



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

**JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL
DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT SUBCOMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

February 10, 2021

Present: LaTasha DeLoach, Interim Chair; Whitney Buchanan; Terrance Campbell; Julie Clark-Albrecht; Bob Greenlee; Stephanie Hernandez; Hon. Kevin McKeever; Ivy Menke; Stephan Pearson; John Spinks; Miguel Trevino

Others: Ashley Artzer; Pete McRoberts; Laurie Nash

Staff: Steve Michael; Jill Padgett; Kathy Nesteby; Kayla Powell; Jeff Regula; Julie Rinker

Welcome and introductions

LaTasha DeLoach, Interim Chair, welcomed all in attendance at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was present later in the meeting. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing concerns, the meeting was held virtually via Google Meet.

Approval of minutes

Hon. Kevin McKeever moved to approve the minutes from both the November and December meetings, seconded by Stephan Pearson. The motion was unanimously approved.

CJJP Division Update

Steve Michael reported the following:

- The Policy and Programs Subcommittee (PnP), a subcommittee of JJAC, met January 15 to provide funding recommendations for extra Title II funding received. The recommendations include pre-charge diversion, girls programming, and a youth subcommittee. The recommendation will go before the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJAC) as a motion at their March 4th meeting.
- There are two OJJDP grant opportunities that, if awarded, will focus on services for black girls in the juvenile justice system. Title II funding will be set aside for each grant in the amount of \$52,000 to demonstrate commitment to the effort.
- DHR day on the Hill—Will be held virtually this year on Thursday, February 25, 2021. Details are still being finalized. DHR is developing a video for legislators.

DMC Goals and Objectives Discussion

- Policy and Programs feedback on DMC goals, objectives, and activities

Jill Padgett reviewed concerns expressed by the PnP Committee related to Objective 5—“Advance DMC efforts and priorities through support of key legislative/policy Initiatives”. The objective relates to the recommendations from the Racial Disparity Report.

Padgett further explained that at the December 22, 2020, PnP meeting, JJAC members discussed concerns with changing the wording. During that meeting, it was suggested that the wording be changed from “Advance” to “Continue to explore”. She asked if members preferred to advance the recommendations or decide what that means as time goes on.

Members discussed concerns with changing the wording. There was resounding consensus not to change the wording. DMC members wished to stand firm and positively impact the lives of minority youth.

The DMC goals and objectives will go before the JJAC at their March 4th meeting for final review and approval.

DMC Updates

- Visible Black Girls in the Juvenile Justice System work group - (DMC Goal 2, Objective 1)

DeLoach provided information on the work group seated to address issues for black girls in the juvenile justice system. The next meeting will review the basics of juvenile court. The purpose of the work group is to provide recommendations on ways to better serve black girls. She encouraged DMC members to attend and added that this has never been done before on a statewide basis.

- Next steps for racial disparities recommendation regarding pre-charge diversion (DMC Goal 1, Objective 1)

Padgett asked members to provide recommendations regarding pre-charge diversion. Consideration is being given to replicating pre-charge diversion programs on a statewide basis. The effort would include a uniform process to ensure all low-risk, first-time offenders are referred to a qualified program. To do so, would require data collection and funding for new pre-charge diversion programs as well as legislation to require that all eligible youth are referred to a community-based pre-charge diversion program for first-time simple misdemeanor offenses.

While some foundations are in place, staff would like more discussion surrounding how to advance the effort in local communities through DMC member involvement.

Members discussed the following concerns:

- The importance of law enforcement buy-in through education.
- Some diversion programs are far more intensive than juvenile court.
- Some diversion programs require payment, some don't. Families may be required to pay up to \$200 which can disproportionately affect those who may not be able to afford it. Statewide pre-charge diversion should be rolled out on an equitable basis.

- Concerns were noted that similar projects were funded in the past through a variety of agencies. As leadership change, some programs ended. Legislation, collaboration, and the importance of roles need to be considered for sustainability.

DeLoach encouraged members to invite local leaders and law enforcement to future meetings to develop a collaborative effort to positively advance pre-charge diversion efforts.

NYTD & Talking Wall Results Overview

Kayla Powell provided an overview of the results from the recently released National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) report. The effort collects information from current and former foster care youth at ages 17, 19, and 21. This year's report focused on 17-year olds in the foster care system.

Youth respond to questions regarding employment, education, financial self-sufficiency, positive connections, homelessness, high-risk behaviors, and health insurance. Data are collected directly from youth via phone or mail/online surveys.

Powell also provided information collected from youth in residential care via "Talking Wall" efforts. The complete report can be found here:

<https://humanrights.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/media/Full%20Report-condensed.pdf>

Iowa Taskforce for Young Women Update

Kathy Nesteby provided an update on the Iowa Task Force for Young Women (ITYFW) which met last week. At that meeting, Powell presented the NYTD results and task force members requested spreadsheets on the Talking Wall information collected.

Also at that meeting, the executive director of the Ottumwa Job Corps center presented information. Iowa has two centers—Ottumwa and Denison. The Denison site provides housing for parenting females as part of their program.

A grant application through the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention will target black girls receiving services in the juvenile justice system. If awarded, a provider will be selected through a competitive process to provide both gender and culturally responsive services.

Nesteby noted that a joint meeting will be held in May between the DMC Subcommittee and the ITFYW. Staff, along with chairs, will develop an agenda. She suggested that Powell provide more in-depth information on the Talking Wall and that a discussion be held to elevate issues.

Local DMC Efforts Discussion

There were no local updates. However, the following was discussed:

Padgett reported on efforts by the newly seated Youth Action Squads in DHR. There are two squads—one on racial disparity and the other on the effects of COVID-19.

These youth provided information on school resource officers (SROs) at a recent Des Moines Public School Board meeting. The Board will vote next week to remove SROs and replace the program with a restorative justice model.

Powell provided further details. She reported that these youth have met with school board officials regarding disparity in referrals. CJJP provided data which was also shared with board members. These youth will present information at the March 4 JJAC meeting.

DeLoach applauded youth for addressing concerns and standing up to authority. She thought it was a huge step for DMC efforts.

Adjourn

DeLoach noted the next meeting is May 5, 2021, and will include a joint with the Iowa Task Force for Young Women followed by a DMC meeting. An agenda and materials will be sent. She encouraged members to recommend agenda items.

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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