

# Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 8, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Madison, WI

Chairperson: Commissioner Jennifer Ginsburg

Commission	Commissioner Jennifer Ginsburg, Commissioner Sam Benedict,
Members Present:	Commissioner Ben Gonring, Commissioner Edjron Pearson, Commissioner Sharlen Moore, Commissioner Kevin Carr, Commissioner Shelby McCulley, Commissioner Dorinthia Robinson, Commissioner Melinda Tempelis, Commissioner Tweed Shuman, Commissioner Revelle Warren, Commissioner Sean Wilson
Members Not Present:	Commissioner Marcus Williams, Commissioner – DCF Youth Leadership Team Member, Commissioner Charles Tubbs, Sr., Commissioner – DCF Youth Leadership Team Member, Commissioner Charles Greer, Commissioner Carl Ashley
DOJ Staff:	Katie Hawkins, Sabrina Gentile, Lara Kenny, Kiley Komro
Commissioner Designee:	Ron Hermes

### Chair's Update and Commissioner Updates

Chair Jennifer Ginsburg welcomed commissioners to the meeting and asked them to introduce themselves and provide any updates they may have. Roll call was confirmed with introductions and updates. Quorum was present.

Commissioner Ben Gonring reported the Supreme Court hearing on the petition regulating the use of restraints on children in juvenile court is one week from today on February 15.

Commissioners Kevin Carr and Ron Hermes reported the 12<sup>th</sup> Monitor's Report was released on February 2, 2022. The report covered the Monitor's latest visit on January 13-14 and included interviews with 39 youth and 27 staff members at LHS/CLS. The interviews revealed continued improvement, overall positive atmosphere at the schools, and positive body language and tone among both staff and youth.

Commissioners followed up with questions regarding the report and the populations at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools.

Commissioner Shelby McCulley reported the Department of Children and Families has posted the 2021 – 2022 [Innovation Grants' Summaries](#). In Fall 2021, 16 grants were awarded: 10 initial grants to start or enhance a program or practice and 6 continuation grants to continue

implementation of a program or practice started in 2020. Youth Innovation grants funding comes from underspending in the Youth Aids Program.

Commissioner McCulley reported the Youth Assessment Screening and Instrument (YASI) training is nearing completion for the final group of counties. All counties have now had some training with the YASI.

Commissioner Revelle Warren reported the Governor will deliver his State of the State on February 15, 2022.

Commissioner Edjron Pearson reported on his agency and recent challenges with staffing, recruitment, and COVID-19.

Commissioner Sharlen Moore reported on her agency, recent staffing challenges, and attendance at the upcoming legislative committee meeting on [SB 520](#) relating to a new juvenile correctional facility in Milwaukee County.

Chair Ginsburg requested a motion to approve the November 9, 2021, GJJ Meeting Minutes.

#### **Motion to Approve November 9, 2021, GJJ Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made by Commissioner Gonring and seconded by Commissioner McCulley to approve the November 9, 2021, GJJ Quarterly Meeting Minutes.

Motion approved.

The vote was: 11 Ayes, 0 No

#### **Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Updates**

Lara Kenny reported she has hired Paul Mergendahl as a Limited Term Employee (LTE) Compliance Monitor to help with the juvenile justice compliance monitoring facility audits. Mergendahl will start at DOJ next week. Mergendahl was the Superintendent of the Marathon County Juvenile Detention Center and recently retired.

Kiley Komro thanked the GJJ for sharing the Juvenile Justice Positive Youth Development: Mentoring Programs funding announcement. Komro reported DOJ Staff are reviewing applications and hope to make awards soon. If all funding is awarded before the February 18, 2022, application deadline, the funding announcement will be removed from the DOJ Grants webpage.

Komro reported DOJ Staff are planning a Juvenile Justice School-Based Restorative Justice Program funding announcement. Komro will share the funding announcement when it is posted to the DOJ Grants webpage.

Komro reported there is a non-government member vacancy and youth vacancy on the GJJC. Komro encouraged members to let others know there are vacancies and encourage them to apply via the Governor's [website](#).

Komro announced that the official commission membership and subcommittee membership list was sent out prior to the meeting. Komro reminds all commissioners to please contact her with their preference for subcommittee assignment if not already on the list.

## **Subcommittee Sharing**

**Ethnic and Racial Disparities Subcommittee** – Commissioner Moore reported the Ethnic and Racial Disparities Subcommittee is in the planning stages for 2022 and did not have a report for today's meeting. The next subcommittee meeting is March 2, 2022.

**Policy, Legislation and Compliance Subcommittee** – Commissioner Benedict reported the Policy, Legislation and Compliance Subcommittee discussed the Wisconsin Supreme Court hearing regarding the petition to end the practice of shackling children in juvenile court and a letter of support for companion bills, Assembly Bill 856 and Senate Bill 862.

### **Wisconsin Supreme Court Hearing**

Commissioner Benedict and Chair Ginsburg are registered to testify at the hearing representing the GJJC. The hearing is February 15, 2022, and each person testifying has five minutes to address the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Chair Ginsburg shared her talking points explaining the GJJC, her agency role, and highlighting the importance of considering children and youth's trauma in the decision around indiscriminate shackling.

Commissioner Benedict shared his talking points explaining his extensive background and expertise in juvenile justice and addressing the Supreme Court on the merits of the petition and summarize the GJJC's support.

The commissioners invited and received feedback on their talking points to better represent the views of the GJJC.

### **Letter of Support for Assembly Bill 856 and Senate Bill 862**

Commissioner Benedict reported the subcommittee discussed companion bills, Assembly Bill 856 and Senate Bill 862, relating to sentencing for crimes committed by a person who is under the age of 18. The proposed legislation takes up policies the GJJC recommended to incorporate into the 2020 Legislative Interim Research Report on Criminal Sentencing of Juvenile Offenders. The Subcommittee drafted a letter to the Wisconsin Legislature to reiterate the GJJC's support for the recommendations as it relates to the bills.

The Commission reviewed the letter and thanked Commissioner Benedict for his work on the letter.

Chair Ginsburg requested a motion to approve the GJC letter to the Wisconsin Legislature supporting Assembly Bill 856 and Senate Bill 862.

**Motion to Approve GJC Letter to the Wisconsin Legislature supporting Assembly Bill 856 and Senate Bill 862**

Motion was made by Commissioner Kevin Carr and seconded by Commissioner Warren to approve the letter in support of Assembly Bill 856 and Senate Bill 862, relating to sentencing for crimes committed by a person who is under the age of 18.

Motion approved.

The vote was: 11 Ayes, 0 No

**Title II Subgrant Presentations**

Jefferson County: Diversionary Programming to Address Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)

Jessica Godek

Jessica Godek used a PowerPoint to report on the Restorative Practices in the Schools to Address Disproportionate Minority Contact grant program that was funded with Title II grant funds. The Restorative Circles program brings together all individuals impacted by the harmful action to discuss the impact on each individual and decide an appropriate solution or restorative response. The goal is to promote healing and provide a satisfying experience for all involved while addressing harmful behaviors, drawing on strengths and increasing competencies.

Wisconsin Juvenile Court Intake Association (WJCIA): Youth Justice Training

Kris Fleming and Barbara Holt

Kris Fleming and Barbara Holt used a PowerPoint to report on the WJCIA Youth Justice Training Program that was funded with Title II grant funds. The program funded Aggression Replacement Training (ART), purchased Carey Guides and Brief Intervention Tools (BITS), 4 Core Competencies Training, 10 Steps to Reduction Training and Kevin Rathburn Trainings. WJCIA had to restructure their trainings because of the pandemic but in the end, all trainings goals were achieved.

**Public Comment**

There were public comments and agency partner updates.

**Adjourn and Wrap Up**

Chair Ginsburg thanked members for their time.

### **GJJC 2022 Meeting Dates**

- May 10, 2022 (2nd Tuesday of the month)
- August 9, 2022 (2nd Tuesday of the month)
- Nov 15, 2022 (3rd Tuesday of the month because 2nd Tuesday is Election Day for Governor, Legislature, etc.)

Chair Ginsburg requested a motion to adjourn.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Motion was made by Commissioner Benedict and seconded by Commissioner Pearson to adjourn.

Motion approved.

The vote was: 11 Ayes, 0 No