

Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group (JJSAG)
Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2025
Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Members Present:

Terry Traynor (Chair)	Lisa Bjergaard	
Cathy Ferderer	Lynn Flieth	
Joel Friesz	Mark Heinert	Cristie Jacobsen
Oliva Revels-Strother	Russ Riehl	
Derek Steiner	MiLinda Turner	Jennifer Withers

Members Absent:

Dusty Johnson	Diane Larson	Ivory Nordaune
Caisee Sandusky	Jayne Davis	Travis Finck
Kylie Schultz		

Others Present:

Barry Chalifoux	Bird Guess	Melissa Spelchen
Cory Pedersen		
Lisa Jahner		

Chairman Traynor called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. He reviewed the meeting agenda.

The minutes of the meeting on 11/26/24 were presented for approval. Russ Riehl moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Lisa Jahner provided an update on the status of federal funds, discussing the impact of a recent executive order and court rulings that have allowed for normal operations. She reviewed the Request for Proposals (RFP) that went out for school-based interventions aimed at reducing disciplinary actions and improving school climate. 18 applications were received totaling over \$2.7 m in funding requests. Lisa reviewed the scoring process used by the SAG Planning & Grants Subcommittee, which lead to Russ Riehl's presentation of the funding recommendations as chair of the subcommittee.

Russ Riehl reviewed the discussion by the subcommittee members relative to the applications and the recommended funding awards. He then made a motion that the applicants be funded at the levels recommended by the SAG Planning & Grants Committee as presented. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote. Derek Steiner and Mark Heinert abstained from the vote due to potential conflicts of interest. One of the funded applications was submitted by the Central Region Education Association (CREA), which included a subgrant to Youthworks. Part of the recommendations by the subcommittee was to make a direct award to Youthworks based on the level of commitment made by the schools during listening sessions hosted by CREA. The

subcommittee will be meeting prior to the next meeting to review that proposal and recommend an award to the full group.

Barry Chalifoux, a consultant hired to address the over-representation of youth in ND's juvenile justice system, provided an update related to his work. Barry talked about the development of programs, policies and training, and specific discussions with the Bismarck Police Department.

Lynn Flieth discussed House Bill 1328, which seeks to enable schools to refer students with unruly behavior to the CHINS unit. She highlighted the challenges of schools being labeled as custodians and the need for clarity on the bill's intent. Cory indicated that amendments might be forthcoming, potentially including funding for diversion programs to better address student behavior outside the court system.

Derek Steiner summarized Senate Bill 2036, which focuses on competency and restoration services, and Senate Bill 2037, which addresses collateral consequences related to various offenses. Both bills have passed the Senate policy committee with unanimous support and are awaiting further action in appropriations.

Terry Traynor reviewed the Title V funding under the JJDP Act, which unlike the Title II funding, is discretionary funding. North Dakota was awarded approx. \$1.5 m that was granted to CREA for delinquency prevention initiatives. Melissa Spelchen with CREA talked in more detail about the evidenced-based programming being implemented by Bismarck and Fargo Public School Districts as they are the entities ultimately receiving the funding. Melissa highlighted the positive impacts on student engagement and school culture.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.