

F I N A L R E P O R T

JUVENILE SERVICES AND THE IMPACT OF THE
JUVENILES JUSTICE LAW SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
SENATE AND HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEES ON HUMAN RESOURCES

December, 1978

The Juvenile Services and the Impact of the Juvenile Justice Law Subcommittee was authorized by the Legislative Council to hold two meetings during the 1978 interim. These meetings were held December 12 and 13 at the State House. Legislative members of the Subcommittee are:

Senator Robert Carr, Co-chairperson
Representative Robert T. Anderson, Co-chairperson
Senator John Murray
Senator Bob Rush
Representative Robert Arnould
Representative Reid Crawford

Staffing the Subcommittee are:

Marsha A. Szymczuk, Legal Counsel
Sarah MacKenzie, Senate Democratic Staff
Barbara Leiser, Senate Republican Staff
Merlie Howell, House Democratic Staff
Barbara Winters, House Republican Staff

The two days of meetings were primarily information gathering. Present on both dates were Senator Carr and Representatives Anderson and Arnould. Also attending the meeting was Representative Gentleman. On December 12, John Dengler of the Iowa Association of Private Children's Services expressed concern about the shortage of services at the preventive stage and in the community and the extent of the juvenile court's responsibility in placement. Jerry Kopke (Polk County Juvenile Home) and Bill McCarty (Linn County Youth Facilities), who are both members of the Iowa Shelter and Detention Association, expressed a need for more shelter care facilities and described funding problems. Mike Ryan, Families, Inc., described the intensive in-home services his office provides and expressed concern over lack of coordination and communication among various service agencies and the lack of standards of competence for social workers. Patrick Kelley, Green Valley Area Education Agency, feels that there are enough agencies but lack of cooperation among them results in slow response and duplication of effort. He also described the work of the Area Education Agencies. Mike Turner, Iowa Network of Community Youth Services, described the work of his relatively new agency, which is to coordinate the services of other agencies. He presented a proposed two year plan of implementation, including organizational structure, budget and services. Judge Forest Eastman, Chairman of the Juvenile Laws Committee of the District Court Judges Association, pointed out various provisions of the juvenile justice

bill that may become problems. Lt. Bob Greenly, Juvenile Division of the Waterloo Police Department, described the close cooperation of the Waterloo Police Department with the schools, the Department of Social Services and other juvenile agencies.

On December 13, Bernita Jacobson, Carol McBroom and Steve Robinson from the Department of Social Services discussed with the Subcommittee provisions in the juvenile justice bill which may lead to problems and funding concerns, including requirements to obtain federal funding. May Roberts, President of the Iowa Foster Parents Association, described the goals of her association, including increased training for foster parents, and pointed out areas of concern in the juvenile justice bill. Brent Hege, Attorney with the Youth Law Center, described the work of the Center, which provides legal services to minors only. He also indicated bill provisions he would like to see changed. Robert Bennett, Superintendent of Marion Independent Community Schools, pointed out the lack of communication and cooperation among various agencies, particularly the schools, the Area Education Agencies and the Department of Social Services. Doug Miller, Department of Social Services District Administrator, pointed out possible implementation problems of the juvenile justice bill, particularly in rural areas, and also cited the lack of cooperation among various agencies. George Lee Thompson, lobbyist for juvenile delinquents, described his ten years of residence in various Iowa juvenile institutions and suggested how the system should be changed.

Although a quorum was not reached, the members of the Subcommittee who were present indicated the following concerns:

1. Funds should be made available to cover additional costs in implementing the juvenile justice bill.
2. Funds should be provided specifically for in-home services in addition to foster care funds.
3. Post-institutional care should be provided to juveniles in their communities.
4. Further investigation should be made as to whether federal funds are jeopardized by provisions of the juvenile justice bill.
5. Availability of homemakers qualified to work with juvenile problems.
6. Whether the Department of Social Services should be made guardians of juveniles.
7. That allowing foster parents to be guardians should not increase their financial burden.

8. That the Administrative Rules Committee should receive input from juvenile service agencies other than the Department of Social Services.

9. Juvenile services should be coordinated and the Department of Social Services should develop a strategy to accomplish coordination.

10. Whether a constitutional problem exists in allowing continuing jurisdiction of the juvenile court, yet allowing agencies to vacate a court order.

11. Whether the juvenile justice bill has ignored the possibility of community help in cases of mentally ill or retarded juveniles.