



Wyoming Department of Education

Dr. Jim McBride, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor, 2300 Capitol Avenue

Cheyenne, WY 82002-0050

Phone 307-777-7673 Fax 307-777-6234 Website www.k12.wy.us

MEMORANDUM 2008 – 053

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Mary Kay Hill
Administration Unit Director 

DATE: April 11, 2008

SUBJECT: Community Juvenile Services Programs

Attached you will find a memo from the Department of Family Services (DFS) director, Tony Lewis regarding work of that agency in the area of community juvenile services.

Legislation was passed during the recent session to strengthen our laws regarding services for at-risk juveniles in our communities. That law specifically includes representatives of local school districts in "Community Juvenile Services Boards". The attached memo discusses the new legislation.

Deputy Superintendent Joe Simpson and Health and Safety Unit Director Gerry Maas are working with DFS on this important effort. Please review the memo and be prepared to work with your communities as they develop local boards. We will keep you advised as the rulemaking process moves forward, and we hope to include your thoughts in that process.

Thank you.

MKH: jd

enclosures

STATE OF WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES

Dave Freudenthal, Governor
Tony Lewis, Director



HATHAWAY BUILDING, 2300 CAPITOL AVENUE, CHEYENNE, WY 82002-0490
PHONE (307)777-7561, FAX (307)777-7747

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 3, 2008

TO: Board of County Commissioners
Prosecuting Attorney's Office
Chiefs of Police
Sheriffs
Local Department of Family Services
Local Public Health
Local School District
Local/Regional Mental Health and/or Substance Abuse Provider
Local Public Defenders Office

FROM: Tony Lewis, Director, Wyoming Department of Family Services

REF: TL-08-048

RE: Community Juvenile Services Boards (SF 0066, Enrolled Act #30)

As you can imagine, we have had many inquiries regarding the Community Juvenile Services bill. The purpose of the Community Juvenile Services legislation (Senate File 66, Enrolled Act #30) is to consolidate community planning efforts regarding juvenile services/juvenile justice in 4 primary areas: central intake and assessment; diversion and detention standards; continuum of non-secure services; and identification of other funding sources for local juvenile services.

Per the legislation, "the Department of Family Services, Department of Health and the Department of Education shall promulgate reasonable rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of the act". We have begun discussions regarding the rules and anticipate this rule development process, allowing enough time for community comment, will take 4-6 months. The rules will outline the community planning process, expectations regarding Juvenile Services Plans and funding procedures. The rules will also include sample plans for central intake and assessment, diversion and detention, and non-secure services (or local systems of care).

Memorandum regarding Community Juvenile Services Boards

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As the rules evolve, there will be opportunity for local community participation both prior to the formal promulgation of the rules and through review and comment of the proposed rules.

The legislation appropriates \$2 million from the current DFS Court-Ordered Placement budget to fund community juvenile services boards and planning. This appropriation is not intended to fund all community juvenile services. However, it is the intent of the legislation to identify other local and state resources that already fund these services and allow communities to make recommendations to state agencies that are appropriate to local needs.

Finalization of the rules does not preclude your community from developing a community juvenile services board to assess the current status of juvenile services in your community and to develop a plan to address the 4 primary areas.

The Department of Family Services is available to provide additional information and assistance to counties or existing juvenile services committees. You may contact Nicole Anderson, (307) 777-6684, NANDER1@state.wy.us. We will keep you updated on the progress of the rules.

cc: Senator Tony Ross, Wyoming State Legislature
Representative Ed Buchanan, Wyoming State Legislature
Senator Kathryn Sessions, Wyoming State Legislature
Joe Simpson, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, Wyoming Department of Education
Gerry Maas, Director, Health and Safety Unit, Wyoming Department of Education
Ginny Mahoney, Chief of Staff, Wyoming Department of Health
Korin Schmidt, Administrator, Policy and Planning, Mental Health and Substance Abuse
Services Division, Wyoming Department of Health
Nicky Anderson, Assistant Deputy for Policy and Legislation, Wyoming Department of Family
Services
Katie Hogarty, Health and Human Service Policy Analyst, Governor's Office
Les Pozsgi, Administrator, Field Services, Wyoming Department of Corrections