

PCJJ Raise the Age Workgroup

Co-Leads: Drew Hill and Heidi Sadri
Nov. 13, 2024 | 10 AM-12 PM | Microsoft Teams

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Agenda

- 10:00 – Welcome & Introductions**
- 10:20 – Project Status Updates**
- 10:30 – Subgroup Reports**
- 11:05 – Updates and Requests for Input: EPIC Projects**
- 11:25 – Items for Full Group Discussion**
- 11:55 – Next Steps**
- 12:00 – Conclude**

Introductions

Name

Pronouns (optional)

Role/organization

Project Status

Current/Ongoing	December	January
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing recommendations • Requesting/collecting data for caseload forecasting • Collecting and organizing asset mapping data (EPIC) • Identifying elements and priorities for benefit-cost analysis (EPIC) • Listening sessions with lived experts • November workgroup meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offline reviews and feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case data from AOC available • Caseload estimates drafted (EAJP) • Benefit-cost analysis framework drafted (EPIC) • Draft outline review • Workgroup meeting: Asset mapping presentation (EPIC)
February	March	April-June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full report drafting • Subgroup meetings: Benefit-cost analysis review and input 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafts complete (EPIC) • Draft report review • Workgroup meeting: Benefit-cost analysis presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final edits and formatting • Reviews: PCJJ, DCYF, OFM • Submit and publish!

Bold = Workgroup Action

EPIC = Evans Policy Innovation Collaborative

EAJP = Emerging Adult Justice Project

Subgroup Reports

October Subgroup Meetings

Grounding principles in all subgroup meetings:

Our recommendations should reflect our commitment to beliefs that:

- Emerging adults are developmentally similar to their younger peers and have unique needs associated with the transition into healthy adulthood.
- Laws, policies, and funding systems should create a context of developmentally appropriate responses and where community assets can support emerging adults, including as prevention/alternatives to the legal system.
- Raise the Age should be complemented by a contraction at each stage of the juvenile legal system.

October subgroup goals:

- Specify (1) recommendations and (2) items for further study, offering specific considerations
- Identify data collection recommendations

Community-Based Services Subgroup

October Meeting

Discussion with Evans Policy Innovation Collaborative (EPIC) researchers:

- Asset mapping project: Project overview, discussion and feedback with group regarding scope
- Benefit-cost analysis project: Project overview, review of possible elements to be included in analysis

Recommendations:

- Fully invest in expansion of community-based services for emerging adults.
- Reduce barriers to utilizing diversion (EBP requirements, PACT eligibility, information barriers).

Topics identified for future research and consideration:

- Improve evaluation metrics, focus on strengths and wellness.
- Address unrealistic expectations that hinder smaller/newer programs, make funding more accessible.
- Shift power in funding decisions towards community.

Court Services & Detention Subgroup

October Meeting

Recommendations:

- Fully invest in expansion of community-based services for emerging adults.
- Develop and implement training curriculum for JPCs and JCOs specific to emerging adults.
- Expand resourcing and access to education for emerging adults in both detention and on court supervision.

Topics identified for future research and consideration:

- Evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice Training Commission for preparing JPCs and JCOs to work with youth and its capacity to provide quality training specific to emerging adults.
- Evaluate the JCAT (replacing PACT) for applicability to emerging adults. Create and test a modified/new assessment tool.
- Options and considerations regarding access to jury trial for emerging adults

Charging & Sentencing Subgroup

October Meeting

Recommendations:

- Make training and resources on EA research and frameworks for providing developmentally appropriate responses available to judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys.
- Recommended frameworks for determining jurisdiction, diversion eligibility, and sentencing under Raise the Age.

Topics identified for future research and consideration:

- Education on tribal sovereignty and tribal courts; considerations for possible interactions with a change in Washington State court jurisdiction.
- Evaluate if/how determinate sentencing and related drivers of life/long sentences have impacted EAs specifically; considerations from existing research.

Topics for further development in extra November meeting:

- Recommended frameworks for offender score calculation, decline, and record sealing eligibility.

Juvenile Rehabilitation Subgroup

October Meeting

JR section introduction:

- Focus on how to support and improve the experiences of emerging adults in JR.
- JR facilities are overcrowded and understaffed. Conditions are unsafe and (re)traumatizing to youth and staff.
- Challenge the assumption that the JR population must be its current size and that it must continue to grow under Raise the Age, consistent with commitment to contraction across system.

Recommendations:

- Physical spaces: Smaller facilities, geographic distribution, therapeutic and trauma-informed environments
- Education: Ensure access to a variety of post-secondary options, reduce barriers to bringing in educators.
- Programming: Options should consider and support EA-specific developmental milestones.
- Clarify the body responsible for oversight of emerging adults in JR, co-develop an effective complaint process.
- Transition/reentry: Ensure eligibility for emerging adults to access reentry services and supports.
- Collect and evaluate data on strengths-based outcomes and developmentally appropriate milestones/goals.

Topics identified for future research and consideration:

- Evaluate current programming capacity, access, barriers to bringing in programming and facilitating participation.
- Explore improvements to staff training and support.

Moving December Subgroup Meetings Offline

Requests for offline input and engagement:

- Review and provide feedback on outlined recommendations
- Review and provide feedback on juvenile vs. adult system comparison summary
- Provide feedback and suggestions to Evans Policy Innovation Collaborative

Specific requests and invitations for engagement will come via email!

Updates & Requests for Input: Asset Mapping and Benefit-Cost Analysis Projects

Cali Jahn, Evans Policy Innovation Collaborative

Topics for Full Group Discussion

Possible Recommendation: Phased Implementation

Why implement Raise the Age in phases?

- To moderate the impact on system and caseloads and allow for gradual development/increase in staffing and service provider capacity.
- To create opportunity for assessment of one phase in preparation for the next.

Possible phasing recommendation:

- **Year 1:** Add 18-year-olds
- **Year 3:** Add 19-year-olds
- **Year 5:** Add 20-year-olds
- **Future:** Develop and implement a hybrid system for ages 21-26 (recommend future research)

Discuss:

- Thoughts on the above phasing recommendation?
- What rationale and benefits would we like to highlight about phased implementation?

Possible Recommendation: Raise the Minimum Age

The legislature asked us to provide recommendations for raising the **maximum age** of juvenile court jurisdiction. Do we want to make a recommendation regarding the **minimum age**?

Sample recommendations:

- A. **Raise the minimum age prior to raising the maximum age.** Fund, establish, and implement alternative services and systems of care for those children prior to raising the maximum age.
- B. **Raise the minimum age and maximum age concurrently.** Fund, establish, and implement alternative services and systems of care for those children at the same time as raising the maximum age.
- C. **Do not make any recommendation regarding the minimum age of juvenile court jurisdiction.**

[Whiteboard Exercise](#)

Next Full Workgroup Meeting:
Wednesday, January 8, 2025 | 2 PM

Policy Studies website | Contact: heidi.sadri@dcyf.wa.gov
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