

Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission

Ethnic and Racial Disparities Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Subcommittee Co-Chairs: Commissioner Edjron Pearson and Commissioner Sharlen Moore

Subcommittee Members Present:	Wendy Volz Daniels, Commissioner Edjron Pearson, Commissioner JP Rotatori, Aaron Schutz, Commissioner Dorinthia Robinson, Melissa Graham, Commissioner Sharlen Moore, Commissioner Kenna Tripple, Commissioner Charles Tubbs, Jr., Kim Jenkins
Subcommittee Members Not Present:	Commissioner Charles Greer, Brandon Gross, Kyle Peaden Muskadee Montano
Other GJC Members Present:	None
Wisconsin DOJ Staff:	Kiley Komro, Kerrie Fanning, Lara Kenny, Matt Allord
Stakeholder Partners	Carlton Frost (DCF)

Convene

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

Chair's Welcome and Roll Call

Commissioner Edjron Pearson welcomed members to the meeting. Quorum was present.

Business

Business items were moved to the front of the agenda due to subcommittee member scheduling obligations.

Commissioner Pearson asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the March 20, 2024, meeting.

Motion to Approve March 20, 2024, ERD Subcommittee Minutes

Motion was made by Subcommittee member Aaron Schutz and seconded by Subcommittee member Melissa Graham to approve the March 20, 2024, ERD Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

Motion approved.

The vote was: 11 Ayes, 0 No

Juvenile Deflection and Diversion Factsheet Final Review

Kiley Komro shared the latest version of the document, including edits in the best practices section that incorporate examples and information provided by subcommittee members.

Commissioners Moore and Tubbs, as well as others, provided thanks for incorporating subcommittee member feedback and noted that the document is informative but also easy to read.

Motion to Approve Juvenile Deflection and Diversion Factsheet for Finalization and Dissemination/GJJC Use

Motion was made by Subcommittee member Charles Tubbs and seconded by Subcommittee member Aaron Schutz to approve Juvenile Deflection and Diversion Factsheet as finalized and for dissemination/GJJC use.

Commissioner Dorinthia Robinson asked a clarifying question. There was no amendment needed to the motion and no other discussion.

Motion approved.

The vote was: 11 Ayes, 0 No

Kiley Komro stated that she will post the finalized document on the GJJC website, share with stakeholders and commissioners.

FY2024 Title II R/ED Reduction Plan

a. Data Review

Kiley Komro presented a PowerPoint presentation reviewing updated racial and ethnic disparities (R/ED) data collected in preparation for the upcoming Title II application.

Commissioner Moore asked a clarifying question regarding data collection capacity for Hispanic/Latina youth, specifically how these youth are represented in the data and potential adjustments to collection.

Kiley Komro and Kerrie Fanning discussed that many Hispanic/Latina youth may be classified as white but could also show up in data as “unknown.” Fanning and Komro discussed that UCR data is organized using federal standards determined by the FBI. In addition, DOJ BJIA is transitioning to WIBRS system, which may impact data capabilities in the future, but at this time there are no set changes in the data. Fanning noted that there are various points where ethnicity data is collected. There are currently some potential changes in collection at the federal level which may expand the types of data collected in this area. Those will be implemented in the future and the FBI may follow these federal level changes. DOJ BJIA is preparing for this change at the federal level in their state level process.

Matt Allord asked a follow up question to Kerrie Fanning about what the changes to federal level data collection will be.

Kerrie Fanning stated that race and ethnicity data will become a combined variable and answer options will be expanded, there will be a potential for respondents to select more than one race/ethnicity.

Commissioner Moore inquired as to whether there was a need or interest in advocating or supporting a specific change or system. Kiley Komro noted that the federal comment period for the data collection changes has closed and at this point they are moving forward. At the federal public comment sections, which DOJ staff attended, a variety of potential concerns were highlighted to federal staff and discussed. At this time, it is not clear if a federal audience or ability to comment remains, in addition to examining what priority areas are for subcommittee work. At this time, there will be continued monitoring of the federal changes and potential impact on state level data.

Subcommittee Member Aaron Schutz inquired/discussed the potential for using local level data to learn more about whether diversion or deflection programming is even available for use, which may explain why certain youth are not offered these opportunities as opposed to discrimination concerns, which may also be present.

Kiley Komro discussed that DOJ and partners are moving closer towards having detailed local level data and this would be helpful and will continue to be explored. Komro emphasized that as subcommittee members discuss R/ED data and deflection/diversion, this would be valuable feedback for members to gather (service gaps at the local level). Matt Allord also discussed that this is data gathered in other formats, via the recent stakeholder survey and conversations with the GJJC and stakeholders about funding priorities.

Subcommittee Member Wendy Volz Daniels inquired as to how often eWiSACWIS data is updated.

DCF staff person Carlton Frost answered this and follow-up questions, noting that eWiSACWIS documents referrals, intake recommendations, deferred prosecution agreements, court outcomes, and supervision elements. Frost discussed the YASI and its connection to risk assessment. Frost noted that it has been discussed that as more low risk youth receive deflection/diversion services, it is possible that the YASI risk scores for the remaining youth, who proceed to petition and formal court involvement, may go up. DCF has not seen this trend of increased assessed risk.

Subcommittee Member Volz Daniels asked about the potential to track more case/youth specific data and outcomes in eWiSACWIS, including whether diversion or deflection was an option for a particular youth and if yes, why the youth was not referred to that programming.

Carlton Frost discussed the future goal of DCF to continue increasing tracked data elements that would speak to new data points. This would include moving towards tracking the goal of

low-risk youth not being recommended for petition, tracking why any low-risk youth may proceed to formal court intervention, who overrides the low-risk decision, etc.

Commissioner JP Rotatori asked a question about the competing dynamics of an intake recommendation to not hold a youth in secure custody, but a contractual or other obligation to hold the youth in secure custody, and how that would be reflected given an intake worker may not have recommended a particular secure hold, but that is the documented result.

Carlton Frost discussed potential case specific ways to document data in this scenario, as well as a continuing interest in exploring expanded or more detailed options for reporting that address these fact-specific scenarios.

Commissioner Moore discussed the potential for goal setting – is there a target number of youth to be served in local jurisdictions that can be tracked and targeted? For example, increasing Milwaukee systems to divert young people.

Carlton Frost summarized the recent Youth Justice Summit with legislators and stakeholders organized by the Council of State Governments. Frost mentioned that one uniform theme across that summit, from all jurisdictions, was a lack of youth serving resources. Frost discussed the potential future emphasis on upstream, preventative services via public health and new approaches. More information will be in the Summit's final report, which may be a basis or resource for GJJC funding priorities or discussion. Frost also discussed DCF's goal to construct a statewide service array, to track what resources are available and where, and identify holes in types of services at the local level. Frost also discussed the goal to emphasize not over-supervising or supervising low risk youth and focusing on those who need intervention the most high-risk youth. This makes sense from a best practices and fiscal standpoint.

Subcommittee Member Aaron Schutz discussed the DRAI tool and the support, research review, and history of it, including some concerns.

Carlton Frost discussed the history of the tool, creation and piloting process, and stakeholders involved. After discussion, there is potential to continue a review of the tool and have a presentation with more details at a future meeting.

Kiley Komro summarized discussion and posed the question as to whether the subcommittee would like to continue to focus on a priority area of early system intervention and R/ED data gathering.

Subcommittee Member Wendy Volz Daniels supported continuation of early system interventions and continued data collection at the local level, with a secondary goal of looking more closely at waivers to adult court, if time allows.

Commissioner JP Rotatori agreed with Subcommittee Member Daniels points, recommending the same.

Komro verified that early system interventions such as deflection, diversion, local and other data collection improvements would remain a primary focus, with a move into the waivers to adult justice system, if time allows.

b. Goals and Objectives Review

Kiley Komro presented a PowerPoint and reviewed funding available by fiscal years and the associate purpose areas. Komro solicited subcommittee feedback on potential shifts in priority and answered questions.

Subcommittee Member Wendy Volz Daniels discussed continuing with an emphasis on early system interventions, alternatives to youth justice, to include deflection and diversion.

Subcommittee Member Aaron Schutz discussed the potential for gathering in-depth data in key counties, the potential to fund a data project analyzing diversion/deflection programs and population/performance details. This may include assessing the policies and procedures of local level programs to see how decisions create or mitigate disparities, ways to adjust to meet best practice standards.

Kiley Komro noted this potential, while also identifying that federal Title II dollars limit the amount that can be awarded to other state agencies, and these awards may need to be passed through to the county level or further.

Commissioner Moore inquired as to whether different fiscal years of funding can be targeted towards different programs and subgrantees.

Kiley Komro answered that yes, this is possible.

Commissioner Pearson identified a potential focus on previous subgrantees and either an evaluation of the program that was completed or continued funding for those offering quality options.

Carlton Frost pointed out that DCF organizes meetings for innovation grant subgrantees to highlight what is being funded and other details, there is potential for GJJC commissioners and subcommittee members to be added to the invitation list.

Kiley Komro presented a summary of the discussion and funding areas, Commissioner Moore noted that the list appeared accurate and tangible. Komro discussed her next steps of editing and finalizing materials for OJJDP. Komro will send an email to circulate any future drafts,

depending on when the Title II solicitation is released, official approval may come from either the Executive Subcommittee or the full Commission.

DOJ Updates

Grants

Kiley Komro reported that state funded grant programs for youth gang closed and applications will be reviewed in the coming weeks.

The deflection and diversion program implementation solicitation remains open and will close on 4/26/24.

Lake Mills Police Department was awarded a compliance subgrant, to offer additional spaces within the department to work with non-offender and status offender youth, in a nonsecure setting.

Your Move MKE was awarded a subgrant to expand restorative justice programming and further support work with at risk youth, to include mentoring services.

Pointtters Community Initiative was awarded a subgrant to provide minority focused youth services including education, vocation, and other supports. These services include a focus on working with at risk youth and preventing placement in out-of-home care.

Compliance

Matt Allord reported that all on-site audits from the past compliance period are completed. Reports, data review, and any follow investigations are being finalized. Once finished, reports will go out to each audited facility and Allord and other staff will present a summary of secure custody and JJDPA violation data.

Allord highlighted the grant funding to Lake Mills PD as a successful overlap of compliance and grant funding work – the need for a separate soft interview room that followed best practices for working with juveniles was identified during a compliance visit, the chief and DOJ staff collaborated to fund cameras and transformation of a new space.

Staffing

Matt Allord noted that the DOJ – Juvenile Justice Coordinator position has closed on wisc.jobs and there were roughly 40 applicants. Scoring of applications and interviews will proceed from there. Allord reminded that the new position will do a combination of JJDPA compliance work and take the R/ED responsibilities that Kiley Komro is covering. Komro currently also fills the Juvenile Justice Specialist role under the JJDPA. This change will align with what many other states do and allow staff time to be devoted to more specialized grant, GJJC and youth voice, and R/ED work.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Announcements

Commissioner Rotatori noted that he is finalizing a paper focused on adolescent brain development, with a focus on raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to the age of 18 in Wisconsin. This will be shared at a future GJJC meeting.

Rotatori also announced that he will be employed in a new position, moving from his intake focused work at Dane County Juvenile Reception into the Dane County Detention Center.

GJJC ERD Subcommittee Virtual Meetings:

- September 18, 2024
- October 16, 2024

GJJC Quarterly Meeting

- May 14, 2024: Virtual
- August 13, 2024: Virtual
- November 12, 2024: Virtual

Commissioner Pearson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Commissioner JP Rotatori and seconded by Subcommittee Member Wendy Volz Daniels to adjourn the meeting.

Motion approved.

The vote was: 11 Ayes, 0 No

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.