



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

JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL
IOWA TASK FORCE FOR YOUNG WOMEN

One purpose, one passion - transforming systems to empower every girl.

MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 2022

- Present:** Jennifer Tibbetts; Ashley Artzer; Andrea Dencklau; Andrea Dickerson; Julie Martin; Danielle Masten; Olivia Ray; Marissa Schuster; Maria Valdez
- Staff:** Steve Michael; Kathy Nesteby; Shayla Gilleland; Scott Musel; Jill Padgett; Kayla Powell; Julie Rinker; Brianne Messer
- Others:** Mandy Engel-Cartie; Aayla Larson; Nickole Miller; Ariel Perry; Rachelle Rawson; Kelsie Sass

Introductions/Announcements

- Return to in-person/hybrid meetings delayed

Jennifer Tibbetts welcomed all in attendance at 10:04 a.m. Introductions were made. A quorum was present. Nesteby reported that meeting formats (in-person or virtual/hybrid) will be determined on a meeting-by-meeting basis.

Approval of Minutes

- November, 2021

The minutes were accepted as presented. Tibbetts reviewed meeting structure—a consensus model is used to approve minutes and other action items.

JJAC/CJJP/COVID Update

Steve Michael reported the following:

- **Chief Justice's Juvenile Justice Task Force and workgroups**—Michael reported that the purpose of the task force is to review various aspects and oversight of Iowa's juvenile justice system. Most work will be accomplished through workgroups: congregate care, state training school, community-based services, re-entry, governance, funding and data collection, and dual system youth. Staff from CJJP serve on each workgroup. The Chief Justice has prioritized inclusion of youth and family representatives on the task force and in workgroups.

Tibbetts asked for more information on the workgroup and meeting dates so that members can comment or submit issues for girls in the juvenile justice system.

Nickole Miller offered to share a meeting calendar; most of the workgroups meet monthly or bi-weekly. A progress report is due by the end of April. She noted the importance of collecting information on the current status and disseminating it to the workgroups.

Nesteby will share workgroup information. A list of task force members was previously shared. She suggested reviewing the member list to identify champions. Concerns regarding girls in the

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juvenile justice system will be carried forward by CJJP staff. However, this task force should take this opportunity to become involved.

- **Youth Engagement**—Michael noted that youth engagement has been a priority to learn from youth with lived experience and provide the skills and services necessary for them to succeed. A variety of youth councils exist to empower youth—[State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council](#), Youth Justice Advisory Council, [Youth Action Squad\(s\)](#), [Iowa Youth Congress](#). Youth Participatory Action Research is a strategy used to train youth to conduct research to support youth voice and the development of position statements.

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice, an organization comprised of state advisory groups such as the JJAC, holds an annual conference in Washington, DC. Workshop applications have been submitted for the Racial Justice Youth Action Squad on [removing school resource officers](#) and the Youth Justice Advisory Council to present information on the formation of this JJAC subcommittee to engage youth with lived experience.

- **New Staff**—Two justice system analysts have been hired—Shayla Gilleland and Ilma Jahic. They will work with Kathy Nesteby on the SPEP (Standard Program Evaluation Protocol) as well as other research and data work.
- **Juvenile Reentry**—Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services secured funding for three juvenile reentry navigators. The navigators will work with eligible disabled youth exiting group care and focus on career/skill development and job placement. The navigators will be assigned to work in three separate locations—5th and 6th Judicial Districts and the 2nd Judicial District/Boys' State Training School. One navigator has been hired for the 6th Judicial District.
- **Pre-charge diversion grant & demographic data**—Iowa was awarded a competitive grant from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to expand pre-charge diversion. The funds will be awarded to local units of government to develop new or expand existing pre-charge diversion. Some technical assistance will be provided. More information on the RFP will be forthcoming.

Jill Padgett reviewed current pre-charge diversion efforts in Iowa—Iowa City, Davenport, Spencer, Fort Dodge, and Des Moines. Between 2016-2019, 727 Iowa youth participated in pre-charge diversion programs—84% did not recidivate in one year. Padgett reviewed data by race and gender and noted the importance of statewide standardization. Nesteby suggested reviewing charges for those who did recidivate.

Girls Grant

Nesteby reported that the girls' grant application was not awarded to Iowa by OJJDP. If awarded, funds would have gone to support services for Black girls in the juvenile justice system. The application process included \$52,000 in matching funds from the JJAC and those funds remain available. Nesteby asked for recommendations on how the funds could/should be used. The JJAC meets in early March and a proposal could be shared then.

Nesteby also provided information on a DMC Subcommittee workgroup that has been meeting regularly—"Black Girls in the Juvenile Justice System". From this effort, discussions have been held regarding the lack of evidence-based female and culturally responsive services.

Nesteby asked for recommendations for the use of these funds. Michael noted that the funding must be used for service-related expenditures. Scott Musel provided funding requirements.

After a brief discussion, there was consensus to recommend to the JJAC that the \$52,000 that was originally allocated to support services for Black girls in juvenile justice should be reallocated to the re-entry effort to provide services and products for Black girls. Suggestions included funding for rent deposits and application fees, hair and hygiene products, furniture, clothing, phones, and resources for single moms and rape victims.

Legislative Update

Michael reported the following updates:

- **DHS has pre-filed a bill** to transfer oversight of graduated sanctions funding to the Judicial Branch and the Detention Home Fund to CJJP. The legislation also transfers bed cap oversight to CJJP. The latter relates to the number of beds assigned to each detention center. The bill numbers are: HSB 653 and SSB 3102.
- **Extending foster care to age 21**—If passed, this would provide support to youth in foster care until age 21. Powell added that this would allow child welfare or juvenile justice youth to continue receiving supports if they participate in supervised apartment living or family foster homes.
- **DHR Day on the Hill**—will be held virtually this year. The focus has changed to “DHR week”—several councils and commissions will meet. Youth initiatives will hold in-person activities at the Capitol on March 1. The Rotunda is available that morning.

Tibbetts asked for interest in developing advocacy and talking points to promote work and raise awareness. She asked for comments and volunteers. Nesteby offered to conduct a poll to solicit interest and share a list of proposed legislation.

Find Our Sisters

- Olivia Ray, Girls Inc. of Sioux City
- Shelly Rawson, Youth for Christ
- Volunteer for next meeting

Olivia Ray and Shelly Rawson presented information on their work with youth in Sioux City.

Ray is the Youth Development Director at Girls, Inc. of Sioux City. She teaches youth in the Detention Center about financial literacy (taxes, pay stubs, W4 form, how to fill out job application, how to build credit, etc.) and investing in stocks and real estate. Though many have never had any job experience, they are interested in these careers. Youth have expressed that housing and transportation for work are two of their biggest concerns upon release. Ray offered to provide virtual or in-person training to other agencies.

Rawson is the Youth Justice Ministry Director at Siouxland Youth for Christ. She works with at-risk youth and meets with youth at the detention center, alternative school, Boys' State Training School, and other out-of-home placement facilities. Referrals are from JCOs, schools, detention, and word of mouth. Sessions encompass trauma-informed, character building, self-worth, assertiveness, communication, and other topics. The purpose is to build relationships. Rawson trains adults to become mentors and has over 50 mentors. Following successful background checks, mentors are matched with youth. Mentors/advocates build relationships, call regularly, and send care packages.

A local Hope Center provides support to families and connects them to services. A “No Matter What Club” provides suitcases, hygiene items, blankets, pillows, etc. so kids leave with more than the clothes on their backs. She helps youth celebrate their birthdays and other milestones. Youth for

Christ is a national organization. Through these contacts, she has arranged connections for youth returning home to California, Florida, and other areas.

Talking Wall report & Youth led initiatives

Kayla Powell provided information on results from the Talking Wall and the NYTD report. The Talking Wall is a format used to collect concerns from youth in out-of-home placement and is included in the annual NYTD report (National Youth in Transition Database). NYTD is a survey used to collect information from youth currently in or who have exited foster care at ages 17, 19, and 21. The current report relates to 17-year-olds. The Talking Wall was conducted at 40 locations where 383 youth provided over 1,800 responses.

Powell reviewed the questions and responses. In particular, she reviewed responses related to ways to improve the foster care and/or juvenile justice system for girls and young women:

- The need for hygiene products
- Clothing
- Resources for rape victims and single moms
- Education on birth control, contraception, and puberty
- Acceptance for transgender males
- *Listen* to youth concerns at home, just because one adult says everything is okay, it isn't.

Powell reported that some changes are taking place as a result of the overall comments from the Talking Wall. These include:

- Discussions with the Department of Education to take the Hi-Set in detention
- The Department of Public Health is helping with hygiene products

She noted the importance of working with facility administrators to incorporate those changes that are easily made. She gave an example of detention centers requiring orange jumpsuits which have to be completely removed to use the restroom.

After a brief discussion, there was consensus to compose a letter to send to facilities. The purpose would be to raise awareness and underscore concerns.

The remaining agenda items were not discussed due to lack of time.

- **DMC Update**
- **Deep End data and JCO survey reports**
- **Vision Discussion**
- **Goals and Objectives**
- **New Membership**
- **Old Business**

The meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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