

TEAM JUSTICE MINUTES

March 2, 2007

Members Present: Judge James Burgess, Marilyn Cook, Kathy Dittmer, Pat Hanrahan, Robert Hinshaw, Kathleen Kaiser, Jeannine Lane, Karen Langston, Shawna Mobley, Terri Moses, Ron Paschal and Denise Wren

Members Absent: Senator Donald Betts, Brian Black, Jean Hogan and Ron Terzian

Guests: Linda Auld, Kathy Busch, Goldie Carr-Davis, Liane Felton, Lori Jacobs, Cathy Parker, Greg Rasmussen, Lana Secrest, John Waller, Danny Walters and Judith Wencel

Staff: Mark Masterson, Dr. Delores Craig-Moreland, Chris Morales and Jodi Tronsgard

- I. **Approval of Team Justice Minutes from the 2/2/07 Meeting – ACTION ITEM: Shawna Mobley moved, Marilyn Cook seconded, and the remaining members agreed and the motion carried to approve the 2/2/07 Team Justice Minutes, as submitted.**
- II. **Announcement: New Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA) Commissioner** – Mark Masterson announced the newly appointed commissioner, Russ Jennings, assumed his position at JJA on February 26, 2007.
- III. **Attendance Conference Update from USD 259 Social Workers** – Chris Champagne introduced three social workers from the USD 259 Attendance Conference grant: Lana Secrest (Bryant Elementary), Cathy Parker (Minneha Elementary) and Goldie Carr-Davis (Chisholm Trail Elementary). Each social worker provided a brief overview of the program at their elementary school. The target population is students who are at risk of becoming truant due to unexcused absences, excessive suspensions or excessive excused absences due to illness. Some reasons for truancy were discussed including: parents unaware of truancy laws, homelessness, lack of alarm clocks and lack of transportation. Marilyn Cook suggested the social workers contact Sedgwick County Transportation Brokerage, a program of the Department on Aging, and Sedgwick County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) to possibly coordinate reasonable cost or volunteer transportation. Chris introduced Greg Rasmussen, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools, who expressed appreciation for the grant.
- IV. **Performance, Discipline and Attendance Issues in USD 259 Middle Schools** – Kathy Busch, Assistant Superintendent of Middle Schools, presented information on three components of a personalized school environment: establishing clear and consistent expectations, connecting with families and kids and developing relationships. The three components will be continued next school year along with an additional component, mentoring. The school district is developing active engagement strategies and the use of technology to provide appropriate instruction in the classroom to help address behavioral issues. Book studies have been held to establish guidelines in the middle schools. The CHAMPS (Conversation, Help, Activity, Movement, Participation) program has been established this year as a part of Extreme Literacy in 6th and 11th grades. The program establishes expectations and will be expanded to 7th and 10th grades next year. To address attendance issues, Communities In Schools provides services to 6th graders (funded by JJA) as well as to 7th and 8th graders (contracted by USD 259).

Mark Masterson stated that he serves on the Community Advisory Committee to JJA. The committee has requested information on any local factors on suspensions to help understand the statewide data that indicates an increase in school suspensions in 2006. Kathy agreed to look at USD 259 suspension and expulsion data.

V. Approve Projects for the \$20,000 in SFY07 Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Intervention Funds – Mark Masterson provided information on projects to consider for the unspecified community based interventions of \$20,000 in the DMC Pilot Project grant. The first two proposals are for positive youth development activities in the DMC targeted zip codes that would be provided in June 2007.

- **Job Prep 101** – requesting \$12,000 for a 5 day (6 hours per day) program provided by the YMCA focusing on obtaining an age appropriate job to serve 55 youth from 14 to 17 years of age. Lunch and transportation will be provided.
- **Math & Science Week** – requesting \$1,500 to fund supplies for robotics educational activities at the Northeast Activity Camp For Kids focusing on strengthening the understanding of the math and science concepts involved in robotics through age appropriate activities serving 100 – 120 youth in two age groups, kindergarten to 3rd grade and 4th to 8th grades.
- **Detention Advocacy Service Program** - requesting \$8,000 for attorney fees provided by Kansas Legal Services. The grant currently funds \$24,000 for this component; the additional funds will move the attorney fees closer to the current rate paid by the court.

ACTION ITEM: Marilyn Cook moved, Shawna Mobley seconded, and the remaining members agreed and the motion carried to endorse the three projects and request approval from the State up to the amount of funding available.

VI. Update on the USD 259 DMC Intervention Project at Brooks and Coleman Middle Schools – Stephanie Stovall, Coleman Middle School Principal, expressed appreciation for the grant and provided an update on progress the school has made on each of the five barriers to academic achievement that Dr. Lovelace-Taylor, consultant and author, identified that minorities in middle schools typically face: student behaviors, meaningful parent and family involvement, teacher behaviors, school culture and climate, and community / streets. Dr. Lovelace-Taylor will present at Family Night at Coleman Middle School on March 13th. During the event, middle school students will work with volunteer East High School students to help plan the Summer Intervention Program that is being designed.

Judith Wencel, Community Involvement Coordinator, provided information on the benefits of mentoring and tutoring and on training volunteers in best practices for middle school students. Judith presented data comparing USD 259 MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment score gains for various groups of students at Coleman from the assessments done in September 2006 to those administered in December 2006. The DMC tutored students have experienced a 4.43 point gain in mathematics and a 3.18 point gain in reading; therefore, the project met the goal for improvement the first semester of the school year.

VII. Legislative Update – Due to time constraints, Mark Masterson will provide the legislative update at the next meeting.

VIII. Other Business – None