

## Youth Justice Council meeting minutes

**Date:** June 9, 2021

**Time:** 3:30 – 5:30 PM

**Location:** Virtual

### Minutes

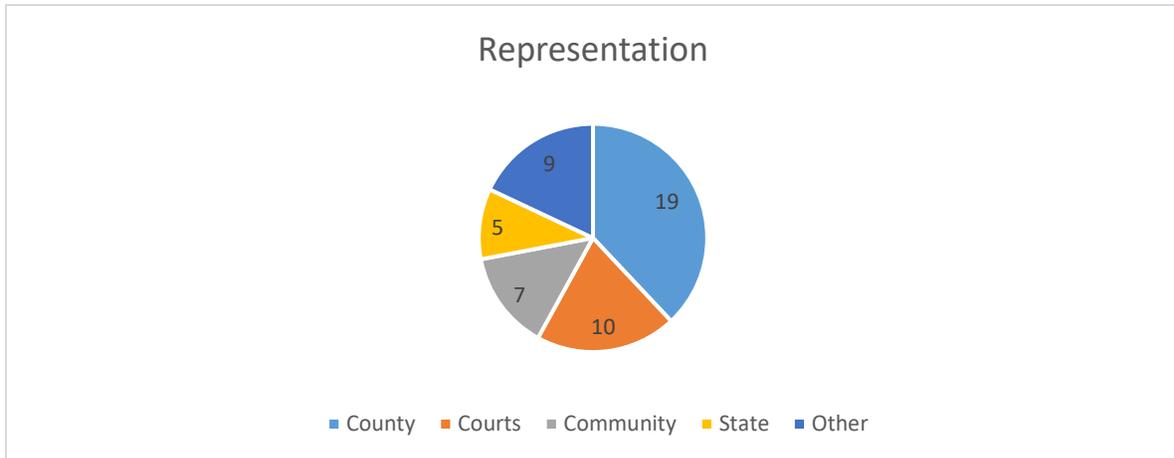
#### Quick Overview of Meeting

- Discussion regarding the closing of the County Home School (CHS), which was also known as the Residential Treatment Center (RTC). DOCCR Director, Catherine Johnson (CJ), addressed many of the concerns around the closing.
- Lauren Uhl, Juvenile Probation, and Malaika Eban, Legal Rights Center, presented a PowerPoint regarding the work that has been done thus far on Alternative to OHP and answered questions.
- The County Attorney's, Public Defender's Offices, and the Legal Rights Center presented a PowerPoint addressing the work that has been done around juvenile expungements and what their next steps on to further the expungement work.

#### Areas to Follow-Up On:

- Address the county's RFP process. Have a representative from Human Service present to address concerns regarding the current RFP process and present work that is currently be done to revise the RFP process for community organizations.
- Need to have more community, families, young people with lived experiences with the juvenile justice system at meetings, participating and being part of the decision-making process. Ensuring that parents/guardians/young people are compensated for their time at the YJC meetings.
- Further review/discussion around program options within the community. Where are the gaps, how do we fill those gaps due to the closing of the CHS?

**In attendance:** Latisce Williams, Catherine Johnson, Karen Kuglar, Kayla Richards, Angie LaTour, Neal Margolies, Monica Long, Morgan Kunz, Sheila Poechmann, Judge Angela Willms, John Tuell, Wendy Charles, Chris Serres, Kelsey Keimig, Lisa McNaughton, Joe Cellette, Leah Lindstrom Rhea, Ashlyn Crawford, Cindy Slowiak, Maggie Skelton, Alexa Tjernlund, Josh Terrio, Julie Rud, Alicia Mejia, Jenna Ellerston, Donna Gillitzer, Kelly Hall, Lauren Uhl, Megan Jablonski Johnson, Rachel Hughey, Ice Demmings, Melissa Jacobsen, Raj Sethuraju, LaTonya Reeves, Calvin Addison, Lindsey Hoskins, Sierra Leone Samuels, Jerald Moore, Judge Mark Kappelhoff, Jessica Oaxaca, Janine Wischnack, Isaih Jones, Katrinna Dexter, Kathrine Williams, Sandra Feist, Dr. Brittany Lewis, Theresa Shim, Malaika Eban, Sarah Davis, Willie Bridges



### Welcome and Recap

All minutes from past meetings can be found on the [Youth Justice Council](#) website, along with Hennepin County DOCCR and the Hennepin County Attorney's office data portals. The Youth Justice Council is a community driven council.

### Closure of County Home School (as known as RTC – Residential Treatment Center)

Catherine Johnson, Director of DOCCR, discussed the reasoning behind the future closing of the County Home School (CHS). The CHS is still operating and will continue to do so through the first quarter of 2022. There were a couple of reasons why the decision was made to close the CHS, which included immediate budget decisions that had to be made, and a significant reduction of youth in Out-Of-Home Placement (OHP). There are currently 12 youth at CHS, which juvenile probation has ensured all youth will be able to complete their programming before the closing of the CHS.

Many concerns were brought up regarding the closing of CHS:

- There needs to be assurance that the current youth at CHS, and future youth ordered to OHP, stay within the state and within their community.
- How does DOCCR view this as an opportunity for outcomes for youth at the CHS and other placements?
- How will funds, from the closing of the CHS, be re-directed to culturally specific programming for our youth in the community?
- Assurance needs to be made for youth that may have been referred to CHS will not end up at Red Wing due to the lack of options for OHP.
- How will DOCCR address gaps in services/programming for youth that may have special needs where the CHS had programs/services to address those needs, such as CSC (criminal sexual conduct) cases?

- There are extremely very few options for youth currently regarding housing due to tremendously restricted guidelines. With the closing of the CHS it makes it even more challenging. Where do young people go when many placements have closed or have extensive restrictions? Access to county funds has been difficult for many community-based providers to provide the beds needed. It's imperative that we have safe places for youth to go, which are currently far and few between.
- Is it possible to utilize the top two floors of the JDC for programming? Other counties partner with their JDC to provide programs for youth.
- How does the county support the community around the RFP bureaucratic processes?

DOCCR Director, Catherine Johnson addressed many of the concerns. There is a significant budget savings with the closing of the CHS and the hope is to reinvest into alternatives of OHP either within DOCCR or the community. DOCCR is focused on ensuring best possible outcomes for youth and families. This is done through DOCCR and community partners supporting the work and ensuring that the best programming and services are available to our young people and their families, which will result in positive outcomes for everyone. There was acknowledgement that there is room for improvement across the board with DOCCR, and DOCCRs contracted vendors specifically around how we define outcomes (well-being for youth, families, and the community), focusing on holistic not recidivism outcomes. DOCCR wants to shift the focus from a recidivism lens to identifying root causes and addressing those issues, which will have a major long-lasting positive impact for our youth and their families. DOCCRs focus is to also ensure funds, from the closing of the CHS, are directed towards culturally specific programming.

DOCCR does not want Red Wing to be the default solution when it comes to OHP. Red Wing will still be an option but not the default option and juvenile probation confirmed that Red Wing is not their goal as an option to place youths. Juvenile probation uses a level of care approach-- offering intervention at the lowest level possible, which the CHS is on the lower end of the spectrum for residential treatment centers (RTC) facilities. Red Wing is on the higher end of the spectrum for higher levels of intervention needs. There are options in surrounding counties that our partners on the bench can utilize when needing OHP. The aspirational goal is to eliminate the need for OHP. Intervening early at the community level has helped to reduce the number of youths in OHP. DOCCR will be working on solutions in the next couple of months to ensure there is appropriate programming/services for all our youth.

Catherine Johnson acknowledged the concerns that alternatives should have been put in place before closing the CHS. Unfortunately, budgetary decisions had to be made immediately and there was not time to figure out those solutions, however there is time to work on a transition plan to ensure our youth are provided with the best programming and services. There's a lot of opportunity to do things differently and think differently.

**Next steps:**

- How do we move with community regarding programming/service options for youth and families?
- How do we address the bureaucratic RFP process that many community organizations find difficult to complete? Human services have been working on simplifying the RFP process. Need to invite representative from Human Services to discuss the work that is being done.
- ***From Adesola Oni. She/hers to Everyone: 05:28 PM***  
Another actionable step is to speak to the plans related to gaps in closing the home school

## Alternatives to OHP

Lauren Uhl, Juvenile Probation, and Malaika Eban, Legal Rights Center, shared a PowerPoint presentation that informed every one of the process that is being done around Alternatives to OHP. In the work that has been done it was recognized that a huge disparity of black male youths is being referred to OHP. This is an area that needs to be addressed with the goal to reduce those disparity numbers.

The key takes away from the focus groups that were conducted where:

- ✓ OHP is traumatic for many youths and formed barriers for them.
- ✓ Youth that were successful was due to relationship in the OHP programming.

Key Themes

- ✓ Mentorship connections
- ✓ Academic enrichment
- ✓ Employment training
- ✓ Meaningful income
- ✓ Trauma healing.

Next steps:

- What are the hierarchy barriers for implementation and how can the community be included to address those barriers? Links back to the contract process within the county. The county is committed to do more community engagement. Trust and the complicated process is a barrier.
- Anticipate challenges, how are we going to support staff around youth wellness and safety that leads to recommendations for OHP.
- Parent programming is needed. Current programming is an afterthought, it's not proactive it reactive.
- Requirements to participate in programming where historically it has been rigid. Discussion has begun around the requirement.
- Holistic space centered in community by and for community from parents.
- All youth should be able to access programming intervention.
- Reflect on possible barriers so work can be done going backwards to undue those barriers.

## Expungements

The Hennepin County attorney's, public defender's offices and the Legal Rights Center presented a PowerPoint presentation on the work that has been done thus far on expungements and the next steps to further the work. The traditional process is still available for expungements. The state court system has gotten rid of the filing fee which was huge a barrier. Systems are utilizing community partners and law schools to assist youth in the traditional process of expungements. The new expungement process is designed in a way that can be replicable and expandable, which will have a great impact on brown and black youth. A step toward transformation for young people.

## Comments from the Chat

***From Dr. Brittany Lewis (She/Her/Hers) to Everyone: 04:54 PM***

How are youth and families notified?

A copy of their petition with a cover letter is mailed to the youth using their last known address.

***From raj he/they to Everyone: 04:54 PM***

What is the racial and class data of those who complete the diversion?

Currently within phase 1 of the process but it is being tracked post charge diversion youth. Having a positive effect on reducing racial disparity positive impact.

***From Dr. Brittany Lewis (She/Her/Hers) to Everyone: 04:55 PM***

How will this new process be publicized?

Something that needs to figure out. Courts will utilize the vehicles they have to get the word out.

**From raj he/they to Everyone: 04:59 PM**

Who are the youth who take the plea? we know that there are disparities ... can we make this simple .... we are clearing and expunging all youth records period ... instead of having such caste process in the work?

**From Adesola Oni. She/hers to Everyone: 05:01 PM**

Were there any considerations for adjudicated cases for a year following completion both for phase one and two versus charged?

**From raj he/they to Everyone: 05:02 PM**

talk to the community not to those in the system please  
can we do a door knock, Judge?

**From Mark Kappelhoff (he/him) to Everyone: 05:03 PM**

Yes! Talk to the community.

**From Adesola Oni. She/hers to Everyone: 05:06 PM**

Morgan Kunz – Morgan.Kunz@Hennepin.Us;  
Sarah Davis – sdavis@legalrightscenter.org;  
Maggie Skelton – Maggie.Skelton@courts.state.mn.us

**From Malaika Eban (she/her) LRC MN to Everyone: 05:08 PM**

For those following at the legislature, the Clean Slate Act is the bill working to create an automatic expungement process for certain offenses. HF1152

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=house&f=HF1152&ssn=0&y=2021>

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

steps are not enough --- Judges can you please present a position paper to the legislature today

**From raj he/they to Everyone: 05:12 PM**

Judges can we call for expungement of all youth records .... end this micro and mezzo approaches yes .... how are we diverting funds from systems towards community wisdom?

### **Community Forum**

This portion is to center youth and families. How do we invite and include them? Compensate for community and youth that participate at the meetings. Intentionally reaching out to the community. Invite those that participated in the Alternative to OHP focus. Are there challenges in compensating families and youth? There has been conversation around compensation. Juvenile probation has dedicated funds toward compensation. Bring youth together and join the meeting as a group to make it easier and provide food. It's a cultural change for a lot of institutions. Respecting the community reciprocal relationship with the community. Treat the community with respect and as a collaborator. How we might move forward in inviting families to the meetings, identify the action steps. Understand what the ask is when we invite the community, families, youth. Anticipate barriers and how we plan to respond to those barriers.

Next step of how we can support families connected to the youth within the criminal justice system. Has the YJC had any conversation around CARES act dollars to help support compensation efforts. CARES funds have been used to purchase laptops for youth receiving county services to help during the pandemic time so they can stay connected with their education and groups.

### **Comments from the Chat:**

**From Calvin Addison to Everyone: 05:14 PM**

we have offered gift cards in the past

**From raj he/they to Everyone: 05:14 PM**

simple --- start with gift cards please

**Closing Remarks**

- Next meeting Sept. 8th at 3:30pm
- Minutes will be on the website

Being open and honest can be humbling. Need to be vulnerable and have room to grow. Room to be a better version of yourself and challenge your colleagues to be a better version of themselves.

**Chat:**

**From Adesola Oni. She/hers to Everyone: 03:35 PM**

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

**From raj he/they to Everyone: 03:45 PM**

why focus on recidivism as oppose to root causes ... isn

**From Lindsey Hoskins (she/her) to Everyone: 03:46 PM**

sorry, maybe I missed it--when is YRTC closing?

**From LATONYA REEVES-PROBATION to Everyone: 03:47 PM**

I REALLY LIKE THIS FOCUS ON WELLBEING

**From Calvin Addison to Everyone: 03:47 PM**

Will we use some of the money to work with GED/Trade/ Skill programs?

**From Lindsey Hoskins (she/her) to Everyone: 03:47 PM**

same concern here--worried about sending kids far away!

**From raj he/they to Everyone: 03:48 PM**

so can we end hiring POs --- let us invite community oriented and grounded folks to infiltrate the system and not work in the wings with non-profit organization

**From Kayla Richards to Everyone: 03:50 PM**

we use a level of care approach--we offer intervention at the lowest level possible...county home school is on the lower end of our spectrum for RTC facilities and Red Wing on the other end really important concern!

**From LATONYA REEVES-PROBATION to Everyone: 03:51 PM**

PO'S ARE GREAT LIASON'S BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND CORRECTIONS. I WOULD NOT AGREE RAJ ABOUT NOT HIRING MORE, BUT NEEDS TO BE A GOOD BALANCE.

**From raj he/they to Everyone: 03:51 PM**

Jerald, can we draw a distinction between a correctional facility and care facility ---

**From LATONYA REEVES-PROBATION to Everyone: 03:55 PM**

WHICH IS WHY WE HAD THE ISSUE IN THE FIRST PLACE  
OF OUT OF STATE CARE

WHAT IF THERE IS NO COMMUNITY OPTION?

**From raj he/they to Everyone: 03:55 PM**

CJ please invite the community at the frontend of the this transition

**From Teresa Froehlke to Everyone: 03:56 PM**

But, I think the CHS quit accepting new kids in the sex offender program as of Friday, 5/28--so what are we doing for right now for our sex offenders?

**From Diana Wilkie to Everyone: 03:57 PM**

Is there any discussion being had about the top floors of the JDC for programming space

**From Neal Margolies (He/Him/His) to Everyone: 03:58 PM**

Almost daily our unit has conversations regarding where we can send young adults to match the services they need, that target the drivers of the behaviors vs, the presenting behaviors we are seeing as a result of trauma/poverty/lack of access to basic needs, etc... I truly hope some of this money continues to be reallocated to the community programming which we know works vs. spinning our wheels with methods that have proven ineffective.

**From LATONYA REEVES-PROBATION to Everyone: 03:58 PM**

THE PREDATORY OFFENDERS THAT ARE IN THIS PROGRAM---CONCERNED THAT THE ADJUDICATED/DISMISSAL OPTIONS WILL BE LIMITED BASED ON THE UNAVAILABILITY OF PROGRAMMING DOWN THE LINE.

**From raj he/they to Everyone: 03:59 PM**

can the budget be directed towards community needs and orgs --- how are you, DOCCR, fighting to direct funds away from DOCCR and direct it towards the links, bridge, etc.

**From LATONYA REEVES-PROBATION to Everyone: 04:00 PM**

YES, SOME OF THE SMALLER AGENCIES HAVE GREAT PROGRAMS PARTICULARLY FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR

**From dana hurley swayze to Everyone: 04:00 PM**

does HC plan to sell the property? can some of that \$ be directed to support those kids as well in the community?

**From raj he/they to Everyone: 04:02 PM**

is it time to blow up the RFP process.... invite the community to create an accessible practice that invites community expertise to liberate and transform

**From LATONYA REEVES-PROBATION to Everyone: 04:02 PM**

I AGREE OR AT LEAST MAKE IT MUCH SIMPLER

THE CLOSER THEY ARE TO HOME THE BETTER FOR THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES

From Beth Holger, The Link, she/her to Everyone: 04:05 PM

I also think that the licensing processes in addition to the RFP process can be huge barriers for community based providers of all sizes but especially smaller ones to provide alternative TIC placements

**From raj he/they to Everyone: 04:06 PM**

I am game for it

**From Catherine Johnson (she/her) to Everyone: 04:06 PM**

I appreciate the feedback and the concerns and the questions. Thank you all. I cannot stay for the rest of the meeting, but I look forward to hearing what else you all have to say. Thank you for allowing me the time today to join you.

**From raj he/they to Everyone: 04:13 PM**

Julie, can you please tell us/me if the three pages will continue to advantage the organization that have benefited traditionally from the bulky and tedious process? what are we doing to reach deep into communities that are disproportionately harmed by DOCCR and other such enforcement and compliance systems?

Relationships matter ---- yes

**From Julie Rud to Everyone: 04:15 PM**

Thanks for the constant push for transformative thinking and action Raj. I can't speak to that specifically because this process is contained in Human Services and I'm not up to speed on the most recent details. I can commit to having that information loop back to this group at the next meeting.

**From raj he/they to Everyone: 04:18 PM**

great findings .... question, how would DOCCR direct its resources away from the system ... so we can sustain these recommended practices

luvin those narratives and realities,

Funding has been included in JPs budget to ensure that community base array services are being utilized. There is an intentional approach to have youth in community programming. There's a half million dollars planned for alternative OHP and this was done by cutting positions within DOCCR.

Redirect funds in nonconventional ways for programming.

***From raj he/they to Everyone: 04:27 PM***

Thank you, Julie

From LATONYA REEVES-PROBATION to Everyone: 04:28 PM

OR THERE IS AN ASSUMPTION THAT PEOPLE KNOW WHERE TO GO

***From raj he/they to Everyone: 04:30 PM***

Yes

it is a quid pro quo approach as oppose to being centered on equity, humanity and values

***From raj he/they to Everyone: 04:30 PM***

Yes

it is a quid pro quo approach as oppose to being centered on equity, humanity and values

speak Lori

Lori's narrative also calls out systemic single stories about families and our youth

***From Morgan Kunz, HCAO (he/him/his) to Everyone: 04:33 PM***

Malaikia and Lauren, did the focus groups talk about transportation as a barrier? I hear about issues with transportation to programs often.

***From raj he/they to Everyone: 04:33 PM***

yes, they are --- their trauma and historical experiences need to be addressed--- we can bring about collective care

***From raj he/they to Everyone: 04:34 PM***

yes, they are --- their trauma and historical experiences need to be addressed--- we can bring about collective care

yes

***From Malaika Eban (she/her) LRC MN to Everyone: 04:35 PM***

@Morgan yes. Mainly in the context of out-of-home placements but also community members talked about youth needing to find places where they can feel safe and that sometimes those spaces are in the suburbs rather than in the cities.

***From Beth Holger, The Link, she/her to Everyone: 04:36 PM***

Really appreciated the presentation and work Malaika and Lauren

Thank you for your words and insights Latonia Latonya sorry I read Dr. Raj's :)

***From raj he/they to Everyone: 04:40 PM***

start inviting community into the government bld without crazy barriers

come on come on Dr Lewis

From raj he/they to Everyone: 04:41 PM

it is about reproducing harm and preserving the systems

FACTS

***From raj he/they to Everyone: 04:42 PM***

it is about reproducing harm and preserving the systems

FACTS

radical ---- spells fear on the part of the system --- its self preservation is under threat

***From LATONYA REEVES-PROBATION to Everyone: 04:42 PM***

PRIDE CONFUSION, ANGER, TRAUMA

WHEN THESE KIDS COME HOME, THE FAMILY BECOMES RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM....THEY NEED TO SUPPORT TO HELP US (THE SYSTEM) HELP THEM TO STAY OUT OF THE SYSTEM

\*THE SUPPORT

***From raj he/they to Everyone: 04:44 PM***

solutions suggested by this and many other research are well known ... findings are no different today as oppose those presented a decade ago and decades ago ... what we have done is create industrial complexes that works towards preservation and reproduce harm

***From LATONYA REEVES-PROBATION to Everyone: 04:45 PM***

HAVE TO STOP MAKING IT ALL ABOUT THE MONEY

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

I will also invite us to question white lead non-profits