

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

Youth Justice Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, January 21, 2021

Time: 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Location: Virtual

- I. **Attendance:** Adesola Jaiyesimi, Sierra Leone Samuels, Lindsay Frazher, Wendy Villanueva, Josh Terrio, Freya Whiting, Latisce Williams, T. C., Alexis Chappell-Bush, Ana Negrete, Clarence Castile, Judge Mark Kappellhoff, Carrie Yeager, Catherine Johnson, Todd Barnette, Sarah Davis, Sarah Edgington, Caalynn, Commissioner Irene Fernando, Jerald Moore, Brett G. Eve Byron, Jeron, Joshua, Molly Whitley, Lindsay Lundeen, Mark B, Roberta, Judge Juan Hoyos, Dr. Brittany Lewis, Cindy Slowiak, Judge Quaintance, Karen Kuglar, Alyssa Benson, RJCA Cynthia and Jasmine, Tom Campbell, Tracy Reid, Vicki Wright, Tom Arneson, Tessa Beyers, Sonja Weber, Shawn Sorrell, Seward Longfellow RJ, Rachel VanOverbeke, Peter Schuetz, Penny, Ovid Westin, Nicole Archbold, Neal Margolies, Morgan Kunz, Monica Long, Molly Whitley, Willie Bridges, Meghan Byrnes, Megan Jabolnski Johnson, McKenzie Colas, Maria Kamenska, Marcy Podkopacz, Malaika Eban, LM, Lisa McNaughton, Linda Ritchie, Leah Lindstrom Rhea, Lauren Uhl, Kristy Snyder, Kevin Stringer, Kerry Meyer, Kelly Hall, Katie Miller, Kathy Cima, Kaela Schweisthal, Julie Rud, Judge Tanya Bransford, Judge Amy Dawson, Cedric Weatherspoon, Judge J. Reding
jenniferh@cornerstonemn.org (120 participants)

Introductions by the tri chairs Judge Mark Kappellhoff, Jerald Moore, Dr. Brittany Lewis

Three guests' introductions Chief Judge Todd Barnette, Hennepin County Commissioner Irene Fernando, Catherine Johnson Director of DOCCR. Irene Fernando, irene.fernando@hennepin.us, HennepinD2.com

Judge Kappellhoff went through the PowerPoint and discussed what the Youth Justice Council is and mission.

Jerald Moore discussed Pre-JDAI and juvenile justice reform work that has been done and how those changes impacted the data then and now. Next step is to address the disparity, go for a deeper, deeper dive into addressing and reducing the disparity numbers. Data that was shared were from 2005 -- 2020.

Judge Kappelhoff demonstrated the changes by explaining the various graphs from the PowerPoint presentation, which showed that the data of juveniles coming into the juvenile detention center, the juvenile justice courts and juvenile probation. However, the disparity numbers are still way too high and the importance and need to have the community at the table working with the juvenile justice partners to help address the disparity issues.

Jerald Moore went the graphs that showed the out-of-home placement numbers and how those numbers have dropped but the disparity numbers are still high too high.

Judge Kappelhoff shared what the three subcommittees of the YJC and had the Co-Chairs of each sub-committee introduce themselves and discuss in further detail what their subcommittee does.

Eliminating Racial Disparities (ERD) -- Willie Bridges and Sarah Davis did the introduction of the Eliminating Racial Disparity sub-committee and discussed the work that their sub-committee does inviting people to join their committee.

Youth Advisory Board (YAB) -- Sarah Edgington introduced the Youth Advisory Board and went over who can be a member of their committee and the work their board does.

Underserved Youth -- Judge Dawson, Judge Quaintance, and Beth Holger did their introduction and explained what their committee works on, along with inviting members to be a part of the committee.

Judge Kappelhoff went over the upcoming YJC meeting dates and times. He shared that people can get in contact with the Co-Chairs of the subcommittees to find out their meeting dates and times. Judge Kappelhoff stressed that the Youth Justice Council, as well as the sub-committees, will not be discussing what the problems are. The focus with the YJC and the sub-committee will be how can we address the problems within Hennepin County Juvenile Justice system and enact real change, real reform. along with the sub-committees, we will not be talking about the problems but how we can address the problem.

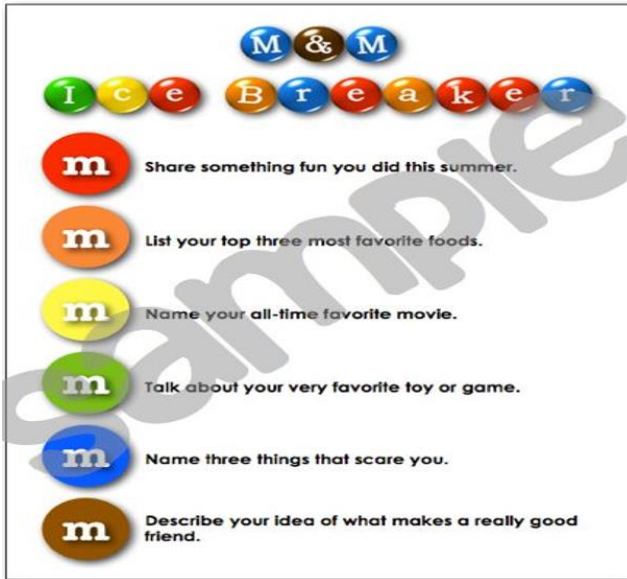
Adesola Jaiyesimi shared that everyone will be going into break out rooms for a chance for people to get to know one another through an ice breaker activity and solving some riddles. The following were the ice breaker questions, where each person answered one of the questions and the riddles to solve:

Take a moment to get to know others in this space. We invite you to turn on your camera if possible.

State your name

Reason for being here

And respond to one of the following questions:



Riddles: Solve as many as you can upon completion of introductions.

Q: A blind beggar had a brother who died. What relation was the blind beggar to the brother who died? "Brother" is not the answer.

A: The blind beggar was the "sister" of her brother, who died.

Q: I am the beginning of sorrow and the end of sickness. You cannot express happiness without me, yet I am in the midst of crosses. I am always in risk yet never in danger. You may find me in the sun, but I am never out of darkness.

A: The letter S

Q: What has a mouth, but cannot eat; moves, but has no legs; and has a bank, but cannot put money in it?

A: River

Q: Arnold Schwarzenegger has a long one. Michael J. Fox has a short one. Madonna does not use hers. Bill Clinton always uses his. The Pope never uses his. What is it?

A: Surname

Q: Your parents have six sons including you and each son has one sister. How many people are in the family?

A: Nine. Two parents, six sons, and one daughter. All of them have one sister (not six sisters).

Q: The number 8,549,176,320 is a unique number. What is so special about it?

A: This is the only number that includes all the digits arranged in alphabetical order.

Everyone rejoined the meeting and Adesola introduced the next part of the meeting, which is a presentation by three young people, Lauren McKenzie, Sarah Edgington, and Lewis McCaleb. Lauren McKenzie started with sharing a video of herself explaining her experience with the juvenile justice system. After the video she introduced herself in her native language, Ojibwe and highlighted certain aspect of her.

Sarah Edgington was the next young person to introduce herself. She also shared her experience with the juvenile justice system and how it has affected her life as she tried to apply to various colleges.

Lewis McCaleb (Lewiee Blaze) introduced himself and the work he does around criminal justice, healing and transformation. He shared his experience with the juvenile justice system. He is also an artist and shared one of his poems with everyone.

Judge Kappelhoff turned it over to Dr. Brittany Lewis. Dr. Lewis began the community forum by giving a more in-depth introduction about herself and the work she is committed to doing by partnering with the community ensuring to bring their voices to the tables that affect the community and building equity within those communities. One of the most important things that many institutions currently at this meeting must acknowledge are the historic harms that has been caused by the institutions among the communities they serve.

Dr. Lewis went through the Community Partnership agreement that was developed and made sure everyone was good with the Community Partnership agreement. Then she proceeded to present the results of the survey that everyone was to complete before the meeting. Dr. Lewis discussed the Focus Areas that are important to people that completed the survey, and the New Focus Areas from the survey results. She also went through other suggestions, questions and gaps that were added by some people who completed the survey. She also shared the Focus areas that the YJC Steering Committee felt were high priority.

Lewis McCaleb agreed with the results of the survey and really likes the Community Partnership Agreement, along with the direction the YJC is going and would like to continue to work with the YJC. Cedric Weatherspoon is also excited about the work of the YJC and supporting the young people and would like to continue to work with the YJC.

Willie Bridges reiterated that the Eliminating Racial Disparity committee needs to have community at the table to help them in their work and extended another invitation to everyone.

Sarah Edgington asked everyone at the meeting that we do not use young people's stories as a means to a system change and respect the young person and their entire experience. She also asked a question regarding who is responsible for sending information to young people who graduate from the juvenile justice system on how to have their records expunged and sealed. One of the responses was that juvenile probation was responsible for letting the young people know how they could go about the process of having their record expunged. Lewis McCaleb agreed that this is extremely important because it also affected him trying to find employment.

Another part to that question was is there a systematic process for a young person to receive information to have their records sealed. There were many responses. Juvenile Probation officers have gone through a training to learn the process and how to explain the process to their clients as the transition out of

juvenile probation. Another person stated it is a six-month daunting process, and it should be an automatic process for all young people that have successfully completed their time within the juvenile justice system. Another part of the question was asked if it will include going back 2-3 years to capture those young people who have successfully completed their time within the juvenile justice system so they can have their records sealed or will this only pertain to those current young people getting off of probation? There was a lot of discussion around sealing young people's records after they have completed their adjudication. Headway shared some of the services they provide to young people that are referred to their diversion program. The Legal Rights also offered their services to assist young people who would like to get their records sealed. Other in attendance provided various websites that young people could go to find out what they need to do and begin the process, however the process is very long and can be extremely difficult and frustrating.

Dr. Lewis noticed that there is a deep need to have this issue addressed and resolved and that all the various resources available are not connecting amongst each other to ease the process for our young people. In some other states it is an automatic juvenile expungement and the same needs to happen in our state. It was pointed out that to make it a state policy it will need to be changed at the state legislature and the YJC is a great group that can lobby for that change. Sarah Edgington believes there is an ask from the community to make this change at the county level and is willing to work with others to make it a county change.

Maria Kamenska also pointed out the disconnect among all the system partners, and community and the systemic issues that affect our young people, such as Sarah Edgington's experience of knowing she will get in more trouble if she has contact with the police while on juvenile probation but didn't know that she could get her record expunged.

Dr. Lewis believes that both need to happen (legislative and county level). Chief Judge Barnette stated that the courts could make that change across the board within the Hennepin County Juvenile Justice Courts and not have to wait for the legislative process.

Lewis McCaleb felt inspired and excited around the discussion and problem solving that was happening calling it "AAA -- Audience, Action, and Accountability".

The meeting time was nearing to the end so Judge Kappelhoff reminded everyone how they can join a sub-committee and when the next YJC meeting will take place on Feb. 17th.

Jerald Moore echoed what Judge Kappelhoff stated and he wants this committee to make positive change within the juvenile justice system and confirmed to the community that there are people that are committed to the work.

Dr. Lewis shared a Cornel West quote regarding that we do not need seasonal warriors, but we need all season warriors.

Highlights from the Zoom Chat:

From Desola Oni She/her/hers to Everyone: 03:24 PM

Welcome everyone

We invite you to consider the following as you participate in today's meeting.

- Listen to understand
- Speak your mind and heart
- Contribute your thinking
- Focus on what matters
- Treat everyone with dignity and respect
- Practice and experience humility
- Given we are in a virtual world, please mute your speakers unless you are speaking to avoid distractions
- We would love to see your faces if you are able to turn on your camera!

From Commish Irene to Everyone: 03:42 PM

Irene Fernando, irene.fernando@hennepin.us, HennepinD2.com

From jenniferh to Everyone: 03:45 PM

Hello everyone, I am here to advocate for survivors of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. If anyone is looking for support, resources or someone to answer questions-please feel free to reach out!

jenniferh@cornerstonemn.org

From Sarah Davis to Everyone: 04:00 PM

For any questions about our Eliminating Racial Disparities committee, please feel free to reach out at

sdavis@legalrightscenter.org

From Judge Amy Dawson | she/her to Everyone: 04:09 PM

my email is amy.dawson@courts.state.mn.us - please let me know if you are interested in working with me to improve outcomes for LGBTQ+/SOGIE youth

From Judge Tanya Bransford (she/her/hers) to Everyone: 04:29 PM

Thanks for sharing. That was powerful!

From Leah Lindstrom Rhea (She Her Hers) to Everyone: 04:29 PM

Thank you for sharing Lauren!

From Maria Kamenska (she/they) to Everyone: 04:31 PM

Chi-miigwech, Lauren, for sharing your story. Your voice is powerful. Congratulations on graduating next week!

From Kandace Logan (she/her) to Everyone: 04:31 PM

Thank you, Lauren.

From Sarah Davis (she / her) to Everyone: 04:32 PM

Thank you, Lauren, for sharing your story!

From Bernie Farrell, HCL, she/hers to Everyone: 04:32 PM

Thank you, Lauren, for sharing your story!

From Cedric Weatherspoon to Everyone: 04:32 PM

Thanks you. Lauren for sharing with us

From Joshua C to Everyone: 04:34 PM

Lauren and Sarah, Thank you for sharing! I'm glad you both got to work with Emily, TaShonda, and Abbie at POWER!

From Bernie Farrell, HCL, she/hers to Everyone: 04:34 PM

Thank, you, Sarah, for sharing with us!

From Kandace Logan (she/her) to Everyone: 04:34 PM

Thank you for sharing, Sarah.

From Sarah Davis (she / her) to Everyone: 04:35 PM

Thank you, Sarah, for sharing!

From Maria Kamenska (she/they) to Everyone: 04:36 PM

Thank you, Sarah. Your voice is appreciated.

From Headway-Kevin S. to Everyone: 04:36 PM

Thank you Lauren and Sarah for sharing..

From Dr. Brittany Lewis (she/her/hers) to Everyone: 04:39 PM

Lewis McCaleb is the truth!

From Callie Hargett to Everyone: 04:43 PM

Much needed inspiration - many thanks, Lewis McCaleb!

From Kandace Logan (she/her) to Everyone: 04:43 PM

Alright, Lewiee Blaze!!

From Maria Kamenska (she/they) to Everyone: 04:43 PM

Straight fire Lewiee Blaze! *mic drop*

From Monica Long to Everyone: 04:43 PM

Thank you

From Joshua C to Everyone: 04:43 PM

Thank you, Lewiee, for showing us the way!

From Sarah Davis (she / her) to Everyone: 04:43 PM

Thank you Lewiee! Amazing!

From Megan Jablonski Johnson-HCAO to Everyone: 04:43 PM

Lauren, Sarah, Lewiee, thank you so much for sharing!

From Leah Lindstrom Rhea (She Her Hers) to Everyone: 04:43 PM

Sarah, your voice and message are powerful! Thank you! Amazing Lewiee! Thank you!

From Amanda Harrington, Assistant Hennepin County Attorney to Everyone: 04:43 PM

Thank you to Lauren, Sarah and Lewis!!!

From Amanda Barnard-Court Clerk to Everyone: 04:43 PM

Fantastic, thank you, Louee!

From Marcy Podkopacz to Everyone: 04:43 PM

we are glad you are HERE!

From Bernie Farrell, HCL, she/hers to Everyone: 04:43 PM

Thank you, Lewiee Blaze!

From Lewis McCaleb to Everyone: 04:43 PM

My website is www.lewieeblaze.com

From Beth Holger she/her to Everyone: 04:43 PM

Thank you so much Lewiee, Sarah and Lauren for sharing your amazing talents and wisdom!!!!!!!

From Lewis McCaleb to Everyone: 04:43 PM

Thank you ALL

From Amanda Barnard-Court Clerk to Everyone: 04:44 PM

Thanks to Lauren and Sarah, as well. I appreciate hearing your stories and perspectives.

From Judge Tanya Bransford (she/her/hers) to Everyone: 04:44 PM

Thank you to the youth for sharing your voices and being so authentic!

From Neal Margolies to Everyone: 04:44 PM

WOW, the courage and vulnerability of all who have spoken/told their story/presented has just been amazing. Thank you to you all for the energy and calls to action/change/reform.

From Amanda Barnard-Court Clerk to Everyone: 04:44 PM

Lewiee**** I apologize. Facepalm.

From Headway-Kevin S. to Everyone: 04:45 PM

THAT WAS GREAT LEWIS !!! KEEP UP THE FIGHT AND DONT STOP!!!

From McKenzie Colas to Everyone: 04:45 PM

Amen!!

From QuaintanceK to Everyone: 04:45 PM

The three of you are wonderful and amazing. Thank you for sharing your talents.

From raj he/they to Everyone: 04:45 PM

our own amada groman

From Lewis McCaleb to Everyone: 04:54 PM

Love these Community Partnership Agreements !! Major Keys

DECREASE COUR WAIT TIMES !!!!!!!!

From Leah Lindstrom Rhea (She Her Hers) to Everyone: 04:55 PM

This is really helpful. Will these slides be available after the meeting?

From Desola Oni She/her/hers to Everyone: 04:56 PM

yes we will have it on the website

<https://www.hennepin.us/residents/public-safety/youth-justice-council>

From Cedric Weatherspoon to Everyone: 05:01 PM

www.empowerfam.com cweatherspoon@empowerfam.com Cedric Weatherspoon

From Kristy Snyder, PPL, she/her to Everyone: 05:02 PM

I appreciate this focus. I am also wondering if the Hennepin County folks can update us on if letters are going out to young people completing probation about their next steps to get records sealed.

From Calista Moxey to Everyone: 05:04 PM

I think restructuring our criminal justice system (probation, police officers, courts, etc.) to be trauma informed.

From Jerald Moore to Everyone: 05:06 PM

Jerald Moore gerald.moore@hennepin.us

From raj he/they to Everyone: 05:08 PM

can we respond to the systemic flaws

From QuaintanceK to Everyone: 05:09 PM

Expungement might be a good fit for the law school clinics??

From Morgan Kunz - HCAO to Everyone: 05:09 PM

There is also a website where people can request expungement: www.Helpsealmyrecord.org

From Megan Jablonski Johnson-HCAO to Everyone: 05:10 PM

<https://mitchellhamline.edu/self-help-clinic/>

From Kristy Snyder, PPL, she/her to Everyone: 05:10 PM

I can connect you to the Legal Rights Center and we can walk you through the process. We are currently doing twice monthly opportunities to sit with a lawyer and figure out your next step.

From Sarah Davis (she / her) to Everyone: 05:11 PM

It sounds like there is a community ask for information on expungement of records. Could we add these resources to the YJC website? Our office can provide those resources, along with Kristy at PPL.

From Kristy Snyder, PPL, she/her to Everyone: 05:12 PM

Additionally, we need to make sure that young people know that they need to seal their BCA records.

From Sarah Davis (she / her) to Everyone: 05:12 PM

We also need to be very clear when we are using language about expungement. The record sealing being talked about related to diversion does not expunge all records. Youth can still be disqualified from passing background studies for employment, etc. through DHS.

From Maggie Skelton, Staff Attorney, District Court to Everyone: 05:12 PM

I conducted the trainings on Expungement for probation and would be happy to share the information for the website.

From Morgan Kunz - HCAO to Everyone: 05:13 PM

The juvenile expungement forms are available at: <https://www.mncourts.gov/hennepin#Juvenile>

From raj he/they to Everyone: 05:13 PM

it is vital that we are clear... too many gaps in the process and the youth and the family suffer. are you talking about pre-trial diversion?

From Judge Tanya Bransford (she/her/hers) to Everyone: 05:14 PM

It is correct that the youth that go through diversion get their court records sealed. We cannot control police records and records in other agencies.

From Kristy Snyder, PPL, she/her to Everyone: 05:14 PM

This is a great conversation, as it also speaks to follow through and accountability. Hennepin County has done a great job of making sure Maggie Skelton conducted training in September to ensure probation officers are not giving out inaccurate info. The letter conversation has been happening since October 2019.

From Amanda Harrington, Assistant Hennepin County Attorney to Everyone: 05:14 PM

I love the idea of cross-system collaboration. It seems like they should all work together, and sometimes they do on paper, but we need to work on better relationships and direct and consistent communication

From Headway-Kevin S. to Everyone: 05:15 PM

Kevin.Stringer@Headway.org

From Callie Hargett to Everyone: 05:16 PM

Quick impromptu shout-out to The Link: The Link sets a wonderful example of how to honor youth for their time, talent and wisdom - no decision about youth, without youth. No program for youth, without youth leadership at the forefront. I'm unaffiliated with The Link, just a longtime adoring fan! :-)

From Sierra Leone (She/Her/Hers) to Everyone: 05:19 PM

Is this something that can be automatic for the young people? So they do not have to go through all this stuff and various resources.

From Beth Holger she/her to Everyone: 05:19 PM

Oh wow thank you so much Callie and Kristy, the youth are what makes it they have the wisdom and love all that they bring.

From Judge Tanya Bransford (she/her/hers) to Everyone: 05:20 PM

The diversion that we were discussing is post charge, pretrial diversion. So they do not have to plead guilty to anything. If the young person successfully completes diversion, the court records are sealed.

From Kristy Snyder, PPL, she/her to Everyone: 05:20 PM

In fact, we have been working for over a year with seven different agencies to support 42 young people to complete the application. We have ONE young person who has jumped through all of the hoops. The system is made to not have success.

From Lewis McCaleb to Everyone: 05:21 PM

Thank you for your great efforts Kristy ! We see you. From experience, I agree

From Kristy Snyder, PPL, she/her to Everyone: 05:21 PM

Does Hennepin County support automatic sealing of records?

From Me to Desola Oni She/her/hers: (Direct Message) 05:22 PM

so quickly looking into it, you can copy and paste it. If I find anything more, I will update you

From Sarah Davis (she / her) to Everyone: 05:23 PM

For folks looking to advocate for policy change, please reach out to Legal Rights Center, we have a Coalition for Youth Justice that is pushing for this and other changes. Please email me at sdavis@legalrightscenter.org

From Araceli Leana-Mejia to Everyone: 05:23 PM

Assistance is also available at the courts Self Help Center and Statewide for expungement process.

From QuaintanceK to Everyone: 05:24 PM

Bobbie Champion has taken up related issues in the legislature.

From Sarah Edgington to Everyone: 05:24 PM

I was denied from half the schools I applied to because of my record.

From Amanda Harrington, Assistant Hennepin County Attorney to Everyone: 05:25 PM

We also need to know who to connect with to make changes we are interested in

It's part of why this forum is helpful

From raj he/they to Everyone: 05:25 PM

"it reveals systemic rather than superficial flaws.... radical reconstruction of society itself is the real issue to be faced" Dr Rev MLK

From Kristy Snyder, PPL, she/her to Everyone: 05:25 PM

And ensure accountability.

From Leah Lindstrom Rhea (She Her Hers) to Everyone: 05:26 PM

CSH - myself, McKenzie and Gabe - want to join the End Racial Disparities sub-committee. I will be emailing the leads for that committee! And I will be here for future meetings!

From Lewis McCaleb to Everyone: 05:26 PM

What is our collective investment?

From Kristy Snyder, PPL, she/her to Everyone: 05:27 PM

Let's make it happen! And then reach back to those in the past! Thanks, Judge Barnette!

From Todd Barnette to Everyone: 05:30 PM

I have to go. But this is great! Community members will have a equal voice at the table.

From Amanda Harrington, Assistant Hennepin County Attorney to Everyone: 05:30 PM

How do we join the subcommittees?

From Kristy Snyder, PPL, she/her to Everyone: 05:30 PM

(Also please make sure when considering this expungement piece, that you loop in the BCA work. That stops so many young people from getting jobs.)

From Sarah Davis (she / her) to Everyone: 05:31 PM

You can email subcommittee chairs to get the meeting information