



Hello and Happy New Year fellow WJCIA members,

As we continue to navigate our way through our days with the challenges of COVID 19 I hope that this newsletter finds you all healthy and ready for the New Year. WJCIA has continued with our meetings and collaboration with professionals across the state to bring you up to date and timely information to assist in your everyday case work.

Although, our meetings have not been in-person we are hopeful that we will be able to meet again soon. We have been working hard to bring all of you training opportunities from a virtual platform. Virtual is something that we would have never even considered or thought of one year ago, however, we have found it to be a successful way to still reach our membership. We have provided several sessions of different trainings through Zoom and WebX covering a variety of topics. Our goal is to continue to provide training opportunities that are affordable, informative, and meet licensure requirements. We hope to continue to expand these opportunities in the future.

We are very optimistic about resuming our in-person conference at the Kalahari on September 22-24, 2021. Planning is under way, please mark your calendars and plan to attend. It is sure to be the best conference thus far and provide the in-person networking and knowledge that we have all been longing for during this challenging year. We will keep you up to date as soon as registration is open.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to welcome two new members that joined our Board in September. Sara Newman, Rise Youth and Family Services and Tracy Erickson, Dunn County. Both ladies bring an abundance of expertise in serving our youth and we are excited to have them. Please see more about them in the upcoming pages.

I wish you all health and happiness in this new year of 2021! I look forward to seeing everyone in September!

Cordially,

***Melissa Jarczyński* (Dodge County)**

WJCIA President

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2019 WJCIA Conference

The WJCIA Conference Committee is planning, at this time, to have an in-person conference this year. Yay! We are busy contacting speakers and working with the Kalahari to have a safe, fun, and informative conference. Please watch for more info.

WCWPDS Updates

WCWPDS has been offering virtual training since mid-May! Basic Intake Worker Training and YASI trainings have been virtually delivered and are going very well! We want to thank all of the county participants in their ability to participate in the trainings and for being flexible and tolerant of the technology

Technology Committee Update:

The technology committee is proud to announce that we've switched to a reliable, faster, and more secure server for our website. There are minor differences in the appearance at the moment, but information is constantly being updated. We want to assure our members that the website will remain

issues that inevitably arise! WCWPDS is committed to continuing to offer the exceptional education and training our county partners want and need! To see all of the virtual trainings being offered, please go to this link: <https://wcpds.wisc.edu/virtual-learning-training-materials/> There are also resources and guidance at that link in using the Zoom platform, as well as "test days" to try out your internet connection prior to a training day. As always, please reach out to us at WCWPDS if you have any questions!

functional and be a reliable source of information for future events and news updates.

Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission

GOVERNOR'S JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION

TONY EVERS, GOVERNOR JENNIFER GINSBURG, CHAIR

November 10, 2020

Dear Wisconsin Legislative Council,

As you may be aware, the Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission (GJJC) was re-created by [Executive Order#43](#) on September 3, 2019. The GJJC serves as the State Advisory Group (SAG) to the Governor and the Legislature on matters critical to juvenile justice, under the [Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act \(JJJPA\)](#). The GJJC is comprised of juvenile justice professionals, including law enforcement, corrections professionals, attorneys, judges, mental health practitioners, and non-profit organizations dedicated to improving outcomes for youth. The GJJC also includes justice involved youth members and individuals with experience in the juvenile justice system.

In this capacity, the GJJC is writing with recommendations to incorporate into the 2020 Legislative Interim Research Report on Criminal Sentencing of Juvenile Offenders. As significant stakeholders in the scope of this report, the GJJC proposes modifications to the procedures and standards for sentencing juvenile offenders in adult criminal court, including the procedures and standards for determining a juvenile's eligibility for release to superv1s10n.

The recommendations emphasize a larger statewide need to alter the entire Juvenile Justice Code, Chapter 938, created 25 years ago at a time of nationwide paranoia about an emerging generation of "super-predators."¹ Although this criminological theory was later discredited, the Code is premised upon faulty assumptions that align Chapter 938 closely to Criminal Code, despite revisions in 2011. The Code fails to incorporate current best practice, social science, and hard science relating to childhood development and brain science. The GJJC would like to make it known that broader-scale re-tooling of juvenile justice legislation is necessary, in addition to the following recommendations in direct response to inquiries on the life sentencing of juveniles.

- The GJJC recommends changes to current law related to life sentences imposed on juveniles in the past. o The creation of a new sentence adjustment procedure is recommended for juveniles currently

serving life sentences who committed crimes before turning 18, and who have served at least 15 years of their sentences.

- The GJJC recommends changes to current law related to life sentences imposed on juveniles going forward.
 - o The GJJC supports prohibiting courts from imposing a life sentence, without eligibility for release, on juveniles who commit crimes before turning 18. The GJJC supports the shift towards requiring courts to set a date in which juvenile would be eligible for release to extended supervision.
- The GJJC recommends the elimination of original adult jurisdiction over juveniles.
 - o The GJJC recommends the elimination of original adult court jurisdiction and believes the existing procedures for waiver of juvenile court jurisdiction should be utilized whenever the State believes criminal jurisdiction is appropriate.
- The GJJC supports raising the age for criminal jurisdiction to 18.
 - o As of 2021, Wisconsin is one of three states that will treat 17-year-olds as adults for criminal prosecution. Texas and Georgia represent the other two states.

The GJJC would like to thank the Legislature for the opportunity to provide input and recommendations on this study report addressing criminal sentencing of juvenile offenders. In efforts to align with national trends and U.S. Supreme Court decisions regarding juvenile justice practice, the GJJC appreciates the opportunity to partner with the Legislature to ensure that in Wisconsin, "kids are kids," being served in the juvenile justice system and treated differently than adults. ²

The GJJC welcomes future opportunities to partner with the Governor, Legislature, and other state agencies to guide the large-scale and critical changes necessary for Wisconsin's Juvenile Justice Code to serve youth, families, and communities in a more equitable, racially-just, trauma and evidence-informed manner.

Thank you for your time and consideration to include these recommendations into the 2020 Legislative Interim Research Report on Criminal Sentencing of Juvenile Offenders.

Regards,

GJJC Chair, Jennifer Ginsburg

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GRANT COMMITTEE UPDATE

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The Grant Committee continues to set up training opportunities using a second grant that our agency received through DOJ. This grant was scheduled to expire on 9/30/2020. However, due to COVID-19 a request for an extension was made. The extension of the grant funding was approved until 9/30/2021. \$10,500 of the grant remained at the time of the extension.

WJCIA was able to sponsor a number of trainings using this grant funding. Three virtual training sessions were offered by Kevin Rathburn in November 2020 on Amendments and Use of Force. The training allowed participants to earn up to 3 CEU's per training. Carey Guides/BITS Training was offered virtually in December 2020 over 3 mornings. The training filled quickly and another session was offered in January 2021. These training sessions allowed participants to earn CEU's as well.

Other training opportunities are being explored. Stay tuned for future grant and training

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The Legislative Committee is made up of WJCIA Board members from across the State. We meet 4-5 times a year and discuss a variety of topics primarily having to do with legislation or laws regarding Juvenile Justice. The group tries to keep an eye on pending legislation and would encourage our membership to do so as well. Get notifications by logging onto <https://notify.legis.wisconsin.gov/> and putting in keywords or subjects that you would like to follow. One area of interest has been the Age of Jurisdiction with the consensus being 17 year olds should be moved back into the Juvenile System. Last year the committee wrote letters of support for such a move and sent them to several legislators. If you have input or thoughts on legislative issues you may contact the committee chair: Kerry Root at kroot@co.chippewa.wi.us

Nomination Committee

This committee coordinates the recruitment and receipt of nominations of candidates for the WJCIA Board of Directors. If you are interested in being on the WJCIA board of directors, or have any questions about being on the board, please contact Kari McKenna at kari.mckenna@co.monroe.wi.us or 608-269-8643.

Conference Site Committee

The WJCIA Annual Conference will be held at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center through the year 2030.

WJCIA is always updating our Wisconsin Juvenile Court Intake Directory so county workers can connect across the state. Please send your county changes to Kris Fleming at kris.fleming@wicourts.gov

Division of Juvenile Corrections Updates

On 11/27/2020, Grow Academy youth took some time to create cards for nursing home residents who are unable to have in-person visitors and for the staff that cares for the residents. This is part of a continued project at Grow to show support for those impacted by COVID-19 and for those who work on the front lines during this pandemic.

Two youth from LHS participated in the first ever Youth Forum, sponsored by the Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators, the Behavioral Health Committee, on a panel discussion (via Zoom) regarding Social and Racial Justice Issues. The event also included art displays and a motivational speaker. The two youth from LHS participated along with youth from 3 other states.

LHS/CLS Psychology intern Nicketa Coombs was selected to present at the National Commission on Correctional Health Care 2021 Spring Conference on Correctional Health Care. Her presentation is titled, "Empowering the Marginalized: Utilizing the Engaging Difference Framework to Promote Social Justice in Juvenile Detention."

Appropriate Use of Secure Detention

This year WJCIA has chosen to look at our position on the appropriate use of secure detention. Over the years there has been a lot of change and discussion around the use to secure detention both pre and post-adjudication for youth that have committed a crime in their community. It is the intent of the WJCIA board to explore the new research that has been published to evaluate our current stance on it's uses. In 2011, the Board acknowledged that secure detention was found not to reduce recidivism to any significant degree. This was backed by a study performed by the Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau. Since that time there has been even more research that supports this statement. Additionally, in 2011, the Board cautioned against the use of secure detention without a plan to build competencies, this is further supported by the growing research that shows skill building, not confinement, reduces recidivism rates among the youth we all serve.

Facebook: Wisconsin Juvenile Court Intake Association

Twitter: WJCIA @WJCIA_tech



Check out WJCIA's website at: WJCIA.ORG