



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

WA State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice (PCJJ)

Full Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 5, 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., Sean Goode, Clinton Taylor, Ada Daniels, Jimmy Hung, Felice Upton, Barbara Serrano, Judge Jennifer Forbes, Michael Johnson, Dr. Eric Trupin, and Dre Thornock.

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

Guests: Laurent Knoth-Peterson- Office of Financial Management & Jenny Heddin, DCYF Deputy Secretary – Chief of Staff

Minutes Approval: Motion to approve meeting minutes by Barbara Serrano. Motion seconded by Dr. Eric Trupin. Council members voted unanimously to approve the October 2024 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

Supplemental Materials:

12.05.24 PCJJ Meeting PowerPoint
TeamChild Presentation PowerPoint
TeamChild Letter to the Governor
Governor's Office letter to TeamChild
DCYF JR Presentation PowerPoint
OFM JR Overview Presentation PowerPoint

Updates:

Governor's Report & Recommendations

- With OFM for final review, expect to hear back by tomorrow, December 6th
- Will complete final revisions the week of December 9th

- Hope to publish and email out by December 13th

Barbara Serrano shared that Governor Inslee has extended an invitation to meet with Council Members regarding WA-PCJJ Recommendations.

2025 Diversion Summit

- Preliminary meetings have identified focus areas for summit
 - What are best practices?
 - What is working and what are models to be replicated?
- Next steps: start a diversion summit planning committee with diverse representation

Legislative Committee: Advancing Priorities Series

- Next Meeting: December 17th at 11:00 AM
- Committee is seeking a Chair- request made to interested Council Members to email OJJ staff

JR Overcrowding & DCYF Response: Lauren Knoth-Peterson, OFM

- Provided high level overview of JR facilities and Community Facilities and their populations including sentencing guidelines (juvenile & adult) and security classifications along the continuum of care
- Current populations:
 - Green Hill School – 235
 - Echo Glen CC – 113
- As of October, 16 youth with adult sentences at GHS have an earned release date between ages 25-26 and are potentially eligible for CTS

**See ppt

Juvenile Rehabilitation Updates: Felice Upton & Jenny Heddin, DCYF

- Provided overview of recent legislative changes around JR as well as recent challenge areas
- 60% staffing turnover during COVID-19
- GHS has been above Safe Operational Capacity since July 2023
- Current goal to reduce capacity to 180 with best practice recommendation of 150
- Overview of assessment processes used within JR
 - Moved to risk/need/responsivity model in 2023
 - Dynamic risk v. static risk allowing for change/growth
 - In 2025 moving toward taking clinical staff off of the unit floor
- DCYF Funding Requests for 2025 Legislative Session
 - Mental Health and Wellbeing

- Employment and Education
- Therapeutic Staffing and Processes
- Emerging Adult Leadership Program at Stafford Creek
 - 6-month program
 - 48 young men aged 18+ with preference for 21 and older
 - Have received HS Diploma or GED
 - Medium security classification
 - Stable mental health and no significant ongoing medical needs

**See ppt

OJJDP 2024 National Conference Reflections:

- Highlighted the need for change in Medicaid law
- Proximal understanding during the change making process
- Appreciation shared for the opportunity to gather with others doing similar work around the country
- Grateful for opportunities to uplift young people and their voices

Public Comment

Sara Zier, Team Child – Highlighted the need for additional time/space for people with different experiences with the system to share their viewpoints outside of the data that was presented. Requested that the Council think of the Stafford Creek Facility as a temporary step, and to begin putting in place processed to unwind the presence of JR on a DOC facility. Also requested that the Council advocate for more youth and family involvement in developing solutions.

Roxana Gomez, Legal Counsel for Youth and Children – How can DCYF guarantee that only DCYF staff will be handling and interacting with JR youth at Stafford Creek? Requested time for advocates and community members to have their questions about the facility answered as well as discuss alternative solutions to reduce JR population.

Action Items:

Identify forum for community discussion.

Adjourn

5:03 PM

Next Meeting:

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