

Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission

Ethnic and Racial Disparities Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Subcommittee Chair: Commissioner Edjron Pearson

Subcommittee Members Present:	Commissioner Edjron Pearson, Wendy Volz Daniels, Kimberly Jenkins, Commissioner Ella Bostwick, Commissioner Muskadee Montano, Commissioner Dorinthia Robinson, Commissioner Maurice Newton, Jr., Commissioner Emily Velazquez, Commissioner Marc Perry
Subcommittee Members Not Present:	Commissioner Charles Greer, Commissioner Charles Tubbs, Aaron Schutz, Commissioner Trevor Strickler, Melissa Graham
Wisconsin DOJ Staff:	Jessica Reindl, Lara Kenny, Sabrina Gentile, Matt Allord, Mark Rather, Brad Rollo

Convene

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

Chair's Welcome and Roll Call

Chair Edjron Pearson welcomed members to the meeting. The Subcommittee introduced themselves. Quorum was present.

DOJ Updates

Grants – Matt Allord reported there are two grants open for applications through May 1, 2026, posted on the WI DOJ website. They are the Youth Gang Diversion: Statewide Program and the JJ Formula (Title II) Delinquency Prevention Program.

JJ Formula: Delinquency Prevention Program – FY2023 (2026)

This program will fund projects that aim to support youth at-risk of delinquency or delinquent youth to prevent first time or future offenses. Funding will support three types of programs: 1) Mental health services for at-risk youth as a prevention program and for court-involved youth to prevent recidivism; 2) Prevention activities, including early interventions, mentoring, and deflection programs especially those supporting youth school belonging, and addressing absenteeism, suspension, and expulsion; and 3) Wraparound programs that support youth in their families.

- **Total Available Funding:** A total of \$200,000 is available for three awards between \$66,000-\$67,000.
- **Eligible Applicants:** All federally recognized Wisconsin tribes, county government agencies (including human/social services departments), local government agencies (including school districts and law enforcement agencies), and local youth serving nonprofits are eligible to apply.
- **Eligible Uses:** Personnel, Employee Benefits, Travel/Training, Supplies & Operating Expenses, Consultants/Contractual.

Youth Gang Diversion: Statewide Program - 2027

This program will fund the development and implementation of a program that diverts youth from gang activities into productive activities, including placement in appropriate educational, recreational, and employment programs, and for alcohol or other drug abuse education and treatment services for participants in that organization's youth diversion program. Programs must serve youth aged 0-17 who are at risk or currently involved in gangs in the community.

- **Total Available Funding:** A total of \$63,400 is available for one award.
- **Eligible Applicants:** All federally recognized Wisconsin tribes, county government agencies (including human/social services departments), and local government agencies (including school districts and law enforcement agencies).
- **Eligible Uses:** Personnel, Employee Benefits, Travel/Training, Supplies & Operating Expenses, Consultants/Contractual, Other.
- **Application Deadline:** May 1, 2026

Allord reported that the WI DOJ Juvenile Justice Unit recently awarded several subgrants:

Positive Youth Development FY23 Title II Funding

Mentor Chippewa, Inc. – \$67,434 – Mentor Chippewa: Empowering Youth Potential

Sawyer County - \$67,433.96 – Sawyer County Positive Youth Development

Your Move MKE, Inc. - \$67,434.00 - Your Move Motivators

Delinquency Prevention FY22 Title II Funding

Under My Wing, Inc. – 28,645.00 – Trauma Informed, Culturally Responsive Training

Your Move MKE, Inc. – 28,645.00 – Intentional Impact: Workforce Training

Compliance – Matt Allord gave updates on the upcoming OJJDP audit of the State of Wisconsin to assess whether there is an effective system for monitoring the core requirements of the JJDP. The audit will take place from 4/27/26 – 5/1/26.

Legislative – Sabrina Gentile reported the legislative session has ended. Candidates for the Fall election can start circulating nomination papers today.

Staff – Matt Allord reported DOJ will have an intern this summer. The intern is from UW-Madison and will assist with the juvenile justice stakeholder survey that is used for the Title II Three-Year Plan among other Title II related projects.

Chair Pearson asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the March 18, 2026, meeting.

Motion to Approve March 18, 2026, ERD Subcommittee Minutes

Motion was made by Commissioner Muskadee Montano and seconded by Wendy Volz Daniels to approve the March 18, 2026, ERD Subcommittee Meeting Minutes. The motion passed on a voice vote.

2025 R/ED Data Presentation

Jess Reindl shared a PowerPoint presentation reviewing 2025 racial and ethnic disparity data for contact points in the juvenile justice system. Reindl advised disparities fluctuated at nearly every contact point and highlighted some of the areas where 2025 calendar year data may be incomplete.

Commissioner Marc Perry raised concerns regarding waivers to adult court data.

Member Wendy Volz Daniels discussed a current Milwaukee County court case involving a youth under adult court jurisdiction and the reverse waiver process. The subcommittee discussed the potential to weigh in on jurisdiction matters within local communities, as a body, and as individual members.

Commissioners and subcommittee members engaged in a discussion about disparity data and action steps to reduce disparities. Commissioners Dorinthia Robinson and Muskadee Montano discussed the idea of creating social media tools for disparity data to reach a broader audience.

Member Volz Daniels inquired about successes other states have had with reducing disparities, specifically about training and policy changes they have implemented. Reindl and Allord provided some examples of other states successes and advised they would request additional information at the next Coalition for Juvenile Justice R/ED Coordinator meeting.

2025 R/ED Plan Review

Jess Reindl shared the 2025 R/ED plan, highlighting the goals and action items outlined in the three-year plan. Reindl advised the 2026 R/ED plan has been drafted and is in editing stage. Reindl reviewed 2026 R/ED plan achievements and goals for the following year.

Discussion of R/ED Research, Academic, or Other Materials on GJJC Website

Jess Reindl led a discussion on creating a reference page on the GJJC website to include research articles and academic materials on factors contributing to disparities in the juvenile justice system.

Commissioner Pearson supported creating a reference page for the website and requested information on how other states are reducing disparities.

Commissioner Perry requested recognition, awareness, and including historical documents on systemic racism and oppressive policies in any materials.

Commissioner Montano proposed the idea of creating a fact vs. myth document on racial and ethnic disparities to support shifts in thinking.

R/ED Reference Material Discussion

Reindl referenced the video recording of Eve Ewing discussing her book *Original Sins: The (Mis)education of Black and Native Children and the Construction of American*, which was provided to subcommittee members.

Commissioner Montano stated she watched the video and purchased the book. Commissioner Montano shared connections from the video to the educational system. Subcommittee Member Kimberly Jenkins shared her experience with the materials and interest in them.

Subcommittee members requested this video be discussed during the next meeting as some members were unable to view the video.

2026 Presentation and Outreach

Reindl informed subcommittee members she and Matt Allord will be presenting at the Statewide Prosecutors Educational Training (SPET) conference next Thursday 4/23/2026.

Reindl shared the agenda and flyer for the SRO Pre-Conference Training, facilitated by WI DOJ. Reindl invited subcommittee members to attend if available and encouraged distributing the agenda and flyer.

Public Comment

Commissioner Pearson reported the Juvenile Superintendent's Conference is scheduled for May 14th and 15th and extended the invitation for Youth Voice Commission (YVC) members to join. Allord advised WI DOJ staff will be attending the conference and will be presenting on the YVC's Youth Outreach Project.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Wendy Volz Daniels and seconded by Commissioner Dorinthia Robinson to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 11:48.

2026 ERD Subcommittee Meeting Dates: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

- June 17, 2026 (virtual)
- September 16, 2026 (virtual)
- October 21, 2026 (virtual)

2026 GJJC Quarterly Meeting Dates: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

- May 12, 2026
- August 18, 2026
- November 10, 2026