

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

Youth Justice Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2022

Time: 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Location: Virtual

Minutes

Grounding Statement

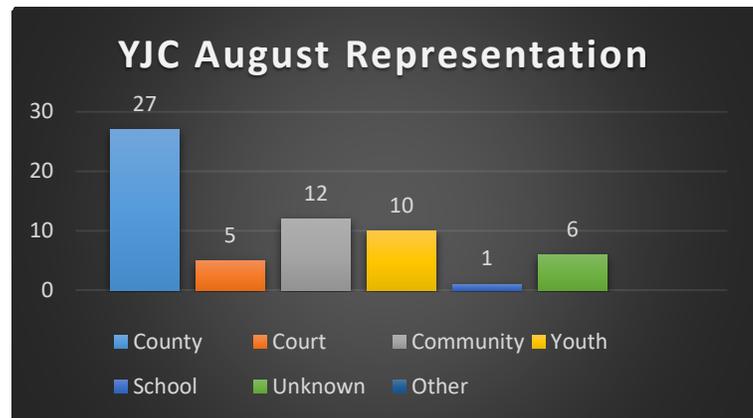
We commit to treating youth and their families as **experts** of the juvenile justice system by doing the following:

- Create space for open and respectful dialogue in an effort to collaborate and work towards systematic changes.
- Engage and empower youth to ensure they have what they need to feel safe, valued, and heard.
- Find value in disagreements, conflict, and the time needed for reconciliation and healing.
- Commit to challenge our own assumptions and be open to others' ideas.

Work collaboratively with community to develop the evolving YJC priorities, be transparent and provide clear information.

Henn County Attorney's Office (HCAO) Data Presentation

HCAO presented a PowerPoint on data around crime within the county and discussed the current trends. The data presented are only those cases referred to the HCAO from law enforcement. This data does not include all arrests or contacts that law enforcement may have in the community. The data includes ages 17 and younger. There has been a drastic reduction in referrals to the HCAO over the years, since 2005. Reviewed the HCAO dashboard, which is available to the public ([Data dashboard | Hennepin County \(hennepinattorney.org\)](https://www.hennepinattorney.org)) and how to utilize the dashboard to research various data points. Referrals to the HCAO are down, however the cases that are being referred are violent cases, which has increased. HCAO did not start tracking carjackings until 2019. There has been a decrease in misdemeanors and domestic cases. The Minneapolis Police Department crime dashboard was shared, ([Crime Dashboard - City of Minneapolis \(minneapolis.gov\)](https://www.minneapolis.gov)), which is also available to the public. The Minneapolis dashboard does not breakdown whether it's a juvenile or adult committing the offense. Also shared was the statewide



Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) Crime report link: [News Releases - BCA Releases 2021 Uniform Crime Report \(mn.gov\)](#). [Minnesota Crime Data Explorer \(mn.gov\)](#), which covers statewide crime, as well as crime per each county in Minnesota. There is no Minnesota statute for carjackings, which is why it is a sub-category under robbery. Request to make it clear on the PowerPoint to add the sub-categories. Why are we tracking carjackings and there is no statute? HCAO is tracking due to the increase and the community asking for something to be done. How is the data being used to provide resources for youth/young adults charged with crimes? HCAO is using the data to determine what areas need the most focus and then trying to figure the root cause of this increase in certain areas, which can be challenging. Data helps to advocate for services for victims, it also helps to solve the issue of a particular increase in crime. Also looking at the decrease in particular crimes and figuring out why there is a decrease, such as is it due to diversion, or are there other things that are helping to decrease that particular crime. One hypothesis is law enforcement focusing more on serious crimes. Law enforcement resources are limited which can lead to an increase in violent crimes and a decrease in less serious crimes.

Workplan Updates

Courts

Risk Assessment Instrument is used at the juvenile detention center (JDC) to assess whether a youth should be detained in JDC depending on their score. If a youth is detained, then they are brought before a judge in a detention hearing. The courts use a separate Courtroom Risk Assessment Instrument (CRAI) to ensure they are not creating disparities and are using an objective criterion. Periodically they re-validate the CRAI tool. The courts are in the re-validation process of the CRAI and will adjust the tool as needed per the outcomes of the re-validation. A PowerPoint presentation was shared regarding the CRAI that is used in the courts. The CRAI helps to determine if a youth is at risk of pretrial failures. There are benefits to the CRAI, such as eliminates factors not related to pretrial failure that should not be considered, checked for racial/gender bias, reduces "gut" and "instinct" stereotypes/personal biases, there are components of best practices, and helps to analyze policies and practices for ongoing reassessment. CRAI is the second of two risk assessment instruments used related to secure detention. The risk assessment tools are not used for probation violation or warrants. CRAI is used for alleged new offenses during their first court appearance, which is a detention hearing. The JDC RAI and CRAI are very similar. Things included on the RAI include current charges, first delinquency under the age of 16, number of past warrants for failure to appear in court, number and type of prior delinquencies, and number and type of pending delinquency charges. The total score determines whether a youth will be released or detained in the JDC. Adjudication is a finding by a court that the juvenile has committed an offense. Stay Adjudication is when there will be no conviction for the offense and the charge will ultimately be dismissed if the terms of the stay are met. Went over the points system and how the CRAI is scored. The most serious felony offenses (murder, assaults 1, 2, 3, domestic, etc....) are scored higher and majority of the time a youth is required to be detained at the JDC. There is judicial discretion when it comes to the scores of the CRAI, which was shared on the PowerPoint presentation. The presentation also shared some CRAI stats from 2017 to 2021 regarding judicial departures, and scores. Discussed the importance of revalidation of the CRAI tool. Last revalidation was done in 2013. Currently finishing the revalidation for 2022 and went over certain questions they are looking to answer during the revalidation.

Is MNCIS (Minnesota Courts Information System) and BCA (Bureau of Criminal Apprehension) data used? The courts have decided not to use BCA data and use the data provided by MNCIS. There has been no conversation to use BCA data. The fourth judicial courts prefer to use MNCIS data, due to the disparities at the arrest decision, which the BCA data is arrest data.

Is there data that captures LGBTQ+ or sexually exploited youth? Courts do not collect gender or sexual orientation data in court cases. A survey was done a few years ago regarding LGBTQ+ youth in the system and Judge Kappelhoff will find the results of the survey and have it shared on the YJC website.

Does the CRAI account for why the young person committed the crime? It does not, however the court probation officer does collect some additional information that the CRAI and JDC RAI does not capture, such as school attendance, employment, which is shared in court.

Is data collected regarding outcomes of the detention hearing overrides around if they are continued to be held or released and is there a demographic background? JDC admission will show overrides and it can follow the course of the young person, as well as the breakdown by race and gender.

Discussion around the data and the frustration that data does not capture the true story of our young people such as their needs, well-being, and just trying to survive in society. Barriers are caused by stay adjudication on a young person's record such as education, employment, and housing, which causes them to fail background studies. What is the goal of the CRAI, how is the data used from the CRAI?

A GIFT (Gaining Independence for Females in Transition) calendar was used for women charged for prostitution in the adult system, which had a team of social workers, mental health services and other areas of support that would advocate for the women and provide support for them. Could this be replicated in the juvenile courts? Juvenile is working on a similar wrap around service in juvenile probation but hoping to expand it further. The justice system has decriminalized sex trafficking and treating young people and adults as victims instead of criminals. However, many of our young people are victims of other crimes and those young people need services as well. Need to ask the question of why and find the resources to address the whys.

Public Defender

Certifications are when a youth is being charged as an adult and are the most serious cases. The Public Defender's office will fight to not have a young person certified and, in many cases, can have the young person put on Extended Jurisdiction Juvenile (EJJ). Many youths may be charged in another county but live in Hennepin County, so the case may be transferred to Hennepin County. The Public Defender's office wanted to ensure that throughout the state these particular cases are done in the same way manner, such as asking the same questions and using similar assessment tools, as well as opening the line of communications between counties, educating attorneys how trauma and brain development also impacts a young person's thought process. The Hennepin County Public Defender's office did a statewide training for attorneys around EJJ and Certification cases with the goal being to create an improved communication system throughout the state.

They are also working on restitution issues, reviewing the laws and having law clerks assist attorneys on restitution hearings advocating for the young person's ability to pay a certain amount of restitution.

Was community engaged in any of these efforts with the training? Community was not included in the training. There is strong encouragement to engage the community more in the work that the county does due to the fact that community are the experts when it comes to certain issues such as trauma.

Juvenile Probation

Juvenile probation is working on wrap around services for young people and their families. There is a LGBTQ+ drop-in center with Family Tree Clinic and Better Together for youth 14-24, which is anonymous. Established a contract with the Family Enhancement Center to do a Drumbeat program for young men, an experimental program for young men. They have also added art therapy. FamilyWise is providing parenting support for young people that are parents. For 18-24 yrs. old clients there is also a parenting programming. Juvenile probation has a partnership with the Hennepin County libraries to provide young people with stipends for education and employment. Currently working on GED credit recovery

programming and working with the city of Minneapolis's to expand the group violence support and outreach for youth, also looking at enhancing the support for young people before they are on probation. Juvenile probation is currently engaged with two providers to look at violent mitigation. Two contracts will work with clients of DOCCR and their families and victims providing support for employment, mentorship, crisis interventions. Juvenile probation also has three new alternatives to out of home placement contracts that look focus on the whole being of the youth taking a holistic approach in their programming and services.

Hennepin County is working with the community and reducing a lot of the red tape that may cause barriers for community organizations when it comes to submitting RFPs and reports.

Are any of the programming identified alternatives to detention? We are expanding contract languages so a young person can receive services before being put on juvenile probation. This is also true for adults that may have a child that have needs, so the whole family can receive services. However, the programs mentioned are not alternatives to detention at this time. It was strongly encouraged by stakeholders/community the need to continue to focus on alternatives to detention, as well as continue to focus on barriers that juvenile records may cause a young person.

Community Forum

Jose R. Perez, from BridgeMakers, gave an update on redesigning middle school to end the school to prison pipeline. They are amplifying the voice of young people in redesigning middle school, working with 10 young people with lived experiences with the juvenile justice system and middle school experience. There is a need for more resources in middle school to decrease the number of youths entering the juvenile justice system. BridgeMakers encourage juvenile justice leaders to join them in providing student center learning to more middle schoolers at risk of entering the juvenile justice system. They are currently looking for youth between the ages 11-14 who are struggling in middle school to engage in student center learning to reduce the risk of them entering the juvenile justice system. BridgeMakers would like the systems to adopt student center learning as a key prevention strategy. They are also letting the young people know that the schools failed them, they didn't fail. One project they are currently working on is a documentary to show the work they are doing with the young people. BridgeMakers would like to have one of their young people present at the next YJC meeting to share the data the have collected as well as the work they have done so far. BridgeMakers is youth centered and youth voice.

Highlights from the Chat:

Elijah Norris-Holliday, Ramsey County YJT to Everyone:

There is no MN statute for carjacking.

Kristy Snyder to Everyone:

But in tracking it, does it not give special credence to the fear?

This is such great data!!

Elijah Norris-Holliday, Ramsey County YJT to Everyone:

Attitude of LE [law enforcement] shifting toward focusing on more serious level offenses, and not moving forward with formal referrals?

Malaika Eban (she/her) to Everyone:

Agreed Tom - The data on what's working is also very helpful. Feels like it would be helpful to dig into while we are trying to solve the current problem

Kristy Snyder to Everyone:

Also would be helpful to layer this data with disconnection data.

Elijah Norris-Holliday, Ramsey County YJT to Everyone:

What databases are you all using to collect the prior, adjudication, and charging data to input into the CRAI/RAI? Can you disaggregate this data by Race/Ethnicity?

Raj he/they to Everyone:

the crowd applauds our unbiased court system --- way to go judges -- not

Matthew Johnson to Everyone:

for the children who were in the evaluation sample: 67% Black or African American, 10% Hispanic/Latinx, 7% Multiracial, 4% Native American, 2% some other race, 1%Asian; 9% White. I believe Hennepin County DOCCR uses data integrated from the Court's data system to determine prior adjudications

Elijah Norris-Holliday, Ramsey County YJT to Everyone:

Thanks, Matthew. It would be helpful always to disaggregate this data by race/ethnicity when possible to offer the complete picture of the evident disparities we have for Black/Indigenous youth impacted by the criminal justice system.

David Starks to Everyone:

To CeMarr's point, I would be concerned about the rise in CRAI (Court Risk Assessment Instrument) scores from a trafficked youth based upon them missing previous court dates. The same goes for some LGBTQ youth who have been cast out from their family

CeMarr Peterson to Everyone:

Yes David - exactly why I was asking. If judges can move away from these assessments (upward/downward,) are they taking into account those types of considerations?

David Starks to Everyone:

It says that we are not providing the same support to the youth displaying symptoms of all the traumas Dr. Raj mentioned that youth in Eden Prairie receive when they display symptoms of the same

LATONYA REEVES to Everyone:

REHABILITATION NEEDS TO BE PARAMOUNT

CeMarr Peterson, The Link to Everyone:

So many kids get stuck in certain Juvenile settings because there aren't other options. The gaps in Mental Health services are immense.

LATONYA REEVES to Everyone:

MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS AND STIGMATIZATION IN THE COMMUNITY. WE NEED TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT SHOULD NOT BE IN CUSTODY JUST FOR THE SAKE OF HOLDING THEM, WHICH IS THE GOAL THAT SYSTEMS ARE WORKING TOWARDS. GAINING INDEPENDENCE FOR FEMALES IN TRANSITION

Malaika Eban (she/her) to Everyone:

We should be applying that same approach of decriminalizing to youth broadly.

LATONYA REEVES to Everyone:

RISK GIVES A PLACE TO START, BUT WELLBEING, CIRCUMSTANCES ETC NEED TO BE CONSIDERED. GLAD TO HEAR WE ARE APPRECIATING THE EXPERTISE OF COMMUNITY WHILE BALANCING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS

Malaika Eban (she/her) to Everyone:

If community members want to connect/work with youth at the JDC, what's the process?

Lisa - There have been folks from the National Center for Youth Law who are interested in work around juvenile fines and fees and restitution in MN. If the public defenders are interested in collaborating or sharing the research you've been doing on restitution, it would be really great. My email is meban@legalrightscenter.org if anyone else wants to join in on that work

Josh Terrio to Everyone:

The Link's Youth Connection Center has acted as a detention alternative and we have been working closely, again, with Henn Co to expand service and make sure we are able to serve as many youth as possible without physically entering into our space through a LE [law enforcement] encounter

Alyssa Benson to Everyone:

Please email me with any questions about programming Alyssa.benson@hennepin.us

Josh Terrio to Everyone:

My mic is not working for some reason but I am happy to take any all questions about the work done at YCC and our ability to serve young people! Please reach out: jterrio@thelinknkmn.org

LaToya Wilson to Everyone:

Thank you Jose . . I love when you're here with lived experience and positive change impacting our youth. Congrats on your progress since the last meeting!

Josh Terrio to Everyone:

Jose, can you please share your contact info?

Jose R. Perez to Everyone:

My number: (651) 432-7116 / Email: Jose@bridgemakersmn.org / <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jose-r-perez-49a3b91a9/>

CeMarr Peterson, The Link to Everyone:

We learn so much from youth - lean into them more!!!!!!!!!!!!