

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

Youth Justice Council meeting

Date: Thursday, January 21, 2021

Time: 3:30 – 5:30 pm

Location: Virtual

Agenda

Title	Lead(s)	Time
Welcome and introductions of Tri-chairs and Subcommittee chairs	Jerald Moore-Tri-Chair of YJC Dr. Brittany Lewis-Tri-Chair of YJC Judge Mark Kappelhoff-Tri-Chair of YJC Sarah Davis-Eliminating Racial Disparities Willie Bridges-Eliminating Racial Disparities Judge Kathryn Quaintance-Underserved youth Beth Holger-Underserved youth Judge Amy Dawson-Underserved youth Sarah Edgington-Youth advisory	3:30-4:00pm
Icebreaker-Breakout rooms	Adesola Oni	4:00-4:20pm
Youth presentation(s)	Sarah Edgington	4:20-4:35pm
Community Forum	Dr. Brittany Lewis	4:35-5:15pm
Closing remarks and next steps	Judge Kappelhoff	5:15-5:30pm.



Community partnership agreement and potential focus areas

In alignment with the vision and mission of the Youth Justice Council to create an equitable, fair and effective Hennepin County Juvenile Justice system committed to racial equity, this community partnership agreement outlines the norms, values, and expectations for all members of the Youth Justice Council. The Executive Steering Committee is committed to creating a safe and accessible space for community members to have their voices heard and valued by juvenile justice systems stakeholders.

The Executive Steering Committee seeks community input to support the visions and goals of the YJC Charter and its commitment to systemic change. The Executive Steering Committee also seeks community input that relates to trends, policies, personal experience, or recommendations. Pursuant to Data Privacy Laws and the Crime Victims Bill of Rights, the Executive Steering Committee cannot discuss the specifics of most juvenile cases or share identifying information about victims.

We commit to treating youth with lived experience in the justice system and their families as **experts** of the juvenile justice system by doing the following:

- Compensate youth and family participants for their time and expertise
- Be transparent and provide clear information about internal justice system processes and decision-making processes within the County, including timelines, roadblocks, and opportunities for community to leverage its power
- Work collaboratively with community to develop the evolving YJC priorities
- Share back with the full Council progress and how community members' input is used
- Allow space for open dialogue, including disagreements, conflict, and the time needed for reconciliation and healing
- Consulting with youth throughout the process to ensure they have what they need to feel safe, valued, and heard in an accessible way

We are seeking active community involvement and participation in the Youth Justice Council (YJC), its standing subcommittees and future time-limited workgroups. As we come together in dialogue about the actions we may take together, we offer a set of gaps that all Executive Steering Committee members agree need to be addressed. This list comes from listening sessions with clients and families, the work of our juvenile detention alternatives initiative with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a recent year-long juvenile probation system assessment conducted by consultants from the Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, feedback from vendors and workers on the line in our system.

None of these items can be solved by any one part of the system on its own and especially not without contributions from community perspectives. These gaps are long-standing and need collaborative planning and action to resolve. The Executive Steering Committee recognizes this list may not be inclusive of all the needs and recommendations that will come from YJC community members and are open to adding to this list before choosing a priority focus area for the work of 2021.

- Create authentic opportunities for **families to engage in decisions** made about their child at key decision points from arrest through pretrial, plea agreements to disposition and supervision.
- Create **more alternatives to detention and out-of-home placement**, particularly for youth of color and LGBTQI-GNC youth disproportionately represented in those spaces.
- Improve policies and practices from prosecution through to disposition and supervision for **extended juvenile jurisdiction** youth, particularly focused on the disproportionate impacts on youth of color (90% of EJJ cases).
- **Increase restorative justice and diversion** opportunities through promising and evidenced based practices and programs indicated to have the most effective impact.
- Engage in cross-system collaboration between schools, human services and the justice system, focusing on **preventing and interrupting the school to prison and Child Protection to prison pipeline** for BIPOC and other underserved populations.
- **Eliminate the shelter gap** for kids not yet involved in juvenile justice or human services (4-5 youth a week simply do not have a place to go and their families can't take them in).
- **Decrease frustration of families waiting for court** by conducting an exhaustive review of the current calendar, docketing/scheduling, notice and post-court information process to identify a more family-centered way of doing business.
- **Equitably and fairly engage with youth** in their homes and communities, putting implicit and explicit bias aside and seeing youth as more than the sum of their worst choice/action.