

**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Juvenile Justice Committee
January 19, 2017 at noon
County Office Building, Conf. Room B**

Present: Kalene Engel, Rebecca Church, Beth Wilms, Kris Sather, Teri Henderson, Karen Sanness, Marie Kovacs, Phil Huerta, Chris Rogers, Matt Brickl, Sara Langley, Betsy Andrews, Joe Rubado and Loren Nerison

Minutes by: Kalene Engel

Welcome & Call to Order: 12:05 p.m.

Presentation on Mille Lacs Academy and Gerard Academy: Joe Robado of Mille Lacs Academy and Loren Nerison of Gerard Academy provided information on their respective facilities, both of which are operated by Nexus. Following is a summary of the information provided; additional information is available at www.nexustreatment.org.

Mille Lacs Academy:

- Residential treatment facility for boys, ages 10-19, with significant mental health issues and unhealthy sexual behaviors.
- Boys do not have to be adjudicated or charged, but must be at high risk of unhealthy behaviors.
- Facility is located in Onamia, Minnesota.
- Kids are separated both by age and intellectual functioning.
- Family involvement is emphasized; HIPAA-compliant videoconferencing is available for family visits.
- A parent partner (mentor) was recently hired to work. This individual is a parent who has had a child go through the program and who helps the parents understand and work through the process.
- The average length of stay is 10 months; however, that number is influenced by the fact that some of the youth remain in placement after completing the program because they are hard to place elsewhere.
- The facility has two psychologists who do psychosexual reports; they also contract with a psychiatrist.
- School is provided as part of the Onamia School District.
- There is funding/help available for families for visit expenses, such as hotel stays and meals.
- They request a 45 day full comprehensive evaluation.
- They are currently serving 73 kids.
- There is also an associated group home (step-down/transitional) which serves 10 kids.
- There is capacity to serve 83 kids, but like other, similar facilities, staffing presents challenges.

Gerard Academy:

- Provides individualized treatment programs for boys' and girls' with emotional and behavioral disorders
- Located in Austin, MN.
- Also emphasizes family involvement and utilizes HIPPA-compliant video teleconferencing.

- Is a 93 bed facility; they also have staffing issues so they are not at full capacity.
- They have a wait list extending until April (for an admission)
- They offer training through the University of Oklahoma to become licensed as youth counselor
- Serves boys ages 6-18 years old
- Some counties have started a “bridging” program which allows a mental health professional in the child’s community to provide services before; during and after the child’s stay. This has proven very successful as it allows for continuing of services and collaboration. The program came about as a request from the counties who placed kids there.
- Nexus is willing to grow and explore options for needed services.
- Dr. Berryhill has been contracted to provide psychiatric services 20 hours per week, which has been very beneficial.
- Gerard has its own school—New Dominion School. The teachers at the school undergo some of the same training as the youth counselors and other employees.
- They have a very high successful discharge rate—over 90 percent during the last few years.
- Generally, about 80% of the kids go home and stay home w/no further placements
- They have developed somewhat of a specialty in Reactive Attachment Disorder cases.
- They work closely with Kindred Family Focus (which is also a Nexus Program) on placements.
- Funding comes from a variety of sources including the county, Medical Assistance, private health insurance and private pay.
- Approximately 70-75% of their placements come from counties.
- The average length of stay at Gerard is 9 months.

Adjournment: 12:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 16, 2017 at noon at County Office Building, Conf. Room. B

**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Juvenile Justice Committee
February 16, 2017 at noon
County Office Building, Conf. Room B**

Present: Rebecca Church, Beth Wilms, Kris Sather, Teri Henderson, Karen Sanness, Phil Huerta, Chris Rogers, Matt Brickl, Sara Langley, Betsy Andrews, Lisa Gernard

Minutes by: Rebecca Church

Welcome & Call to Order: 12:05 p.m.

Approve Minutes from January 19, 2017 meeting: Approved without changes.

Truancy Update: Restorative Justice discussed the increased amount of truancy cases they are working on. Rebecca also noted the large amount of truancy cases she is reviewing. It was noted that there is an issue with the Winona Middle School referrals. Many of the referrals have had a large number of absences before being referred. There is a concern. Lisa and Drew are going to brainstorm and figure out the best way to approach this concern. Karen Sanness was going to reach out to some counties and get feedback on how they handle truancy matters.

Juvenile Housing Update: Kalene sent Rebecca an e-mail stating she had provided an interested landlord with contact information for Karen S. and Beth W. The landlord is potentially interested in opening an shelter care in the area.

Juvenile Committee Updates: Mady's Place is going through an accreditation process right now. This process will assist in creating an improved MDT (Multi-Disciplinary Team). Rebecca and Karen S. are part of the group assisting in this process. The process could take over a year to go through. CJI has its next meeting on March 8, 2017 at noon. The CJI has been a great way to discuss child protection parts. The Juvenile Delinquency Screening team has been meeting regularly. The team members find these meetings useful as they can talk about upcoming juveniles or discuss what is going on with juveniles prior to them being transferred from pre-trial to post-trial.

Open Discussion: ASAP is putting on a presentation called Hidden in Plain Sight on February 25, 2017, at the Wellness Expo.

Adjournment: 12:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 16, 2017, 2017 at noon at County Office Building, Conf. Room. B

**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Juvenile Justice Committee
March 16, 2017 at noon
County Office Building, Conf. Room B**

Present: Kalene Engel, Rebecca Church, Beth Wilms, Kris Sather, Teri Henderson, Karen Sanness, Marie Kovacs, Phil Huerta, Matt Brickl, Sara Langley, Drew Althoff, Lisa Gernand

Minutes by: Kalene Engel

Welcome & Call to Order: 12:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from February meeting: No changes.

Juvenile Housing Issues: Finding appropriate placements for juveniles continues to be a huge issue. Treatment centers are becoming more particular and are kicking kids out of the facility for less egregious behaviors than they have in the past. This is likely due to the fact that they have other kids waiting to take those spots. The reimbursement rates are low and prevent the facilities from attracting and keeping staff. Furthermore, given the Federal government is threatening to reduce the funding even more and/or switch to a block grant funding stream. Karen reported that her staff are spending large chunks of time trying to locate appropriate facilities and complete referral paperwork. Due to the lack of facilities, they are looking more and more to out of state placements. Karen has had some discussions with Family and Children's Center about opening a shelter care facility but staffing would likely be an issue, as it is elsewhere. No one was aware of a statewide coordinated effort to address the problem. Marie has asked the County Board to have each department do a working session to bring to light some of the challenges in their department. Attendees agreed that talking about these issues and proposing possible solutions would be appropriate for a working session.

Juvenile Court Hearings: Juvenile court hearings are supposed to be confidential, but lately they have become very "open." This week, some juveniles skipped school to attend their friend's juvenile hearing. Technically, the only persons beside court staff who are supposed to be attending the hearings are the juvenile, the juvenile's parents and the attorneys. After discussion, the committee agreed that providing additional education on the matter would be beneficial. Rebecca will work on a memo describing the problem and proposed solution.

Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC): In follow-up to some comments that she made at the time of the Children's Justice Initiative, Kalene discussed FDCT as being a way to promote better outcomes in CHIPS cases involving parents with chemical dependency addictions. The FDTC combines components of Drug Court with a CHIPS proceedings. Locally, no one has done an extensive analysis of what would be required to start a FDTC, but other Minnesota jurisdictions have had some success. Kalene inquired as to whether there was something who might be interested in doing some more research on FDTC and reporting back to the committee. Karen will discuss the issue with the two WCCS interns to see if they would like to take on that task.

Juvenile v. CHIPS Cases: DOC is concerned that they are being asked to supervise some juvenile cases on delinquency matters that are truly CHIPS cases. The concern is that DOC does not know the children or his/her history, so they are without the information necessary to truly be able to do the child justice. Another issue that arises is that if a child is on probation, as opposed to merely a CHIPS case, the child cannot be placed out of state. After discussion, it was agreed

that the current Juvenile Screening Team will be used to facilitate the exchange of information between these “dual status youth.”

Announcements:

- Betsey Andrews is no longer in charge of the Winona Workforce Center Youth Program.
- Hiawatha Valley will be taking over medication management and some other public health functions.

Adjournment: 1:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 20, 2017 at noon at County Office Building, Conf. Room. B

**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Juvenile Justice Committee
April 20, 2017 at noon
County Office Building, Conf. Room B**

Present: Rebecca Church, Beth Wilms, Kris Sather, Teri Henderson, Chris Rogers, Sara Langley, Lisa Gernard, Drew Althoff, Kalene Engel, Marie Kovecsi

Minutes by: Kalene Engel

Welcome & Call to Order: 12:05 p.m.

Approve Minutes from March 16, 2017 meeting: Approved without changes.

Juvenile Housing Update: None.

Truancy Update: Following are the truancy stats as of April 19, 2017:

- **EARLY INTERVENTION:**
 - 124 student referrals
 - WSHS, WMS, ALC, Jefferson Elementary, Madison Elementary, Bluffview Montessori, Lewiston-Altura, St. Charles, MN Virtual Academy, SAIL Academy (Kellogg), Immanuel Lutheran SILO
 - We have met with 80 of those students
 - With those 80 students we have held 42 follow-up meetings to check in
 - 16 of the referrals were for students age 11 and younger (*we were told this school year that we will no longer be working with these students on interventions*)
 - Of the remaining 28 students we did not meet with, the primary reasons are NO CONTACT and TRUANCY FILED/ALREADY ON PROBATION
 - 6 of those 28 students were referred recently so we haven't had the chance to meet yet

- **PETITIONS**
 - 51 of the 124 students had truancy petitions filed (that we are aware of)
 - 23 of the 51 students petitioned to court were referred to diversion
 - 20 of the 23 referred for diversion are still active with Restorative Justice

Students who go through truancy usually do not get a second chance, but there are exceptions. Restorative Justice sees a lot of kids that are missing classes or late to class, so it appears as though some of the schools are using truancy to modify behavior. Principals from every school attended a truancy meeting last month and reviewed policies and procedures. Currently, students are allowed to miss 3 days each month without a doctor's excuse, which some students and parents interpret to be 3 free days off every month. The principals were receptive to reconsidering that policy.

Data Dashboards: Kalene notified committee members about two criminal justice "data dashboards" for Minnesota (including county-specific data) and encouraged members to check out the available data. Below are the links to the dashboards:

Department of Public Safety:

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/statistical-analysis-center/Pages/Criminal-Justice-Dashboards.aspx>

Minnesota Judicial Branch:

<http://www.mncourts.gov/Help-Topics/Data-Requests/Dashboards.aspx>

Family Dependency Courts (FDC): Rebecca reached out to Dodge County and Blue Earth County regarding their FDCs; neither has responded yet. Kalene also suggested that Carin Hyter, Drug Court Coordinator look into FDCs for a possible expansion grant of the existing drug court grant. FDCs offer more frequent court check-ins than a CHIPS case would, providing more accountability and the ability to intervene earlier if things are not on track. Research has indicated that FDCs yield better results than the traditional CHIPS model.

Juvenile Committee Updates: CJI is meeting every other month. The Juvenile Delinquency Screening Team meets every other week and has result in smoother transitions for juveniles from Community Services to Probation. The Out of Home Placement Team is meeting via e-mail.

Other:

- Court security/confidentiality on juvenile cases has improved dramatically during the last month.
- Marie would like the Juvenile Justice Committee to present to the County Board on the challenges of the criminal justice system.
- Ruth Charles will be presenting to the County Board ACES.
- Restorative Justice is looking for more mentors for its mentoring program. Direct people to <http://www.co.winona.mn.us/page/2783> for more information and an application form.

Adjournment: 12:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 18, 2017 at noon at County Office Building, Conf. Room. B

**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Juvenile Justice Committee
May 18 at noon
County Office Building, Conf. Room B**

Present: Rebecca Church, Kris Sather, Teri Henderson, Sara Langley, Lisa Gernand, Drew Althoff, Kalene Engel, Matt Brickl

Minutes by: Kalene Engel

Welcome & Call to Order: 12:05 p.m.

Approve Minutes from April 20, 2017 meeting: Delete reference to Hidden in Plain Sight Exhibit; otherwise approved.

Juvenile Warrants/Arrests: During the last two months, there have been two instances where a juvenile with a warrant has attempted to turn themselves in, but have been turned away at the jail and asked to return the following day. It is unclear as to why the juvenile was turned away, but the issue is very concerning due to the possibility of self-harm or harm of others if the individual is not immediately taken into custody. Kalene noted that the PONI (Planning of New Institutions) Training is next week, so the issue could hopefully be addressed at that training.

Housing Update: No new updates.

Family Dependency Court: At a recent CJI meeting, a Community Services intern provided an overview of Family Dependency Court model. At least two other counties in Minnesota have such a court. Results have been very good. Rebecca noted that Karin Sonneman was very interested in the idea and was going to discuss it with Beth Wilms. Committee members agreed that, in light of the success that Winona has had with its drug court, and the high percentage of CHIPS cases involving chemical dependency, it made sense to support the idea. The current method of handling CHIPS cases involving chemically dependent parents does not seem to be working well, insofar as reunification is concerned.

Juvenile Committee Updates: CJI held a meeting in Mayo. The Juvenile Delinquency Screening Team and Family Preservation Teams continue to meet. There have been some issues with adhering to scheduled meeting times and avoiding distractions during the meetings.

Other:

- **Tracking Program:** Committee members weighed in on the efficacy of the tracking programs. Kris noted that the program director has been very responsive to her inquiries, responding within 4 hours every time. Others felt the program was also working well.
- **Engage Winona:** Engage Winona is holding its first meeting to discuss juvenile mental health issues on Monday, May 22nd at 6pm at the Winona History Center.
- The ACES team is currently taking application for ACES Training.

Adjournment: 12:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: June 15, 2017 at noon at County Office Building, Conf. Room. B