



**Meeting Minutes for June 5, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.  
Zoom Meeting with Livestream to YouTube**

**Commission members present for the meeting were:**

Committee Chair Justice Rhonda Wood, Judge Earnest Brown, Senator Missy Irvin, Rich Huddleston, David Meeks, Erin Franks (proxy for Secretary Johnny Key), Tom Masseur, Director Michael Crump, Carol Childs, Diana Smith, Judge Barbara Halsey, Drew Shover, Director Jennifer Craun, Judge Teresa French, Keesa Smith (proxy for Secretary Cindy Gillespie), Phyllis Bell, Chastity Scifres, Judge Troy Braswell, and Representative LeAnne Burch.

**Others present for the meeting were:**

Judge Shannon Blatt, Director Mischa Martin, Director Marty Sullivan, Sarah Cunningham. Administrator Derek Henderson kept minutes.

**Meeting summary:**

The Commission met through the Zoom platform for video-conferencing. Livestream of the meeting was available on YouTube for the public and additional stakeholder staff. Justice Wood called the meeting to order. She shared a proposed press release concerning local and national concerns about equal justice for racial and other minorities. She told Commission members that she would be asking for feedback and suggestions during the new business portion of the meeting.

Justice Wood presented the meeting minutes from the January 24, 2020 meeting. She entertained motions on the minutes. Judge Halsey made a motion to approve the minutes. Judge Brown seconded the motion. Fourteen members voted to approve. None opposed. The motion passed, and the minutes were approved.

Justice Wood called for Administrator Henderson to report on business since the January 24, 2020 meeting. Administrator Henderson shared the bench cards and grant distributions. He noted to Justice Wood that it would take some time to sign in and pull up the new website; Justice Wood agreed to come back to the website during new business. Justice Wood shared additional information about getting the cards printed and how some districts spent the grant money.

Justice Wood addressed the videoconferencing pilot project. She shared the committee's progress on its action plan before in-person hearings were suspended. She shared the maps representing remote DN hearings and the polling data from Children in the Courts. She asked Director Martin to share how DCFS has helped to support remote hearings during the pandemic. Director Martin shared that DCFS activated phones that were no longer suitable for the Department to use. The phones were available for parents to use outside of DHS offices to attend remote hearings.



**The Arkansas Commission on Children, Youth and Families**  
**A Commission of the Supreme Court of Arkansas**

Justice Wood asked members to consider how the Commission should move forward with videoconferencing since circumstances forced rapid expansion instead of a deliberate rollout. Senator Irvin shared that the Commission's work helped her to introduce Zoom for use in the Legislature. She discussed how legislators and the Governor are working to increase broadband access for Arkansans in rural areas. Justice Wood explained how Zoom has given free access to all judges in Arkansas during this time.

Justice Wood called for Committee reports. Judge Brown shared that the Juvenile Officer Staffing Committee recognizes how current fiscal challenges make it difficult to move forward with a pilot plan to shift some juvenile officers to state employee status. He shared that Glenn Holt from DYS has met with the Committee to address how DYS can help judges to get essential data on committed youths. Madelyn Keith of the Community Resources Committee was not present, but submitted a written report. Drew Shover shared for the Data Committee, which led to an extended discussion of the proposed juvenile recidivism definition. Justice Wood said she would entertain motions on the definition. Judge Brown motioned for the Commission to approve the definition. Judge Braswell seconded the motion. Seventeen members voted to approve. No members opposed. The definition was approved.

Justice Wood gave an update on the implementation of Act 189. She shared the RABS Rollout map to show that almost all counties are trained to use the validated risk assessment. She asked Director Crump to share DYS's progress on Act 189. Director Crump shared a data graphic that showed a decrease in secure confinements. He shared that DYS has cancelled its project to replace RiteTrack due to budget issues; money has instead been re-allocated to community-based providers. He shared updates about changes to the secure DYS facilities. He shared about personnel changes within DYS. Judge Brown and Judge Halsey asked if he could share graphics that reflected data for their courts as they were uncertain data was fully accurate and stated it mattered that the data was correct before public release, and he agreed that he would. Director Crump emphasized that he and the Dept. had not done a final review of the data shared and it was considered preliminary.

Justice Wood asked the Commission to consider new business. She asked for feedback on the press release. Rich Huddleston suggested sending it to the Commission for comments by mid-Monday, June 8. Judge Brown said he would second that if it was a motion, and Rich said it was. Justice Wood clarified that a final email vote would be held after noon on Monday, June 8. Since there was a motion and a second, the Commission voted on whether to handle the statement that way. Eleven members voted "yes." None opposed. The motion passed.

As an additional new business item, Justice Wood asked whether the Commission would like to create videos to help children learn about coming to court for delinquency or dependency-neglect proceedings. The Commission discussed the project, and there was consensus that the Commission should complete it. Director Martin mentioned this would be a great project for the Youth Advisory Board and Phyllis Bell stated



**The Arkansas Commission on Children, Youth and Families**  
**A Commission of the Supreme Court of Arkansas**

she would like to include a Governor's office intern as a resource to assist the project. Justice Wood entertained motions. Judge Halsey made a motion for the Commission to create orientation videos for children, and Senator Irvin seconded. Sixteen members voted in favor; none opposed. The project was approved.

Justice Wood explained that Derek Henderson would reach out to members to get information to put on the new website.

Justice Wood proposed August 21 and August 28 as potential dates for the next Commission meeting. She explained that the next meeting would be for the sole purpose of considering approval of the Strategic Plan. The Commission agreed to meet on August 21, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

Justice Wood adjourned the meeting.