

# Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission

## Ethnic and Racial Disparities Subcommittee

### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting

Subcommittee Chair: Commissioner Sharlen Moore

Subcommittee Members Present:	Amandla Daniels, Melissa Graham, Commissioner Edjron Pearson, Commissioner Sharlen Moore, Commissioner Dorinthia Robinson, Commissioner JP Rotatori, Brandon Gross
Subcommittee Members Not Present:	Commissioner Jennifer Ginsburg, Kyle Peaden, Commissioner Charles Greer, Commissioner Tweed Shuman, Aaron Schutz, Wendy Volz Daniels
Wisconsin DOJ Staff:	Sabrina Gentile, Kiley Komro, Lara Kenny, Kerry Fanning, Matt Allord

#### Convene

The Ethnic and Racial Disparities (ERD) Subcommittee convened at 10:00 a.m.

#### Chair's Welcome and Roll Call

Commissioner Sharlen Moore welcomed members to the meeting. Quorum was not present.

#### DOJ Updates

Kiley Komro reported the Youth Voice Commission (YVC) has been created for young people to learn, raise their voice, and effect change on the local, state, and national juvenile justice system. Young people between the ages of 14-28, especially if they have had experience within the juvenile justice system, and they are interested in making their voice heard, are invited to join the Youth Voice Commission.

The YVC held their first meeting on February 22, 2023. The Youth Voice Commission will meet virtually on the last Wednesday of every month from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Komro has created a page on the GJJC website and encouraged members to share the page to youth that may be interested in joining the YVC.

Matt Allord reported JJCPA compliance visits are just about finished, and compliance monitors are now working on the written audit reports.

Allord reported there is a vacant limited term employee compliance monitor position. Allord has a position description to share for more information.

## **Business**

### **ERD Decisionmaker Racial and Ethnic Disparities Education Project Work Plan**

Commissioner JP Rotatori provided research on diversion focused on mental health and disproportionate minority contact (DMC). There is a need for attention on youth's mental health. 65% to 75% of youth in the justice system have at least one mental health challenge. Rotatori reported on the state of Ohio's program that focuses on behavioral health and mental health services for youth improved youth wellness.

The Ohio program showed that diversion, both formal and informal, can be useful for reducing disparities later in the system.

Rotatori added Wisconsin could benefit from a study of formal and informal diversion. Rotatori responded to clarifying questions from Moore and subcommittee member Melissa Graham.

The subcommittee discussed diversion in Wisconsin in greater detail.

Subcommittee member Brandon Gross reported in January 2021, *Bridgeways for Youth*, was successfully implemented in Door County. This is a voluntary youth diversion program that allows youth the opportunity to participate in short-term case management and educational programs as an alternative to receiving citations. Referrals to *Bridgeways for Youth* come from law enforcement under predetermined offenses. If a youth does not complete their program, then the original charge(s) are submitted to Youth Justice. The Door County Sheriff and District Attorney led the creation and implementation of the program. Gross stated there is a policy that he can share upon request. The policy was kept as simple as possible to ensure law enforcement could easily follow in the field.

Gross agreed to request his county leadership share more information about the program design, planning, and implementation process. Allord asked if Gross would be willing to share the agreement and/or policies of the program.

Allord reported that he learned of a diversion program in Hawaii at the OJJDP Conference in December 2022. Allord will contact the presenter for more information.

Commissioner Moore announced there was a quorum and asked for a motion to approve the January 11, 2023, meeting minutes.

### **Motion to Approve January 11, 2023, ERD Subcommittee Minutes**

Motion was made by Subcommittee member Brandon Gross and seconded by Commissioner Edjron Pearson to approve the January 11, 2023, ERD Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

Motion approved.

The vote was: 7 Ayes, 0 No

### **ERD Decisionmaker Racial and Ethnic Disparities Education Project Work Plan continued**

Komro reviewed the motion to focus education efforts on the importance of diversion programming options that was passed at the January 11, 2023, meeting. Komro suggested the subcommittee should discuss the audience and format of the program.

Subcommittee members discussed two core options for educating decisionmakers on the options and benefits of increasing the use of diversion in the juvenile justice system. Graham and Rotatori emphasized the challenges with bringing prosecutors on board with diversion and supported pursuing legislative change.

Gross and DOJ staff Lara Kenny proposed introducing Door County as a model program and sharing that success story with other counties. For example, the subcommittee could host a webinar between Door County and other counties' juvenile justice professionals to share their collaborative design and implementation process. Kenny emphasized that sharing one successful program with the support of law enforcement, human services, prosecutors, and defense attorneys could get more people interested in the program.

Gross, Moore, and DOJ staff will collaborate to bring folks together to plan an educational activity to share Door County's program.

DOJ Staff Kerrie Fanning confirmed that legislative change and law enforcement education are parallel goals. The educational activity will get stakeholders on board and provide evidence of need and appetite for juvenile deflection.

### **Title II Three – Year Plan Goals and Objectives**

Komro and Commissioner Moore summarized the Racial and Ethnic Disparities Three-Year Plan and the process for submission to OJJDP. Wisconsin is in the third year of the three-year plan. Wisconsin can choose to submit the current plan with no revisions and then make changes to the plan at the start of the next three-year plan.

### **Federal Office of Management and Budget, (OMB) Race and Ethnicity Statistical Standards**

Komro announced that the OMB has proposed updates to the federal race and ethnicity statistical standards. These proposed changes may impact data collection and analysis for the Title II Racial and Ethnicity Disparity Reduction Plan. Subcommittee members are invited to submit written public comments or attend the working group sessions. Written public comment is due April 12, 2023.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**GJJC Virtual Meeting**

- Tuesday, May 9, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**GJJC ERD Subcommittee Virtual Meetings:**

- April 12, 2023, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
- May 10, 2023, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
- June 14, 2023, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
- September 13, 2023, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
- October 11, 2023, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Commissioner Moore thanked subcommittee members for their time and participation.

**Adjourn**