

Nevada Association of Juvenile Justice Administrators

NAJJA

History of the Nevada Association of Juvenile Justice Administrators

“It’s amazing what you can accomplish when no one cares who gets the credit”
John Wooden

Perspective:

In 1888 the City of Chicago established the first “parental” court to hear the cases of all dependent, neglected, and delinquent children under the age of 16. The intention was to save young boys from being locked up with “murderers, anarchists, and hardened criminals. To evaluate their circumstances and provide a place where they could prosper. It became the Nation’s first juvenile court.

In 1967 a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision gave juveniles accused of crimes the same due process rights as adults. The case involved Jerry Gault, who at 14 was given a seven-year sentence for a prank phone call.

1974 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 enacted. This Act provided, for the first time, a unified national program to deal with juvenile delinquency prevention and control within the context of the total law enforcement and criminal justice effort. Essentially it created a federal funding source to the states to implement juvenile justice policies and programs on behalf of juveniles and their families involved in the juvenile court process.

These three events over the course of time have had a significant impact on the evolution and maturity of the juvenile justice system in the Nation, and in the state of Nevada.

History of NAJJA

Juvenile Justice Administrators driven by Family Court protocols, looking to implement effective juvenile policy and programs, proposed the formation of an Association to give them one voice in their business with the State and each other.

Nevada Association of Juvenile Justice Administrators filed as a **Domestic Non-Profit Corporation** in the **State of Nevada** on Wednesday, January 24, 1979 and is approximately thirty-six years old, according to public records filed with **Nevada Secretary of State**.

The corporation was established in 1979 under the name **Nevada Association of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers**. The first board of directors who conceptualized this organization were:

President Frank Carmon Director of Juvenile Court Services Las Vegas Nevada

Vice President John Gilman Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Nye County Nevada

Sec/Treasurer Nolan Davis Chief Juvenile Probation Officer White Pine County Nevada

Board Director Robert Cavakis Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Humboldt County Nevada

Board Director Bill Lewis Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Carson City Nevada

EXHIBIT E - CHILD WELFARE Document consists of 3 pages. Entire exhibit provided. Meeting Date: 04-22-16
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These gentlemen in 1979 had the insight and wisdom to establish a body of collaborative juvenile justice professionals across the Silver State who could evaluate the juvenile justice systems, and make policy recommendations that would advance the field of juvenile justice in the State of Nevada for years to come.

When these five chiefs developed the “Association” they embraced the following recommendations and direction;

“The Association shall be a non-profit corporation, organized solely for the advancement of civic activities, and for the advancement of State and local interests in the general health, welfare, and wellbeing of the people to be served, with the primary object and purpose of advancing the cause of Juvenile Delinquency Prevention, detection, control and the rehabilitation of the juvenile offender.” **Articles of Incorporation of The Nevada Association of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers January 2, 1979**

Purpose

Since this incorporation juvenile justice administrators representing their judicial jurisdictions in Nevada have collaborated on policy and programming that would elevate the juvenile justice efforts in their regions. The sharing of ideas and the agreement on core recommendations over the years have led to effective pass through funding streams to support delinquency prevention efforts on a local level. In addition to statute recommendations improving the practice and purpose of juvenile law in the District Courts in Nevada.

From 1974 when the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act took a serious direction, Nevada juvenile justice administrators at the state and local level began a process of improving outcomes for youth and families coming in contact with the juvenile/family court. The Nevada Probation Subsidies Grant which was funded by the state general fund in addition to state monies authorized by the legislature. This money was distributed to the jurisdictions based on school populations. The “Association” would meet and evaluate their statistics and data conclusions and make recommendations to the state legislature regarding the directions and category of funding that would best suit their particular jurisdictions urban or rural.

The Association in these early years recognized that the bi-furcated system of juvenile justice services in our State would always be a challenge. The jurisdictions were responsible for juvenile detention and probation services. The State was responsible for youth committed to the State Juvenile Correctional System from the probation department, youth who typically did not comply with terms of juvenile probation at the local level. These youth would be placed in one of the Nevada Youth Training Centers and placed on juvenile parole after completion of their program requirements. Based on the programming and funding needs of these separate systems it was essential that the jurisdictions be aligned with each other on policy and funding recommendations to the legislature and the State. The Association over this span of time has made a conscientious effort to achieve this.

The “Association” is comprised of the Directors and Chief of the 11 Judicial Court Jurisdictions in the State of Nevada, in addition to the key administrators from the Nevada Department of

Child and Family Services Juvenile Division, and the Nevada Juvenile Justice Commission. These are the departments and agencies who practice juvenile justice in the Silver State. They are the boots on the ground when it comes to policy recommendations to the legislature that will impact juvenile justice outcomes in the years come.

The body meets quarterly to discuss issues and policy that will directly impact the jurisdictions and the state juvenile justice system. They will make recommendations to various State, Legislative and Judicial Committees who vet policy impacting youth on many fronts. Juvenile Justice Reform is the common theme of the Association. How to improve the Juvenile Justice System at all levels with measurable realistic outcomes for the children and families we serve.

Priority Issues for NAJJA in the Interim 2016 and the 2017 Legislative Session

1. Statewide Juvenile Justice Improvement by maximizing the value of investments in supervision and services.
2. To implement mental health screening in juvenile justice settings as part of the initial risk and needs assessment and decision making process. Providing timely access by identified youth in the system to appropriate treatment within the least restrictive setting that is consistent with public safety needs.
3. Improve educational and vocational outcomes for supervision and incarcerated youth.
4. Juvenile diversion strategies and models
5. Increased family involvement in the juvenile justice system
6. Use local data / information to guide our systems changes, reducing recidivism and improving youth outcomes.
7. Establish baseline recidivism rates that provide specific targets for systems improvement.
8. Develop policies and procedures for probation and detention systems based on research on "What Works"
9. Regionalization of juvenile treatment and correctional programs.
10. Sustain collaborative working relationships with the legislature, the courts, the state and all other systems and commissions that provide care and services to children in Nevada.
11. Make the necessary modifications to AB 579 the bill addressing federal requirements for sex offender reporting "Adam Walsh Act" on behalf of low level juvenile sex offenders.

NAJJA Officers for 2016

President Mr. Ben Bianchi Chief JPO Carson City Nevada 775-887-2033

Director Mr. Roger Sayer Chief JPO Lyon County Nevada 775-463-6641

Secretary Mrs. Elizabeth Florez Division Director Washoe County Juvenile Services
775-325-7871

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