



**WA State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice (PCJJ)**

**Full Council Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, July 20, 2023  
Green Hill School  
9 AM – 2:30 PM**

**Welcome and Introductions:** Council Chair, Gordon McHenry Jr, offered land acknowledgement and welcomed attendees. Provided opening remarks and introductions.

Attendees: Gordon McHenry Jr., Sean Goode, Ada Daniels, Clinton Taylor, Diana Cockrell Felice Upton, Drew Hill, jd Nielsen, Judge Jennifer Forbes, Michael Johnson, Jimmy Hung, Nicole McGrath

Guests: Roxana Gomez, Alessandrais Adkison, Kelsey-Anne Fung, Elizabeth Mustin, Kelly Anne Olson, Elizabeth Trautman, GHS youth and staff

Zoom: Councilmembers - Dr. Ben Danielson Deekon Jones, Megan Boyd. Guests - Arthur Longworth, Brittany Mullins, Izzy, Jennifer Price, Julian Cooper, Michael Althausser, Stephanie Budrus, George Yeannakis.

OJJ Staff: Alice Coil, Les Liggins, Jenny Young, and Whitney Qeral

**Motion to approve April 2023 Meeting Minutes by Clinton Taylor. Motion seconded by Drew Hill. Group voted unanimously to approve meeting minutes with no abstentions.**

**Presentation: Green Hill School Leadership** Kiara Moses, Jason Aldana, Jose Caywood, & Felice Upton

\*See attached PowerPoint

**Committee Reports:**

- **Grants and TA** Ada Daniels

Presented information regarding funding priorities and recommendations:

Priorities for funding should be given to the following award categories:

(a) Programs to prevent or divert youth from entering or re-entering the juvenile justice system with demonstrated outcomes on reducing racial and ethnic disparities.

(b) Culturally relevant and trauma-informed behavioral health expansion that provides viable and meaningful supportive services to youth and their families at risk of entering or re-entering the juvenile legal system.

(c) Culturally relevant and trauma-informed community-based programs that support justice-involved youth and their families re-entering and transitioning back to their home communities from detention or state custody.

Proposed awarding six contracts for new, enhancement or expansion projects:

Year One: \$140,000 each

Year Two: \$92,000 each

Year Three: \$92,000 each

Nicole McGrath motioned to approve proposed funding priorities for next Three-Year JJSI Grant Cycle. Motion seconded by Felice Upton. Council voted unanimously to approve of funding priorities.

- **Racial and Ethnic Disparities** Clinton Taylor and Jimmy Hung

Addressing racial and ethnic disparities is not always easy. The good news is that progress can and has been made by systems and communities working together to help reduce or even eliminate disparities. The Racial and Ethnic Disparities Committee organizes periodic gatherings with presentations to raise awareness and cultivate partnerships and take action on transforming the justice system. Below is a summary of presentations this spring:

- April 2023 *Using Data to Understand the Mechanisms of Racial Disparity and Criminal Justice System Reform* with Dr. Thad Johnson, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University
- Dr. Johnson discussed the primary driver of justice system disparity is no longer drug offenses but differential violent offending and victimization in the Black community. He offered examples of both justice system (including police reforms) and non-system-related reforms showing promise for addressing the racial gap in people impacted by the criminal justice system.
- May 2023 *Shifting Resources from Systems to Communities* with Valerie Slater, RISE For Youth in Virginia
- Valerie Slater shared her knowledge and insight on building up resources to support youth in their homes and with their families, strategies that shift power and resources from systems to communities, and resources/power sharing among community programs.
- June 2023 *Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences (HOPE)* with Carmen Pacheco Jones, Stephanie Courtney, and Rumyana Kudeva of Spokane's Health Alliance
- HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences) represents a paradigm shift in how we see and talk about positive experiences, recognizing that positive experiences can ease toxic stress and help children and youth grow into more resilient, healthier adults.

- **Behavioral Health and Reentry**

The Reentry/Aftercare & Behavioral Health Joint Committee focuses on improving access to mental health assessment and treatment services as well as supporting youth's transition and reengagement to home and community from confinement. This Spring the joint committee meetings have been focused on learning about and from community-based providers working to serve youth in need of behavioral health services and re-entry support. Below is a summary of the presentations:

- January 2023 Breakthrough Boxing Program, Dr. Kamara Taylor
- Introduction of Dr. Kamara Taylor, professor in the Psychology Department at South Puget Sound Community. Dr. Taylor spoke on the benefits of physical activity/exercise on improved mental health and how sports, e.g. Breakthrough Boxing, could be therapeutic for juveniles as they heal from trauma.
- March 2023 Community Safety Violence Prevention programs, Kate Kelly
- Introduction of the Community Services Division of the Department of Commerce specifically the Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention and its Grant Programs.
- April 2023 Capacity Building, Evidence Based Associates, Joe Boggs & Dan Edwards
- Introduction of services offered by Evidence-Based Associates on service coordination, system assessment, readiness support, and program implementation.
- May 2023 Piloted Systems Analysis & Improvement Approach within the EPIC system in King County Children Family Justice Center, Dr. Sarah Gimbel
- The Systems Analysis and Improvement Approach (SAIA) was developed in the global south and combines systems engineering tools (cascade analysis, process mapping and continuous quality improvement) into an iterative process to facilitate systems thinking among caregivers and foster communication and collaboration across services.

### **Projects Update:**

#### **Policy Study Projects**

Invitation posed to Council Members to participate in workgroups for the following projects:

- State-funded Community Compensation Project
- Juvenile Records Sealing
- Raise the Age

#### **Probation Reform Training**

OJJ submitted an application to be considered as one of the training participants and was selected as one of five states to attend the training in Baltimore, Maryland. The invitational training was offered by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Judge Jennifer Forbes, Lorraine Stone, Dave Reynolds, Cody Jewell, and Jenny Young attended the training. The training program provided participants with an overview of Probation Reform, Home State Probation Landscape, Incentivized Models for Probation, the SAG's role in promoting Probation Transformation, Youth Partnership, & Action Planning

The WA delegation plans to consider these next steps:

- Work with WAJCA and WSCJA representatives on the WA-PCJJ to submit requests to their associations to present at their upcoming conferences.
- Work with CJJ, the AECF, Pierce Co. and OJJ to design the training to be presented at the above-mentioned conferences.
- Hope to present to the SCJs in April 2024 and the JCAs in May 2024

## **Youth Voice: Breakout Groups**

### Table 1 Rehabilitation vs. Retribution

Participants: Zach, Kehlev, Zach, Judge Forbes, Jimmy Hung, Alice Coil, Liz Mustin, Kelsey-Ann Fung, Kelly Anne Olson, Kiara Moses

Summary notes:

- Youth expressed fear and uncertainty about their future on the “outside” and hope for more post release support.
- Youth described his identity development and growth since his incarceration. He described his trial and sentencing process as being “dehumanizing” because the defense attorney, prosecutor, and the judge all failed to see him as a person instead he was a crime case number. He felt that he is a changed person because he has benefited from rehabilitative support while in GHS. He wished the support was available “outside” beyond these walls. He talked about how 1383 could provide a second chance opportunity for those who have deemed “rehabilitated” and are willing to give back by serving as community leaders, advocates, and mentors to intervene/prevent young people from committing crimes. He felt that hope is the biggest driver for being truly rehabilitated, 1383 allows rehabilitated youth to move forward and give back in their community.
- Guest spoke in support of restorative justice and ways to humanize the legal process, the system is complicated and HB1383 is a small fix of a large broken puzzle, another persistent effort to change the system over time.
- Guest remarked on how legislators often don’t like drastic change. A digestible approach might be more digestible, start with a grid to consider those with 5, 10 years remaining, for example. Guest suggested doing an impact study and perhaps looking at how similar bill has been introduced in other states. Guest also cautioned how survivors might respond/react to the bill.
- Guest suggested including formerly incarcerated individuals about 1383 to gain their support.
- Youth suggested looking for ways to change public opinion, asking for more support and encouragement from visiting guests.

### Table 2 DOC Housing Separation, HB 1383, Transition and Reentry

Participants: Ray, Caya, Guillermo, Ada Daniels, Diana Cockrell, Jason Aldana, Roxana Gomez, Whitney Queral

- Discussion around what is the role of parole relating to HB 1383.
- Creating a larger tiered system of peer support.
- How can a system be fully functional if it is never fully funded?
- Peer support and creating young leaders.
- Next Steps- bringing together group of community organizations supporting reentry to discuss roles in supporting.

### Table 3 HB 1383

Participants: Anthony, Chris, Edgar, Aaron, Liz Trautman, jd Nielson, Gordon McHenry Jr., Jose Caywood, and Jenny Young

HB 1383 Summary Pts. Presented by GHS

- Remove the cap on rehabilitation.
- Not against auto decline.
- Senate companion bill.
- Emphasis on restoration by partnering with victims.
- Will create a mechanism for youth who fully participate in their rehabilitation by having the opportunity for early release.
- Reincorporates youth tried as adults back into juvenile rehabilitation.
- Puts these leaders back into the communities to be the voice of reason.
- Incentivizes youth to truly engage in their rehabilitation b/c they have hope in changing their future.
- How can we prove that we are fully rehabilitated? We have taken advantage of all the programming and opportunities provided to us at JR.
- Not attacking auto-decline, ISRB is the safety net.
- Resentencing vs. the Review Board (this one is faster and saves money as you don't have to go back to court again.)
- Suggested items to consider shared by Council members and guests.
- Health Impact Statement Request?
- Find out how many people would be impacted by this bill immediately and in the next several years.
- Senate version of the bill?
- Anti-displacement bill as rental vouchers are included, Dept. of Commerce, Office of Youth Homelessness would be an unexpected ally as well as any other agencies working on housing.
- Survivor voice is important and could be engaged through Dept. of Commerce as well.
- Study what other states have done.

Table 4 Re-Entry: Family Engagement and Finances

Participants: TJ, Ron, Bryan, Clinton Taylor, Sean Goode, Andrew Hill, Michael Johnson, Les Liggins

Key Discussion Points:

- Naming the institutions for what they are, youth prisons. They are not schools or youth centers.
- How are they being prepared for life after JR?
- Support localized and familial support.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM**

**Next meeting will be held via zoom from 9 AM to 12 PM on Thursday, October 19, 2023.**