



# Three-Year Criminal and Juvenile Justice Plan Update

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## Context: State Agency Alignment

Pursuant to Iowa Code 216A.135, this *Annual Update to the Three-Year Plan* shall be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1, 2024.

In November of 2023, the Justice Advisory Board (JAB), with staff support from the research group of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP), submitted its *Three-Year Criminal and Juvenile Justice Plan for 2023-2026*.

As part of the Governor's realignment efforts, several key events have occurred since the submission of the Three-Year Plan in November 2023:

- Approximately one-half of the staff from CJJP were transferred from HHS to the Department of Management (DOM). This transfer included the research staff who drafted the November 2023 Three-Year Plan for the JAB.
- The Governor signed SF2385 which eliminated several state boards and commissions, including the Justice Advisory Board.
- HHS and DOM entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to divide the roles and responsibilities of CJJP (Iowa Code 216A), and to further reassign the responsibilities that were previously assigned to the JAB. As it relates to justice system planning efforts, including the Three-Year Plan, the IGA did the following:
  - HHS will be responsible for creating criminal and juvenile justice system development plans for the state. HHS will establish advisory committees and work groups to support and advance those plans.
  - DOM will provide data analysis, research, and analysis of justice system issues in support of plan development, system development, and reform efforts captured in those plans.
  - HHS will receive one (1) FTE position from DOM for planning and technical assistance to support adult criminal justice issues. The IGA explains the rationale for this as follows: "All staff and funding to work on adult criminal justice issues are now placed at DOM. Due to HHS being statutorily tasked with all duties previously performed by the Justice Advisory Board, Iowa HHS needs this one (1) full time employee to support adult criminal justice planning and technical assistance." The transition of the FTE will occur in 2025.

The development of this Annual Update to the Three-Year Plan began as a joint effort between CJJP staff at HHS and DOM. DOM research staff have provided documentation of their activities over the course of SFY23/24 in support of the 2023-2026 priority areas established by the JAB for inclusion in this Three-Year Plan Update.

### **Three-Year Criminal and Juvenile Justice Plan (2023-2026)**

Historically, the JAB was responsible for identifying priorities and objectives, as well as making recommendations and actions to improve Iowa's criminal and juvenile justice systems. Before the JAB was eliminated, it identified the following five priorities for the three-year term from 2023-2026:

- 1) Racial Justice
- 2) Mental Health
- 3) Community-Based Corrections (CBC) and Alternatives to Incarceration
- 4) Sex Crimes
- 5) Equal Access to Justice

# Executive Summary

In 2019, the Legislature enacted House File (HF) 634, which established the Justice Advisory Board (JAB) within the Department of Human Rights, specifically under the Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP). After CJJP transitioned from Human Rights to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), it continued to support and staff the JAB. According to Iowa Code 216A.135, the JAB was mandated to create and submit a Three-Year Criminal and Juvenile Justice Plan to the Legislature and Governor every three years, along with an Update report during the intervening years.

On December 1, 2023, the JAB, through CJJP, submitted its final Three-Year Plan, outlining priorities for 2023-2026. However, in May 2024, the Governor signed SF2385, which dissolved several state boards and commissions, including the JAB. At present, HHS is responsible for annual update reports related to the Three-Year Criminal and Juvenile Justice Plan.

The Three-Year Criminal and Juvenile Justice Plan for 2023-2026 outlined key priorities, objectives, and action items (see Appendix A for full list). The five key priorities are as follows:

- Racial Justice
- Mental Health
- Community-Based Corrections & Alternatives to Incarceration
- Sex Crimes
- Equal Access to Justice

Each priority area and related progress over the course of the last year is explored in this update to the original plan, including specific objectives and both short-term and long-term action steps. These steps will initiate with research, data collection, and analysis to identify the most effective practices and policy recommendations.

This plan update documents the work being built on the previous efforts of the JAB and other stakeholders committed to enhancing public safety through a fair and equitable criminal justice system. Achieving the objectives and implementing the action steps has and will continue to necessitate cooperation across multiple disciplines and agencies. Implementing policy and practice changes will require coordinated efforts from justice entities and policymakers.

Additionally, the JAB has relied upon the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJAC) to fulfill the responsibilities mandated by §216A.137.2 related to the juvenile justice system. The JJAC primarily oversees the implementation of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and related Charles Grassley JJDP program funds in Iowa.

The JJAC prepares its own three-year plan which is required to be submitted to the Governor, Legislature and federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. It identifies key priority areas specific to the juvenile justice system. Work on the following key priority areas began for the JJAC October 1, 2024:

- Serve children at home, with their families, and in their communities.
- Enhance quality of life, services and opportunities for youth in the juvenile justice system.
- Advance healing-centered care.

(see Appendix B for full list).

# JAB Priority 1: Racial Justice

There are obvious disparities between people of color and their white counterparts in the criminal justice system, ranging from police arrests to the disproportionate numbers of black youth and adults who are incarcerated. In the Sentencing Project (October 2021) study on racial and ethnic disparities in the nation's criminal justice systems, Iowa was identified as one of the states with the largest disparity in black/white incarceration. The JAB proposed the following action steps to help reduce racial disparity in Iowa's Criminal and Juvenile Justice system.

Objective 1: Identify and utilize data sources to examine and address racial profiling and racial disparities.

Objective 2: Review and report on best practices that reduce excessive use of force.

## 2024 Update on Actions and Activities that support Priority 1: Racial Justice

### Correctional Impact Statements

Iowa law currently mandates correctional and racial impact statements to identify any impact on the prison population and racial disparity. Every legislative session, our Justice Systems Analysts and Justice Data Warehouse Administrator provide data on the number of convictions, by race, for relevant crime codes which could be impacted by a proposed bill. Additionally, if possible, the impact statements include a 5-year projected forecast, based on the changes under a proposed bill. In the 2024 legislative session, 113 impact statements were completed. (DOM staff)

### Nationwide Review of Racial Profiling Legislation

One measure of achieving racial justice is legislation that prohibits racial profiling by law enforcement. According to the American Bar Association, racial profiling is "the law enforcement practice of using race, ethnicity, national origin, or religious appearance as one factor, among others, when police decide which people are suspicious enough to warrant police stops, questioning, frisks, searches, and other routine police practices". In December 2023, Justice Systems Analysts submitted a final report to CJJ Administration that reviewed and summarized racial profiling legislation in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. (DOM staff)

### Juvenile Racial and Ethnic Disparities Presentation to Chief Juvenile Court Officers

Iowa's Juvenile Justice Advocacy Board (JJAC) regularly tracks five key Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) metrics: complaints, diversion, pre-trial detention, secure confinement, and waivers to adult court. CJJ staff presented statewide data to the JJAC's R/ED subcommittee. Additionally, CJJ presented to each of the 8 judicial district's Chief Juvenile Court Officers (JCO's) on these statewide metrics and data specific to their districts. These presentations led to conversations between the Chief JCO's and the R/ED who are working together to create targeted plans for each of the districts. The data analytics team will also build a dashboard for this data. (HHS and DOM staff)

## JAB Priority 2: Mental Health

The increasing number of individuals with mental health needs in the criminal justice system impose enormous financial, health, and human costs.<sup>1</sup> Data provided by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) indicate that about 44% of people in jails and 37% of people in state or federal prisons are diagnosed with some type of mental illness, relative to 20% of the general population.<sup>2</sup> Diverting individuals with mental health needs away from jails and prisons towards community-based mental health care presents a core component of national, state, and local strategies to provide appropriate services and decrease their criminal justice involvement. The JAB recognizes that mental illness is a problem in the criminal and juvenile justice system that needs solutions.

Objective 1: Examine the effectiveness of mental health treatment courts.

Objective 2: Conduct comprehensive needs assessment to identify mental health resources available to justice-involved individuals across the state.

Objective 3: Identify and prioritize needed appropriate services in the criminal justice system to address mental health issues.

### 2024 Update on Actions and Activities that support Priority 2: Mental Health

#### **Alternative Responses for Community Health (ARCH) and Marshalltown Police and Community Team (MPACT) Study**

Justice Systems Analysts are currently conducting program evaluations of two co-responder models: Alternative Responses for Community Health (ARCH) in Ames and Marshalltown Police and Community Team (MPACT) in Marshalltown. Both programs were created to address the high number of 911 calls received that stemmed from mental health crises. By expanding first responder services to address mental health crisis response, they can provide more appropriate services to community members experiencing crises. Because of mental health advocates, police can attend to other situations in which a law enforcement response is necessary and appropriate. Program evaluation activities are underway and have included multiple meetings with team members, interviews and surveys with stakeholders and funders, and surveys to clients. Implementation, process, and outcomes are being evaluated, including cost savings realized from appropriate services being provided and fewer people being arrested or hospitalized. Data will be analyzed and a final report will be written that will be shared with both ARCH, MPACT, and the public. (DOM staff)

<sup>1</sup> State of Mental Health in America. <https://www.mhanational.org/issues/mental-health-and-criminal-justice-issues#Keep%20People%20Out%20of%20The%20Juvenile%20and%20Criminal%20Justice%20Systems>

<sup>2</sup> Addressing Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System. [maryville.edu](http://maryville.edu)

### **Prison Research and Innovation Network (PRIN) Study**

Justice Systems Analysts are partnering with the IDOC (Iowa Department of Corrections), the Urban Institute, and Arnold Ventures on the Prison Research and Innovation Network (PRIN). This 5-year project ends in December 2024. The purpose of the PRIN is to better understand prison environments through the Prison Climate Surveys and Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR). CBPR involved incarcerated individuals and prison staff in the development and interpretation of survey questions. The survey questions addressed perceptions of safety, contact with family and friends, and health and mental health among other topics. The survey participants clarified their “top-ten” concerns or ideas for improvement. Some common responses from inmates indicated that they want more opportunities for developing job and personal skills, the ability to see their family members more, and improved attention to their health care needs. Some common responses from staff identified workload demands (including mandated overtime and the inability to take time off), burnout and stress, and a lack of professional development. The full report will be completed by December 31, 2024, as will informational briefs and a presentation to stakeholders. (DOM staff)



# JAB Priority 3: Community-Based Corrections and Alternatives to Incarceration

The United States continues to have the highest incarceration rate in the world despite decades of decreasing crime rates. In Iowa, the increasing prison population in the early 1990s sparked the development of the Prison Population Forecast by CJJP and subsequent annual releases of the report because of sustained overcrowding. The JAB supports efforts to limit the reliance on incarceration without compromising public safety. The board has identified community-based corrections (CBC) and alternatives to incarceration as a priority.

Objective 1: Identify and examine effective Iowa Department of Corrections policies throughout the state to reduce incarceration and develop more consistency/standardization across districts.

Objective 2: Increase the use of effective treatment courts throughout the state.

## **2024 Update on Actions and Activities that support Priority 3: Community-Based Corrections (CBC) and Alternatives to Incarceration**

### **Prison Population Forecast**

Justice Systems Analysts continue to provide annual data and trends for the Prison Population Forecast, per Iowa Code. The FY2023 Prison Population Forecast reported Iowa's prisons were 20.0% overcapacity. There were 8,390 inmates in Iowa prison facilities on September 30, 2023. The 10-year forecast predicts the prison population will increase by 11.7% to 9,374 inmates by 2033. Reducing admissions to prison due to revocations is one avenue to reduce the prison population. The report notes that between FY 2014 to 2023 the number of parole-returns to prison decreased by 15.6%. This is attributable, in part, to policies implemented by the IDOC to rigorously review cases and consider alternatives before issuing a revocation decision. (DOM staff)

### **Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP)**

The Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) contracted with agencies in three Iowa counties (Jones, Black Hawk, and Story) to pilot a pre-charge diversion program for low level drug offenders. The program required participants to attend treatment and referred them to other local resources to meet other needs (e.g., housing, healthcare, transportation, etc.). The grant, through Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), is in its fifth and final year. A Justice Systems Analyst has conducted the evaluation for this program and a final report was submitted to ODCP on September 27, 2024. While implementation of the program differed across the counties, overall, former program participants were generally positive about the program. Participants who successfully completed the program were less likely to have subsequent new charges compared to those who did not complete the program. It was found that Program Completers were 62.1% less likely to recidivate than Non-Completers. (DOM staff)

### **IDOC Apprenticeship Program Study**

Justice Systems Analysts are completing an evaluation on prison-based apprenticeship programs through the IDOC. The purpose of this program is to assist individuals who are preparing for their return to their community. Results from this analysis may identify who benefits from apprenticeship programs and help identify the barriers that keep some incarcerated individuals from completing and/or enrolling in this program. The research team will collaborate with incarcerated individuals to gather feedback on the apprenticeship program. Data have been collected from four prisons and a report will be forthcoming after data collection and analysis is complete. (DOM staff)

### **Iowa Prison Industries Programs (IPI)**

IPI provides work training for incarcerated individuals under IDOC supervision. It is 100% self-funded through the sales of the products and services. It offers three different programs: Traditional Industries (produces goods for government agencies, schools, and non-profits), Farms (farm products), and Private Sector (partnerships with private companies). Examples of specific trades offered within these programs include welding, sewing, and painting. Incarcerated individuals who have worked with IPI and incarcerated individuals who have not worked with IPI were surveyed about their experiences. Justice Systems Analysts have collected data from four prisons and a report will be forthcoming after data collection and analysis are complete. (DOM staff)

### **Tech2Connect**

Research demonstrates that post-release outcomes are enhanced when programming is provided at the proper dosage based on risk and need. Tech2 Connect provides interventions for high-risk individuals which can include job and personal skills training, video and email connections with parole/probation officers, and therapy groups. Justice Systems Analysts are conducting an evaluation that will assess the success of re-entry among individuals who participated in the program in three judicial districts. It will provide information on whether a reduction in recidivism, or a reduction in severity of offenses, has been achieved. The evaluation is in the beginning phases with the evaluation plan being developed with input from the IDOC, the Second District, the Sixth District, the Seventh District, and technology providers. The evaluation and report will be completed within the next year. (DOM staff)

### **Second Chance Pell**

This project is coordinated between the Iowa Department of Education (DOE), IDOC, the Iowa Workforce Development (IWD), and CJJP. The Second Chance Pell Experiment Sites were established in 2015 and provides need-based Pell Grants to incarcerated individuals to allow participation in eligible post-secondary programs. Nationally, Second Chance Pell has been shown to be effective and, because of this, is transitioning into full Pell funding opportunities for incarcerated individuals. Locally, Iowa-specific data can inform academic programs and prisons regarding factors affecting program enrollment and completion. Justice Systems Analysts are collecting data that will be analyzed to determine if the post-secondary education provided in correctional institutions influences job readiness, ability to secure employment upon release, employment retention, income levels, and recidivism. (DOM staff)

### **Juvenile Pre-Charge Diversion (PCD) Dashboard**

Justice Systems Analysts and the data team created a data dashboard to track the effectiveness of Iowa's PCD programs overall, as well as give providers information about the effectiveness of their individual program. Overall, the results are encouraging: 87% of youth who participated in one of the tracked PCD programs did not have a subsequent juvenile complaint or charge in adult court within one year of exiting the PCD program. This dashboard will need to be rebuilt when the Justice Data Warehouse (JDW) is finished moving into its new environment. (DOM staff)

## JAB Priority 4: Sex Crimes

Sex offenses are serious crimes that can have long-term effects on victims. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports nearly one in five women and one in 38 men have experienced completed or attempted rape during their lifetime.<sup>3</sup> The JAB has identified sex crimes as a priority and is committed to take actions to achieve three objectives.

Objective 1: Support survivors and victims.

Objective 2: Analyze sex offender data, including the special sentence and sex offender residency restrictions.

Objective 3: Advocate for appropriate legislation and policies.

### **2024 Update on Actions and Activities that support Priority 4: Sex Crimes**

#### **Sex Offender Registry Study**

Justice Data Analysts are currently studying the residency of sex offenders who were registered by July 31, 2023. Of interest is whether sex offender registration and notification policies have reduced recidivism, and particularly, whether it has deterred new sexual offenses. This study will also identify the number of offenders who have violated residency requirements, policies allowing for modification of registry requirements, as well as the costs of placing offenders on the registry. Further, rates of sex offenders on the registry per population by county and zip code will be mapped. Lastly, victim demographics will also be analyzed. A final report is expected to be completed by December 2024. (DOM staff)

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<sup>3</sup> Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Injury Prevention & Control.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/injury/features/sexual-violence/index.html>

# JAB Priority 5: Equal Access to Justice

This priority area encompasses a wide range of issues that most affect disadvantaged lowans and contribute to inequalities in Iowa's justice system.

Two current issues that affect equal access to justice include the ability to make cash bail and financial access to quality legal representation. These problems disproportionately affect poor lowans and addressing them will improve outcomes for all lowans. As a new priority area, Equal Access to Justice will require investigation and research to ensure the JAB's recommendations are evidence-based.

Objective 1: Improve bail and pre-trial jail policies.

Objective 2: Improve equal access to justice in criminal court proceedings.

Objective 3: Enact JJAC's recommendations to ensure youth are tried in developmentally appropriate courts.

## 2024 Update on Actions and Activities that support Priority 5: Equal Access to Justice

### Jail Data

Justice Data Analysts and the data team worked with numerous county jails and Appriss to obtain a wide range of data from county jails in Iowa. One intent of the project was to analyze trends related to bail/bond amount, in relation to a person's charge, criminal history, age, race, and other identifying characteristics. Large quantities of data were reviewed, but unfortunately due to a lack of a unified Records Management System for county jails, as well as varied methods of coding that were specific to each county jail, the team was unable to effectively "clean" the data in order to produce verifiable results to the research questions. The data and research team would like to revisit this project to conduct these analyses should better data become available. (DOM staff)

# Appendix A: JAB Priority Areas, Objectives and Action Items

<b>Priority 1: Racial Justice</b>
<b>Objective 1: Identify and utilize data sources to examine and address racial profiling and racial disparities.</b>
<i>Racial Profiling.</i>
Action Item 1: Examine other states/jurisdictions' racial profiling legislation.
Action Item 2: Establish connections with other state agencies and Iowa communities to examine what is currently being done to address racial profiling and disparities.
Action Item 3: Enact legislation that aims to prevent racial profiling, including the addition of capturing self-reported race/ethnicity when obtaining or renewing a driver's license.
<i>Juvenile Justice System.</i>
Action Item 4: Work closely with Juvenile Justice Advisory Council to ensure strategies and goals are aligned.
Action Item 5: Create inventory about available community resources.
Action Item 6: Understand availability & effectiveness of youth programs in Iowa, including diversion programs.
Long-Term Action Item 7: Explore strategies to end the school-to-prison pipeline.
<i>Social Determinants of Health.</i>
Action Item 8: Investigate available data sources to analyze the intersection of substance abuse, mental health, housing, income, etc. with the aim to better understand racial disparities.
Action Item 9: Explore available data sources on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) to inform decision making processes and policies.
Long-Term Action Item 10: Explore available data on social determinants of health to determine prevention strategies.
Long-Term Action Item 11: Use the data sources to analyze the intersection of substance abuse, mental health, housing, income, etc. with the aim to better understand racial disparities.
Long-Term Action Item 12: Use data sources, including Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) to inform decision making processes and policies.
<b>Objective 2: Review and report on best practices that reduce excessive use of force.</b>
Action Item 1: Examine use of force policies and recommend changes.

<b>Priority 2: Mental Health</b>
<b>Objective 1: Examine the effectiveness of mental health treatment courts.</b>
Action Item 1: Utilize diverse data sources to determine the effectiveness of mental health treatment courts, including cost-benefit analyses.
<b>Objective 2: Conduct comprehensive needs assessment to identify mental health resources available to justice-involved individuals across the state.</b>
Action Item 1: Examine available resources, gaps, and needs of mental health services in all communities.
Action Item 2: Examine national evidence-based programs for best practices to provide appropriate services for those with mental health needs.
Long-Term Action Item 3: Evaluate models of law enforcement and community mental health partnerships.
<b>Objective 3: Identify and prioritize needed appropriate services in the criminal justice system to address mental health issues.</b>
Action Item 1: Gather information from IDOC and local authorities on the provision of mental health services for justice-involved individuals.
Action Item 2: Identify methods, resources, and policies to ensure justice-involved individuals receive the medication needed during incarceration and upon release.
Action Item 3: Examine the SAFENET Rx to understand the potential advantages and limitations.
Action Item 4: Explore data sharing opportunities to understand if justice-involved individuals who are referred for mental health services then received those mental health services.

<b>Priority 3: Community-Based Corrections &amp; Alternatives to Incarceration</b>
<b>Objective 1: Identify and examine effective Iowa Department of Corrections policies throughout the state to reduce incarceration and develop more consistency/standardization across districts.</b>
Action Item 1: Identify ways to implement alternative methods such as transformative or restorative justice.
Action Item 2: Collect and analyze data about revocations to identify when they occur to better understand their effectiveness in preventing new crimes.
Action Item 3: Evaluate risk assessments to determine if there is racial bias and their effectiveness.
Action Item 4: Examine other states' early release from probation incentives.
Action Item 5: Incentivize corporate, government, and nonprofit entities to financially support providers of wrap-around services.
Action Item 6: Provide resources for community, faith-based organizations and residential treatment facilities across the state to provide delivery of wrap-around services.
Action Item 7: Enact legislation to enhance employment opportunities for current and former justice-involved individuals.
Action Item 8: Identify the availability and success of workforce development and educational opportunities in prisons.
Long-Term Action Item 9: Encourage academic partnerships for upscaling education opportunities.
<b>Objective 2: Increase the use of effective treatment courts throughout the state.</b>
Action Item 1: Study different models of treatment courts to examine effectiveness.
Long-Term Action Item 2: Examine mental health and substance abuse treatment available to justice-involved individuals across the state.



<b>Priority Four: Sex Crimes</b>
Objective 1: Support survivors/victims.
Action Item 1: Examine victim/perpetrator overlap.
Long-Term Action Item 2: Collaborate with the Iowa Victim Assistance Section (VAS) and other victim service organizations to study the effectiveness of services to support victims.
Objective 2: Conduct further analysis on sex offender data.
Action Item 1: Examine practical consequences of residency restrictions (including 2,000-foot rule).
Action item 2: Review existing data on recidivism of sex offenders to investigate chronic offenders and crime types.
Objective 3: Advocate for evidence-based legislation and policies regarding sex crimes.
Action Item 1: Understand the history of previous boards and committees focused on sex crimes.
Action Item 2: Connect and collaborate with current organizations working with sex crimes to learn more about their work.

<b>Priority 5: Equal Access to Justice</b>
Objective 1: Improve bail and pre-trial jail policies
Action Item 1: Create an inventory for pre-arrest diversion programs in Iowa and document their effectiveness.
Action Item 2: Evaluate impact of court fees, fines, bail and other costs associated with the legal process on both the State of Iowa and the individuals going through the legal system.
Action Item 3: Evaluate the effectiveness of other state's bail and pre-jail policies.
Objective 2: Improve equal access to justice in criminal court proceedings
Action Item 1: Evaluate the use of prosecutorial discretion.
Action Item 2: Ensure all Iowans have access to quality legal defense.
Action Item 3: Ensure developmentally appropriate court resources are provided to Iowans with intellectual disabilities.
Action Item 4: Ensure appropriate court resources are provided to Iowans for whom English is not a first language.

## Appendix B: JJAC Priority Areas, Goals and Objectives

<b>Priority 1: Serve children at home, with their families, and in their communities.</b>
Goal 1: Minimize system contact for low-risk youth, especially youth of color, by developing formal, statewide diversion opportunities through implementation of structures and policies at early juvenile justice system processing.
Objective 1: Expand Pre-Charge diversion opportunities statewide.
Objective 2: Support implementation of Credible Messengers, peer to peer mentoring and navigation, by providing training to community leaders and funding allocation as needed.
Goal 2: Partner with state and local efforts to expand a full spectrum of gender and culturally responsive, and trauma informed care practices for community-based services for youth.
Objective: Offer and share evidence-based, research-based and/ or promising practices training and educational opportunities to providers.
Goal 3: Advocate for a minimum age of 14 years of age for delinquency proceedings for juvenile court, with exceptions for forcible felonies, by modifying Iowa Code 232.
Objective 1: Draft legislative proposal.
Objective 2: Utilize HHS structure to advance related legislation.
Goal 4: Eliminate delinquency petitions that are filed to protect girls and/or youth of color when community safety is not an issue.
Objective 1: Identify best practices to support alternatives that do protect girls and youth of color without increasing formal juvenile justice processing.
Objective 2: Encourage use of the guidelines for determining whether to handle a complaint formally or informally as laid out in, "Juvenile Delinquency Guidelines: Improving Court Practice in Juvenile Delinquency Cases" (NCJFCJ) or similar best practice documents.
Goal 5: Reduce detention holds that are the result of probation violations.
Objective 1: Explore becoming a Vera Institute "Ending Girls Incarceration" site.
Objective 2: Research detention usage using data broken down by race/ethnicity, gender and zip code.
Objective 3: Secure funding to research detention usage by examining case files for trends by race/ethnicity, gender and zip code.
Objective 4: Advocate for a reduction in the use of juvenile detention for probation violations by modifying Iowa Code 232.
Objective 5: Evaluate the impact of juvenile tracking.
Objective 6: Advocate for reduced Detention Screening Tool overrides for probation violations.

<b>Priority 2: Enhance quality of life, services and opportunities for youth in the juvenile justice system.</b>
Goal 1: The juvenile court system should be the primary court of jurisdiction for youth accused and adjudicated of delinquent behavior. It is the goal of the JJAC for Iowa to have a justice system where youth are exclusively served by the juvenile court system, with rare exceptions.
Objective 1: Eliminate direct file - allow juvenile court to have exclusive jurisdiction of all juvenile offenders, except when the juvenile court waives jurisdiction. Legislation required: Modify Iowa Code §232.8, sub-section 1, paragraph "c".
Objective 2: Juveniles may only be waived to be prosecuted as an adult for felony violent offenses. Legislation required: Amend Iowa Code §232.45, add "...that would be classified as a felony if committed by an adult".
Objective 3: Court-sealing/record-sealing expansion/procedural reform (alterations to

232.150). Explore how Iowa's system to seal and expunge juvenile court records could be more effective and efficient. It should be a system that is understandable and can be navigated by youth and families. This would require alterations to Iowa Code §232.150.
Goal 2: Champion quality of life for youth in out-of-home placements (group homes/ QRTPs, detention centers, State Training School, and shelters). "Get what you need, earn what you want".
Objective 1: Set standards for a youth Bill of Rights and grievance processes.
Objective 2: Partner with other HHS divisions to make Transition Information Packet (TIP Binder) youth friendly and practically useful.
Objective 3: Advocate for quality legal representation and developmentally appropriate court experiences for youth in the juvenile justice system.
Objective 4: Advocate that youth receive timely medical attention when in court ordered placement.
Objective 5: Advocate for clear shackling policies and consistent trauma-informed trainings.
Objective 6: Advocate youth will not be shackled during medical appointments, with the exception for documented safety concerns.
Objective 7: Advocate against shackling of youth who are 22 weeks pregnant or further along.
Objective 8: Develop principles and guidance for programs to implement policies and procedures that ensure the least invasive person searches, using the standards and requirements detailed in the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).
Goal 3: HHS requires female and culturally responsive training for all facilities serving youth involved in the juvenile justice system.
Objective 1: Advance placement and service alternatives for females (e.g. enhanced/STAR foster homes designated as female-responsive) to fill gaps for girls formally involved in the juvenile justice system.
Objective 2: Develop culturally responsive and female-responsive training and technical assistance for QRTP facilities.
Goal 4: Continue to support and evaluate the Reentry Navigator program for viability and expansion.
Objective 1: Explore additional funding for continued support and expansion of the Reentry Navigator program.
Objective 2: Support youth to get their vital documents (birth certificates, IDs, social security cards), including youth who are immigrants or refugees
Objective 3: Explore avenues to expand the population of youth who are eligible for Reentry Navigator program assistance.
Objective 4: Implement and analyze pre- and post-surveys to assess the program for fidelity.
Goal 5: Advocate for trauma-informed design principles in physical spaces where youth and family interact with the juvenile justice system.
Objective 1: Partner with the Iowa State University Department of Landscape Architecture to advance related concepts as appropriate.
Objective 2: Draft legislation to require trauma-informed court waiting room areas.

Priority 3: Advance healing-centered care
Goal 1: Support the integration of healing-centered, authentic youth and family engagement into juvenile justice policies, practices and programs.
Objective 1: Propose a shared definition of “support system” for Juvenile Court Services, QRTPs, State Training School, shelters and detention centers to use.
Objective 2: Ensure youth have free, daily access to their family while in the system by addressing barriers to transportation, restrictive policies, and mindsets of professionals working with youth.
Objective 3: Advise on an authentic engagement framework for Juvenile Court Services.
Objective 4: Support districts and providers to create local youth and family advisory councils to address juvenile justice opportunities and concerns within their community.
Objective 5: Advise on a Parent Partner model for juvenile justice.
Objective 6: Develop healing-centered authentic youth and family engagement training for youth-serving professionals.
Goal 2: Increase Juvenile Court Services usage of female-responsive and culturally responsive practices.
Objective 1: Advocate for the creation of Girls Courts in all Judicial Districts.
Objective 2: Advocate for the creation of all female specialized JCS units or caseloads in all Judicial Districts.
Objective 3: Advocate that HHS providers and juvenile court personnel are required to participate in ongoing specialized bias training and coaching around decision-making regarding youth of color. Training should be research-based, progressive, ongoing and result in an implementation plan.
Goal 3: Increase knowledge about juvenile justice issues that affect key impacted populations. <i>Key impacted population refers to population groups disproportionately affected by disparities (e.g., racial and ethnic minorities, urban vs. rural populations, individuals with disabilities, LGBTQ+ communities)</i>
Objective 1: Explore the disparities and related issues that exist for LGBTQ youth.
Objective 2: Explore issues for girls related to immigration and juvenile justice.
Objective 3: Explore issues for youth in adult court, including specialized settings.