

**AZ SOMB JUVENILE GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING-20260219_203119UTC-Meeting Recording**

February 19, 2026,

Technical Error. Audio Recording Error for initial few minutes of the meeting.

Chairman Scott Naegele called the meeting to order at 1:31pm. Roll call was conducted. The following Subcommittee members were present in person: Chairman Scott Naegele, Blake Barney and Peter Morey. Subcommittee member Ben Galarneau was present virtually. Miss Melony Opheim joined, in-person during the Executive session of the meeting. Also present were staff Jenna Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General Victoria Baldner and Ashlesha Naik.

AI-generated content may be incorrect

OK, perfect.

Good afternoon, everybody.

You just? Did you say your name and say that you're present for the meeting?

Ben Galarneau present.

Peter Morey.

Right. I was saying Scott Naegele again.

I was saying that we have one agenda item that was also brought up and discussed in yesterday's adult subcommittee and taking direction from that subcommittee. I I I'd like to.

I'd like to make a motion that we go into executive session to have that discussion.

And I need others to weigh in and say yes or no to that, Blake Barney. I second that motion.

So I don't really know what that means.

Oh, pardon me. That's OK.

All in favor, please say aye. Aye, aye. All opposed.

No. No. Opposed. Thank you.

So motion passes motion.

So if you can step out for just a few minutes, we'll come and get you when executive. I'll be as fast as possible. Thank you.

You're welcome. Thank you.

● **Ashlesha Naik** stopped transcription

Ancillary Adult subcommittee meeting yesterday is they left their first meeting with a little bit more clarity about some homework that people were supposed to do. Then I think we

probably did from this room. That and the fact that we didn't have everybody as part of this in this.

Room. The last time it would have made that harder to do.

So.

I mean, I did come today with a copy of the Colorado standards for juveniles.

Which is an immensely comprehensive document.

What I learned from yesterday's experience as it relates to the adult side of this process is that there are varying degrees of comprehensiveness that exist in different States and the different states are doing things in worlds of ways that are very different than what we are accustomed to.

Doing here in Arizona, that's not a commentary on good or bad.

That's just a commentary on the degree to which.

In some ways, I think even though I think this board wouldn't have, never would never have come into existence if there weren't things that we needed to take a look at and be than to be focusing on.

But almost from a process standpoint, I came away from yesterday's meeting feeling like in perhaps in some ways we're further down the road than some other places were now.

Whether or not that's the case with juveniles, I don't know.

I mean my research to try to find.

Other documents from other states, like the Colorado one, that's like I said, very, very comprehensive.

I didn't find very much, but I think that's what I wanted, you know, bring up and talk about here today and at the very minimum, all of us leave this room today with an understanding of kind of what what we need to do individually to come back.

To this room.

And essentially mirror what took place.

In yesterday's adult.

Subcommittee and to and to begin to start that process. And so just so everybody can hear it, Ben and Melanie, who didn't have the benefit of being part of that.

Everybody that's on the adult subcommittee, I think picked a state and decided and was said that they would take the time to research that state.

Find what that state has in terms of written form around their sex Offender Management processes.

And functions.

And come back to this meeting and talk about the pre-sentence side of the process as it relates to adults in those states that they that they did.

Perhaps another thing that we should do here today is to begin to conceptualize what what are the pieces of this process that we're trying to talk about and build here.

And have some consensus about that, IE the pre-sentence side of things.

Part of that.

But then there's the.

Then there's the level of care discussions in terms of what levels of care do people get placed in.

There's the supervision side of things.

There's the treatment side of things.

I'm just kind of rambling off the top of my head.

But I'd like to hear, you know, people's thoughts about about that first, I guess let's stay with.

Do do you think it's a good idea that we essentially mirror what people in the adult subcommittee did?

And that is go out.

Pick a.

Pick a state.

Do some research on that state. Come back and present to this group what you found out about.

The the beginning process for juveniles in those respective states.

When a kid comes into the system.

Saves any one of us from having to do it all, and it helps us spread the task around.

What are people's thoughts about that?

I think it's a good idea.

Excuse me, Peter Morey.

I think it's good to find out what's out there so that we don't reinvent the wheel.

I think probably I don't know 50 states, but we'll figure choose a few.

See if we can find some pattern of commonality that we like among them.

And then maybe cannibalize that to.

Build up.

Melania, I don't get homework very often, but I thought I already had this to work, so when I talked to Tom Lerversee today for over an hour.

And that set had that set up especially specifically before we came today.

So 2 years from Colorado, it is very comprehensive. I've had to work with him and present with him in the last couple of years anyway, so I took away some pretty good bullets from his already.

I can follow up with just the pre sentencing stuff. He did point me to even just today if I wanted to read all twenty of their principles because they are pretty.

I mean, he says ours aren't perfect, but they've been.

They've been growing their their board for years.

Years they have a really good process that works with the schools, especially for juveniles as well as not not so much the DCS systems, but they don't seem to have as many issues with with some of the the dependent kids.

Anyway, yeah. So I I think it's a good idea.

I already did, except that I had that homework last time, so I apologize.

No, that's good. That's good. I don't knock them with it, but I thought I was assigned Colorado, so I had already.

Kinda reached out to them.

So I mean, I think what happened in yesterday's meeting.

Is people who are on the adult subcommittee who had points of reference for certain states because they had either worked in them or gone to school in those places, ended up picking picking those States and and doing research about that, does that make sense about how to perhaps?

Move from here in. In that same way for us.

I would think so. 'cause we not only have some familiarity with state and politics that go on there, but.

Contacts.

And Blake has contacts for any Idaho that he can talk to and.

We're a melting pot for sure.

And and probably as far as the states that were picked in that discussion yesterday, we probably have more numbers than any of those states do.

So it is.

It is gonna be more comprehensive.

It's gonna be more cumbersome in in some ways.

With what you just said, Peter, and with the the increased numbers.

What are your thoughts, Ben?



B. G.

Yeah. No, I mean that sounds.

That sounds good and and you know I I'm OK if you, you know, assign me a state if you give me a look at.

I guess as long as we make sure we're all doing different states, different boards and this would just we would all be kinda looking at the same thing the the pre sentence type.

Procedures not looking at different.

No, I think well now I'm back to the other thing that I threw out moments ago and that is us really kinda I think perhaps in unison with the other committee too. But talking about you know, what are the stages that we how do we conceptualize this process.

And how many phases or stages are there and how do we wanna language them?

You know what I'm saying?

I I kinda did that a little bit ago, but that was just me.

Spontaneously doing that.

So I don't.

You know, I'd like to hear other people's thoughts on that as well.

And they say that not letting not letting things like.

I want us to try to just think about processes and I want us to think about.

Systems, if you will, and not 'cause. I know I will get caught up in well, juvenile court judges at at the county level and all the counties are gonna end up, you know, no matter what we come up with envision, there are going to be things like that.

That are going to perhaps.

Force us to have to look look at things differently.

So I I don't want to get caught up in that initially.

I suppose we can figure out how to to move through some of that stuff when we have to move through some of that stuff.

Well, I, I, Peter, Morey, I have a thought.

And this is kind of born of my own ignorance is I know parts of this system better than others, and I don't know if I know the whole thing.

In total, I don't know if if we could find or if it would be a good idea to have.

A presentation of what this looks like moving through.

So we know what we're dealing with because we're essentially going to end up being responsible for the whole beast here in some way.

And I sort of feel like a blind man. And the elephant. I I can tell you what the leg is. But maybe with the trunk. I have no idea what's going on.

So, so. So am I hearing you say it might be helpful if we tried to identify some people that are that are key players in some of the different systems of care here in our state and have them come and give us an overview of that, so that.

We all kind of have a a road map to understanding how these systems mesh with each other. Or how they're supposed to mesh with each other and where they do, and they don't? I would think so.

And I would actually propose we do that before we start diving into dissecting what we're looking for, because I think that would give us a deeper understanding of, OK well, so here's how presentence moves into trial and sentencing phase moves into.

Rehabilitation housing.

Registration here.

OK, when I look at, say, Oregon.

OK, now I know what I'm looking for and how that system flows.

So so Melony.

Do do you have thoughts on like for example from the DCS side of things?

Who? Who could come and talk about the structure of DCS and the state of Arizona.

Not just Maricopa County, but the the outlying counties, too.

Melanie Opheim. I could think about it.

They're very structured at DCS, like many of the government agencies in big departments.

You got a contract that doesn't know when you're licensed. It doesn't know when your contract, if it doesn't know what the place you doesn't know about the case management.

So I would have to see who would be the best person to give a total list. You know a total overview, but I know a lot of pieces from departments to say they don't know anything about the other department or refer you to someone else at the department, so I can think about that.

I'll off the top of my head. I don't know anybody.

Yeah, and and then there's obviously, you know the the juvenile probation side of things. And then there's the Department of Juvenile Corrections side of Things, though that. Is probably in terms of numbers of kids, it's far less than than the kids that are in the juvenile probation system.

And and am I.

Who am I missing with respect to key players?

Here's when I articulate those Melanie Opheim I when I'm in talking to to my contact. Create the the Colorado board, he said that basically his guidelines when they were all said and done, was their purview was over treatment providers, evaluators and polygraph examiners.

So he said they worked with the DCS systems.

They worked with the probation departments, but they couldn't tell them really. This is your guidelines.

In other words, it was strong. Suggestions.

It was, you know, here's it's kind of like asset.

Here's the guidelines.

Follow them if you will.

But the purview and who had to follow it was really limited to those 3.

I don't know where we want to go.

I'd love it to be more.

Not you have to do this, but these are our guidelines and principles and hopefully everybody's on board and I think we have a little bit more robust.

You had about 25 people on this board.

We have 38 when we're all told.

I think Jenna had mentioned an e-mail. So it really could cover a lot more.

You know, we already have DCS involved.

And at least adult probation is kind of involved in yes, so maybe so.

Here's a question to Victoria and Jenna, who who are the DPS people on the larger, the larger committee? What do you mean by DPS people DDCS.

I meant, oh, department Child safety representative.

You know, I sat by somebody, but I didn't. Perhaps, like, perhaps that's the person to ask to come and talk about the structure of DCS. As as staff we can certainly, if you tell us what you're looking for, we can certainly reach out and do that work for.

You could do that legwork and get what it is that you're asking for, but let me look and see and. And frankly, I don't know who at this point in time is the best contact at Department of

Juvenile Corrections.

On that used to be a lot more integrated into what I saw as the larger juvenile processes, but. But I I don't have a clue anymore.

I do know General counsel for.

Obey mountain, OK?

So Nicholas, keep that in mind.

I mean, I I'd be happy to reach out to her for you if you want. And her to come in.

Nicholas Pawlowski, who is with DCS, is a board member.

It doesn't say what capacity.

The DCS, which most I don't have his title here.

Look at emails and see if I can find that I was looking to see if there was any other DCS representative that was near the only two.

I can certainly look through emails and see if I have.

You know, I mean.

The juvenile probation side of things, I think we've already talked about who it seems to make sense to do that and that's to ask Charlotte if you would be, you know, open to coming in and give her a very specific, you know, sense for what we wanted to.

Talk about so that a couple people on the board who you know are desire to see how things are connected in a more meaningful way could come away from that.

From what she has to say.

You know, I mean, she's Maricopa County.

And I know you know from working with some of the folks in the rural counties, you know, they they obviously have different needs and they have different ways of doing things.

Some of which I think are sound and some of which I don't, and that could be said for Maricopa County, too.

So.

With that in mind that you know, she could probably talk about you know what? She's how she fits into the larger community of people that are in charge.

The various probation departments throughout the state and how they go about, you know, making decisions here in Maricopa County.

But we have to recognize that smaller countries definitely have to do things differently.

Well, I think Peter Mori think an interesting question too would be.

How do each one of these? I mean, even if we get multiple people from different counties that give a brief presentation or even AI pager, how they see the overall picture?

Because they may see it differently too, which is what developed into a different delivery system.

In different counties and if our mandate is to try to put together uniform guidelines or try to find out, we're going to need to consider something that actually is going to be able to be implemented.

Across the state.

I think, yeah, I think the reality is when we get to it though, we will have to get to it is is there. There can be a structure that I think can be.

The structure that needs to guide.

The the level of skill.

And the experience and.

The professor professional attributes of of the people that need to play roles along the way in the process. But in in, in perhaps even the the kinds of things that that need to be part of treatment that are essential to to treatment.

And how to get them those resources if they don't have them and and and a lot of times the outline counties have to do what they gotta do with their.

So Blake Barney and I think one of the things that.

I'm struggling with with all of this is.

As the subcommittee were supposed to be doing the majority of the work, which obviously that's happening.

But we've got to be able to present something to the larger board every month. And if we're and I'm not opposed to people coming in presenting, but if we're putting things on the back burner, waiting for somebody to come and present so that we have a better understanding.

It just pushes the, you know, pushes things back further so.

My proposition would be that.

You know Melanie got information.

I've got information on Idaho today. I can present that.

Specific to the pre sentence after.

My.

Practice yesterday.

And.

I think that any kind of progress is better than, well, we gotta do this and this and this before we can make progress.

So, well, there's nothing that keeps us from having different kinds of things on the agenda for the same meeting.

There's nothing that prevents us from doing that.

The other thing though, Blake is because I, I mean, I've felt a little bit of what I think.

I hear you articulating and that is is, you know.

We got a in the end some sort of product has to be arrived at the. The problem is is that I'm not sure that we can build a product until we've got enough cohesiveness and and enough common knowledge and enough common ground amongst us at this level first.

And foremost, and even in the larger board to to be able to make things happen and and unfortunately the only way I know in human experience for that to happen is for people to be in the same place at the same time.

And, you know, beginning to grapple with some of the issues, you know what I mean?

So and the other thing is is.

I haven't.

I haven't had anybody say to me that we've got deadlines to have XY and Z.

So I I wanna I want us to be careful about.

I don't want us to not do anything obviously, but I don't want us to get caught up and we we've got deadlines to have something, you know, in place in a meaningful sort of way or we're gonna, I don't know. We're we're I think.

It's going to become problematic too.

Well, I, Peter Morey, I agree with both of you and I'm kind of a different middle Rd. which I think you're both saying and I'm just kind of bringing it together is I don't think it's bad to necessarily have the basket of information because we can always go.

Back and revisit it.

And we'll get a different and deeper understanding with the presentations.

So I I agree with Blake that I think probably having been gathering that information.

But I also agree with you in that I don't think we want to say anything substantive until we have these presentations.

Understand what's going on and can look back at that basket and say, OK, I get this now.

I understand it now different level.

Let's pick that piece out and put it on your case.

But that's something that we want to figure out how to integrate into what we're putting together.

So we have to gather all the information before we can really make a decision.

I don't know that that has a deadline or I mean that that would be a self-imposed deadline.

But I think that needs to be done before we can really begin to build something.

Yeah. I mean, it's two informational baskets.

We need to bring it over. Melonie Opheim couple of question. I think I know the answer to this one. Are we not allowed to e-mail as a board to share information in between our meetings?

I mean, I've got the link.

He's got the link.

We can talk about.

You know, there could be a lot of stuff done in between.

The two hours we meet once a month. I don't know if that's, you know, if it's a encrypted e-mail between the seven of us or something, if that would work, I think that would save a lot of time.

Look over this. We know ahead of time when we're coming in that we can discuss things.

I don't know how that's frowned upon and and when you were talking about some of these presentations because I kind of see, you know, where were both of your coming as well?

Are you talking about in this group alone or in the in the bigger group? As far as presenters, you know the DCS or the OR the probation or the victim.

I mean, victim should be part of the board anyway, but.

I can jump in real fast.

I.

I guess I'm thinking and you know these correct me.

Those should be in this alone 'cause I'm still waiting for the big group presentation on probation and how that happens.

So I was there.

OK.

So I think that's about it.

So of overall system that I know I need to learn before.

The you know, dive in.

So I think the initial presentation at least that I'm proposing for juveniles happens here and then we will take that back to the big group.

Blake Barney.

So I know that anything we do has to be public records, so we can't do encrypted emails.

We can't send.

Documents or records or any of that kind of stuff because it all has to be public record. I I think it would be helpful and streamline the process.

Unfortunately, we have the the guidelines and policies that we have to follow with, you know, the the public records aspect of it. However, yesterday in the adult subcommittee meeting.

You know, I think four of us felt 3 1/4 presentations took place, and even if there's questions and there were definitely questions, we still regurgitated the information that we had found and I felt like I walked away with more information than I had when we started.

So.

Again, you know my my proposition is we just provide the information and maybe it's just kind of a dump of information out there and then we determine what we're gonna do with that information.

So I I Peter Mori, I would agree.

I think if we could get and I know there's always technical difficulties, but get it ahead of time like I'm not pointing at you. Like for the swivel lines and.

Ruby yesterday, so don't.

Please don't take it that way, but I mean if we get it ahead of time to, you know, even a couple days so that we can look at it and regurgitate it and have a a fruitful discussion.

Question would be presentation. Some questions to your ask and if you have material that you want to share with the subcommittee members and you get that to me ahead of the agenda going out, we can attach that this background material and we'll all have it days ahead of.

Time to and then that's public knowledgeable. So whatever your parents and to me and you know.

Record this voucher, but that could be shared as part of that material with the public so that

they have access to those materials.

Bill said.

Then you're working assessment, but you're not. But you're not prohibited.

Melanie, as a member of this juvenile subcommittee talking to Blake about the work of that we're doing and then bringing your own notes to this meeting and talking about them in, in this form, you're not prohibited from from doing that.

Building upon, I just know, like I know we.

I think we. I thought we'd already identified.

Maybe it was in a bigger meeting.

Like it was like Arizona, Idaho, not Arizona. Utah, Idaho, Colorado were probably the most robust boards that we knew about.

At least close to us, and not every state even has a board.

We're obviously just barely getting ours.

Yep. And so I'm not saying there can't be a few more that people know about, but they'll seem to be the most notable ones that we all do know about. So I don't.

I just.

I'm kind of in the in the blank category if I don't want to go too long too far with researching 25 states.

As opposed to like I wish we could all sit down for four hours and say these.

This is Colorado's. What do we like when we not like everybody?

Mark it up.

You know, what do you like from Idaho?

That's not what does. Utah have that these guys don't.

What do you hate about Utah's?

You know, I just feel like it could be a little more.

Again, I'm trying to rush it, but I do.

Just kinda have the same urgency of like I don't wanna reinvent the whole wheel. I don't wanna come up with all of our own language if we see stuff I can kinda pick and pick and choose what's already out there.

I think that sounds a lot more effective and.

And streamlined than kind of coming up with all of our own stuff.

That doesn't mean we can't think about what we want, but I'm. Yeah, I'm pretty good at, like, looking at other other peoples and then deciding instead of yeah I I pre thought off in the middle.

Sure. It's Peter Morey.

I agree with you, Melony.

I think you're, you know, kind of preaching on the quiet here because we're saying the same thing.

We don't want 50 States and I think a handful, but you know, as I was saying with a blind man, an elephant before we got to know what we're looking at before we throw it on too,

because I don't know that I'm speaking the same language you are.
To be honest, when we get down to some of the stuff.
So I think you know we need, we can run both tracks simultaneously, but I feel one really benefit from a big overkill. What we already have.
Before we start pulling into basket, collect the basket absolutely.
It's out to make decisions on. I'm not comfortable I.
I didn't say.
I mean, Melony Opheim.
Decisions I just thought if we kind of look at what those guys have and everything's in Colorado's that I didn't even know about either.
And then we know what we don't know.
True. But if I don't understand what they're actually being applied to, I don't know what I can effectively do that without a deeper understanding.
Yeah. I mean, I think you know, Scott and I agree, Peter, what do I think I hear Peter saying and and I suspect.
Though it is speculation on my part that there are a fair number of people who are sitting in the larger.
Arizona Sex offend board meetings.
Who?
Have a sliver of knowledge with respect to this larger issue, but but, but also don't really know how it all fits together.
And that's what I was trying to say when I was saying that.
We we should be trying to do things along the way here in a meaningful sort of way and be committed to that.
But there's a piece of this that's only going to take it's only gonna find traction and start to build momentum.
When the collective consciousness of the group is at a certain level of information and knowledge base, and with all due respect, I don't think it's there at this juncture that we could even begin to to go back to the larger group with some ideas and proposals and Dec.
That we think make sense and and not have a whole bunch of space to go through.
Before we ever get to making a decision because.
They're just not in the same place that we are.
With what we're talking about.
So I'm I'm gonna be an advocate for us.
Yes, we need. We need.
Something needs to be born from this process.
But let's not be naive about the fact that we're gonna experience a whole lot of barriers to doing that until we've got some collective consciousness that exists.
We know that's true from any group that we've ever been involved in professionally.
In in a piece of that is safety.

And right now you got 30 something professionals sitting in a room trying to gauge what where everybody else is coming from and what they think is the right way to intervene with people who misbehave sexually.

And if you if you lined them up and continue them in the room, you, you'd have a continuum. You know that that that went from one end of the spectrum to the other.

And we have to find a way to.

Or no, that's got to be acknowledged and tested. It's real.

And that's that's all I was saying.

You know earlier.

I'm not trying to put the brakes on anything.

I mean what I would advocate for is, is that if you have things that you think need to be on the agenda for this meeting, then get them into Jenna and you know and and get them on, we'll get them on this agenda and we'll we'll talk about.

Them in this room. I mean, I think you know what I'm hearing is is at a minimum, two things need to be on the agenda.

Next time.

Presentation of the front end of of as many different states as we we can do each of us, you know, trying to pick one and and do that with it and perhaps seeking to have you know somebody from DCS or somebody from juvenile probation, you know come in.

And talk about their structure.

I mean, if we did those two things we would have, we would have accomplished a lot, I think. But I'm just talking and I to talk.

Peter Morey. Second that, and I think part of my soapbox is professing my own ignorance for what's going on.

I I, Peter, I wanna get into your me say I respect the hell out of that. That you say that out loud 'cause it then gave me an opportunity to say that I don't think you're the only one. That that's true for.

That doesn't mean that I hold collectively more information about all the systems that exist in Arizona than some other people do, but but there certainly are people in this room and in people in the larger room.

Who do have a a pretty good handle on on the larger processes by virtue of what their work experiences have been up to this point?

I've articulated some of the limitations of mine today, especially with respect to the Department of Juvenile Corrections.

I don't.

I mean, I used to be.

I used to know and I knew I could call, you know, for a variety of issues, but I don't know at this point, and I think that speaks to the fact that that's the case speaks to a lot of things.

Think a piece of it to how they've been.

They've just been an outlier.

They're they're not.

They haven't really been part, at least in my view. They haven't really been part of this process for a while and I don't know what that's about and I'd like to figure out what that's about so that we can help them with their with their needs. Hi, Peter.

Agree and I think.

You know submitting, as we get farther down the road.

You know retention as well is always going to be a major factor in treatment of these individuals.

Because if they're having therapists or probation officers or ever turn over every other bump.

That's going to certainly affect treatment, so.

And that's not an issue we take up today, I guess.

Yeah, you know, great historic.

Blake Barney one of the things I've also just kind of thinking about is.

Each one of us is professional, but we have different aspects of our expertise.

In the sense that.

Ben is going to have way more information on polygraphs than any of us.

Scott, you're going to have more information on the evaluation side of things than any of us.

Melanie, you're gonna have more information on the housing aspect than any of us. Peter, you're gonna have more information on the psychiatry aspect of all this and the the cognitive level of functioning and everything else. Public health in the public health thing. And then for me, you know.

Doing the one-on-one treatment with them.

Working through as many different things, doing family work so collectively as a group, we should be able to help each other out and answer some of those questions and the questions that nobody can answer.

That's where we like. All right, who's the expert that could come and inform all of us?

Because nobody knows.

Right. And I I think that that's another way that we can continually move forward.

With the acknowledgement, we don't have a deadline, but the public has expectations for.

For the board now, because it's taken quite a while to get put into place and I think that they're unrealistic expectations, but their expectations nonetheless.

And I don't even know what those expectations would be. Quite frankly, I think that unreal that they are, well, they are, but they're not concretized, they're not.

They're not.

They're not articulated. They're not known exactly.

What if I can just jump in? So I think Blake made a really good.

Observation here that you know collectively I think.

Or chosen the subcommittee because of our various strengths to come up with a whole thing.

But as I was saying, there's some things you know, we have our experience, we know things we don't know some things. And I think the taking that one level deeper, if we don't know

some things and look to find out who does know. If nobody knows that could.

Be something else that we need to patch in or seriously need to figure out.

A bridge for that could.

Help things move along.

Better stay more cohesive.

So Blake Barney and this is off topic, but I guess on topic, the agenda item is my understanding.

Number two was discuss the findings correct.

Yes. So if we're going to address agenda item number two, that would be Melanie going through her stuff and me going through my stuff.

And that's perfect for you, absolutely.

Can you provide anything on Colorado that you have so that we are?

Demonstrating.

You know, some kind of subjective matter that we provided to the group instead of groupthink, which is great, but we're also providing information for all of us to benefit from.

So I would just hope we can reach the item 2.

If that's OK, we can, we can.

We we still have time to do that today.

So OK, either one of you can go first and the other can follow.

I think I'll start with just some of the notes I took in discussing with Tom.

Leversee who was a pretty prominent person in the national.

Arena. I haven't always agreed with Tom, but.

But he's a helpful resource.

He's helped the AOC here in Arizona a lot.

He's good friends with Joe Kellroy.

They've been colleagues for a while, so he's been brought in. So I've known him for years, even in the Arizona setting. One of the things he pointed out before I even go over the guidelines really quick and I didn't do the pre.

Sentence stuff. It was just I'll. I'll read just the guidelines and that to Peter's point is kinda like, oh, I don't even like take notes. Like, I don't know what that means.

That is the more we read, kind of what they're doing, then we know what we don't know 'cause there may be stuff I'm like I never thought about that.

So I think it's kind of good to to just have an overview to begin with.

But he says to making sure 'cause their board started off as adults, very adult driven and they just had to put the brakes and say anything you've said for adults is, shall and will, the language should just be can or or maybe like basically he said that for.

Kids.

It just had to be individual practice that that it's not. If you have a 10 year old versus an 18 year old.

Treatment is completely different.

Your policies are completely different.

We've always run into this and it goes with adults with different IQs and different functioning levels, but.

Just, he said.

They this is just something he ran into and we don't have to run into it because we're getting his feedback to begin with, but just a lot of the the language that's just very concrete for juveniles. They just kind of referenced it to individual practice that this is.

The recommendations this is the guideline, but it doesn't have to be so like 2 old doesn't have to follow this if it's not appropriate for the 12 year old.

That was a that pretty.

And it's the multidisciplinary team that decides the youth and the individual treatment and we we definitely go with that in my group home.

We have adults now.

We have extended jurisdiction. Just something new, a probation that everybody should know about.

We have 18 year olds that just got extended on their probation, so they're no longer kicked out of the 18 if they're on probation. But that means I've got 18 year olds living with 12 year olds in a house. Adhs licensing has okayed it, but if I have.

A 18 year old put their hand on one of my 13 year olds.

I've gotten adults hitting a a minor, so it it causes a whole lot of issues, so there has to be did

everybody do y'all know about extended jurisdiction and it going into effect in Arizona a couple years ago?

Yeah. So that, that that's an important thing to to be aware of. They could extend the juvenile jurisdiction to 19, right?

Isn't it?

And it has to be agreed on Peter. From the lawyers standpoint.

Has to be agreed upon prior to their sentence.

So this I think came into existence because they recognized that they were getting late age juveniles and that they weren't going to have enough time with them in the juvenile system.

They didn't want to transfer them to adult court because they recognized that that that might be overkill.

For, for lack of a better word.

And so this this came, this came into existence and I've now seen six or eight cases of it myself. And it does.

It does.

We have a lot in my DCS group home.

What you just said makes me wanna call on the table from legal and I probably should go on.

It is.

It's it's been very complicated for us and yet we wanna help these kids that are getting

charged, especially we've had several.

We have kids.

We have probably 3 right now and one of them he just took a he took the extended jurisdiction. Despite that, he was gonna be charged.

He was or he was going to be registered as a sex offender.

So he kind of had the, I mean, he still can be, but that was his.

That was his choice.

And we're not sure he thinks he made the right choice given some of his behaviors. He's a pretty high risk, kids. Now we have an 18 year old, really high risk kid that we were trying to save him from registration. But yeah, now he's going home so again.

Individual treatment for kids, they're all going to be different and goes for adults too. But Needless to say that there needs to be a team involved.

And then I kind of already mentioned the purview and and who they're over the providers, the evaluators and polygrapher.

Do they do a lot more with education than we do?

I've got a kid, right as we speak. That's been out of school 12 days because DCS, which would be the department of DCS, does these BID meetings anybody familiar with those?

Best interest determination.

They did it several years ago, mostly for foster kids, because if you have a foster kid that's bouncing around from different homes and they loved Dobson high and they want to go to Dobson High, then they they don't want that kid to not go to Dobson High so.

If you're going to be the next foster family.

Gotta get him. Whether it's 50 miles away to Dobson High well, we run into issues because our kids come and we're not about to take them to 17 different schools.

It would be a phrases for my group home staff and my structure, so we tell them this is where they're going to go and they fight us and they have to have Abid, even if the kid is saying this is where I want to go, it's where every.

Other kid is going at this group home.

They were 12 days in with this kid not having an education because DCS kind of puts the brakes.

Even stuff like that, Colorado seems to have navigated.

They have ad.

Education specialist on the table, their disciplinary teams. When the kid first gets charged and they're already involved.

So you don't have to beg some DCS worker to not do the BID and stop him from school.

So I'm impressed with some of those things that we have not got there yet or sorry I do.

Victoria Baldner.

I need I have court at 3:00, so I'll be available by phone if something comes up until 3:00. But if it happens after three.

You need to.

It put it on. The next agenda will do. OK. Thank you for your time. Thank you. You're welcome.

Umm. And then one of the last things that we just had in our discussion.

Was.

And I've run into this with the Arizona House of the courts.

I contract with them.

That's my biggest contract is probation kids.

They have always had a stipulation that if you're going to work with the, they call it the JSAB, the juvenile, sexually abusive youth, they're going to work with the SO population.

You have to have two years of experience to be a therapist. To which I say that.

Means I have to steal from my people in town because I can't create a therapist.

Myself, out of people coming up and and through my group home staff or interns, they have to already be a therapist to be a therapist, which is really got us in a lot of trouble or not trouble, but very, very difficult.

Melonie, they've stopped you from being able to provide supervision for those people so that they can get to that requirement.

Supervision wasn't the issue.

They had to have two years experience on their own of being a sex offender therapist before they could be a sex offender therapist and I've had interns that have been with me five years sitting in groups and been an intern for their therapist. And they said Nope, they.

Need two years?

So my my back door has been they've worked with the mercy care with the access dependent youth and outpatient.

And then once they've had a year of that, if they find they finally start accounting the internship that they do for a year as an as a year of experience and then with another year of doing access kids, not probation kids, which is funny that you have to.

Distinguish between the two kids, even though they're the same kids. Then they can finally be an AOC therapist.

Now they are looking at this, but Colorado had the same issue.

He said that the first first who can work with a kid of this population was quantitative.

This many hours of practice, this much training, and they changed it because of the same kind of issues to a competency model. They have a pretty, pretty comprehensive model about assessment on how competent the therapist is. The supervisor helps.

There's a learning plan, basically, somebody's great at what they do. They don't have to wait four years to be a therapist.

They don't wait two years to be a therapist.

They're going to have a supervisor anyway, so I'm going to.

I already told Tom since he's buddies with. We talked about this.

That's what I had.

I mean per buddy.

I think for AOC's on us it's been a while since they've had to hire somebody, but it puts us at a pickle to not have somebody.

So that that was one of the things that they've learned the hard way of making it way more competency based than just this many hours. This can have a horrible therapy. Sessions got four years in one school, right?

So does that mean that they have some sort of assessment?

We do instrument that they're using for a therapist, OK? And I don't know if it's a class or a 12 hour course.

I I didn't get that far with him, but but it might be in his big document for the the board. It may be in there.

Well, I didn't look over all of it so and that way you're not losing heat.

There's another thing where you don't lose active people. It reminded me of our first meeting. Like where?

We couldn't seem to define treatment provider and it was 'cause some people weren't actively with this population at the moment and he says they try not to lose good people, but they've had for decades.

They just want to work with general mental health or something else for the time being.

Maybe they're just going to run a clinic so they have something where they don't lose those people. They keep them active even if they're if in their field, but they're not direct practice. There's still a way to keep them active with that.

That sort of.

He didn't call it a certification, but with that, with that, you know, basically with that title.

Yeah. Credential. Yeah.

So those were some good things.

I thought that he kind of just threw out to me in the in the time that we had, he said. Yeah, if you want to just go over the guiding principles and then again, I need to make my own notes on this. I'd already kind of looked over.

It but didn't jot anything down.

See if I can see all this out of my glasses. If you guys don't read through these.

To the 20 principles, these are the 20 principles, the guiding purpose of the guiding principles to establish the core foundation principles from which the standards and guidelines are created, provide guidance in the absence of a specific standard or guideline.

Highest number one highest priority.

These standards and guidelines is to maximize Community safety through the effective delivery of quality evaluation, treatment and management of juveniles who commit sexual offenses.

#2 sexual offenses are traumatic and can have a devastating impact on the victims and victims family.

There's a big paragraph after each these.

I'm gonna read those.

#3 community safety and the rights and interests of victims and their families, as well as potential victims, require paramount attention when developing and implementing assessment, treatment and supervision of juveniles who have committed sexual offenses.

#4 safety protection, developmental growth and the physiological.

I'm sorry, psychological. well-being of victims and potential victims is a priority for the multidisciplinary team and DT.

Number five offense specific treatment must address all types of abusive behaviors and not just the legally defined delinquent behavior for which they are adjudicating.

Six treatment and supervision decisions should be informed by comprehensive evaluation and ongoing assessments. #7 risk assessment of juveniles who have committed sexual offenses should be based on an empirically supported protocol. #8A multidisciplinary team will be convened, convened and is responsible for the evaluation.

Treatment care and supervision of juveniles who commit sexual offenses.

#9.

Treatment and supervision decisions should be guided by available research and best practice

#10 treatment and supervision should be individualized and responsive based on the juvenile's risk and needs.

#11 evaluation, ongoing assessment, treatment and supervision of juveniles who have committed sexual offenses should be non discriminatory, humane and bound by the professional code of ethics and law.

#12 assessment of the degree of progress in treatment is based on the juvenile's application of relevant changes in their daily function.

#13 treatment should be holistic and enhance overall health and protection factors.

#14 assessment, treatment and supervision should be viewed through an ecological framework of development.

15 family members.

Primary caregivers should be considered an integral part of evaluation, assessment, treatment and supervision.

16 treatment and supervision decisions regarding juveniles who committed sexual offenses should minimize caregiving disruption and maximize exposure to positive care in adult role models.

17 A continuum of care for treatment and supervision options should be available and utilized as needed.

18 for juveniles who have been removed from the home, family reunification can only occur after a careful consideration of all potential risks.

19 juveniles shall not be labeled as if their sexual offending behavior defines them.

20 successful completion of treatment and supervision depends upon a juvenile's willingness and ability to cooperate accordingly.

Members of the MDT should employ practices designed to maximize maximize the juvenile's participation and accountability.

There was 21.

So yeah, it's just an overview.

It's nothing, you know, but it covers a lot of safety, a lot of supervision.

It covers the victims.

It covers reunification and reunification with families.

It covers the team. Just what happy love to implement here in Arizona.

Just getting everybody involved, which is why we need to know about DCS approbation. I know a lot about it, but people don't.

But absolutely, we've got to bring them to the table. I'll make sure they're involved at least some juvenile side.

But any.

Any questions that I can send this link to Jenna?

It's it's it's a good document.

It's big and he he kept saying it's not perfect, but I kept on saying what don't you like?

It's just so we don't have to look at what you know. And and again, I might not, you know, take his, you know, I mean, I agree with his opinion but.

Yeah. One thing I would add is is the polygraphs, but very partial. Ben's here and I don't wanna, you know, leave him out, but they don't say anything about the polygraph being used.

I think there's a proper way to use the polygraph.

We've already kind of discussed this.

Peter may not have been here last time, but.

But I'm definitely hoping that that would make it into our and our stuff that we end up writing because it's very helpful with the victim and the family.

I think Kurt and I don't.

You know, I don't know what the exact appropriate time for us to to foster that discussion is, but but, but we should.

We should not forget that that needs to be something that we discussed and he didn't, anything or they didn't have anything there about the education.

That's just part of their team. So I think there's a lot of little pieces that aren't mentioned in their guidelines.

Those are again generic.

Not generic, but general overview guidelines, but yeah, the education, the DCS being part of it and and and yeah, the things I saw that were specifics that weren't mentioned that I would wanna make sure somewhere are mentioned.

OK.

OK.

Blake Barney.

I again I had practice yesterday so I have made this very concise to the pre sentence structure for juvenile in Idaho.

And basically they start with evidence based screening tools that assess risk.

But they also are trying to determine the trauma or the offender themselves.

Because juveniles who.

Then.

Are typically.

Predisposed to some type of trauma themselves? So recognizing the trauma and as well as the needs for that juvenile.

And then there's recommendations about supervision, treatment, the conditions specific to each offender, and so much like Colorado, it is individual based. It is not an umbrella like some systems tend to be.

And.

If if a polygraph is going to be used, it has to be.

Agreed upon by.

The Guardian or parent of the offender?

The prosecutor.

The defense attorney and overseen by a judge who makes that determination.

So they can use them, but it is very well thought out and determined.

You know how valuable it's gonna be for the pre sentence.

Process.

This is.

Circumvented for those who are charged as an adult, even though they're a juvenile, and that would be something that falls under their criminal Rule 53, which is a juvenile who commits a crime capable commits a crime that was capable by an adult.

And they have very specific guidelines to that.

In that case, then they can use the the polygraph as they would with an adult.

There is a little bit of a discrepancy there, but.

That caveat is important. And then.

They do their pre sentence investigation report and they identify.

The social history of the perpetrator or of the the offender?

As well as the victim impact that their behavior had.

And that all goes into the judge's decision.

So it seems as though the offender.

Here is to identify what type of victim impact their behaviors had and that will directly affect what kind of sentencing they might experience from the judge and go into that decision.

And then, much like with the adults, any of their providers are certified by their board and they do use that term certified. So the board certifies any provider that is providing any kind of evaluation.

They actually certify the polygraph as well. So these evaluators all have to be certified by the board if they're not certified by the board they they're in Idaho, not allowed to provide any kind of services.

It doesn't say whether or not when they're in.

Juvenile corrections, if they are receiving treatment, I'm assuming that they have some type of sex offender treatment.

When they're in juvenile corrections.

But it didn't.

It doesn't specify specifically the current evaluation requirements during the pre sentence.

Is based off of the most previous one year.

And it's supposed to be updated.

For legal status and risk profile, every year as appropriate.

So I think that's interesting too, because.

Here in Arizona, we do it like once, maybe ever.

And they're doing it once a year to determine risk profile for the juvenile.

Go ahead, Scott Naegele question.

So am I hearing you correctly say that there is somebody assigned?

To that case, who after the youth has been in treatment for a year's time, they're going back and formally evaluating their risk.

At that, at that moment in time, and that that gets communicated in some way in a structured way to.

To the court, I assume that is that one hearing you said. Yeah. So. So my understanding of it and I can get additional clarification, but my understanding of it is from their pre sentence evaluation and then once they begin treatment. So again if that's taking place when they.

In the juvenile corrections, I'm assuming it still happens, but if they're incorrections and they're not receiving treatment, I would guess that.

Their evaluations wouldn't happen until they are just post.

Release. Yeah, post release and like in treatment actively. And then once a year they're doing evaluations.

So their evaluations are in are to inform the sentencing their treatment planning, commitment, decisions, probation conditions, supervising the supervision planning.

And any potential registry requirements.

So again, this is all pre sentence when they do this, but this is reevaluated on a yearly basis as appropriate it says.

So my guess is in some rural counties, maybe they don't have the availability for once a year, but.

But they try to get it within that time frame.

Let's see.

So anybody who's a juvenile has to have informed consent from the Guardian.

And all the tools, the professional assessments that are being done have to be approved by the Idaho sex Offender Management Board, which are all part of the tools and assessments used by certified.

I.

I.

Evaluators and and therapists.

Scott Naegele, you can ask another question.

Yeah, I I make the assumption that the evaluators are a mixed group of both masters level and doctoral level people.

Or maybe you don't know the answer to that.

Yes, they do have masters level as well as doctorate level that can be certified by the board.

I didn't get into what the specifications are for their certification, but again I can provide that information after.

Little bit deeper dive.

A, but yes, they do have masters level and doctoral level.

So.

The interesting thing that you're saying with the extensions in Idaho, they can be extended up to age 21 to remain on juvenile probation, not necessarily housing, right, but to stay on juvenile probation, they can be extended all the way to age 21.

Or they.

Get committed to juvenile corrections up to age 21. Rather than transferring to.

Adult.

Corrections facilities.

So I thought that was interesting as well.

And then yeah, for the most part, that's all of the pre-sentence.

And and the treatment aspect of it. But the thing I take away from it is their sex offender management board is kind of overseeing everything.

From the adult side and the juvenile side, the state the courts are referring to, the Sex offender Management Board for most of their things, and it's been in place for just under 14 years now and.

They have quite a bit of influence over.

Like regulations, legislation.

All of the providers that are providing have to be certified by the board, their members.

There's 22 members on their board so.

I think that there's certainly things that we could take from Idaho's.

Guidelines and and their way of doing things right now and implemented into Arizona so that we can be better than any of the other states that have a management board right now, so.

I might agree. Blake and I do.

I get excited because, I mean, I mean Scott kinda has know me the longest, but we've been doing this 2530 years and there's been so many people pop up to say they're doing this work and are not doing this work.

And so many kids get, especially in the DCS.

But there's just these group homes that or or even some of the adhs that that, you know.

My understanding is when I have a behavior home might have a licensed therapist that works with the kids in that behavioral health therapeutic group home.

But there's about four other group homes in town that do not have a therapist.

So then I'm wondering why I why I am to pay for a full time salaried person with benefits?

And they don't.

And then they outsource it to an outpatient.

Therapist so that that's more of a A a business owner complaint, but it just doesn't make sense and there's so many inconsistencies. And I had a guy that had worked with me in a previous YDI actually years and years ago and he called like, hey, I started my.

Group called. What book do you use?

And you know, he ended up just throwing bottom pathways workbook and was just giving it to kids.

We recently started working out of Canyon State. They've been taking out of state kids for years, giving them a work worksheet every week. No therapist overseeing it and they're getting QRTP.

So it's I I try not to get. You know, I just do my own thing and karma and everything happens for a reason.

But it'll be nice to have everybody consistently qualified.

I don't be the only one in town.

There's plenty of work when I have empty beds and other people are not seeing kids or treating kids, you know, and I and I think, I mean, I think normally some of the things you're saying about concerns about unqualified people providing treatment or or systems having kids and.

Them that need treatment that are not really getting treatment.

The I mean I've. I've begun to be begun to become aware of some of the people that have gotten contracts with AOC to do psychosexual evaluations and I.

It used to be that we knew everybody and that people had kind of moved through some space and were, I mean, I get calls from the probation department and the little county I'm working in.

Do you happen to know this person?

They're on AOC's listed to provide psychosexual evaluation.

But I'm like, I've never heard of him or or, you know, I do my own quick search and find out that they've had their doctoral degree since 2024, and which means they probably never spent any time working with this population at all.

They've been trained on how to do psychological evaluations and have decided that they're going to apply for an AOC contract to do psychosexual evaluations.

So I don't know if that's showing up in, in, in. In Maricopa County. I imagine some of the the long standing parties that did evaluations here in the county are gone, right?

I mean, I mean, I can't, I can.

Only I can only think of Katherine. That might still be around, right?

Yeah. So I mean, that's problematic too. When the people that are making decisions at the front end of this thing, you make a recommendation to juvenile Board.

In and they don't, they they can't.

I mean, I mean, respectfully, they can't possibly.

Had enough depth of the knowledge to know whether a kid needs to be placed in what level of care.

They got asked.

I got asked by by by an outlying county court to redo an evaluation because of the evaluation that the young man had done by by the AOC's contracted provider who's going to send them to residential care and he by no means was was neither risky enough or.

Didn't have the capacity to benefit from outpatient treatment.

And I I didn't.

I honestly didn't know how they got there.

I didn't understand how they got there.

I mean, Melanie Opheim, there's a lot of, yeah. Education is definitely needed.

We've had a kid that they, they continue to.

He's an off and on psychiatric hospital at the moment, which would never take a kid straight to from there because our kids are in the community, but they keep saying you've got to take him. You're the next level of care.

And so I I have to break it down as outpatient as PHR. If it's Phi, there's a hospital.

So you wanting to refer her back to me?

It's not appropriate.

BHIF.

You know, it's just things that are simple things, but the whole team and the evaluator said needs needs least restrictive care, so he needs to go new turns hospital, have a hospital.

So it's just it's lack of this is a a Doctor Who's writing in a report to send them to me specifically, which I think you're awesome.

Yeah. And. And I'm like, come take a look.

We got, you know, doors are not locked.

They can't walk out the door.

So it is.

It's just there's a lot of. Yeah, this education,

Blake Barney, I think one of the things that I've experienced through.

Like 8 years of of being in this specifically.

Is there's multiple different models of treatment that are being provided. If somebody gets unsuccessfully discharged from one treatment place and goes to another, they may not be doing the same type of treatment. It may be completely.

Completely different.

There's a guy who comes to mind who lives on the West side and he came to me specifically for private therapy and he's an approved center doing therapy. And I brought up terms with him that people are learning on day one and he'd never heard of any been.

There for three years consent and, yeah, consent. The offense cycle actually.

He did not know about the offense cycle and I'm like, what is?

That's OK.

I'm confused here, but those kinds of things are a disservice to the community because without the consistency, our guys are not getting the same kind of treatment and it's not evidence based treatment that is being provided across the board.

So these guys go in and learn all about how to love themselves better and how to have a better self esteem.

But they don't learn anything about victim empathy.

They've never even heard the term victim empathy.

And one of the big things is to be able to build victim empathy and have remorse and understand accountability and everything else.

It's not just about making yourself like yourself better, so you make better decisions.

That's great, but that's not the model that has been demonstrated to be effective, but that's the model that probably 25 30% of the guys are experiencing when they go to their quote Unquote treatment.

And the other side of that is.

Plenty of people who are behavioral health techs.

So their Ph Ds.

They have a bachelor's degree or they have four years of experience with a high school diploma or providing treatment because plenty of agencies are cutting corners and saving money and making money by having pH. D's provide therapy, and they're not therapists.

So I like that.

Idaho has.

Everybody is certified. If somebody is in.

Of something or is being shady or whatever it is, the board will just say you're no longer allowed to do this, and they'll say you're done. You're not.

We're not certifying you and you cannot provide these services.

So the term they use is credential, though right certified in Idaho. I think credentialed is in Colorado, but certified, in Idaho. Melonie particular, mostly people in this me too, who you work with, like a lot of people, not on probation.

Or these people, that is their probation officer who's funding their treatment before they come to you.

Some of these agents.

If I may, this was going to be a task that Blake and I and Peter both have to be be mindful of when we sit in this room versus being part of the adult thing. We have to remember we're talking about juveniles when we're sitting in, can I?

Get that? You're probably talking about adults, but I guess I'm just wondering in the adult world, just, you know, for me to know who's who's funding those people self pay mostly.

Yeah. So.

All the adults, unless they're getting vouchers from probation, are paid for these treatment

groups every week.

And it's \$50 a week.

So are they court ordered though? Yes. So there's court ordered that they can find the wrong therapist.

No they can't.

They cannot.

Lester Lester. He he specific people. He sought me out for mental health issues. OK. And because I do what I do.

And he was in right when he was in. We got into other things. And it was like, very clear he was not getting, you know, good quality treatment. But but whoever he was seeing was on a list that was OK by. Yes, it was. It was.

On Sandy federal side actually, OK.

But the the BHTS and stuff like that.

That's across the board. And yes, when I'm working with juveniles, I'm working with them in the pre-sentence, so they're not on probation yet.

There's only one guy.

I have that's post but he's like 24 now, so I he's an adult in every aspect of it. When he was a juvenile offender, so.

I think that the concern is if we're required to provide best treatment.

I would provide best treatment, and in Idaho they want best treatment.

So they're saying we're gonna decide. We can do that.

And again, I'm guessing for them to be certified there's some type of assessment or something they have to do to gain that certification that demonstrates, yes, we are doing what is in the best interest of everyone. And another thought Peter Morey. Blake saying, I I agree with.

You completely, but I think another.

Benefit of that is that we would have updated lists with the port.

So I know there's some of these providers that are on these lists and I'm looking at more from Horton side trying to find an evaluator that could be dead 10 years.

There's so many ways so you know, I think having a centralized sex, offender management board, you know, handles the juvenile and adult certification for these things is a good idea.

I'm keeping it updated keeping it available.

To the ports as well as the.

Offenders and in some cases, victims.

Yeah. I mean the reality is, is that I'm historically in Arizona.

Partner child safety, or CPS. Previously in in juvenile probation that that through their contracts with ASC they they have, they have separate lists of people that that they have that are that are doing assessment work.

In separate lists, sometimes in people who are doing treatment work.

And consolidating this in some way and providing.

A structure to what that needs to consist of.

In the kind of experiences that somebody needs to have had before, they are eligible for to be able to perform, you know, either an assessment task or a treatment task, I think is is, is an important piece of what needs to come out of this room.

Because then you don't have people just sliding out of their Graduate School programs.

Into what are really, really important pieces of this equation, especially if it's the assessment piece of the equation that allegedly is supposed to set the tone for everything that comes after that.

It it's huge, frankly.

It's complicated stuff.

It is complicated stuff.

It's complex, I would say in a lot of ways.

And Ben, I don't want you to fall asleep over there so.

One of the things is that I mentioned earlier was they certify their polygraphers as well and I think that maybe one of the hurdles for being able to do polygraphs on juveniles is having people like you who have had a lot of experience and done a lot of.

Polygraphs with juveniles, as you know, certified to do this, and maybe there's five of you in the whole state, right?

Not 18 different choices, and who knows how.

This guy is going to.

Do it versus how Ben's gonna do it versus how this other person's gonna do it.

It's very specific.

This is what's expected.

We know Ben can do that.

We know John can do that.

We know that Deborah's gonna do that.

You know, whatever.

And that might make that hurdle a little bit easier to get over if we.

Looked to have some kind of evaluation or assessment certification. Something through through our board.

BG

B. G.

Yeah, Ben Galarneau.

Yeah, you're exactly right, Blake.

You know, there's a bunch of problems with the polygraph and the and the and people doing them. One of the main problems with the polygraph is that people operate under this misconception that it's psychologically abusive.

And interrogative and anybody and and the problem is a lot of people made policy don't have any knowledge about how a polygraph actually works.

You know, I would like someone to someone that knows about polygraph explain where.

The the psychologically traumatizing and abusive aspect of this is because anybody that has

ever worked with polygraph.

For a while IS is a supporter of polygraph and they see the value of it.

Not only is it valuable, it's extraordinary.

And I know I know, most of us here have lots of stories about the way the polygraph has just changed the course of treatment, supervision, evaluation.

And to the point of getting certified, I think the critics people that that that will say it's abusive or interrogative.

I think we could kind of address those issues, even though I don't believe those to be true.

And again, most of the people that I've talked to that say these things will admit they've never used polygraphs.

They've never observed one and they don't really have any idea about how they work.

They've heard things.

They've watched CSI and this is what they're basing their opinions on.

So creating some kind of a certification I think is a great idea and I've had this. I've had this idea for a while and I think it could. It could kind of, you know, address a lot of these issues.

But the way the way A polygraph makes a difference.

In in evaluations is incredible.

And I know Scott can speak to this.

Blake. Melanie. Peter. Maybe can too.

I'm not real familiar with your experience there or use of those, but they they really.

Are in my opinion, after 23 years of doing these and thousands of juvenile polygraphs, that they are hands down the best tool that we have.

I can say that it's no more traumatizing, abusive, interrogative than than anything else we're doing, you know.

And again, if people could look at the video or get real information about what we're doing, they would be hard pressed to say that there was something abusive or traumatizing.

You know, in the in the.

I I hope I'm gonna have this opportunity.

Opportunity to kind of present just a list of benefits for multiple, you know, different angles that these kids go through through treatment that people aren't aren't, you know, aware of. I think a lot of people aren't familiar with it.

See it as it's an event. You go and you take a polygraph and it's all about are you lying or telling the truth?

But there's so many different benefits to this that people just aren't aware of, so I think.

One of you know one of my goals and it should be one of our goals is to to educate.

People and give them a realistic idea about what a polygraph is.

Then we can start from Ground Zero and build on that.

But when you're when you're, you know, saying that the polygraph is a guillotine.

Let's let's make policy. The only thing you're gonna hear is policy.

Based on what a guillotine can do and when we use it.

So I think certification thing is a great idea and I think there needs to be a lot of education and and people need to get a realistic and accurate look at what A polygraph is and how we do it. You know everything from a lot of the a lot of the the post test interviews we do with these guys, the juveniles is something like, hey, you're having a problem with this question about having sexual contact with a family member.

Do you have any idea why?

And most of them very easily will say, yeah, I've been having sex with my sister, and it's literally that easy.

Most of the time, but people have this idea that we're breaking out whips and bright lights and we're screaming and yelling and calling them liars.

I don't think I've ever called any juvenile liar.

Or said I didn't believe him.

There there are interview techniques and very creative ways to get kids to talk where you can side with them and get that information. And it's it's not as difficult as as one may think that it is and I could go on and on and on for hours and.

Provide multiple examples about these things, but I won't do that.

But.

At some point right, we'll we'll get a chance to do this.

We we, we do need to do that, Ben.

This is Scott.

Obviously we we do need to do that and we do need, we probably need to do that frankly, perhaps both in this room and at the larger at the larger.

Board meeting because until we get to talk about all the things that you've kind of danced around and hinted at and really vet vet them in a meaningful sort of way, you know, think things have just been done for political expediency, they haven't been done.

And they haven't been done for community safety, and they haven't been done for.

The protection of of yet unknown but already existing victims.

You know, I mean in, in, in the researchers around these issues.

They want to talk about how there's no evidence whatsoever that polygraph reduces recidivism, and we can have a discussion about the fact that there's no.

There's no research period.

And and that's one way to to have a conversation about it.

But but, but since when is recidivism the only thing that matters.

In these in in these cases, what?

What about already existing victims that we don't know about, that we will never know about unless we were to polygraph our clients and then we're sticking kids back in homes where we knew about one victim, sibling victim.

But we didn't know about the other three.

And in the kid and the kid never had to talk about that.

And and and those victims never got the the honor and the respect they that that that they need.

And deserve.

And now you now you put him back in there and I never had anything. I never had a chance to say anything about it.

I I you're right.

We we need, we need to have this discussion.

BG

B. G.

Yeah. Let me let me just give a a quick story and and this is very sort of ordinary types of things that happen with polygraph. You hear it and you think it's some amazing thing, but this happens all the time with polygraph. And if you're familiar with it.

You know it.

Handful of years ago, juvenile put on sex offender probation.

His parents didn't want him to receive treatment here in Arizona, so they found.

A.

A treatment center in a different state.

I think Utah cost a lot of money.

You know the best of the best therapists and this kid went through treatment for about a year.

He had one victim, so he said.

And he went through his treatment program, and he was a star kind of star, you know, star client there. And after about a year of going through treatment with his one victim and and the team got together and decided that he was ready to be his discharge and.

And go back home to his family.

They didn't use polygraph there.

The PO called me and said hey, this kids set to be discharged.

Come home in about two weeks, but they don't use polygraphs there.

And there's just something off and I'd like to maybe do a polygraph. He just seems too perfect, you know.

He's got the one victim and I just like to do a sexual history polygraph.

So I said, OK, so he comes back.

And he comes comes to Arizona, about two weeks before he's supposed to come home to do the sexual history polygraph.

He comes in with his mom and his dad and his two sisters, and they're talking about how excited they are to have the kid come back home.

Anyway, we go in and I'm looking at the two sisters.

They're there and they're not looking real happy about having Big Brother come home, right?

So we go and we do the polygraph.

Long story short, you know we're done. I told him that he was having some issues with this,

this this question about, you know, sexual contact with anyone couple years younger, non consenting.

And I said, what's going on with this?

And he said, well, he, he said I've had sexual contact with both my sisters.

I've actually sexually assaulted both of my sisters.

So had a conversation with the parents and parents were very upset, and they went from, you know, wanting him home that week to saying he's not ready to come home.

The treatment center had a big, you know, red alert, three alarm, fire meeting about how did we have these, these amazing therapists all agreed that this kid was treated.

He should be home and we're sending him back home to his victims.

I saw the kid a couple months later because he came back to Arizona and was put in in treatment in Arizona. I said to myself, you know, you went through a year of treatment here and you know, you, you said you had one victim, you did great everyone.

Said you're ready to come back home.

And and you know, they they never questioned the one victim.

I said, how do you get through all this?

Just saying you had one victim, he said.

It's easy.

You just lie.

How are they going to know?

And he looked at the polygraph instrument and said unless you have one of these.

And these kinds of things happen all the time.

There was nothing abusive about it.

There was nothing interrogative about it, but it had it had it not been for that PO, sending him over for a sexual history polygraph, he went back home to live with his two sisters, who were victims, and Lord knows what might have happened.

You know, we might have saved him from going to, you know, prison if he if he started offending again against the girls and got caught again, his life may have been worse.

So it's not all about being mean to the offender.

Sometimes we're helping him and we're help. Certainly helping the family and we certainly help those little girls. And and this is a reason I think it needs to be mandatory. And I think if people could really see how this works the way we do it and the benefits.

Of it that they would agree.

So. So Ben, I, I, I I you know where I sit in relation to everything that I heard you say.

So I don't need to echo that but here but, but here's what I here's what I do want to say because it was, it was stimulated at the last part of what you said and it goes something like this.

The people who are anti polygraph will then turn and they will say, well, those therapists

were just not trained properly to facilitate disclosure and they didn't develop enough of a therapeutic relationship with their client in the 1st place to get them to be honest about that stuff.

And that that that's not what's going on here.

I mean, I want to say that out loud to to the group that's assembled here, and I will happily say that to the to the larger committee.

What? What's going on is.

There are some people that no matter what kind of a relationship we have with them, are not going to tell us some of this information and.

I happen to think that I'm a pretty good therapist but but, but. But I recognize that in some cases with with some kids, I'm not going to get to the bottom of the well unless I have the aid of your assistance and and and and and and.

And you and I, you and I are doing that with some select cases in a small small county in, in, in Arizona and we we've been doing it effectively for for several years.

Yes, we have to ask for input from the court and from the judge involved, but I think that we have a relationship with that court and we have a relationship with the judges involved and they know when we ask them.

For permission to do a polygraph on Kid X For these reasons.

We're we're asking for sound reasons and and we're not polygraphing every kid.

And and and we can have a discussion about about, you know, where do we draw the line here?

Do we need to polygraph every kid or or or not and? And I'm certainly open to having that discussion.

But but my point is, is those those who take the position that that the therapist just didn't foster having the kind of.

Meaningful relationship with their client and had they done that, they would have gotten to this information.

They they don't know this population, they don't know these issues.

That's, that's where I sit in relation to this Scott. And I'm Peter Mori.

I'm gonna kind of echo on to what you said here because I think.

You're bringing on much larger issue and kind of circling back to something we touched on earlier.

Is that with court mandated therapists, you may not fit, and frankly, therapists turn over in the public sector a lot.

And so you just frankly don't have the time or the luxury to match the.

Child or adult? I mean either one with a therapist who is going to get to the bottom of the well.

So I really think polygraph is useful.

I don't think it's an interrogation tool, but I think it's also useful bridge to see what therapy is actually getting through.

Because yeah, you're right.

There are talented therapists out there and there are talented therapists out there who can't work with a specific individual because they just don't click.

I mean the the quality is only as good as the relationship or the quality of therapy is always good.

In a lot of cases, so I think it's good to know.

Where these people are standing and if the therapy is taken.

Melanie Opheim.

I know we're almost out of time, but I can't not speak for talking about progress.

And and Peter, to your point, I mean, we've sat in a room with people who've been working with offenders, especially those quite a few Canadians.

And I remember speaking, saying you guys have just been using these.

It's a crutch.

You don't have the therapeutic skills. You don't have the relationship and all we can say was you have no idea what your clients have done. And one of my experiences and I've got fifty stories like Ben of kids that came to us having finished AGC in record time.

And having finished ydi in record time when they didn't use a polygraph and and and the truth is not every kid doesn't want to talk, but to to Scott's point.

Once your therapist asks you how many other victims you have and you say none, are they supposed to ask every time they sit down with you?

Because it's really hard for our kids when talking about juveniles and it may be same for adults to say, hey, remember when you asked me that four months ago.

I have a different answer. Now I want to tell you about my other 4 victims.

So it's it's unreasonable to think that my kids are going to cough it up and it's unreasonable to think that therapist is going to start a conversation with how many others you know. They don't beat them up since the polygraphs have been gone, we've had to just kind.

Of move on, but it's really hard for a kid to divulge information when they have already lied to your face and we don't care if they lie.

Tell us later, but without the polygraph, they never see that opportunity.

So it's it kinda gets stuck in their own little pigeon hole of and I've always said that research should be done on how does it affect a kid to lie to your face and get out with the big watch and the big ceremony and a plaque that can.

Feel great either.

I mean, you must feel more like a criminal than ever, knowing that you just know their whole treatment team saying there was three and there was 13 victims.

So I don't think it's good for kids to to, to be passed along and say it doesn't really matter.

Like we know that a lot of them lie.

And I I feel like it's more detrimental to not have them tell the truth.

And though I'm not gonna get hunkered down in the recidivism, only discussion around this.

I do think that the absence of the polygraph in a good number of our juvenile cases is gonna

result in recidivism increases.

We're just not gonna know about it for a little while.

And we won't.

We won't even know about it unless somebody decides to take a good look at it.

Because yesterday's discussion and our adult subcommittee was a discuss part of the discussion, was about what are the recidivism rates in in State X, and I don't think a good number of states have any idea what their recidivism rates are.

So if if you really want to know whether or not the absence of something from an equation is going to manifest itself later as a problem, then that requires us to examine whether or not there's a problem there.

But but. But I'm on record and I will be on record again saying right now that I think it's gonna lead to increased recidivism. And I think it's only a matter of time before we see that that kids are showing up in the adult court systems and we.

Would have to do some really intricate research to track some of this stuff.

Have access to FBI databases and all sorts of stuff to to do recidivism.

Tracking of of people who moved from Arizona and all that kind of stuff.

But it can be done and and I and I. And I think it's going to show up that way.

I just believe that that's going to show up that way. The complete absence of polygraph as it relates to juveniles and that's not fair to those juveniles and that's not fair to those families or to the victims that they go on to create.

Down the road.

Enough said.

I recognize the time.

We've probably gone longer than we all anticipated we might today.

Please please, if you have agenda items for next time, including coming with other states to to do a presentation about the upfront part of the process with, please do if if you think that the this group could benefit from having somebody from DCS come talk to us.

Or somebody from juvenile probation.

Coming to talk to us.

I'm not opposed to that happening and I'm and while I'm gonna be mindful of the the well articulated desire on this of members of this subcommittee to to have something come from this subcommittee, I'm not going to succumb to.

We have to race to the finish line either.

I'm. I'm I'm. I'm gonna insist that we take the time to.

Have the conversations.

That we need to have to have whatever comes out of this subcommittee be meaningful.

Peter Morey, just like to put forward Scott.

I would like to go on record of asking that we do have presentations.

I don't know who specifically, but if we can think of somebody or specific people, even from the bigger board to come in and do the presentation, I know we're supposed to, I think maybe

Monday even have a presentation from probably probation.

Yes, Sir.

Yes on the assessment.

Yeah. CommunityAssessment. OK.

So yeah.

On the on the Community registrations assessment tool notifications, OK.

Yeah. So maybe we can get to tab.

Yeah, so, so so I can I can work with either Melanie or or Jenna to try to get or both.

Yeah, somebody from DCS, if it's not the person that's on our board, if they can help us identify who the person in the in the juvenile world.

Would be the if you could just tell me a little bit more about the topic specific that you want them to present on as a presentation.

Like what do you want? The 'cause you.

I think I want somebody to come who can talk about how the DCS system seeks services for kids that become wards of the state and and and. And so we can understand the structure that they have.

Where? Where?

They're talking about kids in general, but they're talking also about these kids.

And then they can come specifically.

The one that helps decide out of a committee who goes where and it's not gonna be licensing.

It's not gonna be contracts and and oversight. It's gonna be the people that decide.

And yeah, it might be a very robust conversation. Yeah. And I I'd kinda like to see just, you know, idealized or ideally how kids are to move through the system.

So we kind of have an idea of what's supposed to happen so we can kind of identify where it's broken and why it's kind of a general overview of the process.

Yeah, you can be in touch with me if you want.

If if the guy, if the assignee victim Services program manager. OK so that he's more on the victim side. But if the offender's side Amy Fox is is now in charge of the placement team.

OK.

And they are the.

Mr. Galarneau, any thoughts from afar?

BG

B. G.

No. You know when when Peter talked?

It kind of dawned on me that the issue I'm having is this overwhelming idea of the whole process and and that I'm not familiar with everything.

You know, I almost wish it was a map on the wall, you know, with the arrows that say intake, a kid comes in here based on the charges.

He goes here, here, here and we kind of work our way down and and, you know, in little sections and and.

That.
I mean, I'm a polygraph examiner.

the kid is.

BG B. G.
I've been around for a while and what's that?

Oh, I was just saying.
DCS kid.
Doesn't look like a probation kid, and I think that's where I we we have where it gets complex.

BG B. G.
Yeah. Yeah, it's hard to.

Is that?
Do you see that?

BG B. G.
It's hard to make.

Half the rooms that information Kid would, with the judge and a probation officer.

BG B. G.
Yeah, hard to hard to make recommendations until you have a good idea about how it's supposed to go, right?
And I think once we have that that framework, but I think really kind of taking it one step at a time, having a presenters is great.
This is the way it's supposed to look.
This is the way it looks now what? What can we do?
So yeah, I it all sounds pretty good.
I think presentations will be very helpful.

Yeah, and should and should should, in the grand scheme of things, it it force the leadership from different entities to have to work together to come up with a plan. Then I wouldn't lose a

whole bunch of sleep about that either. So.

Second that,

I can touch base with Amy from GCS.

Who wouldn't be relevant for the bigger picture? I assume for the big meeting.

And then I could touch to talk to Charlotte, who's also just juveniles.

I assume that we mock those people just in here.

Not necessarily the bigger.

Think so? At least Tammy, on the other hand, I've already kind of been touching base with and she wants to know more. Of course, but I I'd still love to see her on the board as one of the Advocate.

Well, I'm clear about the fact that you and I could meet with Tammy and talk to her. So I think she'd be OK.

I'm just saying I'd actually prefer her be on the board if there's still a victim.

Yeah. So they said, well, contacting her, she wants to call afterwards and tell her what it would entail. But I will. I'll try.

That's George, obviously.

I'll be interesting, Michael, but I can talk to both Amy and Charlotte.

Do we want them on the same day if I tell them? Sure.

Yeah, sure.

I'll try to set that up for next month, OK. And then you just let me know if you need any help with that. Does it work out or do you need me to reach out and I'm up?

I'm sorry. We'll be meeting on Monday, so we should definitely touch base with Nick. OK with Nicholas.

You know, I'm operating under the belief that we can continue to have this room to meet in for this subcommittee.

Yes, yes, we have it reserved. Not for the next month, OK.

Yeah, that's fine.

The next month, agenda OK.

So is the last where we have the last meeting.

No, no, it'd be somewhere else.

That's it's part of the reason I'm asking is.

A bit of this has already gone on, so yeah, please, like do whatever you can to accentuate the change on there, because I know myself and perhaps others too will be locked into.

I know when my meeting is and I know where it's at, go into my calendar with the right address.

Yeah, this is the Adoa building 100 N.

15th Ave.

We can put a map.

This I couldn't find that list again on on the website.

I tried to find it yesterday.

The complete list for the rest of the year.
Here it was only it was only showing up.
Is that the whole committee or the we have all of them posted though? So for the for the entirety of the year, well then yeah, and it's Ashlesha made it really pretty for you guys.
I'm on the wrong one here.
I'll let you do.
I don't have my mouse.
I have trouble without my mouse. Mm-hmm.
Yeah, that's. I was just gonna go back there.
Yeah. Yep, Yep.
So just excuse yourself and do you wanna adjourn?
And yeah, yeah. So Scott Neagele making a recommendation that we adjourn the meeting.
Yeah, 3:26 second, that's Motion.
Is that it? All in favor?
All in favor?
Say aye, aye, aye, aye.
All opposed.



B. G.
Aye.

Thank you, brother.
So right here we go to.
This is the Dps page.
And then you go to boards and councils and then we go to sex Offender Management board.

● **Ashlesha Naik** stopped transcription