



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES  
4126 TECHNOLOGY WAY, SUITE 300  
CARSON CITY, NV 89706  
Telephone (775) 684-4400 • Fax (775) 684-4455  
dcfs.nv.gov

**Nevada State Juvenile Justice Oversight Commission  
Risk Assessment Committee Meeting 12/06/17**

**Meeting Minutes DRAFT**

**Call to Order:** Co-Chair Jo Lee Wickes called the meeting to order at 2:03pm.

**Roll Call:**

**Via Phone:** Darin Imlay, Jack Martin, Jo Lee Wickes, Kelly Wooldridge, Pauline Salla-Smith, Scott Shick

**Absent:** Paula Smith

**Guests Present:** Dr. Joe Haas- Washoe County, Alexis Tucey- Department of Health and Human Services, Tammy Dean, Dr. Matthew Leone- UNR, Brad Bogue and Dominic Guay with YLS Training

**Staff Present:** Leslie Bittleston, Sarah Bellows

**Public Comment:** none

**Validated Risk Assessments**

Commissioner Wooldridge invited Ms. Tammy Dean from Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) to provide an overview of the Tool. Ms. Dean shared a summary of the tool, stating the OYAS is an integrated assessment tool that tracks everywhere a juvenile would be throughout the entire justice system. This assessment helps provide courts with a big picture of the youth's progress while in the juvenile justice system, as well as provides guidelines of individuals' risks and needs at every level. The OYAS uses 5 different assessment tools: Diversion, Detention, Disposition, Residential, and Reentry. The Diversion Tool is designed to help juvenile courts determine who can be safely diverted away from the juvenile justice system versus who should remain in the juvenile justice system. The tool consists of six items and can be completed through a thorough file review and/or face-to-face interview with the youth in approximately 10 minutes. The Detention Tool is designed to be used with youth being considered for detention. The results of the assessment will provide the court with the level of risk the youth poses while on pre-trial release. The instrument can be used at intake to aid in front-end decisions or the back door to

release youth, when appropriate. This instrument consists of 6 items and can be completed through a brief face-to-face interview, which takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. The Disposition Tool is a comprehensive tool to be used with youth adjudicated by the court. More specifically, the tool considers youths' overall risk to reoffend and criminogenic needs, while also identifying responsivity factors and case management strategies to facilitate successful intervention. This tool consists of seven domains, including (1) juvenile justice history, (2) family and living arrangements; (3) peers and social support networks; (4) education and employment; (5) pro-social skills; (6) substance abuse, mental health, and personality; and (7) values, beliefs, and attitudes. The Residential Tool affords residential programs the ability to accurately assess youths' overall risk to reoffend, as well as identify criminogenic need areas and barriers to treatment (i.e., responsivity factors). The results of the Residential Tool may also be used for case planning purposes. Similar to the Disposition Tool, the Residential Tool includes seven domain areas. Finally, the Reentry Tool provides programs an opportunity to reassess youth after being in a residential program for an extended period. The Reentry Tool is based on the same domains as the Disposition and Residential Tools, but is scored based on youths' progress in the residential program. The Reentry Tool should be used in conjunction with post-program supervision to ensure youths' successful transition back into the community. These tools measure risk of recidivism, as well as individual needs of each youth based on things such as criminogenic factors, the Great Eight- criminal history, family, substance abuse, leisure recreation, and others.

Co-chair Wickes asked if the OYAS can be utilized by counties to access data and information. Ms. Dean ensured the committee that once data is entered, it is "owned" by the county and can be accessed as needed, at any time.

Co-chair Martin asked for clarification on the OYAS compatibility with the statewide case management system. Ms. Dean explained that all OYAS tools can be implemented into existing systems such as case management, as soon as staff are trained and certified.

Dr. Joe Haas inquired about a comparison between the OYAS and YLS systems.

Ms. Dean shared that the systems are similar in that they both assess the Risks and Needs of youth while also looking at criminogenic needs. Where they differentiate is the OYAS has the tools to assess youth at 5 different levels of the juvenile justice system; on the other hand, the YLS has a standard assessment for all levels. The OYAS system has a number associated with risk levels. If a youth scores a certain number, their level of risk and/or need increases, or decreases, along with that category. For example, a youth may score at a "moderate" level of risk for substance abuse, but education could be scored at any other level: low, moderate, high, etc. This gives a more accurate picture of the risks and needs, and allows for more specified, individualized case plan and management. The Diversion Tool is shorter, with only 6 items, so an overall individual score is given during assessment; however, the Detention, Residential and Reentry Tools give more of an

individual domain breakdown for risks and needs. There are currently about 12 states that are using the OYAS for Risk and Needs Assessments.

Ms. Dean further shared that OYAS has two levels- level one is automated and created solely by OYAS, the second level allows for inclusion of individual state's existing tracking systems into the OYAS. The OYAS automated system already has capabilities to pull different reports by the users (states) in a variety of ways such as: risk level, domains, demographics, etc. There are two different ways to store information with the OYAS, either through storage of state servers, or servers through the University of Cincinnati, who hosts OYAS. Regardless how the information is stored, it is owned by the individual states and can be accessed at any time by said states. The OYAS has an IT department that can set up specific parameters that are not already established in the OYAS, states would just need to reach out to that department to set up that data collection.

Ms. Dean explained that there are two different trainings for the OYAS. For states that use the automated system, a contract is created and includes a "pen and paper" training with a maximum of 30 people, per two-day training. OYAS is non-proprietary, meaning there is no per user fee when giving the Risk Assessment. The second training, called Train the Trainers, is more in-depth and allows states to use other agencies that may be beneficial such as IBM, Microsoft, etc. This training allows for up to 12 individuals to be trained. Those trainers, once complete with training, will split into two groups of 6 each, and can train another set of 12 people (each) as well.

Commissioner Salla-Smith inquired about receiving information on a validation report from Ms. Dean.

Ms. Dean encouraged the group to move forward with a validation study at each local level in the state. This will help the OYAS be "normed" to the state's population and specific needs. The state would have a Master Trainer that would in turn train the rest of the state.

Brad Bogue is a trainer for Youth Level of Service (YLS) that has worked with Commissioner Salla-Smith on various assignments throughout counties in the state. Mr. Bogue introduced a coworker, Dominic, who joined the meeting to share his insight as well. Mr. Bogue expressed that while tool selection is necessary and important, the most important thing to focus on is the trainers, and how they are trained, their implementation and delivery. The tools themselves lack bias, but where states run into issues is when a trainer or staff giving the assessment create or implement biases, whether it be subconsciously or not. Mr. Bogue firmly believes that the development of the practitioners in each state should be a major focus. The YLS tool has been validated multiple times in studies.

Commissioner Wooldridge clarified that the tools selected by this group are mandated via legislation, to be used statewide from first point of contact, pre-trial, and all the way through the

justice system to parole.

Dominic shared that the YLS has been validated through custodial and probation norms. This compares the offender based on the setting or environment they are in. Statewide implementations are already being used in other states, so that wouldn't be an issue if this group decides to go with the YLS tool. He expressed that a benefit of the YLS tool is that it has the ability to create aggregated and/or comparative reports. Data suggests that intake levels are generally higher, but the rehabilitative component to the tool allows for comparisons to be made, using the last four assessments completed for that specific individual.

Mr. Bogue shared that assessments tend to be more challenging at the front end than the back end. At the front end (pre-trial) offenders tend to be more reserved and less likely to divulge in information. Due to this, assessor will need to be more skilled, with training even more essential. At the back end of the offender's incarceration, staff generally have a better understanding of said offender, gaining more insight and intel over time. The context and delivery of these tools will make the greatest impact.

Co-chair Wickes asked for clarification on the YLS tool's ability to individualize data reports, and its compatibility with Caseload Pro.

Dominic has spoken with people at Caseload Pro over the past year to ensure that both organizations have software developers and the ability to integrate the tools together.

Commissioner Salla-Smith shared that Humboldt County has been using the YLS since April of this year. Since that time, they have been able to pull necessary data, run individualized reports, and breakdown data in specific areas as needed. Right now, Humboldt County is using the YLS, MAYSI, and PADI5 to assess youth offenders, so the goal would be combining the Caseload Pro and YLS programs to build necessary interventions and comprehensive case planning for youth in the system.

Commissioner Imlay inquired about the tech support or any information she can share about her experience with YLS.

Commissioner Salla-Smith ensured the group that help has been incredible since implementation. She agrees with Mr. Bogue that the assessor must be trained appropriately to provide unbiased data. Commissioner Salla-Smith did not have any negative experiences to share.

Commissioner Wooldridge advised that there is funding for a vendor to come train individuals across the state. This person will write draft policy on how to implement the selected tool statewide, how it will be used, and any fidelity needed. Commissioner Wooldridge asked that Mr.

Bogue draft a proposal for the YLS to be used statewide, meeting all required legislative mandates, and email it to her as soon as possible.

Dr. Leone is asked to analyze data for the state. Will case level data be allowed to be exported to other programs?

Mr. Bogue shared that it can be downloaded as a case file, not aggregated information. Mr. Bogue and Dominic will work with tech support at YLS to ensure that raw data and final scores get exported on a case level.

#### **Selection of a Validated Risk Assessment Tool**

Co-Chair Martin made a motion on behalf of Clark County in recommending the YLS tool be used statewide for Risk Assessment. Commissioner Imlay seconded this motion, with all members in attendance agreeing.

#### **New Business**

**Next Steps:** The next Committee meeting is to be determined, based off the outcome of the Full Commission meeting being hosted on December 15, 2017.

**Public Comment:** none

**Adjourned:** by Co-Chair Jo Lee Wickes at 3:11pm, moved by committee members.