



Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

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

**Full Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, October 17, 2024**  
**3:00 – 5:00 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. Attendees were asked to provide introductions through the Microsoft Teams chat function.

**Council Attendees:** Council Chair Gordon McHenry Jr., Clinton Taylor, Ada Daniels, Jimmy Hung, Felice Upton, Nicole McGrath, Tashawn Deville, Barbara Serrano, Sen. Noel Frame, jd Nielson, Diana Cockrell, Judge Jennifer Forbes, Lorraine Stone, Michael Johnson, Dr. Eric Trupin,

OJJ Staff: Jenny Young, Heidi Sadri, Whitney Queral, and Alexi Castilla

Guests: Melissa Hamblin, Team Child & Jenny Heddin, Chief of Staff, DCYF

**Minutes Approval:** Motion to approve meeting minutes by Judge Forbes. Motion Seconded by Clinton Taylor and Felice Upton. Council members voted unanimously to approve the September 2024 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

**Supplemental Materials:**

10.17.24 PCJJ Meeting PowerPoint  
Team Child Presentation PowerPoint  
Team Child Letter to the Governor  
Governor's Office letter to Team Child

**Updates:**

**Sentencing Guidelines Commission Update -- Melissa Hamblin, TeamChild**

- Provided an overview of concerns regarding Green Hill School
- Provided JR population forecasts showing higher numbers than are currently occurring
- Addressed the need for alternative solutions to opening a facility at Stafford Creek
  - o “The issue with Stafford Creek is largely that beds are not the answer, because lack of beds are not the problem.”

- 75 youth are statutorily eligible for CTS- half of these youth are housed at GHS
- Requests for PCJJ consideration pulled from TeamChild PPT:
  - o Demand Accountability, Question Unilateral Conclusions that move the system further away from values and data that show youth are different and length of stay is not predictive of better outcomes.
  - o Youth, families, advocates, and stakeholders should be more involved in developing proposals. DCYF should be more transparent and less conclusory in information sharing.
  - o Object to Stafford Creek as a placement for young people whose care is the responsibility of Juvenile Rehabilitation.
  - o Demand JR Use Existing Capacity – community facilities, CTS (electronic home monitoring) - to the fullest extent without delay.
  - o Ask the Governor and Secretary Hunter to Release Youth adjudicated of non-violent offenses from Green Hill, Echo Glen, and community facilities, pursuant to RCW 13.40.210, to make space to push youth out to less restrictive settings and address overcrowding.

\*\*See PowerPoint for additional information

### **Stafford Creek and Sentencing Guidelines Commission Update – Barbara Serrano & Jenny Heddin**

- JR moving forward with plans to open 48 bed facility at Stafford Creek
- Spoke to the need for more rehabilitative services and supports before youth return to the community- only 6% are eligible for alternatives such as electronic home monitoring
- Provided debrief Governor's office response to letters from Team Child

Question: Request made that JR provide a recurring report at Quarterly PCJJ meetings providing the current number of incarcerated youth broken out by gender, age, and disability status and sub-aggregate totals of youth at GHS and Echo Glenn. Also, number of youth each quarter who have transitioned to community facilities.

Question: Request made for the council to convene and have a discussion regarding Team Child's requests at a special convening in November if possible.

### **Policy Studies Updates – Heidi Sadri**

#### State-Funded Community Compensation Program

- Report due to Governor and Legislature October 31, 2024
- Currently with OFM for final review before publishing

#### Juvenile Records

- Report due to Governor and Legislature October 31, 2024
- Currently with OFM for final review before publishing

#### Raise the Age

- Report due to Governor and Legislature June 30, 2024

### **Announcement – Alexi Castilla**

- Invitation for Council members to join the reactivated Legislative Committee
- PCJJ Legislative Committee to begin convening for an “Advancing Priorities” series

- Activities to include:
  - o Council members and partners to learn about active legislative efforts related to the Council's priorities
  - o Bill huddles during legislative session
  - o Training on advocacy vs. lobbying
  - o Monthly meetings beginning in November/December

**Governor's Report & Recommendations:**

Current Recommendations:

1. Eliminate the use of large institutional facilities to provide treatment and rehabilitative services to youth and young adults committed to the care and custody of Juvenile Rehabilitation.
2. Increase the use of Sentencing Alternatives and eliminate justice by geography in sentencing.
3. Establish diversion as the primary response for the majority of juvenile referrals across the state.
4. Dismantle the School to Prison Pipeline while strengthening the Cradle to Career Pathway.

Considerations/requested edits:

- Language specifically addressing disparities
- Introductory language framing disparities as being central to ALL recommendations

**Approval of Governor's Report Recommendations:** Motion to approve the recommendation made by Senator Noel Frame. Motion seconded by Clinton Taylor. Council members voted unanimously to approve the recommendation. Motion Carried.

**CJJ Racial & Ethnic Disparities Conference Reflections:**

- Felice highlighted presentations from JR's Education and Post-Secondary Team
- Ada also highlighted and shared appreciations for the JR team presentation
- Appreciations shared for the JR youth who are involved with the Emerging Leaders Committee

**Community Partner Request:** Liz Trautman, Stand for Children & Roxana Gomez, ACLU

- Currently working in partnership with to expand the use of diversion equitably and statewide
- Identified practice differences that exist county to county
- Request for the PCJJ to host a statewide diversion summit to bring awareness to current practices

- There was general consensus that the PCJJ would be interested in partnering with Stand and UCLA in hosting such a summit and OJJ was directed to begin meeting with Stand and UCLA representatives to begin planning.

**Public Comment**

Keri-Anne Jetzer, Sentencing Guidelines Commission- Provided an introduction to the group and brief overview of the Commission. Washington is one of four states with a Sentencing Commission with Juveniles under the umbrella of the commission. Recently, the juvenile committee has been reactivated and will hold its next meeting in the coming week. Shared that the Commission would like to keep open communication with the Partnership Council.

**Action Items:**

- Hold a special convening to hold a discussion and identify potential actions regarding Team Child requests

**Adjourn**

5:00PM

Next Meeting:

Special Convening: TBD

Quarterly Meeting January 16, 2025, 9:00AM-1:00PM via Microsoft Teams