



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

**JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Joint Meeting Disproportionate Minority Contact Subcommittee &**  
**Iowa Task Force for Young Women**

**MINUTES OF ELECTRONIC MEETING**  
May 1, 2020

**Present:** Wayne Ford, Chair, DMC Subcommittee; Jennifer Tibbetts, Chair, Iowa Task Force for Young Women; Ashley Artzer; Terrance Campbell; Kim Cheeks; Kristen Corey; LaTasha DeLoach, Co-Chair DMC; Andrea Dencklau; Patrick Garcia; Stephanie Hernandez; Julie Martin; Hon. Kevin McKeever; Ivy Menke; Stephan Pearson; Lori Rinehart, Co-Chair ITFYW; Marissa Schuster; John Spinks; Miguel Trevino; David Tristan

**Others:** Ruth Frush; Glen Miller

**Staff:** Steve Michael; Dave Kuker; Scott Musel; Reeva Neighbors; Kathy Nesteby; Tammi Blackstone; Julie Rinker

**Introductions/Announcements**

Andrew Allen, Chair of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council, served as facilitator and called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He welcomed those in attendance. A quorum was present for both subcommittees. The meeting was held electronically via Google Hangouts.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the following meetings were all unanimously approved by the appropriate entities.

- **Joint meeting - May 3, 2019:** Motion by Jennifer Tibbetts, seconded by Stephanie Hernandez. Unanimous approval.
- **DMC - February 12, 2020:** Motion by Kim Cheeks, seconded by LaTasha DeLoach. Unanimous approval.
- **ITFYW – February 7, 2020:** Motion by Julie Martin, seconded by Kristen Corey. Unanimous approval.

**Juvenile Justice Advisory Council/CJJP Update**

- Legislative wrap up

Steve Michael provided the following update:

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- All staff are working from home.
- The Legislature will not be meeting until mid-May. He noted state budget concerns related to COVID-19 and how the lack of budget approval affects planning.
- Grant applications—The SAC Grant (Statistical Analysis Center-CJJP is Iowa's SAC) will include the Juvenile Decision Matrix, looking to apply to OJJDP on risk to girls in JJ system will enhance training for those working with girls in JJ system and ways to improve those services
- Federal level—A letter has been shared by the JJAC with Iowa's federal delegation regarding needs of the juvenile justice system due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A teleconference was held with Grassley's staff and additional information was provided to them as well as Senator Ernst and other representatives based on that conversation. There is interest from both Senators to find ways to provide additional support due to COVID-19.
- Department level—DHR's Community & Advocacy Services (CAS) staff have been involved with translating COVID-19 information into multiple languages. That information is available on the DHR website.
- Kristen Corey reported that she is running DHR's social media platform and that weekly COVID-19 information is distributed to Iowa communities and local program administrators via email.
- NYTD Coordinator—Taylor Barry has accepted employment in another state. Her position has been posted. Duties will now include NYTD and Youth Development and will coordinate youth initiatives within DHR and other state agencies to promote youth development. This individual will also be more involved with the JJAC.
- Chief Justice Christiansen—A letter was sent by the Chief Justice to Governor Reynolds and San Wong, DHR Director, regarding youth placement at the Boys' State Training School (STS). There has been a reduction of available beds at the STS over the past year. The Chief Justice requested that individuals within the Judicial Branch and juvenile justice system be involved in discussions regarding the availability of beds. Ruth Frush provided more information.

### **Background & JJAC Retreat**

- September 24-25, 2020

Dave Kuker reported that the Chairs of both the DMC Subcommittee (DMC) and the Iowa Task Force for Young Women (ITFYW) have requested discussion ahead of the JJAC Retreat to develop recommendations on goals, objectives, programming, and funding areas that intersect the two groups.

Kuker provided a brief overview on the purpose of the three-year plan and corresponding JJAC Retreat. The three-year plan will include the distribution of funding. Priority areas will be developed at the Retreat and a plan will be submitted to the federal Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

Allen noted the importance of the planning process. An individual with national expertise will facilitate the discussion at the Retreat.

## **Review of Current Goals and Objectives**

- DMC

DeLoach provided a review of current goals and objectives. She noted the emphasis being placed on diversion and the detention screening tool, working with the Iowa Task Force for Young Women, and reaching out to refugee and immigrant communities. However, more work and coordination is needed for deep end youth.

Wayne Ford noted the importance of combining efforts, especially for young black females.

- ITFYW

Tibbetts reported that the Task Force has been working on achieving their goals, although some are interwoven. Recent work includes updating their publication on gender responsive services, its intersections, and the experiences of girls in the system.

Tibbetts also provided information on educating state legislators on issues surrounding girls and the IGJI report recommendations. She planned to continue those conversations with legislators.

## **Facilitated Discussion in Preparation for JJAC Priority setting (2021-2023)**

Allen reviewed the common goals of the two subcommittees. He asked members to think of the top two intersections that could insure a better system.

The following summarizes those comments:

- Prevention, opportunities, support, advocacy—upon first “touch” by schools or court system, prevent youth from entering deeper—instead of punishment, take the opportunity to teach, educate, support, and advocate. Represent those without a voice.
- There is a need for more diversion programs, alternative programs, and services.
- There is a higher level of accountability for blacks versus whites. Understanding and decriminalizing behaviors of black girls—actions/behaviors may be a symptom of past life experiences.
- Include black females and related data at the Retreat to hear their recommendations and concerns.
- Many of these young women do not present a risk to public safety to their community.
- Due to COVID-19 pandemic concerns, more diversion has taken place—jail/detention populations are down. Would like to compare data to strengthen focus on pre-charge diversion following the pandemic.

Allen summarized—the focus is on black females and to insure the system is accountable and working on behalf of kids—prevention, support, education, treatment not punishment, advocacy, diversion, right treatment/right services. He asked members to formulate a purpose statement—‘why are we going to get out of bed every day?’

The following summarizes that discussion:

- Insure that Iowa’s juvenile justice system does not criminalize black girls’ mind and

bodies. Misinterpretation/expectations by others—girls whose minds are 10, but age is 15.

- Understand history/background and perception.
- Are we arresting black girls because they are behaving like black girls?
- Other systems need to understand black girls—courts, schools, libraries, playgrounds—juvenile justice system and related entities.
- Equity achieved in every courtroom in Iowa.
- A black girl's neighborhood does not tell her future.

Allen reported that the chairs of the subcommittees will further discuss the above suggestions to develop recommendations for the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council's three-year Retreat.

### **Old Business/New Business**

There was no additional discussion related to these topics.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker  
Administrative Secretary  
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning  
Iowa Department of Human Rights