



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

WA State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice (PCJJ)

Full Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 16, 2025
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Microsoft Teams

Welcome and Introductions: Meeting called to order by Chair Gordon McHenry Jr. Welcomed attendees and provided an overview of the agenda for the special convening of the Council. Provided a land acknowledgement recognizing the unceded lands of the ancestral and indigenous people on which we live- made a call for reaffirming commitments to and improving relationships with the local indigenous people. Council members took turns introducing themselves following the welcome and introduction of new Council Members.

Council Attendees: Council Chair Gordon McHenry Jr., Vice Chair Sean Goode, Clinton Taylor, Andrew Hill, Ada Daniels, Dr. Ben Danielson, Kendra Jones, Jimmy Hung, Felice Upton, Judge Jennifer Forbes, Michael Johnson, Lorraine Stone, Dr. Eric Trupin, Diana Cockrell, Dre Thornock, Doug Jeske, Alex Narvaez, and Tashawn Deville.

OJJ Staff: Jenny Young, Heidi Sadri, Alexi Castilla, Whitney Queral, & Christina Valera

Guests: OSPI presenters, Mikhail Cherniske & Veronica Gallardo

Minutes Approval:

Motion to approve meeting minutes for December 5th, 2024, Special Convening by Jimmy Hung. Motion Seconded by Felice Upton. Council members voted unanimously to approve meeting minutes. Diana and Drew Hill Abstained from voting and motion carried.

Supplemental Materials:

- PowerPoint 1.16.25 Full Council Meeting
- PowerPoint OSPI IE Presentation to PCJJ
- Grants & TA Committee Report
- Behavioral Health Re-entry Committee Report
- Racial and Ethnic Disparities Report

Special Announcements:

Introduction of New Council Members: Alex Narvaez, Douglas Jeske, & Kendra Jones

Introduction of New OJJ Staff: Christina Valera, Compliance Manager

Report on WA-PCJJ Meeting with Gov. Inslee: Chair Gordon McHenry Jr.

- Governor expressed his objection to the Council publicly challenging the decision to move 43 young men from Green Hill to Department of Corrections without due process
- Inquired about the Council's stance on the opening of a JR facility at Stafford Creek
- Informed him that the Council viewed the new facility as an interim solution, but not a permanent plan and expressed hope that there would be a focus on 'unwinding' Stafford Creek location to one better suited to the needs of incarcerated young people and their families/support systems
- Redirected to the Biennial Report and plan for engaging with the community to cite locations for new, small JR facilities
- The Governor requested support from the Council regarding the opening of Stafford Creek Facility
- The Governor suggested that Council Members be more active and present in Olympia during the legislative session to speak on recommendations from the Governor's Report

Items for Council Consideration:

- Should the council continue to oppose the Stafford Creek facility or spend energy supporting DCYF in creating a plan to unwind Stafford Creek Facility as quickly as possible. Such activities may include engaging with the community to cite locations for small community-based facilities.
- Identify ways to engage in action and advocacy during the legislative session
- Commit to undoing 'Justice by Geography' by supporting statewide implementation of diversion programming

Discussion:

- Members encouraged the Council to maintain opposing the operation of JR facility at Stafford Creek. Proposed the Council to continue pressing for alternative locations/solutions aside from opening a JR facility on DOC grounds.
- Asked for clarification regarding youth who will potentially be transferred to Stafford Creek Facility → Aged 18 and up, self-selected. Preference for ages 21 and older.
- What is the timeline for opening Stafford Creek facility?
- Proposal made for the Council to advocate for "the details that we know are important to youth" including supporting standards of their living conditions, developmentally appropriate behavior management systems, trauma-informed practices.

Mary Sprute Garlant introduced herself as the prospective new Council Member from the Governor's Office under the new administration- has yet to be formally appointed

Presentation: OSPI Update on HB 1701 Implementation Ada Daniels, Mikhail Cherniske, & Veronica Gallardo

- Institutional Education (IE): delivers educational services to justice-involved youth within:
 - o DCYF Facilities
 - 2 JR institutions- 705 enrolled youth
 - 8 Community Facilities- 81 enrolled youth
 - o Juvenile Detention Centers
 - 12 District run facilities- 1,768 enrolled youth
 - 9 ESD run facilities- 1,842 enrolled youth
 - o DSHS
 - 4 Habilitation Centers
 - o Other Facilities
 - Hospitals and inpatient
 - Treatments centers
 - Department of Corrections
- HB 1701 requirement: Develop timeline and plan for assuming responsibility for delivery of basic education in IE
- Current trends: Youth staying longer in Juvenile Detention Centers
 - o More youth enrolled with higher acuity/higher needs

**See PowerPoint for additional information

OJJ Updates

- OJJ Newsletter to publish first edition this month
- Received Compliance Letter finding Washington in compliance with OJJDP standards
- Policy Studies Updates:
 - o Juvenile Records & State Funded Community Compensation reports submitted to the Governor and Legislature Oct. 2024
 - o Raise the Age- recommendations due this summer
 - o Working through data delays from AOC

Youth Voice:

GHS Capitol Classroom Bryan, TJ, Ron, Caya, Moses, Chris

- Working on getting permission to travel off campus to go to the Capitol
- Currently 23 house sponsors for their bill, HB 1111 “The Youth Hope Act”
- Youth are currently working on their testimony for hearing on Monday
- Youth provided council members with an overview of HB 1111

- Shared activities they are involved in day-to-day including college classes, mentoring, engaging in vocational programs that are available, working, etc. How much time they have outside of their rooms is highly dependent on staffing levels.
- Youth shared what keeps them motivated including engaging in bettering themselves, maintaining a positive mindset through mentorship, self-care, reaching out to family, remembering their 'why', and remembering to celebrate all of their victories.

Echo Glen Justice for Girls Alexis, Lola, Jermaine, & Easton

- Shared that they will be unable to testify in person for HB 1111
- Youth shared that there is no associates program available anymore and generally less programming available for older youth at EGCC
- Shared what activities they spend in their day-to-day.
- Shared that they would like to see young people and staff work more closely

Legislative Session Strategies:

Currently tracking 30+ Bills

Upcoming Meetings:

- January 24
- Feb 7
- Feb 21

** See PowerPoint for bill tracking

Committee Updates

Grants & TA: Ada Daniels

- 2024 Award Granted from OJJDP

**See report for additional information

Racial & Ethnic Disparities

**See report for additional information

Behavior Health & Re-entry

**See report for additional information

Action Items:

- Continue pushing for transparency in process of the operation of programs at Stafford Creek
- Meet with new governor
- Meet with new secretary of DCYF
- Add new members to Racial and Ethnic Disparities Committee

Questions:

Public Comment:

None shared at this time

Adjourn

12:58 PM

Next Meeting:

April 17, 2025, 9:00AM-1:00PM via Microsoft Teams