

**Governor's Juvenile Corrections Review Committee**  
**Minutes of the April 29, 2010 Meeting at the Multi-Purpose Room of the Gatehouse**  
**at**  
**Ethan Allen School**  
**W323S1050 Boys School Road, Delafield, WI**  
**Open Meeting**

**Attendance:**

The following Committee members were present: Jim Moeser, Greg Lewis, Hon. Judge Wendell Askenette, Hon. Judge Mary Triggiano, Lori Vance, Mark Mertens, John Solberg, Hon. Judge Neal Nielsen, and John Burmaster. Present from the Department of Corrections were: Linda Eggert, Public Information Director. Division of Juvenile Corrections staff present: Margaret Carpenter, Administrator, Silvia Jackson, Assistant Administrator, Paul Ninneman, Superintendent of Ethan Allen School, Elaine Olson, Jocelyn Schoeneck. Others in attendance at the meeting: Susan McMurray, Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf, Mark Waddium, and Andy Lyons. A sign-in sheet was circulated at the meeting.

**I. Committee Discussion of Ethan Allen School Site Visit**

Co-Chairs, Jim Moeser and Greg Lewis convened the meeting at 2:20 PM.

Co-Chair Moeser asked the committee members to sign confidentiality agreements for both the Ethan Allen Visit and the Lincoln Hills Visit. The handouts that were emailed to the Committee Members prior to Thursday's meeting were distributed. Jim Moeser began the discussion by posing a question to the committee: "How did you like the tour here at Ethan Allen School; would we like to schedule the Lincoln Hills School visit the same?" He requested that each Committee member respond to this question in a roundtable type fashion.

Beginning with the responses was Judge Askenette. He commented that he liked the set up of the tour at Ethan Allen School. Committee member Burmaster explained that he would have liked to sit with teaching staff. He explains that ultimately these are schools; he would like to know what is working for them and what does not. Judge Nielsen had no additional comments than those previous; however, he mentions that this was a good visit. Committee member John Solberg feels that this was a well-balanced visit overall. Committee member Mark Mertens agrees with Judge Nielsen and comments that the programs he was able to observe were solid; the staff is committed to the programming scheduled; he is wondering how to integrate all of this information into their mission as a committee. Committee member Lori Vance felt the visit was very well organized; she really valued the context; she agrees with Committee member Burmaster's comment in regards to more focused groups; however, she would prefer to talk a bit more with the treatment staff. Judge Triggiano explains that this is her second time visiting Ethan Allen School; she has always been happy with the high level of professionalism at Ethan Allen School; she would be interested in getting a better idea of how Ethan Allen School collaborates with Lincoln Hills School (i.e. where are the overlaps, etc?). She finds that the two facilities are interconnected.

Co-Chair Greg Lewis found that this visit was an opportunity to become focused; he feels things are becoming more concrete now; on an emotional basis, he feels good about what is happening at Ethan Allen School. Co-chair Moeser was impressed by the quality of the programs; he realizes the difficult and challenging issues this committee will be faced with; he poses the following question to the Committee Members, “do you feel you need more time or was this a good amount (i.e. for the tour visit at Lincoln Hills School)?”

Committee member Burmaster feels that this was a good amount of time. Committee member Lori Vance suggested the possibility of splitting into more focused groups, such as one that focuses on treatment and one that could focus more on education; she feels comfortable trusting the other Committee members’ thoughts and opinions if the group were to split up in separate groups for the Lincoln Hills School Visit so that they may obtain more focused groups.

Judge Askenette really enjoyed having time during the casual setting of the lunch break to discuss his questions with a staff member; he found this to be very beneficial and would like to do this at Lincoln Hills School.

Co-Chair Moeser summarizes this portion of the agenda for the group that they all seemed to feel that this tour was organized with an efficient and effective time frame.

## **II. Discussion of the Committee’s Charge and Framework for Recommendations to the Governor**

Co-Chair Moeser moves forward to the next portion of the open meeting’s agenda. He begins the discussion of the Committee’s charge and framework for recommendations to the Governor portion by explaining the following: “We have gotten the purpose of our committee—but what does all of this mean? What is our reach? How far do you want to go with our charge?” Co-Chair Moeser asks for an open discussion and reaction to the Committee’s charge.

Judge Triggiano explains that it is important to have judicial impact; however she sees their role as more circumscribed in reference to the judicial code of ethics. Judge Nielsen agrees and comments that he cannot become involved in matters that are political; as judges, they must advocate to the criminal justice system. Judge Triggiano follows up her comments with the three things that are permissive in regards to the judges’ roles on this committee: administration of justice, improvement of laws, and the legal profession itself.

Committee member Solberg applauds the staff as he is grateful for all of the information that has been provided to them thus far. He feels that this information is essential to assist in making decisions for this committee. Committee member Burmaster comments that he feels that they will see things at both institutions that are very good. He feels that they should not look at closing one, etc., but that they need to get an idea of the best education environment for the kids. He found that the Education Director emphasized reading and math as a focus, and feels that this is a very positive aspect of their education as these particular subjects will affect the kids’ daily lives for the rest of their lives. He feels that reading

should be provided to all kids throughout their time there, not just during isolation periods or during time in their bunks. Co-Chair Moeser reminds the committee that their charge is not to choose one facility to close.

Judge Nielsen explains that this is an extraordinarily short period of time to do the work and to make their recommendations; he realizes that long sustained committee work is not likely; he poses the question, “are we looking to meet the deadline or not?”

Committee member Mertens suggested that a scope has to be determined in any time frame; he also suggested that the committee lay out the pros and the cons, the ramifications, and things such as “what works and what does not”.

Judge Askenette reminds the group that we want the kids to be able to change when they are sent to the institutions; “if it is political, that is for the Governor; for us, we are finding out what exists and that there is possibly a need for collaboration between the institutions.”

Co-Chair Lewis explained to the committee that they have the other information sources to hear from yet and that they are currently in the information gathering stage. He feels that they are fine with where they are currently in the process.

Committee member Vance feels that the process will unfold as they express what they need to gather as far as information before they focus on making decisions. Co-Chair Moeser feels that at some point they will be able to put the pieces together; he is very impressed that this group has come together on such short notice and have been especially accommodating being with the specific time frame and commitment.

### **III. Committee Discussion of Additional Information Needed**

Co-Chair Moeser began this final portion of the meeting by addressing the concern of Committee members being contacted by the media. He explained to the Committee that they are not bound by anything or anyone. He also adds that this is a pretty serious issue and he does not encourage Committee members to fuel this issue in any way shape or form. Co-Chair Moeser cautions the members in regards to making any comments to the media. He refers the Committee members to Linda Eggert, Public Information Director, and explained that they should refer to her first and then reply to the Co-Chairs.

Co-Chair Lewis suggested that someone on the Committee should be their spokesperson. He feels Co-Chair Moeser would be the best candidate for this. There was a discussion, and all members agreed that Co-Chair Moeser would be their spokesperson.

Judge Nielsen asks if any of their future discussions would be in closed sessions. Both Co-Chair Moeser and Public Information Director Eggert explain that closed sessions for this Committee will be highly unlikely and that closed sessions are very limited in regards to discussion topics.

Co-Chair Moeser requests a discussion of the Committee members in regards to any further information they may need from staff. The members were then asked to gather the information they have, look it over, and bring it for discussion to the meeting on May 14, 2010. If members had any further requests upon leaving the meeting, they were asked to direct those to Administrator Margaret Carpenter and to copy Assistant Administrator Silvia Jackson, Elaine Olson, and Jocelyn Schoeneck on any correspondence. The responses in regards to the information requested would then be sent out to everyone (Co-Chairs and Committee members).

Judge Nielsen asks, "Are we looking at the physical aspects of the facilities? And if so, are there any projected facility needs?" Administrator Margaret Carpenter responds that we have already asked for assessments of the physical plants; we are currently in the process, and that information will be made available to the whole group upon completion.

Judge Triggiano would like to see the overlap of Ethan Allen School versus Lincoln Hills School put together into one table (i.e. treatment programs and education offered). She feels that this side by side comparison would be beneficial.

Committee member Mertens would like to see the demographics of each institution as well as anticipated population projections by analyzing trends.

Committee member Solberg asked, "What do we see as projected funding streams for delinquencies and will these funding streams stay in place?" He feels that it would help to understand what keeps kids in the communities by finding out what currently exists out there. Assistant Administrator Silvia Jackson explains that currently, \$3.75 million funds community intervention programs on an annual basis for the services provided within counties. The Committee members would also like to see information collected in regards to the counties and what is currently transmitted to them on an annual basis.

Susan McMurray comments that the decline of the population at the facilities is due to the increasing daily rate.

Judge Askenette requested information about the overall group home and RCC placements.

After no further requests, Co-Chair Jim Moeser announced to the Committee members that they will review and approve the meeting minutes at the May 14, 2010 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM.

Prepared by Staff to the Committee:  
Jocelyn Schoeneck and Elaine Olson