

**JUSTICE INTERVENTION SUBCOMMITTEE
MCAC/JJPF COMMITTEE**

Committee Chairs: Sgt. John Oddo, Omaha Police Department
Rick Kubat, Douglas County Commissioner's Office

Final Report Recommendations to BBF: November 9, 2007

Purpose: To support students and families in maintaining regular attendance.

Initial Committee Goals:

1. Review current County Attorney Referral Form and encourage the use of the uniform County Attorney Referral by each school district
2. Consideration of strategies, programs, and legislation for student/families addressing truancy in the court system
3. Determine effective current practices regarding truancy cases in the court system
4. Creation and implementation of notification of student transfer form

The initial committee goals

Objective: Review of Uniform County Attorney Referral Form and Process

- Review of the uniform referral form
 - the form was developed in a collaborative effort between all metro-area school districts and the Juvenile County Attorneys to address lack of uniformity within reporting from the school districts
 - review of current referrals to the Douglas County Juvenile Attorney's Office showed uniformity within reporting of truancy cases
 - additions to the form were discussed to indicate race of the student, however the group determined that the benefits in receiving data were outweighed by the possibility associated generalizations.
 - consider inclusion of teacher reports, historical attendance pattern, qualitative input, and pre-referral steps by the school to provide a rounded view of the student
 - encourage the use of the referral form by all schools within Sarpy and Douglas Counties

Objective: Consideration of current legislation and other jurisdictional programs and strategies for students/families in the justice system

- Nebraska has a current compulsory attendance law that is rarely used in Sarpy and Douglas County

- the committee has been engaged with Omaha City prosecutor Martin Conboy regarding the current non-use of criminal prosecution of parents who play a role in the truancy of children
- the necessity of truancy being addressed by school officials in attempt to address the causes for non-attendance
- consideration of prosecution for egregious cases
- Next steps and Building Bright Futures (BBF)
 - look at other programs used throughout the nation to address truancy and non-attending youth and consider seeking financial support for implementation of successful programs
 - consideration of a cooperative effort between Omaha Public Schools and the Juvenile Assessment Center to intervene on student absences earlier in an effort to curb referrals to the Douglas County Attorney

Objective: Consideration of current practices for truancy cases in the court system

- Examination of present practices implemented in governmental and sub-governmental agencies in addressing truancy cases
 - invite and chair discussions, both private and public, with leaders in governmental agencies to address present systemic problems

Objective: Inter-District Communication for the verification of enrollment and notification of movement of student records

- Inter-notification by school districts of students who withdraw from one district and indicate a move to another
 - enhance communication between school districts
 - develop a standard form for school districts to use when a student moves school districts
 - encourage school district representatives to review the form for appropriateness and potential use