

Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission

Ethnic and Racial Disparities Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

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

Subcommittee Chair: Commissioner Sharlen Moore

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

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 that several mentoring grants recently closed. Grantees will submit their final reports by April 30. After that closeout period, more details regarding the programs will be shared by DOJ staff or the recipients themselves. Komro announced that there is currently one open grant opportunity, Compliance System Improvements, which closes on 4/28/23. The total amount of available funding is \$145,286 and eligible agencies are those who run secure facilities in Wisconsin. The grant focuses on policy and procedure updates and improvements, with the goal of more closely aligning with JJDP core requirements and best practices as it relates to holding juveniles in a secure setting.

Matt Allord reported JJDP compliance visits are finished, with a few site follow-ups being completed. Final audit reports will be distributed to facilities within the next several weeks. After that, DOJ will gather final data to report to OJJDP, the GJC and its subcommittees. Once final reports are distributed, compliance staff will provide technical assistance and training via direct contact with facilities and by attending various conferences and training events. Staff will also improve DOJ compliance manual, forms, and JJDP policy and procedures.

Allord reported that DOJ is currently recruiting for a vacant LTE Compliance Monitor position. Anyone who is available to work in this position should reach out to Matt Allord for more

information. The position would cover Central and Northern Wisconsin site audits and would be part-time. An anticipated start date of the end of Summer 2023 would work best for training and participation in the upcoming compliance season. Ideally, a candidate would live in Northern Wisconsin, making them closer to the assigned audit locations.

Lara Kenny announced that long time DOJ staff person Katie Hawkins will be moving to a new position outside of the Department. Her final day with DOJ will be 4/21/23. Hawkins has extensive experience working with juvenile justice grants and her knowledge will be missed. As it relates to GJJC and juvenile justice work, this may impact grant distribution timelines and limit the ability of DOJ staff to expand into new projects, until her position is filled.

Commissioner Sharlen Moore requested that information regarding grant announcements and open positions be emailed out to the subcommittee for members to share with others.

Business

Quorum was present.

Motion to Approve March 8,2023 ERD Subcommittee Minutes

Motion was made by Subcommittee member Charles Greer and seconded by Commissioner Edjron Pearson to approve the March 8, 2023, ERD Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

Motion approved.

The vote was: 6 Ayes, 0 No

Deflection and Diversion Program Discussion and Presentation

DOJ Opioid Program Improvement Specialist Brad Kelly participated in the meeting as a guest speaker, focusing on deflection programs within the State of Wisconsin.

Kelly outlined what diversion means, as it relates to the justice system, noting that a person typically commits an offense and is then offered and off-ramp; if they complete programming or meet a set of goals, they avoid further involvement or adverse action via the legal system (criminal charges, formal conviction, incarceration, etc.).

Deflection focuses on pushing a person away from criminal justice system involvement, in any capacity. This would be without arrest and with a focus on prevention and support via targeted services.

Kelly outlined six pathways to deflection:

Self-referral – an individual voluntarily initiates contact with a first responder agency for a referral to treatment or services. If the contact is initiated with a law enforcement agency, the individual makes contact without fear of arrest.

Active Outreach – a first responder intentionally identifies or seeks out individuals with substance use issues and refers them to or engages them in treatment and services. This is often done with a team consisting of behavior health professionals and/or those with lived experience.

Naloxone Plus – A first responder and program partner (often a behavioral health professional or peer with lived experience) conduct outreach specifically to individuals who have recently experienced an opioid overdose to engage them in and provide linkages to treatment and services.

First Responder and Officer Referral – As a preventative approach, during routine activities such as patrol or response to a service call, a first responder engages individuals and provides a referral to treatment, services, or to a case manager. (Note: if law enforcement is the first responder, no charges are filed, or arrests made.)

Officer Intervention – a law enforcement route only, during routine activities such as patrol or response, where charges would otherwise be filed, law enforcement provides a referral to treatment, services, or to a case manager and issues a non-criminal citation to report to a program. Charges are held in abeyance until treatment and/or a social service plan is completed.

Community Response - In response to a call for service, a team comprising of community-based behavioral health professionals (e.g., crisis workers, clinicians, peer specialists, etc.), and/or other credible messengers—individuals with lived experience—sometimes in partnership with medical professionals, engages individuals to help de-escalate crises, mediate low-level conflicts, or address quality of life issues by providing a referral to treatment, services, or to a case manager.

Kelly and subcommittee members discussed existing programs in the State of Wisconsin and how a similar model could benefit local youth. It was discussed that Door County has an existing program focused on adult and juvenile deflection with an emphasis on marijuana prevention and education.

Charles Greer inquired if formal training is provided for participants in the Officer Intervention pathway. Kelly detailed that initial training for officers may include information on substance use and abuse. Each site has unique program models and training plans. Law enforcement buy-in can be a challenge, one program with success in that area is in Superior, where the deflection program is led by the police department and includes community response staff to attend services calls with the officers. Other programs have had success with their program based on assigned staff going out and finding people for services, as opposed to waiting for a call. Other programs utilize emergency response calls

and isolate the call for key terms such as “overdose” or “nodding off” and concentrate response and offers of service to those individuals.

Sharlen Moore thanked Brad Kelly for the information and the clarification between diversion and deflection. Moore asked Kelly to describe what research or indicators are available to show program efficacy. Kelly noted that deflection programs are on the cutting edge having been developed within about the last 7 years, so research is currently limited. There is some data available via MAARI (Madison Area Addiction Recovery Initiative) that supports positive outcomes. Currently, within DOJ BJIA, there are designated staff working to study the impacts of current Wisconsin deflection programs.

Matt Allord discussed that while this area of research and terminology may be new, many of the core pieces of deflection, in the juvenile and criminal justice field, have existed for longer. There are established best practices for support programs that focus on building internal motivation to complete treatment, avoiding mandatory programming, providing family support, etc.

Brad Kelly also noted that there are current eligibility requirements for programs such as low-risk and non-violent offenses. Local district attorneys typically participate in these conversations to approve criteria.

Sharlen Moore asked how this might fit or be rolled out in larger counties, such as Milwaukee. Brad Kelly suggested focusing on one of the pathways that seems like a good fit for that community. He emphasized that the deflection field includes many strategies and practices but needs to be tailored to what works in the community, what everyone is agreeable to, and what is focused enough to yield results.

Kiley Komro requested feedback from the subcommittee about existing barriers to deflection-type programs that may need to be addressed if implemented in the juvenile justice system.

Charles Greer and Sharlen Moore both responded that service eligibility is a common barrier. Often organizations are approved and funded to work with one member of a family unit, but not the entire family. It would be beneficial to open options to all members of a household, or many individuals contacted who could use services, those involved in the delinquency or juvenile justice system and those outside of it. Brad Kelly suggested that one target population may be those involved in or surrounding law enforcement calls or negative behaviors but not formally charged. He also suggested a strategy that involves educating or making local officials aware of the extent of the problem, by highlighting examples and data, so that there is a committed effort to attempt to fix it.

Kyle Peaden noted that schools may be a great partner who could see some of these risk factors and know youth well, there are many advocates in schools. He offered himself as a resource if connections are needed in the future.

ERD Decisionmaker Diversion Education Project Work Plan

DOJ staff and subcommittee members discussed potential ways forward in working with deflection/diversion initiatives, while incorporating racial and ethnic disparities work.

Commissioners Charles Greer and Edjron Pearson both expressed an interest in hearing from Door County regarding their juvenile deflection program, others in attendance agreed.

Commissioner Dorinthia Robinson noted that if the plan is to how a webinar or presentation, it would be valuable to include resources for finding grant funding opportunities, potential best practices and research related to deflection and juvenile practices.

Subcommittee Chair Sharlen Moore inquired as to the timeline and any due dates with this work, as it relates to the 3-year plan schedule. Kiley Komro noted that in this circumstance, there is not a pressing need to move forward or identify due dates.

Commissioner Charles Greer inquired as to whether Milwaukee County staff and stakeholders would be invited to a webinar. Commissioner Sharlen Moore supported identifying and inviting local contacts, with a present focus on concrete objectives relating to what will be presented. It was also noted that school representatives would benefit from receiving this information.

Three-Year Plan

Kiley Komro reviewed in detail the 2021-2023 Three-Year Plan, identified progress made towards achieving the stated goals, and questions to consider in preparation for the 2024-2026 Three-Year Plan development. DOJ Staff encouraged Subcommittee members to reach out to their local stakeholders to gather input and information on needs in the juvenile justice system. In the future, DOJ staff will work with the GJC to develop strategies for getting input from stakeholders in the State of Wisconsin and will provide updates on those plans at future meetings.

Komro emphasized that Subcommittee members should review these documents and start planning ahead for giving input and suggestions to prepare for any three-year plan edits, updates, or revisions.

Commissioner JP Rotatori inquired about data availability for Hispanic youth. Kiley Komro responded that this is an area that continues to be worked on with DOJ and DCF staff, as collecting data for this population remains a challenge.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Announcements

Commissioner Sharlen Moore requested slides/documents from the deflection presentation given by Brad Kelly be sent out to the subcommittee.

Commissioner JP Rotatori inquired as to what support, services, and programming youth at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools are given. Matt Allord noted that current DJC administration has made supportive programming a point of focus, and some examples of programming at LHS/CLS has included is a music studio/musical resources, welding, garden/agriculture space, and others. Allord noted that transition back to the community and continuation of those services when youth leave LHS/CLS remains a challenge. DJC community supervision staff work with youth to continue positive momentum, and DJC contracts with local providers for services and support, but this area needs to be emphasized as well. Members are encouraged to attend any upcoming GJJC meeting at LHS/CLS to ask this question of DJC administration and also for the opportunity to talk directly with the youth and see the programming in person.

GJJC Virtual Meeting

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

GJJC ERD Subcommittee Virtual Meetings:

- 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

Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Subcommittee member Edjron Pearson and seconded by Commissioner Charles Greer.

Motion approved.

Commissioner Moore thanked subcommittee members for their time and participation.

Adjourn