

Governor’s Juvenile Justice Commission

Ethnic and Racial Disparities Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Subcommittee Chair: Commissioner Edjron Pearson

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| Subcommittee Members Present: | Commissioner Edjron Pearson, Commissioner Dorinthia Robinson, Wendy Volz Daniels, Kimberly Jenkins, Aaron Schutz, Commissioner Emily Zernick, Commissioner Trevor Strickler, Commissioner Ella Bostwick |
| Subcommittee Members Not Present: | Brandon Gross, Melissa Graham, Commissioner Charles Greer, Commissioner Evelyn Coker, Commissioner Charles Tubbs, Commissioner Muskadee Montano |
| Wisconsin DOJ Staff: | Kiley Komro, Matt Allord, Jessica Reindl, Sabrina Gentile, Mark Rather |

Convene

The Ethnic and Racial Disparities (ERD) Subcommittee convened at 10:03 a.m.

Chair’s Welcome and Roll Call

Chair Edjron Pearson welcomed members to the meeting. Chair Pearson announced new subcommittee members, Commissioner Trevor Strickler and Commissioner Ella Bostwick, and asked them to introduce themselves.

Quorum was present.

DOJ Updates

Grants – Kiley Komro reported on the newly awarded Positive Youth Development and Indian Tribes grant recipients. There were four programs funded by these grants and they will begin their projects July 1. DOJ staff and GJC grant scorers are in the process of reviewing the application for the FY2022 Deflection and Diversion grant program. Once the application is processed and the award is made, the recipient will be posted on the GJC website.

Compliance – Matt Allord reported JJDP compliance audits are complete. Allord reviewed the relevant dates that are covered in the current compliance monitoring data, what sites are audited, and how data is collected. This data will be submitted to OJJDP via the compliance monitoring tool by July 8, 2025. A compliance summary report will be shared with the Policy,

Legislation, and Compliance Subcommittee and at a future full GJJC meeting. This report will also be posted on the GJJC website, as has been done in previous years.

Allord discussed that for this year, the compliance data is due to OJJDP but there has been no notice of funding opportunity tied to it and released, which is different than in previous years. Usually, the compliance data and application information for Title II funding are opened at the same time. The notice will hopefully be released in the coming months.

Allord reported the reauthorization of the federal Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act was introduced last week. Allord reviewed the proposal and thought the changes were positive in general. The last reauthorization was in 2018. More information on the reauthorization will be shared at the upcoming Policy, Legislation, and Compliance Subcommittee and full GJJC meetings.

Legislation – Sabrina Gentile used a PowerPoint to report on the Governor’s State Budget and legislation. Gentile highlighted the recent Joint Committee on Finance actions, and the bills introduced by the Legislative Council Study Committee on Emergency Detention and Civil Commitment of Minors.

Chair Pearson asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the April 16, 2025, meeting.

Motion to Approve April 16, 2025, ERD Subcommittee Minutes

Motion was made by Aaron Schutz and seconded by Wendy Volz Daniels to approve the April 16, 2025, ERD Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

Business

Dunn County Youth Response Team Presentation

Tracey Erickson- Senior Social Worker Dunn County Dept. of Human Services and Aaron Bergh- Behavioral Health Officer with Menomonie Police Department

Erickson and Bergh used a PowerPoint for their presentation on the Project Hope Program.

The presenters shared a PowerPoint discussing Dunn County’s Project Hope Program. This program was created as a diversion and deflection response to AODA related offenses. Project Hope includes a series of initiatives to provide deflection and diversion services to individuals who are engaged, or will become engaged, in the criminal and juvenile justice system. Project Hope includes two adult-serving and one youth-serving programs; Angels of Red Cedar (ARC), the Quick Response Team (QRT), and the Youth Response Team (YRT). The YRT is a multidisciplinary group that collaborates with community stakeholders to identify youth at risk of system involvement and provide deflection services. The YRT’s vision is to create an environment for area youth that promotes personal growth, education, wellness, reduces delinquency, and removes barriers to success. Members of the YRT include Tracy Erickson-

Youth Justice Social Worker, two Behavioral Health Officers: one with the Menomonie Police Department and one with Dunn County Sheriffs Office, two Youth Services Officers placed in the school system, school Social Workers and Guidance Counselors, and a school Psychiatrist. The YRT is a voluntary program where both youth and families agree to participate. Youth in the program complete assessments to determine appropriate services. Available services for youth include mentorship, Advent eLearning including self-paced behavior changing diversion courses, peer support, and therapy.

The presenters shared the programs achievements which include the ability to problem solve for at risk youth and strengthening the collaboration between youth professionals and stakeholders involved in the program. The presenters shared since the launch of the YRT in 2020 there has been a decrease in the number of youth justice referrals.

FY2025R/ED Plan – Updated Data Review

Reindl presented a PowerPoint reviewing the updated racial and ethnic disparities data collected for the 2025 R/ED Plan.

Reindl explained the 2025 R/ED plan will now report the total number of outcomes for each contact point in the juvenile justice system, a change from the April 18th ERD Subcommittee meeting where it was reported the 2025 R/ED plan will report the number of youth involved at each contact point. Reindl explained to accommodate with the request of disaggregating arrest data for the number of youth arrested, aged 10-16, including Hispanic as a race, our agency partner provided data gathered from the Wisconsin Criminal History Repository (CHR). This data reporting system does not include all arrests for felony, misdemeanor, and ordinance violations; therefore, the reported number of arrests was smaller than the actual number of youth arrests. It was decided to request Wisconsin Incident Based Reporting (WIBRS) arrest data to receive a more accurate total number of youth arrests. With arrest data now reporting total arrests, rather than the number of youth arrested, it was decided to remain consistent and report the number of outcomes for all contact points.

Reindl reviewed the completed 2025 R/ED plan. Reindl discussed disparity reduction goals and highlighted action item achievements.

Subcommittee members engaged in discussion about disparity data and directing funding opportunities to promote the expansion of statewide deflection and diversion programs. Subcommittee members requested additional educational materials such as PowerPoint presentations that include the number of contact point events and gathering information on the cost saving benefits of diversion and deflection programs.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Announcements

Commissioner Trevor Strickler announced Operation Fresh Start is recruiting youth ages 17 to 24 and within Dane County to participate in mentoring and career development programming. Commissioner Strickler added the link to the notice in the meeting chat.

<https://www.operationfreshstart.org/drive-to-succeed>

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

- September 17, 2025
- October 15, 2025

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

- 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 Wendy Volz Daniels and seconded by Aaron Schutz to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.