

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113
TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2001
2:45 P.M.**

Commissioners Present: Kathy Campbell, Chair
Bob Workman, Vice Chair
Larry Hudkins
Bernie Heier
Ray Stevens

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Bruce Medcalf, County Clerk
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2001

MOTION: Heier moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the Staff Meeting minutes of June 21, 2001. Heier, Hudkins, Workman, Stevens and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

2 FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF JUSTICE COUNCIL - Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator; Mike Thurber, Corrections Director

Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator, reviewed the following (Exhibit A):

- O A history of the Justice Council
- O Accomplishments of the Justice Council's four committees - Domestic Violence, Coalition, Juvenile Justice Review Committee, Alternatives to Incarceration, Drug/Alcohol Advisory Committee
- O *Juvenile Justice System Overview: Yr. 2001-2002, County Issues, Roles and Responsibilities*
- O *Current Illustration, Human Services Administration, May 2001*
- O Options for Human Services Administration, Juvenile Justice System and Adult Criminal Justice System focus

Boesch said there are currently twelve major pieces to the Juvenile Justice System with total operating funds of approximately \$9 million (a combination of County, State and Federal funds). She said the County is responsible for monitoring these dollars, but said there is no coordinated oversight.

Boesch said substance abuse is a critical issue for both the juvenile and the adult population. She said the Families First & Foremost (F³) Grant Program will probably look at how substance abuse affects juveniles, in addition to the mental health issues. Boesch said a coordinated effort also needs to be made to address these issues in the adult area.

Boesch said “there is money and things happening” in the adult corrections field, but said the County is not part of it because of the lack of partnering effort on the part of the State.

Boesch posed two questions to the Board:

1. At what point does the County Board need greater oversight over the Juvenile Justice System?
2. What, if any, is her role with the Adult Correctional System?

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, said Adult Correctional System issues are more extensive than those of the Juvenile Justice System, in part because of the sheer numbers. He noted that there are more judges involved in the adult area and said it is crucial that they “buy in” to alternatives to incarceration. Thurber said Voorhis/Robertson Justice Services, Inc., consultant on the Corrections Needs Assessment, has stated that it would like to see some type of coordinating council in place.

Campbell asked how the Justice Council would fit into that.

Boesch said the Justice Council has been focusing on the Juvenile Justice System and the Family Violence Coalition Study. She said it meets quarterly, but is not always well attended as it is informational in nature and members have attended the subcommittee meetings. Boesch said she believes the County will need someone who can accomplish with the Adult Corrections System, what she did with the Juvenile System and will be “shaking that tree at the State”. She said Thurber probably does not have the time to do this, in addition to running the Corrections facility.

Workman asked whether an additional position is needed.

Campbell suggested contracting with someone in the private sector for that service, and said it could be considered a pilot project and funded through the Keno Fund.

Boesch said a configuration is needed that keeps F³ involved, provides greater oversight of the Juvenile Justice System and builds the Adult Corrections System in such a way as to remove the need for a new jail to be built.

Board consensus to keep the Adult Correctional System separate from the Juvenile Justice System and Human Services Administration.

Campbell suggested formation of a special committee of the Justice Council to look at the Adult Corrections System.

Thurber suggested inclusion of a County Board member, a County Judge, a District Court Judge, and representatives of the Public Defender, County Attorney, the local chapter of the Nebraska Bar Association, law enforcement, substance abuse treatment and mental health treatment.

The Board scheduled a work session on the Juvenile Justice System on August 7, 2001 at 3 p.m. with Boesch; Dennis Banks, Lancaster County Juvenile Detention Center Director; and Sheryl Schrepf, Families First & Foremost (F³) Grant Director. A work session on the Adult Correctional System will also be scheduled with Voorhis/Robertson Justice Services, Inc.

3 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Workman seconded to adjourn the meeting. Hudkins, Workman, Heier, Stevens and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

Bruce Medcalf
Lancaster County Clerk

Justice Council

Two questions for consideration:

1. At what point do you need greater oversight over the Juvenile Justice System?
2. What, if any, is my role with the Adult Correctional System?

Once upon a time...

Early Years:

Late 70's/Early 80's: Federal government pours funds into communities to establish Councils of Justice. The main focus was the adult criminal justice system and the goal was to provide inter-department communication. Lincoln's first director was Curt Snowburger. Funding - all Federal.

In the Mid - 80s: Federal government funding dries up. Communities nationwide eliminated Justice Councils. Lincoln and Lancaster County found the inter-department communication valuable and retained the director position full-time. Funding 50/50 for one position and small operating budget - \$10,000.

1987 - 1990: The City/County reexamine the Justice Council purpose when Curt left and was going to eliminate it. Kit Boesch asked that it be placed under Human Services because communication was not only needed between departments, but between the criminal justice system and the community also. The city and county agreed. They continued funding. **The 1990 budget for the Justice Council was \$12,000; \$4,000 of which was included in Kit's salary as it was estimated to take 10% of her time.**

Four committees were created: Domestic Violence Coalition; Alcohol Advisory Committee; Juvenile Justice Review Committee; and Alternatives to Incarceration. On each committee were criminal justice representatives, community agencies, and an intern. I called the Justice Council together quarterly.

Middle Years, 1990 - 1998:

- A Time of Growth and Activity/Policy Changes and Accomplishments.
- Budget Approximately \$10,000 + Salary included in Human Services' Salary. Taking 60-75% of Full Time Employee.

1. Domestic Violence Coalition

- Raised \$50,000 Per Year for Four (4) Years to Raise Public Awareness.
- Formulated Coalition of Community/Criminal Justice System People.
- Addressed the Issues of Pressing Charges in Rape Cases, Training of Law Enforcement, and Sentences of Perpetrators.
- Formulated Court Watch.
- 1995 - Johanns Declares Domestic Violence a Community Priority.
- 1996 - Family Violence Council Was Created. Domestic Violence Coalition Still Focuses on Domestic Violence and the Criminal Justice System.
- 1995 to 2000 - First Comprehensive Plan Written and Completed.

2. Juvenile Justice Review Committee

- Reviewed/Evaluated Youth Aide Bureau of the Lincoln Police Department/Sheriff.
- 1993 to 1994 - First Comprehensive Plan Created and Completed.
- 1995 to 1998 - Second Comprehensive Plan Revised and Completed.
- Developed Separate Juvenile Intake System (NCC Funds).
- Began to Examine Alternatives to Incarceration (Tracker 1996/Teen Court 1997).
- Received Permission to Place Pre-Adjudicated Youth on EM/IS.
- 1997 - Began a More Formal Pre-Trial Diversion Program (NCC Funds).
- Developed a Prevention Policy Board.

3. Alternatives to Incarceration

- Received NCC Grant to Test DUI Breathalyzer for Nebraska.
- Received NCC Grant and Tested First EM/IS Bracelets for State on Adult Offenders.
- Community Emergency Services Commission (CESC) Examined Alternatives to Jail for the Mentally Ill.
- Merged into JJRC to Begin to Examine Alternatives for Juveniles.

4. Drug/Alcohol Advisory Committee

- Developed and Completed a Comprehensive Plan.
- Worked with Domestic Violence Coalition to Do Inter-Agency Cross Training.
- Assisted MADD With Data Collection Project.
- Neutral Evaluation Site for Adults at LCAD.
- Created DWI Victim Panels.
- Increasing Penalties for DWI at Legislature.

Juvenile Justice System Overview: Yr. 2001 - 2002

County Issues, Roles and Responsibilities

Area	Special Programs	Amount of County Money	Other Funds We Manage
#1	Detention Secure Detention Staff Secure	\$3 Million Operations	
#2	Assessment Center OJS Evaluations Intake Officer*	See F3	
#3	Graduated Sanctions Programs (9 contracts) a) Mediation Center b) B. E. S. T. c) Cedars d) Centerpointe, Inc. e) YWCA f) LAP g) Lighthouse	\$335,000	\$994,564
#4	Pre-Trial Diversion General Operations	\$80,000	\$100,000
#5	Tracker Program Intensive and Traditional	\$58,000	\$30,000
#6	Expediter Position	\$52,000	
#7	Juvenile Drug Court Operations		\$137,000
#8	Juvenile Probation Intake JAC (State Function) EMIS Bracelets	\$164,000	
#9	Juvenile Boarding Contracts	\$600,000	
#10	Female Juvenile Offenders Try Another Way	\$30,000	
#11	F3 Project MH/JJS (See #2)		\$2,400,000
#12	Juvenile Court	\$1 Million	Total
		\$5,519,000	\$3,586,564
			\$8,905,564

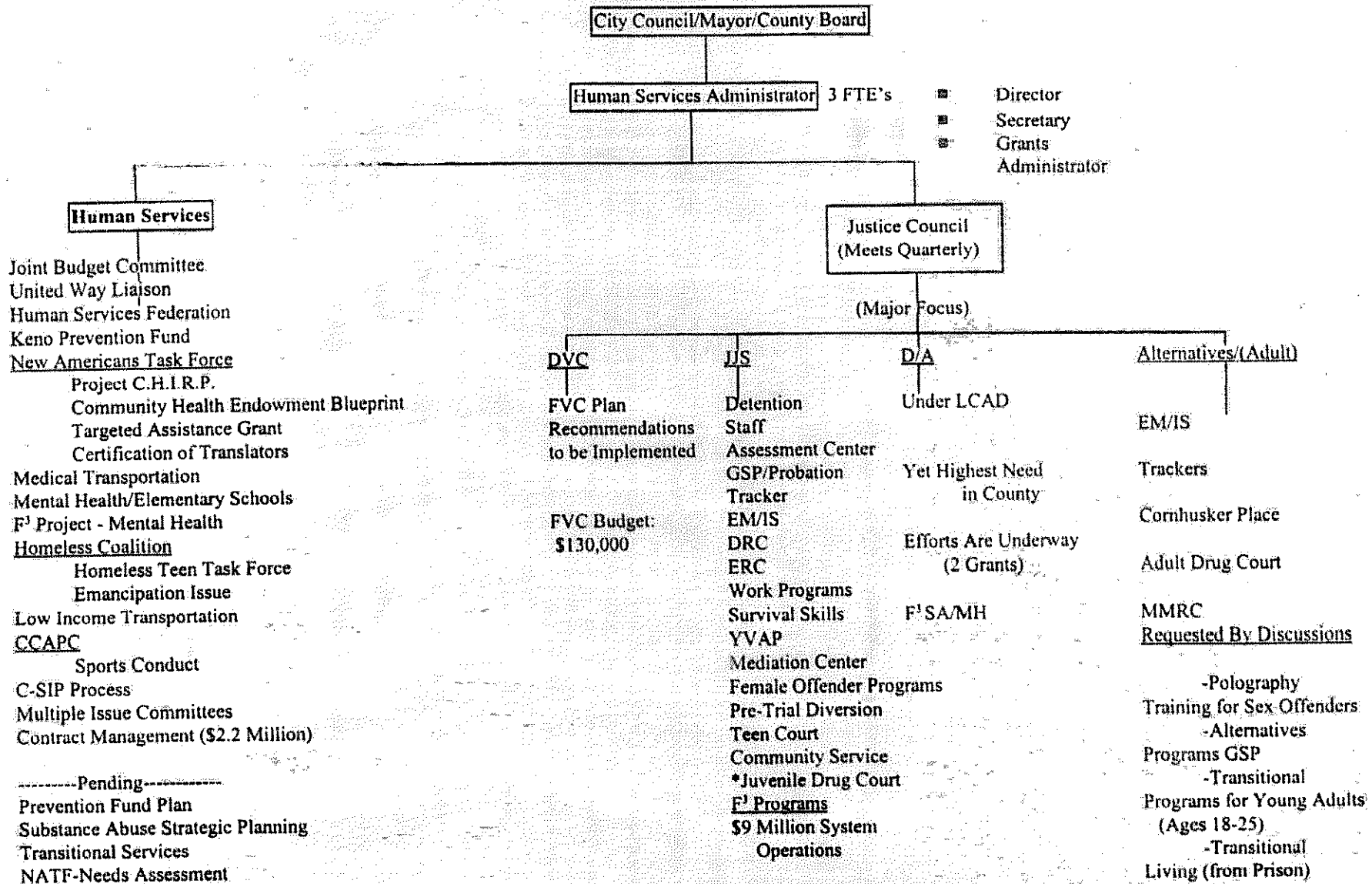
Potential Projects:

SAMHSA	→	Mental Health/JJ System	→	\$400,000 for three (3) years	Potential: \$1,200,000
RWJ Grant	→	Substance Abuse/JJ System	→	\$250,000 for four (4) years	\$1,000,000
Juvenile Drug Court	→	Pending Grant	→	\$75,000	\$75,000
					<u>\$2,275,000</u>

Functional Overview:

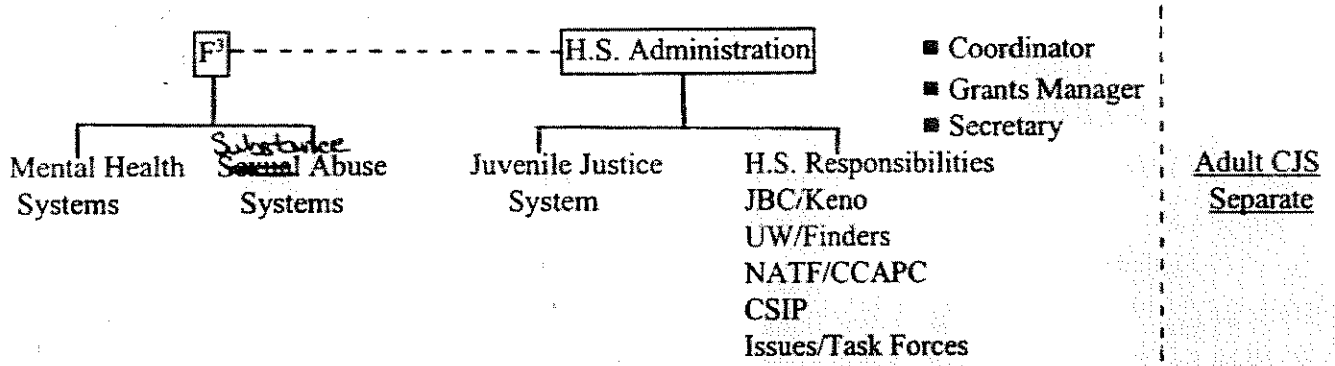
1. Contract Monitoring
2. Program Development and Refinement
3. Data Collection/Analysis
4. Community Coordination/Collaboration

Current Illustration
Human Services Administration
 May 2001

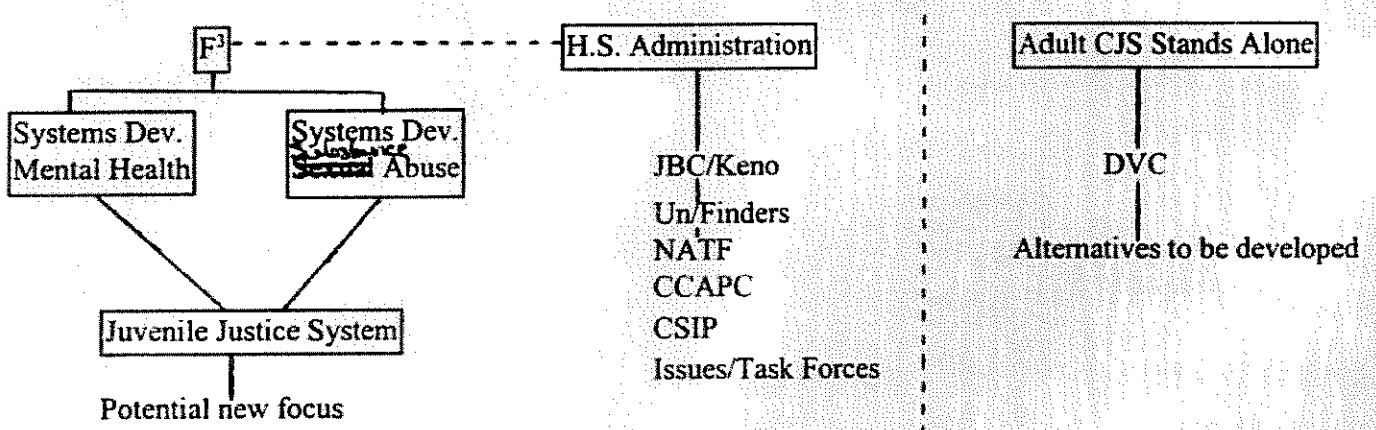


Mission Statement: The Human Services Administration shall serve as the eyes and ears of the public sector, facilitating and advising elected officials, funding sources, and the community at large, in the areas of human services and its delivery system. Its purpose shall be to guide this community to respond to human need in a collaborative, cost efficient, and expedient manner with available resources; and to assist in generating new resources when necessary (1996).

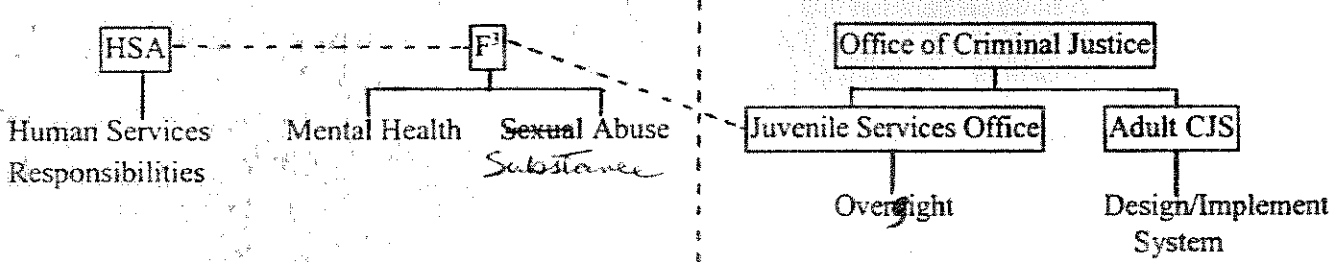
Option A Juvenile/HS Focus



Option B Juvenile/HS Focus



Option C Criminal Justice Focus



BYLAWS
of the
LANCASTER COUNTY JUSTICE COUNCIL

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Lancaster County Justice Council, hereinafter called the Justice Council.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

SECTION 1. Advisory.

The Justice Council shall act as an advisory body to City and County officials to best utilize the system within the justice framework.

SECTION 2. Coordinating.

- A. The Justice Council shall act as a body to coordinate communication within the justice system.
- B. The Justice Council shall act as a body to conduct research for criminal justice activities within the justice system.

ARTICLE III - RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1. Primary Responsibilities.

The Justice Council's primary responsibilities shall be to:

- A. Review, at the request of a member of the Justice Council, proposed changes in policies and activities within the justice system, measure the extent of impact which those proposed changes have on the entire system, and forward recommendations to the appropriate City and County officials relative to implementation of the proposed changes and subsequent requirements, including fiscal needs.
- B. Research problem areas within the justice system having multi-agency impact and make recommendations to appropriate officials offering resolution to such problems.

SECTION 2. Additional Tasks.

The Justice Council shall also have the responsibility to:

- A. Advise and aid in the establishment of coordinated and cooperative justice services and programs within Lancaster County.
- B. Render advice and technical assistance upon request to agencies of the City and County.

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- C. Develop a systematic planning process to use in evaluating the quality and delivery of justice in the County for the purpose of making recommendations to the County and the justice agencies.
- D. Gather and analyze data related to the justice system and publish such related reports.
- E. Periodically submit reports to the City and County relevant to the activities of the Council.
- F. Annually review and submit to the County a budget for the operations of the Council.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Membership.

The Justice Council shall consist of no more than 20 members. The membership shall be appointed in the following manner:

- A. The following individuals shall be represented on the Justice Council: Lancaster County Sheriff, Lincoln Chief of Police, Lancaster County Attorney, Lincoln City Attorney, Lancaster County Public Defender, A judge from Lancaster County Court, District Court, and Juvenile Court, Director of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police Department, Director of County Corrections, Director of Juvenile Corrections, and the State Probation Office.
- B. The Coordinator of the Justice Council shall be a non-voting member.
- C. Additional Justice Council members shall include subcommittee chairs. These shall be non-voting members.

SECTION 2. Alternates

Additional members of the Justice Council (1C) who cannot attend a meeting may send an alternate. Everyone is encouraged to send a consistent alternate.

SECTION 3. Designee.

Members of the Justice Council appointed under Article IV, Section 1A may submit in writing the name of their designee, which designation is for one year.