

Youth Justice Council Charter

Vision

We envision an equitable, fair, and effective Hennepin County Juvenile Justice system that implements evidence-based policies and practices, and provides culturally appropriate services, support, and resources for youth and their families to empower youth to live productive, self-sufficient, and law-abiding lives that positively impact communities and enhance community safety. To achieve this vision, we must develop and implement policies, programs, and practices that eliminate disparities in the Juvenile Justice System based on race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, and disability.

Purpose, Goals, and Governance

The Hennepin County Youth Justice Council (YJC) is a collaborative effort among court stakeholders, law enforcement, and community members who are committed to creating an equitable, fair, and effective juvenile justice system that produces positive outcomes for youth, their families, and communities, and promotes community safety. Our mission is to improve and reform the juvenile justice system by eliminating the unnecessary use of secure detention, eliminating disparities based on race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability and providing resources to effective community-based and culturally appropriate services for youth and their families. As a true collaborative, the governance structure of the Hennepin County Youth Justice council consists of a Steering Committee and the following Standing Sub-Committees: Eliminating Racial Disparities; Youth Advisory Board; and Underserved Youth. Additional workgroups will be created to address specific issues, practices, and policies that may arise. The assessment tool workgroup is currently ongoing. The committees and workgroups will be comprised of committed internal and external stakeholders, including representatives from: the court; probation and DOCCR; County Attorney's Office; defenders, education; law enforcement; mental health professionals; social services; parents; clergy; youth; and members of the community.

The work of the Youth Justice Council is guided by the following core principles:

- Secure detention will be used per statute definitions only for those youth who pose a risk to community safety, who won't appear in court despite the use of alternatives;

- Promoting and enhancing community safety through a lens of recognizing, and investing in the strengths of youth, families and their communities while ensuring connections to resources and opportunity are present;
- Decisions regarding who should be held in secure detention will be based on an objective and validated Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI);
- No youth shall be disparately impacted at any stage of the juvenile justice system based on race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identify or disability;
- Effective, evidence-based, promising, culturally appropriate and community-based services will be developed for youth and families involved in the juvenile justice system to maximize positive outcomes for youth, their families, and the community;
- Community members, youth, and their families will be encouraged to participate within all aspects of the Youth Justice Council;
- Data collection and data analysis will be used to assess the status of our practices, identify problems or issues within the juvenile justice system, and evaluate programs and practices to drive policy decisions and system reform.

Role of the Executive Steering Committee

The Executive Steering Committee (ESC) serves as the governing body of the Youth Justice Council and makes the final recommendations to its members. Membership consists of a representative from the Hennepin County Attorney’s office, Public Defender’s office, Community (non-HC staff), Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation, Juvenile Probation, District Court, Human Services, and the Juvenile facilities. The chairs of the Youth Justice Council will represent each of their respective entities on the ESC. The ESC will meet monthly unless determined otherwise and is responsible for providing oversight and input to the efforts necessary to achieve a Juvenile Justice system in Hennepin County that aligns with the Youth Justice Council vision. This oversight includes and is not limited to:

- Identifying priorities;
- Convening workgroups and committees to move established priorities;
- Monitor and review of on-going projects at regular monthly meetings;
- Approve recommendations from the sub-committees and workgroups regarding modifications to Hennepin County policies and practices relative to juvenile justice practices.

Role of the Eliminating Racial Disparities Sub-Committee

The purpose of the Eliminating Racial Disparities (ERD) Sub-Committee is to provide a forum where representatives from County and Municipal Governments, Law Enforcement, the Judiciary, County Attorney's Office, Public Defense, Public Education, Philanthropy, Community Based Youth Serving Agencies, Community Advocates, Parents and Youth work together focusing on eliminating ethnic and racial disparities within Hennepin County. The ERD committee meets monthly.

Goals of the committee are:

- Utilize data with a racial and ethnic lens to examine key decision points, policies, and practices, within system(s) that promote disparities and disproportionality among youth involved in the criminal justice system to ensure equal treatment and consideration of youth of all races and ethnicities.
- Make recommendations to the Youth Justice Council that will eliminate both racial disparities and disproportionate minority confinement in Hennepin County.

Role of the Youth Advisory Board:

The purpose of the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) is to commit and advocate for positive change within the Juvenile Justice System in Hennepin County through the presence of youth voice from the community and those youth most impacted by the juvenile justice system. With the expertise of lived experience, the Youth Advisory Board provides support for initiatives to improve the experiences and outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system and prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system. YAB meets monthly.

The primary goals of YAB are:

- To create more connections and collaboration within the community to better understand and advocate for the needs of the youth.
- To be involved with County decision making as they develop new ways to support rehabilitation for youth, trauma informed care, and with equity being in the forefront with how the county handles adjudicated youth.
- To grow professionally through trainings, workshops, and networking opportunities within the Juvenile Justice world.

Role of the Underserved Youth Sub-Committee:

This Sub-Committee will be established when the Youth Justice Council is launched. The Sub-Committee will focus on the needs of underserved and vulnerable populations within the juvenile justice system, such as youth who identify as LGBTQ+, youth who have experiences being trafficked and exploited, youth experiencing homelessness and housing instability, and underserved youth who have complex needs that are not being addressed in the delinquency or child protection systems. The Sub-Committee membership will consist of tri-chairs selected by the Youth Justice Council Steering Committee and interested members from the Youth Justice Council.

Membership

The Youth Justice Council will be chaired by a community representative (non-Hennepin County personnel) and two Hennepin County Juvenile System- based representatives. Members of the Youth Justice Council, as well as its committees and workgroups, will consist of representatives from the Judiciary, the County Attorney’s Office, Community Corrections & Rehabilitation, Public Defenders Office, Public Education, Law Enforcement, Community Based Youth Serving Agencies, Community Advocates, Parents and Youth interested in improving and increasing positive outcomes in the lives of those impacted by the Juvenile Justice system.

1. The number of YJC members should be no less than fifteen and no more than thirty.
2. Members are appointed for a duration of two-years.
3. YJC members should be personally committed to the vision and purpose as stated above and willing to volunteer enough time and resources to help achieve that mission.
4. YJC membership should reflect the diversity of the juvenile justice constituencies.
5. The Council meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

Meeting Attendance

- Meetings will be held quarterly from 4:30- 6:30pm at 1256 Penn Avenue North, Minneapolis MN 55411 or virtually.
- YJC members should be present at all meetings and if unable to attend, should send a designee. If a member is unable to participate, it should be communicated to the chairs of the council.

Decision-Making Process

1. The decision-making process of the YJC shall be based on the principles established in the purpose section and shall always strive toward building consensus. Decisions shall be assessed with four core principles in mind:
 - a. It is in the best interests of Youth;
 - b. It reduces disproportionate minority confinement and eliminates disparities based on race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability;
 - c. It promotes community safety; and
 - d. The decision-makers can live with the ramifications of the decision.

2. Each year the YJC will approve a work plan as well as standing committees and ad hoc workgroups who will be responsible for implementation of specific work plan tasks. Each standing committee will make recommendations to the ESC regarding policy changes necessary to accomplish the work plan tasks. Each standing committee will submit a bi-monthly update to the steering committee on their work.
3. Decisions will be made via consensus. Consensus is defined as agreement of all committee members that they will either support the decision or at least not block it from going forward. A “yes” means that the decision will be actively supported or at a minimum nothing will be done to undermine the success of the decision. The goal in effective consensus decision-making is to find ways to say “yes” wherever possible and to say “no” only when necessary.

Role of the Chairperson(s)

The chairs of the committee will be responsible for setting the agenda, leading and maintaining order at the meetings, ensuring fairness and equality as well as guaranteeing conventions of the meetings are being followed, and ensuring members continue to be reflective of those being served.

2020 Youth Justice Council Members

Members of the Youth Justice Council will represent the following designated areas:

Juvenile Court Judge – 1 member

Steering Committee Chairs -3 members

County Board Representative -1 member

DOCCR Administration- 1 member

County Attorney-1 member

Public Defender- 1 member

YJC Council Coordinator- 1 member

Minneapolis School District-1 member

Minneapolis Police-1 member

Suburban Police- 1 member

HSPHD- 1 member

Community representatives- 12 members to include representatives from the impacted communities of color, faith-based community, community providers, parents and other concerned citizens.

Consultant:
Annie E. Casey Foundation, Juvenile
Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI),
Deep-End Network

Consultant:
Probation System Assessment, John Tuell,
Executive Director of the Robert F.
Kennedy (RFK) National Resource Center
for Juvenile Justice,

Youth Justice Council (YJC) Chairs
Dr. Brittany Lewis, Humphrey Institute
Judge Mark Kappelhoff, Juvenile Court
Jerald Moore Juvenile Probation Division
Manager

Executive Steering Committee
Representatives from the Hennepin County
Attorney's, Public Defender's, Community
Representative, Juvenile Probation, DOCCR
Administration, District Court, Human Services, Sub-
Committee Chairs and Juvenile Facilities

**Youth Justice Council Workgroups, Committees &
Governance Coordination**
Adesola Oni

**Eliminating Racial Disparities
Committee:**
Co-Chairs: Sarah Davis, Legal Rights
Center and Willie Bridges Hennepin
County Attorney's Office
Members: Representatives from
Community, Courts, DOCCR, HCAO, PD,
JP, and Law Enforcement

Assessment Tool Workgroup:
Chair: Adesola Oni, Juvenile Probation
Consultants: Jesse Russell & Erin
Manske
Members: Representatives from
DOCCR, Courts, PDO, HCAO, Community

Underserved Youth Committee:
Tri-Chairs: Judge Kathryn Quaintance,
Juvenile Court; Judge Amy Dawson,
Juvenile Court; and Beth Holger, The
Link

Youth Advisory Board (YAB):
YMCA Coordinator: Annastasia Guilfoyle
YAB Members: 6 Youth Representatives

