

Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission

Ethnic and Racial Disparities Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Subcommittee Chair: Commissioner Edjron Pearson

Subcommittee Members Present:	Commissioner Edjron Pearson, Commissioner Dorinthia Robinson, Commissioner Emily Zernick, Wendy Volz Daniels, Melissa Graham, Commissioner Charles Greer, Commissioner Evelyn Coker, Commissioner Charles Tubbs, Kimberly Jenkins
Subcommittee Members Not Present:	Brandon Gross, Aaron Schutz, Commissioner Muskadee Montano
Wisconsin DOJ Staff:	Kiley Komro, Kerrie Fanning, Lara Kenny, Matt Allord, Jessica Reindl, Steve Wagner, Sabrina Gentile

Convene

The Ethnic and Racial Disparities (ERD) Subcommittee convened at 10:04 a.m.

Chair's Welcome and Roll Call

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

DOJ Updates

Staff – The DOJ Juvenile Justice Unit has an intern who recently started via UW-Madison, Delaney Brown. Kiley Komro supervises the intern position. Delaney will be assisting Kiley with various projects during her time with DOJ.

Grants – Kiley Komro reported currently there are no grant opportunities posted. Grant opportunities are being developed.

Compliance – Matt Allord reported that DOJ staff are completing compliance audits for the period of 10/1/2023 to 9/30/2024. When all audits and data is collected, Allord will create a summary to share with the GJJC and Subcommittees.

Allord reported the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) will be opening the Compliance Monitoring Tool (CMT). The CMT is a reporting tool for states to upload their compliance data.

Allord reported that DOJ staff continue to work with OJJDP to clarify recent guidance as to the definition of “adult inmate,” for sight and sound separation core requirement purposes. Allord summarized the issue that may change whether certain adult convicted youth in Type 1 facilities qualify as “adult inmates.” This issue is being discussed within PLC Subcommittee meetings and more information will be shared when OJJDP reschedules a meeting that they postponed.

Commissioner Pearson asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the January 15, 2025, meeting.

Motion to Approve January 15, 2025, ERD Subcommittee Minutes

Motion was made by Commissioner Evelyn Coker and seconded by Kim Jenkins to approve the January 15, 2025, ERD Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

Business

Review and Discuss Disparities Factsheet PowerPoint Presentation Updates

Jessica Reindl reported updates to the Ethnic and Racial Disparities Factsheet PowerPoint presentation. These changes include incorporating themes presented by Dr. Bijoux on message delivery to assist audiences with finding their “Why”, as recommended by Subcommittee members, and 2023 data comparing contact points in the juvenile justice system to Wisconsin’s total youth population. Reindl presented the updated PowerPoint. Subcommittee members provided feedback and recommendations for additional information to include.

Commissioner Greer inquired about family dynamics data of arrested youth. Allord and Komro explained DOJ staff may not be able to acquire this information and include it in a presentation, as incorporating this granular data could potentially identify youth or may not be available in a way that can be tied directly to specific youth and follow them throughout their system involvement. DOJ staff will continue to monitor for options. Commissioner Greer also identified a potential need for more qualitative data, explaining why certain decisions are made for specific youth, cases, or other factors at the local system level.

Commissioner Robinson asked if DOJ staff has access to recidivism data for the contact points. Komro explained the difficulties and limitations with tracking recidivism. While discussing recidivism, Komro advised research shows diversion is the best way to reduce

recidivism. Other non-Wisconsin specific data exists on recidivism within the youth justice system and is available online.

Commissioner Coker recommended including external feedback and the voices of those working in the field at the various contact points, also emphasizing a previous point for the need for qualitative data and stories to get at local, staff, other factors.

Commissioner Pearson recommended contacting the various agencies involved in the contact points to discuss their policies regarding decision making.

FY2025R/ED Plan – Data Collection

Reindl reported data requests for the 2025 R/ED plan have been submitted. DOJ staff requested to receive the data by Monday 3/31/2025. Reindl reviewed the agencies that submit data for the various contact points and the changes made to data requests. These changes include, requesting to receive arrest data for the age ranges of 10-16, including Hispanic as a race rather than an Ethnicity, and requesting the total number of outcomes and the number of youth involved at each contact point. DOJ staff will begin their analysis once all data is received. Once the analysis is complete, DOJ staff will present the data to the Subcommittee to update the R/ED plan.

Local R/ED Data Presentation

Reindl reported on the local data project she has been working on. Reindl reviewed the counties selected for review of youth arrest data to determine offenses where arrest disparities are present. Reindl presented a PowerPoint for Dane County's youth arrest data for the years of 2021-2023.

Commissioner Pearson provided feedback regarding arrest policies he is aware of in Dane County for specific offenses. It was recommended to look into agency policies regarding arresting youth for certain behaviors and actions to determine if deflection practices could be an appropriate alternative.

Federal Updates

Matt Allord acknowledged recent executive orders, court cases, and federal factors that may influence R/ED work at the Wisconsin level, particularly for this Subcommittee. Allord reported DOJ continues normal operations regarding federally funded programs that are administered by DOJ. This includes collecting data for R/ED plans exactly the same as in previous years and continuing all projects discussed at previous meetings. DOJ staff are

planning for potential impacts if changes are required, but operations continue as normal. Allord highlighted that while some R/ED work is defined by OJJDP, some of it is codified in federal statute, which requires legislative involvement to change. Subcommittee member Kim Jenkins administers the Title 1 Grant Program at the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and reported DPI is also operating as normal.

2025 Presentation and Outreach

Reindl reported she presented the R/ED Data to the Wisconsin Juvenile Justice Network. Reindl reported she has contacted the Wisconsin Juvenile Court Intake Association to let them know she is available for conferences workshops and plenaries. Reindl reported that she and Matt Allord met with the Children's Court Improvement Program to discuss presenting at their events. Reindl will find out more information about the Children's First Conference and Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) conference.

Wendy Volz Daniels recommended contacting the [Wisconsin School Social Work Association](#) and offered to assist in any future presentation.

Allord added that he reached out to the State Prosecutors' Education and Training program which is housed at DOJ.

Allord and Reindl told the subcommittee to send any other recommendations for presentations and to let them know if anyone would like to co-present.

Legislative Update

Sabrina Gentile reported on bills before the legislature and what is happening in the legislative session. Gentile reported on the status of AB79/SB73, relating to eliminating prosecution or adjudication of minors for committing an act of prostitution; AB91/SB100, requiring School Resource Officers (SROs) in Milwaukee Public Schools; and the six bills that were introduced by the Legislative Council Study Committee on Emergency Detention and Civil Commitment of Minors.

Gentile reported the Governor had introduced his State Budget proposal and that the Joint Finance Committee has posted the public hearings for the State Budget.

Gentile reported that all the information she presented will be sent to the Subcommittee in a follow up email.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

2025 ERD Subcommittee Meeting Dates: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Virtual

- April 16, 2025
- June 18, 2025
- September 17, 2025
- October 15, 2025

2025 GJJC Quarterly Meeting Dates: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

- May 13, 2025 (in person)
- August 12, 2025 (virtual)
- November 11, 2025 (virtual)

Adjourn

Commissioner Pearson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Subcommittee member Kim Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Evelyn Coker to adjourn the meeting.
The motion passed on a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.