



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

Disproportionate Minority Contact Subcommittee

MEETING MINUTES

Via **GOOGLE MEET***

August 31, 2022

- Present:** LaTasha DeLoach, Interim Chair; Whitney Buchanan; Terrance Campbell; Kim Cheeks; Julie Clark-Albrecht; Stephanie Hernandez; Hon. Kevin McKeever; Stephan Pearson, Co-Chair
- Others:** Ana Clymer; Lucas Grundmeier; Michaela Jens; Evan Johnson; Laurie Nash; Jennifer Tibbetts
- Staff:** Steve Michael; Jill Padgett; Arena Horn; Scott Musel; Kathy Nesteby; Kayla Powell; Julie Rinker; Alison Roe

Welcome

LaTasha DeLoach welcomed all in attendance at 10:06 a.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of minutes

Whitney Buchanan moved to approve the minutes from the June 15 meeting, seconded by Terrance Campbell. The motion was unanimously approved.

CJJP update

Steve Michael reported the following:

- **Staffing**—The following openings exist:
 - Juvenile Reentry Navigator—This individual would be staffed at the STS and work with those youth there.
 - Budget Analyst—This individual processes claims for CJJP.
 - Justice System Analyst—This individual conducts analysis and reports, mostly on the adult side
- **Pre-Charge Diversion grants**—Contracts were awarded to Scott and Johnson Counties and the City of Fort Dodge.
- **Juvenile Reentry**—We have applied for another federal juvenile reentry grant that will expand current efforts for three years and add one more navigator.
- **Youth Action Squad/Youth Justice Council**—An RFP is being developed for a community entity to create/recruit a local Youth Action Squad and develop action plans; and to develop a payment process and recruit youth members for the Youth Justice Council.

Crossover youth update

Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning

Julie Clark-Albrecht provided information on the Cultural Equity Alliance's efforts regarding youth who are in both child welfare and the juvenile justice system. There are 10 county equity teams that align with the county DMC committees. She suggested reviewing members that serve on both groups to align and leverage efforts. Twice a year, they provide learning sessions for the equity teams and review statistics, share progress, and address ways to effect disproportionality.

Ana Clymer invited members to attend an upcoming learning session on November 3 in Des Moines. The session will include a legal component and highlight progress/challenges from equity teams in eastern Iowa.

Family and Youth Engagement Summit recap/next steps

Kayla Powell provided information on the 2nd annual Family and Youth Engagement Summit held August 9. A total of 390 attendees (250 in person, 140 virtual) represented juvenile court officials, judges, providers, non-profits, youth/families, and a group home from Ottumwa.

The Hon. Bill Owens from Ottumwa and Ava Palmer emceed the event. Chief Justice Susan Christensen and DHHS Director Kelly Garcia spoke on authentic youth engagement. Dr. Shawn Ginwright, the keynote speaker, presented information on healing-centered engagement. A variety of workshops were held. Diamond Denney, LaTasha DeLoach, Audi Espinoza, and Kelly Erickson received awards. A youth and family panel spoke on concerns and a judges' panel spoke on engaging courtroom environments. The event wrapped up with comments from Chad Jensen, Director Juvenile Court Services, and Steve Michael, Division Administrator for CJJP.

Powell thanked those on the planning team for their efforts. They will meet to review the evaluation results. Next week, judicial districts will meet to develop action plans to advance family and youth engagement and to also inform the state's plan for advancing family and youth engagement. Teams from six of the eight districts have agreed to participate (1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8).

Leaders in child welfare and juvenile justice will participate in a healing-centered engagement workshop with Dr. Ginwright. The purpose is to develop ways to embed healing-centered engagement in policies at the state and organizational levels.

Other efforts relate to "Credible Messengers", a peer support approach to youth in juvenile justice. Youth who were previously in the system are paired with youth currently in the juvenile justice system. The model, which originated in New York, was presented during one of the workshop sessions. We are exploring ways to incorporate the model in Iowa.

Terrance Campbell noted the importance of involving youth with lived experiences and holding agencies accountable. Their feedback is important, whether it's negative or positive.

Iowa Taskforce for Young Women (ITFYW) Update

Jennifer Tibbetts referenced the joint meeting between the Task Force, this subcommittee, and the Youth Justice Council. She hopes the process will continue to strengthen efforts.

Nestey reported that the Chief Justice's Congregate Care Workgroup has asked the ITFYW to provide recommendations regarding deep-end girls. As part of that Workgroup, she shared information on the recommendations from the Iowa Girls' Justice Initiative report. The Task Force is revisiting those recommendations and providing updates based on new information on best practices and other related issues for system changes and a setting for deep end girls. She was

hopeful that these recommendations would rise to the top in all the recommendations from the Chief Justice's Task Force. The recommendations include mitigating DMC.

Stephan Pearson asked if there was anything the DMC Subcommittee could do to push efforts forward. Nesteby noted that the recommendations will be shared with DMC members. She noted the need for beds for deep-end girls and will push for a specialized setting for those girls.

Tibbetts wants to maintain open communication amongst the subcommittees on recommendations, funding, and any potential legislation.

Campbell added that there is a QRTP 15 bed program for girls that will be opening in November. The facility is currently being remodeled. Tibbetts noted the importance of the Task Force being involved in the planning process on behalf of girls. Campbell was under the assumption that the beds would house both juvenile justice and child welfare youth.

Julie Clark-Albrecht offered to pass along concerns to DHS.

DeLoach noted the importance of services for these girls. Nesteby concurred.

Spotlight and member updates

- Scott County Youth Assessment Center

Stephanie Hernandez provided information on the Coordinated Assessment Program (CAP). The program resulted from a number of car thefts in Scott County. In 2020 and 2021, local stakeholders met to discuss issues and develop a program to prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system. The purpose is to connect youth and families to prevention services and build success.

Through this effort, approximately \$5.5 million over five years was provided by the Cities of Davenport and Bettendorf, Scott County, the John Deere Foundation, and other funding streams. An RFP was written to provide early intervention and prevention services to connect youth and families to resources. The grant period began July 2021 and the program launched in September 2021.

There are five core elements of the program: validated screening, trauma informed care, evidence-based assessment, collaborative case management, and data collection. An advisory council, that includes youth and families with lived experience, meets to review data and outcome measures.

The program is free and serves youth between the ages of 3 and 18. Referrals can be made by anyone. A screening assessment is conducted to determine services needed. A care coordinator oversees all aspects of the care plan, meets with families, helps families arrange services, and provides ongoing support and follow up. Services include counseling, food, housing, medication, employment, and other basic needs.

Padgett asked if the advisory council is tracking racial disparities and if it is a strategy to reduce racial barriers? Hernandez reported that there is ongoing education provided to law enforcement with regard to charging versus referral to the program, especially for younger youth. Through their data collection, they are tracking the number of youth and families as well as gender and race.

- Member check in: *What are you doing personally or professionally to reduce racial disparities?*

DeLoach is reading a book entitled “Read This to Get Smarter about Race, Class, Gender, Disability & More”. She is also teaching a class on disproportionality at the University of Iowa.

Laurie Nash recently learned that local law enforcement is contacting schools regarding youth who have been picked up, but not charged or entered the juvenile justice system. She wondered if this has been addressed in other areas. She is working with juvenile court and seeking recommendations. DeLoach asked members to share recommendations with Nash.

Tibbetts shared that the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission and the African American Museum are partnering on an exhibit entitled “Suspended: Systemic Oppression in our Schools” beginning in October. Youth artwork will be part of the event. She will share more details as arrangements are finalized.

DMC goals and objectives

- Revisit goal 2 and objectives and discuss progress
- Dashboard

Padgett reviewed the current goals and objectives. She noted that Goal 1 primarily relates to pre-charge diversion, Goal 2 relates to working with the ITFYW, and Goal 3 relates to deep-end youth of color.

Padgett reviewed a dashboard that reflected how decision points impact these goals. She asked if there were other data that should be tracked.

Campbell noted that in the past, child welfare youth who ran from shelter placement were returned to placement. In recent years, these youth have received charges and entered the juvenile justice system. He suggested looking at child welfare youth who are entering the system.

After a brief discussion, there was consensus to continue tracking detention holds for technical violations and length of time in placement for Black females. DeLoach commended Padgett for the dashboard. She thought it was very helpful.

Next steps & adjourn

The next meeting will be held November 9. The meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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