

Idaho Association of Counties Juvenile Justice Administrators
Meeting Minutes— January 30th, 2025
Location-Boise Center, Boise Idaho
9:00 MST

Open Meeting & Welcome by President: Brian Beck

Introduction: Brian Beck

Zoom : Tim Howley, Brian Walker, Bryan Alexander, Kyle Gould, Dixie Tate, Joe Langen, Shannon Carter, Britney Herrgesell, Skye Taylor, Nadine McDonald, Don Caagbay, J.D. Storm, Elda Catalano, Aletia Straub Workman, Kevin Sandau, Jeff Miller, Seth Scott, Tammy Adkins, Carol Johnson, Ashley Lezamiz, Mark Bell, Kari Portales, Mario Umana, Amanda Leader, Trent Bodily, Tiffany Hicks, Mason Scott, Darin Burrell, Danielle Osgood, Sean Brown

In Person: Ron Stultz, Devin Simmons, Lael Hansen, Cody Ward, DeeDee Phillips, Ashley Dowell, Leahann Romero, Brian Beck, Chris Potter, Kelly Elkington, Sean Winston, Roy Bullington, Jason Stone, Dahlia Stender, Stace Gearhart, Alicia Baptiste, Shawn McDowell, Tom Fitte, Brent Reinke, Mark Gough, Mary Reyes

Action Items:

Review/Approval of December Minutes- Motion to Approve- Shawn McDowell, 2nd Tom Fitte

Approval of Meeting expenses-Motion for Meeting cost to be split with Misdemeanor and approved. **Motion-** Tom Fitte, 2nd Aletia Straub

Non-Action Items/ Presentation:

Sean Winston- Exploring Probation Academy Consolidation

The discussion revolves around the idea of consolidating the Juvenile and Misdemeanor Probation Academies to improve efficiency and save taxpayer money. The main concern is that probation officers are currently being sent to two separate academies, which involves repeating similar training and spending a significant amount of time (seven and a half weeks) out of the office. Many counties already have dual probation officers handling both juvenile and misdemeanor cases, so this redundancy could be eliminated.

The proposal suggests merging the academies into one to save about \$24,000 of academy costs per year, which could be redirected to community resources for probationers and aid in the reduction of sanctions and/or recidivism. Merging the academies could also provide more continuity in supervision, as many counties already handle both juvenile and misdemeanor cases through the same department and have officers that supervise both types of caseloads. The idea is to incorporate shared topics from both academies into a combined training program that would reduce repetition and increase efficiency.

Two potential solutions for structuring the new academy are presented:

1. A three-part structure: Part one, would be one week, focused on juvenile probation. Part two, would be 3.5 weeks, on shared topics. And part three, would be one week, on misdemeanor probation. This approach could reduce the overall cost and time spent in training while allowing officers to get certifications for one or both areas.
2. A dual certification model, where probation officers would receive training and certification for both juvenile and misdemeanor probation in one program. However, this would likely require more legislative action and be more complex to implement.

The idea is to improve continuity of training and reduce inefficiencies, while also ensuring that officers are better equipped to handle both types of probation. However, there are challenges to implementing this, particularly with regard to legislative hurdles and the complexity of merging the training programs.

Brian Walker- Idaho Code 20-520 Age of Juveniles in Detention

The issue discussed centers around the ambiguity in Idaho's laws regarding the detention of juveniles, particularly those under the age of ten. Idaho Code 20-520, which covers the sentencing of juveniles, prevents judges from sentencing children under ten to detention or adult juvenile corrections. However, Idaho Code 20-516, which governs the apprehension and release of juveniles, does not specify an age limit, leading to confusion and challenges for law enforcement and detention centers.

The main problem arises when law enforcement detains a child under ten for serious crimes, but the judge cannot sentence them to detention due to the age limitation in 20-520. This creates a difficult situation for detention centers, which must house these children temporarily, even though they can't be sentenced to detention. The discussion highlights cases in Southeast Idaho involving young children, including a seven-year-old and a ten-year-old involved in arson and other serious crimes.

House Bill 388 attempts to address this issue by allowing children under ten to be detained if they commit serious crimes, such as murder or second-degree murder, but it doesn't cover all serious offenses like attempted murder or arson. The group believes the law should be clarified to include these other crimes, ensuring there's clear guidance on when a child under ten can be detained. It also emphasizes the importance of leaving room for flexibility in case of extreme crimes committed by very young children.

The proposed changes need to be made in both Idaho Codes 20-516 and 20-520. The goal is to ensure that if a juvenile under ten is brought into detention for committing a serious crime, the judge would have the authority to hold them until a proper safety plan is in place. This would allow for a temporary detention period while ensuring that there's a process in place to safely reintegrate the child into the community, if appropriate, after the hearing. This change would address both the issue of apprehension and the sentencing phase, providing clearer guidance for how these cases should be handled.

Lael Hansen- Human Trafficking (Keeping our own Data and Sharing the screener Youth Transfer)

To recap, at the last meeting, Danielle Osgood provided an update on the successful completion of the Human Trafficking Screener Workgroup. The project involved creating the screeners to use for youth going to sentencing and rolling out training statewide.

Both screeners as well as links to the recorded training are available on the IDCJ website for everyone to access.

During the closing work group, two key decisions were identified to come to this group:

1. **Sharing Screeners:** It was suggested that when cases are transferred from county to county, screeners completed on the youth should be shared. This would help ensure continuity and more informed decision-making when cases are transferred.
2. **Statewide Data Collection:** A conversation about collecting statewide data was introduced. The goal would be to establish a data collection process, though there was uncertainty about the necessity and practical implementation of such a system. Some counties, like Tammy's, have already started tracking their data, and it was discussed whether it should be done collectively at the state level or just locally.

Jason Stone, IDJC, emphasized the importance of gathering data in the short term, as it can provide insights into the issues at hand and help in securing resources for addressing them. They also highlighted that IJOS (Idaho Juvenile Offender System 2.0) could eventually serve as a statewide data repository, making data collection more streamlined and accessible in the future. However, until then, counties could continue collecting and holding onto the data. The hope is that this data will eventually support resource requests and help address specific needs for targeted populations.

Lael will send out the data collected during the testing phase of the screener as well as the excel spread sheet they are using in Ada County.

There will be follow-up on data collection at the next meeting, April 10th.

Important Dates:

Upcoming Meetings

- April 10th McCall Idaho 9am to 12pm (Evergreen Hotel)
- June 2, 2025- IACJJA/IACMPAA Annual Summer Conference (Best Western/ Cour' Delane)
- September 9th IJJA conference Moscow Idaho 12pm to 1pm
- December 4th Ada County Juvenile Probation. Boise ID 9am to 12pm

Upcoming Academy Dates

- March 27th, 2025 -Juvenile Detention Academy #49
- April 24th, 2025 - Juvenile Corrections Academy #3
- July 31st, 2025- Juvenile Detention Academy #50
- September 25th, 2025- Juvenile Corrections Academy #4