



Governor Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
San Wong, Director

**JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL
Disproportionate Minority Contact Subcommittee**

**MEETING MINUTES
GOOGLE MEET**

June 15, 2022

Present: LaTasha DeLoach, Interim Chair; Whitney Buchanan; Terrance Campbell; Kim Cheeks; Diamond Denney, Co-Chair; Hon. Kevin McKeever; Ivy Menke; Stephan Pearson, Co-Chair; Miguel Trevino

Others: Barbara Hanson, Cedar Rapids Schools

Staff: Steve Michael; Jill Padgett; Arena Horn; Scott Musel; Kathy Nesteby; Kayla Powell; Julie Rinker; Alison Roe

- **Welcome**

LaTasha DeLoach, Chair, welcomed those in attendance at 10:11 a.m. A quorum was present. She encouraged members to apply for membership to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJAC) to represent the DMC Subcommittee.

Stephan Pearson and Diamond Denney provided remarks. They encouraged members to be involved and comfortable during discussions to move efforts forward.

- **Approval of minutes**

Whitney Buchanan moved to approve the minutes from the February meeting, seconded by Kim Cheeks. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **CJJP update**

Steve Michael reported the following:

- **Delinquency prevention grant update**—CJJP was awarded a five-year \$1.5 million grant for pre-charge diversion. The RFP has been posted. Awardees will be announced around July 1. Overall, there are two, 2.5 year grant periods. Another RFP will be posted in a couple years for the remaining funds.
- **Second Chance Act application**—Michael reported that CJJP has applied for a grant to expand juvenile re-entry services in Iowa. If awarded, an additional juvenile reentry navigator will be hired.
- **New staff**—Arena Horn and Alison Roe have been hired as juvenile reentry navigators in the 5th and 1st Judicial Districts (Des Moines and Cedar Rapids, respectively). They are

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working with youth transitioning from out-of-home placement. Their efforts include the development of a statewide model.

Horn and Roe provided information on the services they provide and qualifications to be enrolled in the program. Youth with a disability receive pre-employment services through Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Disability qualifications can include physical, emotional, and mental health disabilities.

- **Detention Home Fund**—Legislation enrolled this past session shifts responsibility of the Detention Home Fund from DHS to CJJP. Scott Musel and fiscal staff will be responsible. During the first year, the focus will be on transitioning oversight from DHS.

- **Setting the stage for the joint meeting**

Jill Padgett reported that a joint meeting of JJAC subcommittees will be held July 14. This year will include members of the newly-formed Youth Justice Council, the Iowa Task Force for Young Women, and the DMC Subcommittee. The meeting will be held in person in an outdoor setting. A site has not yet been determined.

The meeting will focus on the school-to-prison pipeline, previously identified as a joint project. Lyric Sellers and Endi Montalvo-Martinez will present information on their efforts to replace SROs with a restorative justice model in Des Moines Public Schools. A second presentation may include information on a similar effort in Cedar Rapids, however, the latter has not been confirmed. The joint meeting will include discussions on potential solutions to reduce disparity in school-based complaints.

Padgett shared data for the years 2018-2021 and 2022 YTD. In looking at the ten DMC sites, the largest number of referrals come from the community and schools. Most charges are simple misdemeanors, followed by serious misdemeanors. She reviewed the data.

Kayla Powell provided information on the Youth Justice Council and work conducted since their formation.

- **Member updates and sharing / future agenda ideas**

What are you doing personally or professionally to reduce racial disparities?

Diamond Denney asked members what they are doing in both their professional and personal lives to reduce racial disparities and racism.

Woodbury County—Ivy Menke reported that on July 9, “Unity in the Community” will be held in Sioux City. The event promotes positive interactions with law enforcement and includes free food, entertainment, giveaways, booths from local partners, Native American prayer, and representatives from the police department.

Linn County—Barbara Hanson, Equity Coordinator with Cedar Rapids Schools, reported on efforts to reduce disparities. They are working on school discipline issues and moving away from punitive actions.

Scott County—Miguel Trevino reported that they continue pre-charge diversion with auto theft. They are reviewing ways to expand pre-charge diversion and reduce disparity from intake to disposition.

Black Hawk—Terrance Campbell reported that there are issues with finding available beds in placement. Detention is full. They recently implemented restorative justice circles for pre-charge diversion and have a mentoring program. Every intervention put in place is to address DMC.

Johnson County—Hon. Kevin McKeever reported that the area continues various diversion programs which have been more successful than other initiatives.

Kim Cheeks asked that members share advance information on events and activities so that others can attend.

- **DMC decision points through Q1**

Padgett compared data for African American youth for 2019-2022. The data included population and the five key decision points—complaints, diversions, pretrial detention, secure confinement, and adult court transfer. Although the numbers were down in most of those areas, disparity percentages increased. She asked members to consider this information when discussing goals and objectives.

Nestey noted that 61% of all complaints are coming from schools. She noted the importance of diversion opportunities.

- **DMC Goals and Objectives Updates (Goal 1)**

- Revisit goal 1 and objectives and discuss progress

DeLoach and Padgett reviewed Goal 1 and its objectives. The purpose was to discuss progress and address any concerns.

Goal 1: Minimize system contact for low-risk youth of color by developing formal, statewide diversion opportunities through implementation of structures and policies at early juvenile justice system processing.

Objective A: Develop statewide policy on pre-charge diversion.

- Explore feasibility of developing/introducing/supporting legislation and/or policy around pre-charge diversion including impact of such changes in communities with minimal resources.
- Provide support to individual communities on implementation of pre-charge diversion efforts.
- Continue work on pre-charge diversion application (data collection).
- Seek OJJDP technical assistance to advance a standardized model for pre-charge diversion.

Objective B: Develop statewide policy to minimize the use of detention for technical violations of probation.

- Continue to provide training and implementation oversight on use of detention screening tool (DST).
- Seek OJJDP technical assistance to advance standardized practices for response to technical violations of probation.
- Explore alternatives to detention for violations of probation.

Objective C: Expand/ amend utilization of the Iowa Delinquency Assessment (IDA) to use the contained information to understand and address system youth's strengths and challenges with regards to mental health, substance abuse, trauma, and family functioning.

- Survey each judicial district to determine mental health/substance abuse resource utilization for system youth.
- Collect aggregate data from identified facilities and service providers to determine the representation of youth of color and young women in those settings.

Objective D: Implement recommendations related to race and gender from the IDA validation.

- Advance recommendations to State Court Administration from ITFYW and DMC sub-committees.

Objective E: Advance DMC efforts and priorities through support of key legislative/policy initiatives.

- Support the recommendations (including legislative recommendations) contained in the Iowa Girls Justice Initiative (IGJI) "Serious, Violent and Chronic Juvenile Female Offenders" report.
- Seek refinement and expansion of minority impact statement legislation to affect bills that impact minority overrepresentation.
- Support the concept of prohibiting racial profiling to address disparate treatment of minorities in the criminal and juvenile justice systems.
- Advance the recommendations contained in the "Racial Disparities Three Decision Points" report with regards to pre-charge diversion and waiver of youth to adult court.

- *Objective A: Pre-charge diversion (PCD)*—is going well, but there were not many applicants for the grant to expand PCD in Iowa. Padgett was hopeful there would be more during the next round of funding a couple years from now. She asked members to consider what more could be done to spread information on PCD across the state. DeLoach recommended a social media campaign.
- *Objective B: Detention Screening Tool (DST)*—This tool is administered and scored to determine whether a youth should be detained. JCOs have the option of overriding the results of the tool. More education and technical assistance are needed on the proper and standardized use of the tool, practices on overrides, and detention alternatives for youth with technical violations. Padgett noted that African American youth have been detained more compared to white youth. More funding is needed to support alternatives to detention.

- *Objective C-D: Iowa Delinquency Assessment (IDA)*—This tool is used at intake to identify potential interventions. Nesteby reported that the IDA has been validated twice by researchers. However, the suggested changes/refinements have not been implemented into the current version. Michael noted that some of the issues relate to the amount of work required by the Judicial Branch Information Technology (JBIT) due to legislation and other priorities. He thought that the Chief Justice’s Juvenile Justice Task Force (JJTF) may need to address this for the changes to become a higher priority. DeLoach suggested drafting a letter of support.
- *Objective E: Advance DMC Efforts*—DeLoach noted the variety of reports issued in the past several years regarding female offenders and minority youth. Michael noted that there have been some updates to the Racial Disparities report with regard to adult waivers. Additionally, Representative Cindy Winckler (Scott County) has drafted a bill that incorporates most of the recommendations. He was hopeful that the bill would be filed during the 2023 legislative session.

Padgett noted that the goals were written when she was newly hired by CJJP. She would like members to further specify the role of this subcommittee in advocacy, education, and other responsibilities. Other considerations relate to data—what should be tracked, what data will be affected or needed. She asked for comments.

- **Iowa Taskforce for Young Women Update**

Nesteby reported that the Congregate Care Workgroup of the JJTF has asked the Iowa Task Force for Young Women (ITFYW) to provide recommendations regarding girls in the juvenile justice system. The ITFYW will meet to discuss priorities for girls and make recommendations. More information will be shared with the DMC regarding this effort.

- **Adjourn**

- Next Meeting: Joint subcommittees (information to follow)

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker
Administrative Secretary
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning