

Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Virtual

Chairperson: Commissioner Diane Rondini

Commission Members:	Commissioner Dorinthia Robinson, Commissioner Edjron Pearson, Commissioner Diane Rondini, Commissioner Lesley Chapin, Commissioner Carl Ashley, Commissioner Meaghan Henry, Commissioner Ben Gonring, Commissioner Aidan Raney, Commissioner Lance Horozewski, Commissioner Muskadee Montano, Commissioner Emily Zernick, Commissioner Dana Brown, Commissioner Andrew Miller
Members Not Present:	Commissioner Sharlen Moore, Commissioner Tweed Shuman, Commissioner Mariama Ceesay, Commissioner Charles Greer, Commissioner Charles Tubbs, Commissioner Evelyn Coker
DOJ Staff:	Sabrina Gentile, Kiley Komro, Matt Allord, Steve Wagner, Jess Reindl, Lara Kenny, Mark Rather
Agency Partners and Agency Staff:	Kim Jenkins (DPI), Greg Bucholtz (DOC), Carlton Frost (DCF), Shane Arndt (DCF), Kendra Schiffman (DCF)

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order

Chair Diane Rondini welcomed commissioners to the meeting and led introductions of members. Quorum was present.

Chair Rondini requested a motion to approve the November 12, 2024, GJJC Meeting Minutes.

Motion to Approve Minutes

Motion to Approve November 12, 2024, GJJC Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Commissioner Carl Ashley and seconded by Commissioner Aidan Raney to approve the November 12, 2024, meeting minutes.

The motion was passed on a voice vote.

Subcommittee Sharing

Ethnic and Racial Disparities (ERD) Subcommittee – Commissioner Pearson reported the subcommittee determined goals as noted in the Racial and Ethnic Disparities Plan. Each goal was discussed, and commissioners offered feedback. The subcommittee is planning ERD presentations.

Policy, Legislation and Compliance (PLC) Subcommittee – Commissioner Carl Ashley reported the subcommittee discussed the definition of adult inmate, the Type 1 facility commitment

statute, and the 2024 compliance thresholds. Commissioner Ashley noted Matt Allord will provide more information on the compliance thresholds in the DOJ Staff compliance update.

Youth Voice Commission (YVC) – Commissioner Aidan Raney reported the Youth Voice Commission had a networking call with Chair Diane Rondini. Commissioner Raney said the commission was engaged and appreciated Chair Rondini's presentation. Commissioner Raney reported Kiley Komro will schedule tours of juvenile detention centers for the Commission's Youth Outreach Project. Komro summarized the questions that the Youth Voice Commission will ask at the juvenile detention center tours. Komro reviewed the qualifications to be on the Youth Voice Commission.

DOJ Updates

Staff – Matt Allord reported the roles of the Juvenile Justice Section staff.

Federal Funding Update – Allord reported the federal Office of Management and Budget issued a memo and then rescinded the memo regarding use of federal funds. WI DOJ is operating as usual. Conversations are ongoing regarding the possible scenarios related to changes in funding sources.

Commissioner Pearson commented that the Commission needs to be ready to have discussions with the Governor regarding ethnic and racial disparities work in Wisconsin, if federal funds are no longer available. Commissioner Horozewski agreed with Commissioner Pearson.

Commissioners asked for information on federal funding and the GJJC. Allord reported Title II funds are used for DOJ Staff and gave examples of what federal funds are used for.

Legislative Update – Sabrina Gentile used a PowerPoint with her legislative presentation. She reported the 2025 – 2027 Legislative Session began on January 6, 2025. The State Assembly has 54 Republicans and 45 Democrats. The State Senate has 18 Republicans and 15 Democrats. The Senate has four new members and they are all Democrats. The Assembly has 30 new members. 23 of the new members are Democrats and seven new members are Republicans. Gentile shared a link that has biographies for the new members. <https://www.hamilton-consulting.com/new-members/>.

Gentile reported DOJ will be following the Assembly Corrections, Assembly Criminal Justice and Public Safety, Assembly Judiciary, Assembly Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention, Senate Judiciary and Public Safety, and the Senate Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention, Children and Families standing legislative committees.

The Legislative Council Study Committee on Emergency Detention and Civil Commitment of Minors final meeting was on December 18, 2024. The Legislative Council staff distributed meeting minutes and asked committee members to send any corrections regarding minutes to

the Legislative Council staff. After the incorporation of any corrections, these minutes will be considered approved by the committee.

The study committee distributed a paper ballot on February 5 and members had to return the ballot by February 7. The bill recommendations have not been posted yet. Gentile encouraged the subcommittee to review bill drafts and testimony on the study committee website.

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lc/study/2024/2698>.

The bill to eliminate prosecution or adjudication of minors for committing an act of prostitution is being circulated for co-sponsorships. The GJJC supported this legislation last session. The statement is dated May 10, 2023, and is posted on the GJJC website. When the legislation has a bill number, the PLC Subcommittee can review and decide to update the statement from last session.

Allord reported the PLC Subcommittee discussed the Type 1 commitment statute and there will be further discussion with impacted agencies and at future GJJC meetings. Commissioners expressed an interest in exploring changes to applicable statutory language as well as developing communications or a statement emphasizing support for an increased number of SRCCCYs and refocus on the original intent of Act 185, including keeping youth closer to home and in county operated facilities, with adult convicted and SJO youth in Type 1 facilities.

Compliance Update – Matt Allord reported DOJ staff have a few more JJDPa compliance audits covering the data period of 10/1/23 to 9/30/24. Staff have rescheduled this week's audits because of the expected snow on Wednesday and Thursday.

This is the second year of the three-year compliance plan. In year two, DOJ staff reviews the full year of jail data. All jails have submitted their data and DOJ staff is almost done reviewing the data for compliance violations. All secure agencies have returned their Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act (JJDPa) Annual Survey. DOJ staff is still reviewing data for compliance violations from the survey. The JJDPa requires states to report 85% of secure agencies data. Wisconsin will have 100% of secure agencies reporting data.

Allord reviewed the compliance thresholds for FY2024.

Allord summarized the December 2024 OJJDP memo and PLC subcommittee presentation related to the JJDPa definition of "adult inmate." Allord reported that per OJJDP guidance materials, it appears that individuals who commit a criminal offense after age 17 and are sentenced to jail or prison are "adult inmates," under the JJDPa. DOC-DJC houses individuals sentenced to adult prison until the age of 18, including this small subset of youth. WI DOJ and OJJDP are in continued discussions as to whether housing these youth in a Type 1 facility causes a sight and sound core requirement violation. Allord expressed the variety of concerns that DOJ

staff with this interpretation. DOJ staff will update stakeholders and commissioners as more information is available.

Grants – Kiley Komro reported there were many applications for the School-Based Restorative Justice Program grant opportunity. The funding opportunity aims to improve youth's school connectedness, reduce formal justice system involvement for school-related incidents, and reduce ethnic and racial disparities in school discipline and referrals. The funding will support school districts in reducing the use of exclusionary school discipline practices; reduce future harmful, disruptive, or delinquent behavior of students; and support accountability and reintegration of students into their classrooms and schools. Applications were due at end of day on January 31, 2025. Eligible applicants are public school districts. \$200,000 is available for two awards of up to \$100,000 each.

Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) Updates

Lance Horozewski, Administrator of Juvenile Corrections and Greg Bucholtz, Office of Detention Facilities Director

Commissioner Horozewski shared the populations at Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center and Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools. He reviewed information about construction progress for the Type 1 facility in Milwaukee.

Greg Bucholtz had the following updates:

- Bucholtz attended the Racine County Secure Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth (SRCCCY) grand opening last week. Bucholtz thinks youth will be occupying space sometime in April.
- Milwaukee County SRCCCY construction is progressing, and the building is enclosed. Milwaukee County has not scheduled an opening date.
- DOC 346 Secure Detention Facilities revision is with the Assembly Corrections Committee and the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee.

Business

OJJDP National Youth Justice Conference Report

DOJ staff, GJJC members and state agency partners attended the National Youth Justice Conference in November. Attendees shared information from the conference.

Information shared included notable sessions, speakers, and takeaways for attendee positions as well as for the GJJC. Attendees all expressed an appreciation for the energy level and youth focus within the conference. Some of the topics discussed were a continued focus on deflection and early intervention, evidence-based intervention training for caregivers and practitioners, strategies for increasing family involvement and offering services in the home or in a manner accessible to caregivers, and increased communication and connection with local level youth serving programs. Commissioners highlighted several key takeaways including a desire to

pursue a continuum of care structure for the juvenile justice system and cross-system and local collaboration.

GJJC Biennial Report Reflection

Komro discussed the required 2023-2024 Biennial Report to the Legislature and the Governor. The purpose of the report is to share the GJJC's recommendations regarding policy changes to maintain compliance with the JJDPA. The report will provide information regarding policy statements approved by the GJJC, subgrant awards made, and other highlights of the Commission's actions. Commissioners provided feedback regarding updates to include in the report.

Three-Year Plan Action Items

Komro described the Three-Year Plan and summarized key priorities, including the priority regarding policy advocacy. Komro explained that the next GJJC meeting is after the date needed for the GJJC to approve a statement regarding the Governor's biennial budget bill. Komro explained a motion is needed for the Policy, Legislation and Compliance Subcommittee to approve a statement on behalf of the GJJC.

Chair Rondini requested a motion authorize the Policy, Legislation and Compliance Subcommittee to develop and distribute a GJJC biennial budget statement.

Motion for GJJC to Authorize the Policy, Legislation and Compliance Subcommittee to Develop a GJJC Biennial Budget Statement

Motion was made by Commissioner Ben Gonring and seconded by Commissioner Carl Ashley to authorize the Policy, Legislation and Compliance Subcommittee to develop a GJJC Biennial Budget Statement to be submitted during the public comment period of the biennial budget.

The motion was passed on a voice vote.

Commissioners reiterated their commitment to focusing their action and Title II grant funding on supporting mental health resources for at-risk and justice involved youth. Commissioners discussed pathways for supporting providers' training in tools specific to supporting justice-involved youth. Stakeholders emphasized that mental health services should be paired with risk-reducing services to maximum effect as well as implemented as early interventions and for prevention rather than only reactively. One stakeholder identified that Wisconsin differs from other states in referring more young and low-risk youth to the juvenile justice system than other states. Additionally, the same report identified that too few justice involved youth received services, there was greater delivery of mental health services than risk-reducing services. This may be partly due to the higher proportion of low-risk youth being referred and not needing risk-reducing services as much.

Lastly, Commissioners made space for the nuances of evidence-based services and other healing services that are not well-researched. It is important to keep in mind the needs and knowledge of the community being served and what they know is healing for their youth.

Announcements

Chair Rondini reminded the GJJC that the next meeting will be in person on May 13, 2025, in Madison at the Risser Justice Center.

Chair Rondini congratulated Commissioner Charles Tubbs on receiving the City – County 2025 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award from the City of Madison and Dane County.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2025 GJJC Quarterly Meeting Dates

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

Adjourn

Commissioner Rondini asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Commissioner Carl Ashley and seconded by Commissioner Aidan Raney to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was passed on a voice vote.