

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

## Youth Justice Council meeting agenda

**Date:** April 20, 2022

**Time:** 3:30 – 5:30 PM

**Location:** Virtual via Zoom

### Minutes

**Welcome** – Judge Mark Kappelhoff, Jerald Moore

#### **We Push for Peace**

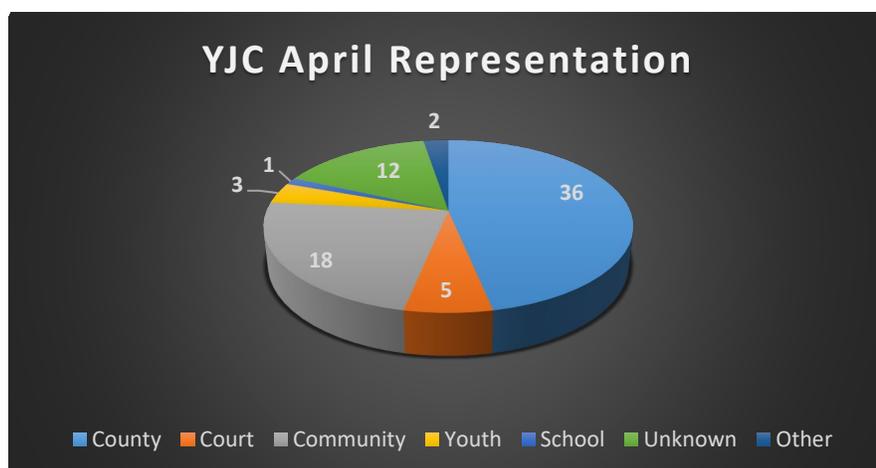
**Presentation** – Tabled for June meeting

#### **A Mother's Love Presentation**

Sister's Helping Sisters Program contract with Hennepin County. Three service areas, Community

Health and Wellness, Trauma and Outreach, Youth and Family services (Sisters Helping Sisters program). Began last summer. Program focuses on programming for young women who are involved with the juvenile justice system. Brochure was shared with group. It is an eight-week course that includes goal setting, provides a safe space to meet, provides activities and events that empower the women participating in the program. There is a graduation ceremony once they have successfully completed the program. Prior issue that many of the young women are facing is finding affordable, stable housing. They connect the young women and their families with a mental health coordinator. They work on connecting young women and families with various resources to ensure all their needs are met.

Do they serve trans gender females in their programming? They serve all women; how the person identifies as will be served in the program, including gender non-binary.



Are they connected with housing services? They do work with various housing services such as the Link and Northside Achievement Zone, along with property managers that have low-income housing.

Do young females have to be involved with the juvenile justice system to participate in the program? There are multiple points of entry for services with A Mother's Love, they do not have to be involved with the juvenile justice system. They stay in contact with the youth and families even after funding has ended or they have successfully completed the programming.

How is their partnership with the schools? Schools will reach out to A Mother's Love when needed and asked for their presence at various events, and if there are issues with students and families. They are listed as a partner with MPS.

What is does their law enforcement partnership look like? Precincts may reach out, specifically the north side, and let A Mother's Love know there is an issue, homicide, and/or shooting and ask them to come out. A Mother's Love will show up and will also reach out to other organizations and churches who will also show up to provide support to the community.

Question from Judge Bransford input? The contract was written to ensure the entire family will be served. The only requirement is that someone within the family is involved with DOCCR and/or the juvenile justice system.

Are their records sealed once a person has completed the program and was this an open RFP process? There is not an automatic expungement when a person completes the programming. This was not an RFP process; this was a direct process. Post charge diversion youths are eligible for this program and if they are referred to A Mother's Love then those youth will automatically have their records sealed/expunged.

Has there been an increase in expungements? There will be an update at a later YJC meeting. The expungement court calendar has been full recently.

Why not be intentional as an institution to provide automatic expungement for young people that have successfully completed programming with contracts with the county? They county and courts agree that this should be in place, however there are laws in place that they must follow within those laws. They have been able to develop a streamline process to help young people with their expungement process, which has resulted in numerous expungement cases. People in the community must make changes in the law so that judges/courts can apply those changes. Courts are automatically doing expungements for cases with no plea of guilty, so young people go through diversion, which are low level cases. Youth that fall in low-level cases do not have to do anything for the expungement process, it's automatic for those young people.

Clean Slate Act is included in the House Public Safety Omnibus Bill which will have an automatic expungement. Reach out to legislature to ask them to support the bill. Legal Rights Center provides expungement services for anyone that may need help in the process.

### **Youth Connection Center (YCC)**

EJJ topic, on the agenda, has been tabled for the next YJC meeting in June.

PowerPoint presentation given by the Hennepin County Attorney's Office. Looking for feedback on the proposed idea for the Youth Connection Center (YCC). Shared the history of the YCC and why it was

started. Went through the YCC Program Model and data from 2017 to 2021 from the PowerPoint. There is currently a gap in current programming at the YCC. In 2019 a vision and action planning began The Criminal Justice Coordinated Committee in 2020 recommended an expansion of pre-trial cases, and in 2021 the Alternative to Out of Home Placement Workgroup recommended increased access to services. These three things show the gaps in services with the YCC. Went through the program goals for the new proposal of the YCC: Provide services faster, access to services without system involvement, decrease system involvement, violence prevention, leveraging YCC's proven program model, and furthering goals of YCC such as addressing low level offenses early in the process. County Attorney's office went through the Principals: YCC being a voluntary service, no effect on a case, objective, adjustable criteria, referrals focused on curfew, truancy, and low-level offenses, criteria designed to address disparities, use of community driven resources. Discussed the proposal/criteria options: youth who fail to appear at their first appearance; youth who receive a citation or charge for two or more cases within a six-month period; youth who are found to be not competent under Rule 20.01; Youth who have a first appearance set for specified offense types; and youth who are discharged from the JDC. Black/African American would benefit the most from the YCC proposal.

Feedback from the YJC group: Concern with the negative mindset for youth to receive services from the YCC, for instance they must be involved with the juvenile justice system to choose to receive services from the YCC. Recommended that the criteria's options be removed. This is one avenue that youth and families must access services, there may be other pathways for youth and families to have access to the YCC. Case management services are part of the YCC, and they really focus on homeless youth as well. The original idea of the YCC is not that youth who are involved with the juvenile justice system but to provide services to youth. Currently the only way a youth have access to the YCC is through law enforcement, who brings a youth to the YCC. They are currently working on self-referrals. The goal is to have this accessible to all youth who do not have contact with law enforcement. Changing the framework of the YCC from a negative approach (identity of a young person, "juvenile" and the juvenile justice system) to a positive approach (youth development framework).

How can the YCC be accessible to young people in the community and not from the juvenile justice system? Who is the programming reserved for at the YCC? YCC currently serve all youth ages 10-17 that come through the space on curfew, truancy and low-level offenses, referrals from community partners to connect youth and families who are not receiving services elsewhere. There is capacity to serve more youth without having a youth come to the YCC through law enforcement and/or juvenile justice system. Recommend that barriers be removed so it's easier for youth to access the services at the YCC. Open it to all young people. If youth have the help before they get into the system will be extremely helpful instead of waiting for a young person to get into trouble to access the YCC. Some funding has been approved to expand to youth that are not on probation to family services. DOCCR also gave \$500K to the YCC that can be used for youth that are not on probation. Those are a couple of ways that the county has expanded the services to the YCC.

What are the relationships with Black Owned businesses and how will the \$500K help in expansion efforts of the YCC? This is being done and this is only one piece of investment. There are multiple different avenues that are being formed for to expand the YCC, which will include working with the community, Black Owned businesses and expanding the YCC.

### **Education Discussion Follow-Up**

Education Support Services in the disparity reduction line of business outside of the justice and child welfare system. Work with young people who have a county connection to support them with their education needs, such as mentoring, tutoring, advocating on behalf of students. These are voluntary services. Referrals come through the county. They can work young people and their whole family. There is no cut off date for the families. This is not a truancy program. Will support a young person wholistic with their education. Majority of referrals are currently coming through Child Welfare with some from juvenile probation. All services are virtual, so they do not provide transportation currently. They try to break down barriers to access to education. Soft age cut-off of 26 currently. The whole family can receive services.

Be @School PowerPoint presentation. County truancy and educational neglect early intervention program operated out of the HCAO. Ages 5-17 are served. Interventions are short term collaborative and family focused. Their philosophy has changed "Truancy is often a symptom of underlying issues". Accessing services Schools report to Be @School instead of going through child protection. Parents can also request services. Child protection will also refer families. Shared how their process has changed over the years. Shared the different intervention options for the families. There are 13 contracted community agencies that Be @School works with. They are currently looking at various options for expansion. Recommendation to include a stipend for youth who participate in the program. They are looking for feedback on how they can improve their program.

Education Support Services is a county program so licenses are not required for the type of services they provide.

Recommendation that ESS and Be @School refer any young people that do not qualify for the services to reach out to community organizations that provide similar services around education support. [

### **Community Forum**

Recommended from a young person that there needs to be more community programming, activities, and services for young people, especially during the summer due to the increase in violence in the community.

### **Zoom Chat Highlights**

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Kristy Snyder:

Great that these programs exist and partner with the county. Does the county offer those who successfully complete support to have their records sealed?

Monique Flowers:

A Mother's Love Initiative. Email [amotherstherm@gmail.com](mailto:amotherstherm@gmail.com)

Monique Flowers:

Donesther Anderson- [Donestherm@hotmail.com](mailto:Donestherm@hotmail.com)

Tanya Bransford:

Can you please verify that a young person's participation in A Mother's Love is voluntary? If the Mother wants to participate and the youth does not or if the youth has a P.O. who suggests participation, but the youth and family do not wish to participate, is that it?

Monique Flowers:

Yes the services for participation in general EVEN through probation/courts is ALL VOLUNTARY. Those that want to participate in the family.

Kristy Snyder:

I appreciate this presentation. For both of these organizations, was this an RFP that was open? And is this the same type of services like Northpoint?

Raj:

why not an automatic or intentional initiative on the part of the county

A Mother's Love MN:

There is an expungement informational event on Saturday April 30th from Noon-2pm @ New Salem Baptist Church 2507 Bryant Ave North. Hosted by Sen Champion, AG Ellison and CM Vetaw and Ellison. Please share

Alyssa Benson:

Here is contact information for We Push for Peace: <https://www.wepushforpeace.org/>

Malaika Eban:

Legal Rights Center has expungement office hours on the 3rd Friday of each month. You can sign up here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfPTJtOdc-6ak2eqP6W-w75is5iKu44fvLvLYDXr598uFxEQ/viewform>

Sierra Leone Samuels:

If anyone has questions and did not get an answer today's agenda please go to this link and add your question(s) so you can your question answered:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=n9\\_vioCHv0aPt0ySRI0ovukD3l1vqy5MhXm\\_JQfi1apUN0FUR1RKRzBUUF1xVFFCWUkwOVBJN1c2Si4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=n9_vioCHv0aPt0ySRI0ovukD3l1vqy5MhXm_JQfi1apUN0FUR1RKRzBUUF1xVFFCWUkwOVBJN1c2Si4u)

Project DIVA:

Hello All from Project DIVA International! [www.ProjectDIVA.org](http://www.ProjectDIVA.org) ... we have a community cohort of girls and school clubs in 6 schools currently!

Malaika Eban:

Are you saying that youth and families would have to go through HCAO to get access? Is there a way for youth and families able to request access directly to the YCC without involving the county attorney's office?

DaVonna Rucker:

I like the idea of using redirective language.

DonEsther (Donna) Anderson - A Mother's Love Initiative:

I agree that these services are based on penalties, verses programming starting before our youth get in trouble

Sarah Davis:

What if you shifted to invest in a community-based restorative framework, centering the strengths of youth and families and creating space for youth and families to drive their own access to supports and services?

The Link:

I know that I / we have said this many times but will keep saying that we would highly recommend allowing youth and families be able to self-refer v. having to be referred through law enforcement or systems alone, we do agree with expanding.

Stacey G. Collier:

These services should be offered to all youth. If a family is receiving any kind of government assistance in Hennepin County, they should be eligible and offered services of support for the youth. Then the family can choose to opt in or out.

DaVonna Rucker:

Is this programming reserved for homeless youth only?

Walter Greason:

If any local young people, families, or leaders want to get involved, there are a series of programs coming up over the next month. These programs help to change the language to empower each other.

<https://www.edliberation.org/chapters/edlibmn/>

DonEsther (Donna) Anderson - A Mother's Love Initiative:

Services like these should be offered within the community. If entry to services like these are only offered as a penial system alternative, then low participation will always be an issue.

Adesola Oni:

Part of the work of the YCC workgroup is to expand access to services by people who would like the supports without being linked to a system

Lindsey Hoskins:

Sorry, late to the conversation. Want to let you know that Family Tree Clinic's drop-in program for LGBTQ systems-involved youth is up and running and is open to youth who have been in the system, and also those who are looking for supports before they get to that point. We meet Tuesdays from 3-6 at Family Tree. Age 13-24. I will drop a flier! We have some case management and are in partnership with Avenues for Youth.

We Push for Peace:

What are you guys doing to reach these young folks in these communities.

Lindsey Hoskins:

Our group is called Freeing Ourselves and is financially supported in part by DOCCR.

Malaika Eban:

Feels like this same framework of access (open doors, any youth should be able to access) should apply to any program that Hennepin County contracts with (be it the county attorney or DOCCR of human services). So restorative circles, equine therapy, YCC, whatever. Youth and families have a menu of options for support without having law enforcement or county attorney or court involvement.

Josh Terrio:

Feel free to reach out if you'd like to talk more about YCC. [jterrio@thelinkmn.org](mailto:jterrio@thelinkmn.org) 612-432-9049

Morgan Kunz, HCAO:

Please reach out to me with questions and feedback on the proposal for expanding pathways into the YCC to include pretrial referrals. [morgan.kunz@hennepin.us](mailto:morgan.kunz@hennepin.us)

Christa Mims:

[Christa.Mims@Hennepin.us](mailto:Christa.Mims@Hennepin.us)

Sierra Leone Samuels:

The PowerPoint that was presented by Morgan Kunz regarding YCC will be shared on the YJC website.

Christa Mims:

Education Support Services Department in Hennepin County

Lupita:

This is a 2-hour meeting. There's only about 30 min left. It was mentioned in the beginning that the Link hosted a viewing party to get young people to attend the meeting. They're HERE and not once have they been truly acknowledged, or asked for their input on anything 😞

Malaika Eban:

How many justice-system involved youth are currently utilizing this service? Are you receiving referrals from the various departments who are a part of the youth justice council?

Lindsey Hoskins:

Lots of barriers for LGBTQ kids and school attendance!

Malaika Eban:

@Christa do you have data re: my question above?

Sierra Leone Samuels:

[be.at.school@hennepin.us](mailto:be.at.school@hennepin.us) | 612-348-6041

Christa Mims:

@Malaika, yes, we received referrals from justice partners and stakeholders outside the YJC. The justice numbers account for about 10% of referrals, but that is likely an underestimate because we may receive a referral from a different service area even if the youth have justice involvement.

Stacey G. Collier YMCA:

YMCA Youth and Family Services offers no barrier services to youth 12-25 with 1:1 mentoring, group services and emergency needs (housing, supplies). Inquirer or self-referral at [Youth.Referrals@ymcamn.org](mailto:Youth.Referrals@ymcamn.org) or call our Youth Resource Line at 763-493-3052. We also can collaborate

with other agencies with providing some financial support to youth on a need's basis, even if they are not enrolled in our Y programming.

Sierra Leone Samuels:

The PowerPoint that was presented by Amanda Harrington regarding the be @school program will be shared on the YJC website.

The Link:

2100 Emerson Ave N Kwanzaa

Raj:

let us not come here to offer help .... but come here knowing our liberations are bound together ... LW

Sierra Leone Samuels:

You can also add any questions/suggestions/ideas on this online form:

<https://forms.office.com/g/LZudEx0tmd>