

Youth Justice Council meeting minutes

Date: March 10, 2021

Time: 3:30 – 5:30 PM

Location: Virtual

Minutes

An update was given on the Out-of-Home (OHP) Screening. A presentation of current OHP numbers and the systems aspirations goals was presented. There are currently 71 youth in OHP and the goals for 2021 is to identify gaps within the community and address those gaps. A possible plan is to put out an RFP in an effort in achieving the overall goal of addressing gaps identified. Reviewed the process for Out of Home placement. It was explained how the fees for OHP may be incurred by some families, which is a statute (518.6111) issue. There has been a reduction in OHP, including out of state, over the years from the presentation.

Questions on how we can change the payment process for OHP and having Hennepin County be responsible for the payment for OHP for parents, as a possible solution. Can the court override the payment process for OHP? Changing the standard language on the court orders to reflect possible expenses that may be incurred for OHP that the family may be responsible for.

There are disparity issues within OHP and focus needs to be on cultural OHP programs. Need to look at the gaps and figure out how to address those gaps. DOCCR will bring back more information and JP is committed to reduce the disparity numbers.

The OHP workgroup will address questions within the chat regarding OHP.

The Link presented a PowerPoint regarding their organization and programs/resources. The Link has 23 programs. Most of the programs are around juvenile justice and sex trafficking. One program is the youth supervision center, which is now known as the Youth Connection Center (YCY). The question was asked what is the reception of parents when youth are returned home? Some parents are frustrated but the vast majority work with the employees at YCY to figure out solutions that is best to for the youth and the parent and guardian must approve. What is the youngest that has come through the YCY? Median age is

14 - 16 but they have had as young as 7 yrs old. Can families drop off their kids when needed? Yes, the YCY will take referrals from parents. If it's a young person outside of Hennepin County they do provide referral services to programs in other counties. Referrals are supposed to come through law enforcement, but they would like to loosen the eligibility so young people can walk in for help or parents can call for help. Their workgroup is working on expanding this part of the YCY. How are kids on the run dealt with? The YCY utilizes resources they must address those young people that are on the run. They do try to get those young people in the shelter.

Dr. Tolefree and Cynthia Prosek and Sarah Davis shared restorative practices. Reviewed the Youth Restorative Justice Disposition Program presentation. A probation officer spoke on how the process worked for his young people. It's an extremely effective program that has helped many of his clients. A question was asked on how victims are brought into this and part of the circle process. This process began as a pilot and is now being formalized. Out of 24 youth 12 have successfully completed the process, three have not and they are still working with 10 youth. Juvenile probation has stepped up to keep the pilot going and formalize the process. Next step is to develop a contract to keep the process moving forward. Forty-five circles have happened during the process and during COVID. Circles are done as many times as needed by the family. This is more of a mindset than just the circle and they are connecting with the family.

Discussion about addressing the disparities within the criminal justice system. There is an Eliminating Racial Disparity (ERD) meeting tomorrow and a follow up meeting in April. A lot of data was shared regarding Extended Juvenile Justice (EJJ) and Certifications. Working on specific measurable goals in this area to ensure things are moving forward and changes are happening.

OHP Alternative Workgroup informed the Youth Justice Council they are in need of getting lived experiences as part of the workgroup to provide perspective and they are currently working on fast tracking on what is missing and what can the county do right now. They are hoping to have the necessary information regarding gaps to help put an RFP together by May, but the timeline can be revised.

LGBTQ+ Workgroup focuses on improving outcomes for court involved LGBTQ+ and SOGIE youth such as trauma responsiveness across all decision and contact points and delivery services. One initial goal includes responsivity training to core partners and individuals working directly with LGBTQ+ and SOGIE youth. Overall, the workgroup wants to improve the well-being of LGBTQ+ and SOGIE youth. Asking questions such as: Are we improving home, mental health, housing, and education stability? There is a lot of intersectionality within the LGBTQ+ and SOGIE youth. One meeting has taken place thus far. The meeting focused on getting to know one another and sharing ideas. The workgroup will develop some trainings and will work on identifying people who can assist in the training development. Invitation was given to the YJC members to join the LGBTQ+ workgroup. A question was asked if the workgroup plans on incorporating restorative justice circles in their work as many of the LGBTQ+ and SOGIE youth could benefit from these circles. The workgroup would like to incorporate restorative justice as part of their work. Data was shared of the # of youth that identify as LGBTQ+ and SOGIE within the Hennepin County juvenile justice system and a high percentage are females and minority.

Underserved youth committee includes the LGBTQ+ workgroup as sub-committee. There was great turnout for the first Underserved Youth committee meeting. This committee covers a huge area such as the LGBTQ+, females and homelessness, to name a few. The committee is currently working on answering

the following questions. How do we approach all the issues and how does it apply to the range of the various communities of young people? Does the committee just focus on one issue for one community such as females? There was discussion around the various groups, figuring out where there is overlap, and how to approach everything. The committee will focus on identifying and prioritizing the various areas to address. Question was asked to define what is meant by Underserved. The definition of Underserved includes females, homeless youth, complicate cases (mental health), sex traffic and LGBTQ+. Basically, addressing where gaps have been identified. The Underserved Youth committee wants to provide more tailored services because Underserved Youth needs are not being met in current programs/services. Question was asked why The Link isn't being utilized. The Link is addressing a lot of these areas, but they are at capacity. It was also explained that more young people have severe trauma today than in the past due to the evolving world. There is an increase in homelessness among youth and mental health issue today than there has been in the past. Question was asked if CARES dollars been utilized to help these young people? CARES dollars were utilized to provide Chrome books to county involved youth in need of technology equipment to support them in their distance learning, mental health services and so forth. Another reason why there has been an increase of Underserved Youth are the budget cuts that have taken place over the years, which resulted in less beds at homeless shelters, and less mental health services for young people. There are also young people that do not fit in the juvenile justice system or child protection services but end up in the juvenile justice system due to a dispute they may have occurred at home. These young people really need services and do not need to be in the juvenile justice system. For example a domestic arrest, where a youth may get into a fight with their parent(s) and end up being arrested, resulting in their interaction with the juvenile justice system when they really need services to address the issue at home.

From the meeting chat

From Desola Oni She/her/hers to Everyone: 03:38 PM

<https://www.hennepin.us/your-government/research-data/comm-corrections#juvenile-probation>

Work together to outline an intensive community-based alternative to out-of-home placement for youth and families involved with Juvenile Probation by the end of summer. The committee's recommendation will lead to a request for proposals for a specific service, or array of services, that can keep youth at home when at high risk for placement through the juvenile justice system. The RFP to be posted in the Fall.

From Judge Quaintance to Everyone: 03:39 PM

One thing I learned at the last meeting was that parents sometimes WANT kids in out of home placement--just not out of state.

From Desola Oni She/her/hers to Everyone: 03:39 PM

Interested in planning with us and don't have a conflict of interest? Contact: Lauren Uhl lauren.uhl@hennepin.us or Malaika Eban meban@legalrightscenter.org

From Kristy Snyder--she/her to Everyone: 03:39 PM

Is this data able to be shared for the HC OHP disaggregated by race?

From Carrie Yeager to Everyone: 03:42 PM

Resource from Sarah Davis ["Many Juvenile Jails Are Now Almost Entirely Filled With Young People of Color Article"](#)

From Carol Wandersee to Everyone: 03:46 PM

All reimbursement payments attributable to the parent(s) or custodian, or attributable to the child, or to both, shall be subject to income withholding under Minn. Stat. §518.6111. In the event such payments are not withheld and remitted, the child and / or parent(s) is / are ordered to remit the payments. Child support shall be redirected or reimbursed to Hennepin County.

From Kayla (she/her/hers) to Everyone: 03:48 PM

I think it's also notable to highlight that the percentage of youth of color is starting to shift. we know the number of youths on probation is reducing and we are starting to see the % of youth of color shifting

From Malaika Eban (she/her) - LRC to Everyone: 03:49 PM

Thanks for the information about the reduction in out-of-home placements. Is there a particular goal that the county has around further reducing that number? Or the disparities in youth of color in those placements?

From Beth Holger she/her to Everyone: 03:52 PM

Is the RFP for a trauma informed non-correctional placement for youth?

From Trisha Dibble, Probation Officer to Everyone: 04:12 PM

Can you put the contact numbers up again or send out in an email after the meeting please?

From Desola Oni She/her/hers to Everyone: 04:12 PM

The Link: www.thelinkmn.org

Beth Holger, CEO

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Blaine Turnbull, Juvenile Justice Division Director

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Josh Terrio, YCC Program Manager

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612-432-9049

From Sarah Davis to Everyone: 04:13 PM

Just a quick note that the statute that was referenced earlier (MN Stat 518.6111) regarding child support payments for youth who are ordered into out of home placement has been renumbered. The current statute number is MN Stat 518A.53.

Also, an important statute that lays the groundwork for this child support enforcement is MN Stat 260B.331

From Malaika Eban (she/her) - LRC to Everyone: 04:18 PM

Thank you! It seems like expanding that eligibility could be an important way to fill the gap that families shared last meeting!

From raj he/they to Everyone: 04:22 PM

I am just wondering if you could set up a trust fund like program for youth who "complete your program" -- can we ensure that their reliance on the system is limited. Can we start at \$10.00 as a restoration process -- money available to them after 18... given the budget of the Link and the ongoing support you are receiving from the city, county, sstate, and foundation?

From Beth Holger she/her to Everyone: 04:26 PM

Dr. Raj I like the trust fund idea would be interested in learning more about it and if there are grants we can apply too for this-happy to hear more from you on this off line too if you're up for it...thank you always for your wisdom

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

Thank you, Beth, my hope is we begin the process with funds that are available within the budget of the LINK and the budget savings that the county is experiencing as the number of youth they are serving are ostensibly dropping/decreasing

From Beth Holger she/her to Everyone: 04:39 PM

That would take some fundraising as we don't have extra available/unallocated funds but happy to look into it more...

From raj he/they to Everyone: 04:49 PM

How many circles do youth attend?

From Dr. Tolefree/KLA to Everyone: 04:52 PM

Beth thank you for mentioning my elder Oscar Reed! He has mentored me in this work of RP. He is an integral part of our community.

Leah you are welcome!

From Beth Holger she/her to Everyone: 04:52 PM

Oscar is incredible and also has done circle trainings for us too...

From Judge Dawson |she/her to Everyone: 04:52 PM

would you all like an update on the LGBTQ+ workgroup?

From Kristy Snyder--she/her to Everyone: 04:58 PM

When are the meetings, Sarah?

From Sarah Davis to Everyone: 04:58 PM

2nd Thursday of every month - 4-5:30 pm

From Judge Dawson |she/her to Everyone: 05:06 PM

amy.dawson@courts.state.mn.us - feel free to contact me if you want to be involved with the LGBTQ+ workgroup

From Malaika Eban (she/her) - LRC to Everyone: 05:07 PM

Thanks Jerald for the flexibility. We're also committed to working with urgency on this issue too.

From Lauren Uhl (she/her) to Everyone: 05:08 PM

OHP Alternatives Workgroup - lauren.uhl@hennepin.us and/or Meban@legalrightscenter.org

From Judge Quaintance to Everyone: 05:09 PM

I can talk about the underserved youth committee which is the umbrella for Dawson's LBTQ+ capstone project

From Julie Rud to Everyone: 05:09 PM

Data from evaluation for justice-involved LGBTQ youth here: <https://www.hennepin.us/-/media/hennepinus/your-government/research-data/doccr-reports/full-report-ojjdp-trauma-feb-2019.pdf>

From Judge Dawson |she/her to Everyone: 05:13 PM

Thanks for posting the research, Julie Rud!

From Judge Dawson |she/her to Everyone: 05:14 PM

Thanks for posting the research, Julie Rud!

Thank you, Dr. Tolefree!

From Malaika Eban (she/her) - LRC to Everyone: 05:22 PM

The Envisioning Queer Justice Collaborative held circles in the last year to listen to the perspectives of LGBTQ+ youth in the justice system. Their full report is on their website <https://www.envisioningqueerjustice.org/research-resources>

The recommendations here might be a good starting point, hearing directly from youth.

From Judge Dawson (she/her) to Everyone: 05:23 PM

yes! that is an excellent report! I participated in a circle and was very impressed.

From Lindsey Hoskins (she/her) to Everyone: 05:24 PM

mental health services for youth are lacking more and more, right? far fewer beds than there used to be.

From Malaika Eban (she/her) - LRC to Everyone: 05:28 PM

It would be great to have folks from public health here, Raj. I think that's a great suggestion to help solve this gap issue that Judge Kappelhoff is speaking about.

From lexi (she/they) to Everyone: 05:30 PM

A few of the resources available in the mental health spectrum are located here:

<https://www.hennepin.us/youth>

From lexi (she/they) to Everyone: 05:30 PM

Also a bunch of other resources for young people to connect especially regarding housing/ homelessness

From Lauren Uhl (she/her) to Everyone: 05:31 PM

Sharing information and resources will continue to help close the existing gaps

From Desola Oni She/her/hers to Everyone: 05:31 PM

a number of resources shared in the chat

From Lisa McNaughton to Everyone: 05:31 PM

It's great to have new voices and perspectives in the discussion.

From Vicki Wright to Everyone: 05:31 PM

We are stronger together.

From lexi (she/they) to Everyone: 05:31 PM

Data will inform our solutions

From Malaika Eban (she/her) - LRC to Everyone: 05:31 PM

How to bring public health here!

From Judge Dawson |she/her to Everyone: 05:31 PM

Thanks for the reminder about the report from Envisioning Queer Justice! We will put that front and center as we move forward.

From Desola Oni She/her/hers to Everyone: 05:32 PM

next YJC meeting is on June 9th