJA) Sliding Scale Ad-hoc Committee provided the JJOC with an update on their progress developing a sliding scale for youth required to pay court fees, fines and/or restitution. The committee has reached consensus on a sliding scale for fees and fines and next steps include reaching consensus on a sliding scale to determine restitution in NJA cases. The committee consists of representatives from various juvenile justice agencies, as well as victim advocates. The committee is considering various factors in its decision-making including families' ability to pay, victim rights, and the upcoming effective date of July 1, 2018. At the committee's next meeting, members will review restitution data to further inform the discussion and plan to provide the JJOC with a final decision at the April meeting.

#### **Other Updates**

##### *Communication Working Group*

On behalf of the communications working group, Cuong Nguyen shared with the JJOC that ongoing outreach to local communities will be initiated this spring to share information about H.B. 132, specifically regarding truancy, as well as general implementation progress of policies in H.B. 239. Representative Snow and members from CCJJ, JJS, AOC, USBE and law enforcement will do this outreach to teachers, school resources officers, prosecutors and school administrators.

#### **Next Steps**

The next JJOC meeting will take place on April 16, 2018 at 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Ute Indian Tribe Justice Center, in Fort Duchesne. The Committee working groups will continue meeting and provide updates on their activities at the next JJOC meeting. Prior to the meeting attendees will have the opportunity to tour the Justice Center in Fort Duchesne and meet with tribal leaders to

discuss juvenile justice reform, identify areas for collaboration, and discuss challenges.