On December 18, 2017 the Utah Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC) convened for the eighth time. The meeting took place at the Matheson Courthouse in Salt Lake City. The meeting was led by Representative Lowry Snow, chair of the JJOC. The purpose of the meeting was to review the implementation of the NJA policy; learn about services offered through DSAMH; review the training inventory component of HB239; and to provide Committee Working Group updates.

Chair’s Update

Representative Snow provided an update on the technical changes to H.B. 239. The changes addressed points of clarification related to law enforcement and school-based offenses as well as clarification on the nonjudicial adjustment process. Amendment language has been drafted for introduction in the upcoming legislative session and will send to JJOC members as soon as it available. Members are welcomed to circulate the draft. Representative Snow announced Kim Cordova has been appointed as the new CCJJ Directors and is pending senate approval.

NJA Process Overview

Dawn Marie Rubio, Juvenile Court Administrator, and Ron Shepherd, Chief Probation for Third District Juvenile Court provided an overview of the implementation of the NJA Policy since its inception in August. The presentation included preliminary data on the number of cases that was determined NJA, examples of when NJA was utilized, the outcomes of NJA cases, and concerns and barriers of the NJA policy. In addition, discussion took place regarding when victim’s voice was included in the NJA process. AOC has instituted a process to send out victim impact statement to be included for cases that has potential victims. The court is currently instituting the NJA fees as before while waiting for the new NJA Sliding Scale that is under development.

DSAMH Service Overview

Doug Thomas, Director for Department of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH) and Catherine Johnson of Wasatch Mental Health presented an outline of service options offered by DSAMH. The presentation included descriptions of Family Resource Facilitators, School-Based Behavioral Health, and the Mobile Crisis Team. The presentation also discussed the plan for expansion of the Mobile Crisis Teams to include a stabilization component for rural community in Utah.

Training Inventory

Cuong Nguyen, Juvenile Justice Specialist proposed that the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Subcommittee assist in the development of trainings as required in H.B. 239. JJOC endorsed the recommendation. The DMC Subcommittee is chaired by Lincoln Nehring who is also member of JJOC. Mr. Nguyen will contact stakeholders for additional representatives to be on the DMC Subcommittee. The DMC Subcommittee is to review the requirements, conduct an assessment of available training among stakeholders, make recommendations on trainings curriculum and develop guideline for how the training should take place and report to JJOC.

Committee Working Group Updates

Education Working Group

The Education Working Group has not held a meeting since October. An update was given on the recent unauthorized distribution of School
Administrator/Resource Officer Manual. The Utah State Board of Education representatives have scheduled to meet with CCJJ representatives to discuss and finalize the School Administrator and School Resource Officer Training Curriculum. A meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2018.

Communications Working Group

Jackie Chamberlain, chair of the Communications Working Group provided an update. The National Governor Association in partnership with KIVVIT provided one and half day work shop to CCJJ staff and relevant stakeholders. Jackie and others participated in developing a Communication Plan and that articulate the purpose and goals of each communication objective and strategy, identifying key spokesperson, and develop time-line. The workshop also focused on Critical Incident Response plan. The working group will continue to review and adopt the plan as appropriate.

Data Working Group

Ben Peterson provided an update on the Data Working Group. The working group met on December 18, 2017 to review preliminary data collection related to H.B. 239. AOC presented preliminary data and discussed potential barriers. The Working Group will meet again on January 23, 2018 at 10:00am.

System Mapping Working Group

Cuong Nguyen provided an update on The JJ System Mapping working group. The group identified two primary focuses which includes (1) identification and referral (2) referral youth to the right services. The next step for the System Mapping Working Group is to develop a decision tree to address item identified and develop projects with specific steps. The working group is scheduled to meet on January 11, 2018.

Nonjudicial Adjustment Sliding Fee Scale Ad-Hoc Committee

The committee has met and discussed the history of sliding fee scales. It was determined by the group that the federal poverty line will guide the sliding scale fees. The group also discussed the restitution sliding scale and it’s at the preliminary stage. The working group is schedule to meet on January 24, 2018 to continue the discussion.

Services Working Group

Hon. Mary Noonan, chair of the Services Working Group shared the group is in the process of drafting a mission statement and is recruiting members from the JJOC as well as private organizations. The group will plan to meet on a monthly basis.

Roundtable Discussion

Krista Airam, Assistant Juvenile Court Administrator presented the NJA Flow Chart and suggested to: 1) add information that sex offenses are not eligible for NJA; 2) add victim impact statement to the chart, and 3) add JJOC template on the document.

Next Steps

The next JJOC meeting will take place on January 16, 2018 at 1 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Senate Building, Copper Room. The Committee working groups will continue meeting and provide updates on their activities at the next JJOC meeting.