

**SAAC Juvenile Justice Meeting**  
**Independence Center**  
**June 17, 2010**

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**Present:** Wendy Barrera-Andazola (Juvenile Drug Court), BJ Brittenham (Independence Center), Kasey Farwell (CASA), Michelle Frank (Cedars Diversion), Jennifer Haydon (Centerpointe), Bev Hoagland (Juvenile Probation), Sara Hoyle (Lancaster Human Services), Kelly King (Child Guidance), Brenda Mueller (Origins), Patte Newman (SAAC), Mike Renn (CGC/YAC), Tom Ross (OJS)

**Guest:** Trinity Chappelle, aide to Sen. Beau McCoy LD39

**Introductions:** Sara opened the meeting with self-introductions. She explained everyone has been seeing more K2 and thought it might be good to have an explanation of what it is, what agencies are seeing locally and how Nebraska can deal with it.

**K2:** Wendy said the drug court is seeing a lot of kids who have used K2. They consider it a serious treatment issue. Kids who try it are taken out of their workgroups and go to a special group (dubbed "special K group" by BJ) to address relapse prevention triggers. The problem is that it does not show up on drug tests. Judge Thorson wanted to encourage honesty and offered immunity and no sanctions to any juvenile who admitted to use. Twice it was offered and no one came forward. Then three were caught after lunch at school.

Wendy passed around several bags. She said it is herbal incense treated with chemicals from China which are more potent than THC. Street names include Black Magic, Blue Summit, Blueberry, Spice, Super Nova. It is smoked and the high can range from two to five hours. She said internet research, including reading blogs, has been interesting. Some users experience no side effects. Some have tried it and never will again - reporting experiences like a really bad LSD trip, out-of-body experiences and feeling like they will never be normal again. Since it is new, there are no long term studies on what effects it has on the human body, but side effects include rapid heartbeat, feeling cold and numb, panic attacks, paranoia, headache, trouble with balance, twitching, dry mouth, munchies and effects on the central nervous system. A student at Lincoln Southwest had seizures after using the drug.

Michelle passed around another form that smelled like potpourri. She said all the diversion officers are seeing the same thing. K2 is advertised on the internet and Craig's List as a legal high selling for \$20 to \$50 for 3 grams. They had a kid in drug court selling it to others and saying he would smoke it with them he was so sure it would not show up on the drug test. In order to address the issue tickets are now being written for controlled substance, issue of toxic compounds and inhalants.

Bev said that their experience in probation is the same as Wendy's. Judges are now including in their orders that no mind altering chemicals can be used. Mike said the detention center kids say it's a room deodorizer.

Ms. Chappelle explained that when the Omaha World Herald did a report on K2 a lot of people, including Senator McCoy, expressed concerns. Senator Ashford's brother is a judge and he is also working on the issue. She is currently doing research to see what Kansas enacted. The Attorney General is helping in these efforts. Senator McCoy will ask the judiciary committee to discuss it on the first day, ask for an emergency clause to get it through immediately and move forward. She thinks there is widespread support to get this done. She pointed out that it's very important to get the chemical breakdown noted for the legislation and welcomes any information, details, numbers and data to help policy makers understand the problems. Wendy said her research showed the chemicals included JWH-018 and H2-210.

The DEA website was cited as having some very valuable information.

**Youth Substance Abuse Report:** Carryover funding was awarded for the Lancaster County Substance Abuse report. Patte asked what data sets are most important to the Juvenile Justice group as an indicator of what is happening in the community. Comments were that kids just seem impervious to risk and aren't getting guidance at home. For state policy makers, Ms Chappelle said clear, concise facts are always welcome. She felt that even though it is a SE Nebraska county, we need to make it relevant to others in western Nebraska and to raise awareness with parents as to what their kids are experiencing in their schools.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- The WhyTry training will be held August 31 through September 3<sup>rd</sup> in Lincoln. ([www.whytry.org](http://www.whytry.org)) Scholarships offered have been filled but paid seats are available. Facilitator training will be the first two days with hands-on training the 2<sup>nd</sup> two.
- The Heartland Juvenile Justice conference will be held September 20-21 in Omaha.
- SAAC and Region V will bring in John Underwood on Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> ([www.americanathleticinstitute.org](http://www.americanathleticinstitute.org)) to talk to various groups about the impact of drugs and alcohol on athletic performance and setting policies to address the issues. Morning session will be held at the NSAA (co-sponsored by the Nebraska Coaches Association) targeting coaches, Ads and school staff. Afternoon session will be broadcast statewide through telehealth conferencing aimed at prevention professionals. An evening presentation for parents and youth will be held at Lincoln SE auditorium. SAAC will be working with regional and other statewide grantees to bring Underwood back for a full two day training in March.

**Next Meeting:** to be held at 9:30 on Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at the Independence Center.