

## Raise the Age Workgroup

### Meeting Summary

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 | 2-4 PM

Via Microsoft Teams

**2:00 PM**      **Welcome & Introductions**

**2:30 PM**      **Introduction: Evans Policy Innovation Collaborative (EPIC)**

- [About EPIC](#)
- See slides for an overview of the technical assistance being provided by EPIC
- Cali Jahn, Innovation & Engagement Manager, and Katya Jardim, Senior Research Scientist, provided an overview of EPIC and their approach to providing technical assistance for this Raise the Age project.
- Faculty members also supporting this project:
  - [Scott W. Allard](#)
  - [Karin D. Martin](#)

**2:45 PM**      **Subgroup Reports**

- All subgroups met in August and began with the same framing of their discussions:
  - Consider this [EAJP Framework document](#), frame our approach as “How are EAs best supported?” before “What does the system have to do to make room for EAs?”
  - Laws, policies, and funding systems should affirm that emerging adults are more like their younger peers. We should strive to create a context where community and system assets can support emerging adults.
  - We envision and recommend a contraction of the full system accompanying RTA. This is a priority we share.
  - We are making an effort to prioritize the “typical” experience before trying to address outliers. In our report, we can offer an inventory and considerations for the latter, but we are mindful of not wanting to design policy for exceptional circumstances.
- See slides for reports from each subgroup. Additional discussion and suggestions are captured below.
  - Community-Based Services
  - Charging & Sentencing
    - See this resource for sentencing disparities: [American Equity and Justice Group | Dashboard](#)

- See this resource for discussion of systemic issues impacting Native youth in court systems: [The Way Forward Report | The Administration for Children and Families \(hhs.gov\)](#)
  - Court Services & Detention
    - See Kansas and Alaska for possible examples of jury trial in juvenile court
  - Juvenile Rehabilitation

**3:10 PM**

**Comparing Raise the Age and Hybrid Approaches**

- Lael Chester and Selen Siringil Perker, [Emerging Adult Justice Project \(EAJP\)](#)
  - Please refer to [EAJP's slides](#)
  - EAJP report: [Time for Change: A National Scan and Analysis of Hybrid Justice Systems for Emerging Adults](#)
- Group discussion
  - Research indicates that best practice is a “true” RTA model, extending juvenile court jurisdiction; this is also what the legislature has asked us to report on. We could deliver RTA recommendations and use this as an opportunity to provide education about a hybrid approach for the older population (21-25).
  - Consider that a WA hybrid approach doesn’t need to match hybrid approaches in other states. There is some appeal to starting fresh and designing a hybrid model around the emerging adult populations specifically.
  - In WA, the needs of emerging adults have already been considered and responded to by other systems such as the foster care system (Extended Foster Care), access to health care (Affordable Care Act for dependents up to age 26), access to special education (up until age 22) for the same developmental reasons we are discussing.
  - Discussion regarding the right to a jury trial in the adult system: How would RTA impact the population newly under juvenile court? How have other jurisdictions that implemented RTA handled similar considerations for this right? The protections and benefits of being in the juvenile court may outweigh the negatives of losing the right to a jury trial. It is a small share of cases that go to jury trial, but the decision and outcomes are very consequential for that small number.
  - RTA for the younger emerging adults (<21) seems more attainable. Considering ages beyond that (21+) is more challenging, especially politically. Setting the groundwork for a hybrid option for that population could make those changes more appealing in the future.
  - Agreement to continue our commitment to our original task – recommendations for implementing an expansion of juvenile court jurisdiction to include 18, 19, and 20-year-olds -- and using our report as a platform to elevate the appropriateness

of a hybrid approach in the future for 21-26. Emphasize that RTA and hybrid are not substitutes for each other but rather complements.

**4:00 PM**

**Conclude**

**Next Meeting:**

**Wednesday, November 13, 2024 | 2-4 PM**