

Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission

Ethnic and Racial Disparities Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 16, 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, Wendy Volz Daniels, Commissioner Evelyn Coker, Commissioner Charles Tubbs, Kimberly Jenkins, Aaron Schutz, Commissioner Muskadee Montano
Subcommittee Members Not Present:	Brandon Gross, Commissioner Emily Zernick, Melissa Graham, Commissioner Charles Greer
Wisconsin DOJ Staff:	Kiley Komro, Kerrie Fanning, Lara Kenny, Matt Allord, Jessica Reindl, Sabrina Gentile

Convene

The Ethnic and Racial Disparities (ERD) Subcommittee convened at 10:05 a.m.

Chair's Welcome and Roll Call

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

Commissioner Pearson asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the October 16, 2024, meeting.

Motion to Approve October 16, 2024, ERD Subcommittee Minutes

Motion was made by Commissioner Evelyn Coker and seconded by Commissioner Muskadee Montano to approve the October 16, 2024, ERD Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

Commissioner Pearson asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the March 19, 2025, meeting.

Motion to Approve March 19, 2025, ERD Subcommittee Minutes

Motion was made by Aaron Schutz and seconded by Commissioner Muskadee Montano to approve the March 19, 2025, ERD Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

DOJ Updates

Grants – Kiley Komro reported on the following grant opportunities and awarded grants. Three grants are currently open for applications until April 25, 2025. One grant is non-competitive. A total of \$202,303 is available to support three awards of up to \$67,434 through the [JJ Formula: Positive Youth Development Program](#). This funding will support local positive youth development programs that support delinquent or at-risk youth. Programs must use a positive youth development framework for their programs. Program designs should reflect the needs and strengths of the community. Eligible programs could include mentoring; mental health services; family strengthening or wraparound programs; after-school programs that provide educational, recreational, or employment activities; or other programs that provide positive youth development opportunities for youth at-risk of entering the juvenile justice system and for delinquent youth.

A total of \$65,507 is available to support one award of the full amount or two awards of \$34,471 through the [JJ Formula Indian Tribes program](#). This funding will support tribes in implementing new or enhancing existing programs that aim to prevent or address juvenile justice and delinquency issues for Native American and Alaska Native youth. Programs should reflect the needs and strengths of the applicant community and could include mentoring programs, community-based alternatives to detention, mental health and substance use disorder services, family-strengthening support and therapy, afterschool programs that provide educational, recreational, or employment activities, and others.

A total of \$764,382 is available to support three awards of \$254,794 through the [Youth Crisis Stabilization and Reentry program](#). The program aims to fill gaps in the Racine Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) and Secure Residential Care Center for Children and Youth (SRCCCY), Rock County JDC, and Northwest Regional JDC's mental health and substance use disorder screening, assessment, treatment, and reentry services. The program will fund and train facility staff in evidence-based mental health and substance use disorder screenings and assessments. The funding can be used to provide or expand the availability of treatment within facilities and for youth reentering the community from JDCs.

More grant announcements are planned for later this year and will be posted on the [DOJ Grants page](#).

Two awards were made for the School-Based Restorative Justice grant, one to August School District and the other to Blair-Taylor School District. Their programs began April 1 and will conclude June 30, 2026.

Compliance – Matt Allord reported the JJDPa compliance audits are completed. DOJ Staff have finalized the data from the audits and surveys. DOJ Staff are ready to upload the data into the Compliance Monitoring Tool (CMT). The CMT is the online system that is provided by OJJDP to report compliance data.

DOC Office of Detention Facilities notified DOJ that Waukesha County is re-opening their juvenile detention center. Allord said that he and Jessica Reindl will visit the detention center next week.

Legislation – Sabrina Gentile used a PowerPoint to report on the Governor's proposed State Budget and legislation. Gentile highlighted a useful website to track the budget process; items in the state budget that are supported by GJJC; legislative bills including legislation introduced by the Legislative Council Study Committee on Emergency Detention and Civil Commitment of Minors. Gentile also reviewed the makeup of the legislature and the legislative committees that DOJ monitors.

Business

2025 Presentations and Outreach

Jess Reindl reported DOJ staff are coordinating R/ED presentations for Children's Court Improvement Program (CCIP) and Statewide Prosecutors Education and training (SPET).

Reindl reported DOJ staff will present R/ED data at the June Wisconsin County Human Service Association (WCHSA) Children, Youth, and Families Policy Advisory Committee meeting.

Reindl reported the proposal to present Ethnic and Racial Disparities in Wisconsin's Juvenile Justice System at the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) annual conference held this fall in Wisconsin Dells, was accepted. The presentation is approved for a 75-minute workshop. Reindl advised the presentation will include an overview of the JJDPa and core requirements, WI disparity data, and incorporate information regarding deflection and diversion practices. Reindl asked the subcommittee members to please contact with her if they are interested in assisting with the presentation.

Washburn County Youth Diversion Presentation

Chet Hurt, Prevention Coordinator with Washburn County and Haley Balts.

The presenters shared a PowerPoint discussing their county's prevention, early intervention, and diversion programming continuum. Their county maintains two coalitions for mental health and substance use prevention, including a civil citation diversion program for vaping. The programs are largely funded through state and federal grants rather than through taxes. The youth diversion program is integrated into a broader system of prevention, deflection, and supportive programs.

Their programs include substance use disorder prevention and interventions, school-based therapy and skills groups, and their diversion program. Parents, school staff, and community members can refer youth displaying a variety of risk factors including truancy, behavioral issues, substance use, and others. Referred youth are screened in and invited to participate in a voluntary service referral that involves regular contact with a county diversion worker who acts as a mentor and case manager. The program has seen significant decreases in youth justice referrals as a result of the program and participating youth increased their attendance and engagement in school.

In addition to the individualized services, the county runs a Youth Center (established in 2023). The center is open with regular programming six days per week. Two staff are present at the center at all times and support an average of fifteen middle and high school aged youth every day.

The presenters responded to subcommittee questions about collaborations with the courts on the civil citation program and how they support youth from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

FY2025R/ED Plan – Data Review

Reindl presented a PowerPoint reviewing the updated racial and ethnic disparities data collected for the 2025 R/ED Plan. Reindl highlighted several changes made to the data requests, including requesting arrest data for youth ages 10-16 (excluding ages 0-9 and 17) and including Hispanic as a race rather than ethnicity. Reindl highlighted in years previous, the R/ED plan reported data for the number of outcomes at every contact point, rather than reporting the number of youth involved in each contact point. For the 2025 plan, the data will include the number of youth involved at each contact point.

Edjron Pearson expressed interest in gathering data for youth under 17 waived to adult court, or facing original adult jurisdiction, that are placed in juvenile detention. Subcommittee member Wendy Volz Daniels advised she has some relevant data and shared it with the subcommittee.

Kiley Komro discussed the opportunity to collaborate with the YVC to include qualitative data and narrative stories in the presentation to add context to the data.

R/ED Reference Material Discussion

Jess Reindl and Edjron Pearson proposed the idea of having reference material discussions during each subcommittee meeting. Prior to the meeting Reindl shared materials including a link to a recording of the 2024 Re-Imagining Justice Conference where Keynote Speaker Dr. Shawn Ginwright discusses his book *The 4 Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves*, and an Annie E. Casey Foundation Case Study- *It's Time to Talk: How to Start Conversations About Racial Inequities*. Reindl asked the Subcommittee members if they had a chance to review the materials and if anyone would like to share information that resonated with them.

Subcommittee members engaged in positive discussion about Dr. Ginwright's book. Members expressed interest in discussing these materials, and additional materials, during the following meetings

Discussion of Youth Justice and/or R/ED Work in Local Communities

Edjron Pearson reported that at this meeting and future meetings subcommittee members can check-in and share innovative or interesting youth justice programs, events, or developments in their area. This will remain as a standing agenda item. No subcommittee members had any items to share for this meeting.

2025 Presentations and Outreach CONT.

Jess Reindl continued to report on the NASW Conference presentation. Reindl advised an additional abstract will need to be submitted by May 15th 2025. The additional abstract requires information about each presenter such as the credentials, a 100-word bio, and a photo. Reindl requested the subcommittee members to contact her if they are interested in assisting with the presentation.

Commissioner Muskadee Montano encouraged the NASW presentation include a focus on deflection work, as that would be most relevant to Social Workers.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Announcements

Chair Edjron Pearson reminded everyone that the GJJC May 13, 2025, meeting is in person at the Risser Justice Center. Chair Pearson said he looks forward to the in-person meeting.

Matt Allord reminded GJJC members to let Kiley Komro know, if you have not done so already, if you are going to the Grow Academy after the GJJC meeting.

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

- 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 Commissioner Muskadee Montano and seconded by Commissioner Evelyn Coker to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.