

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

Youth Justice Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023

Time: 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Location: Virtual

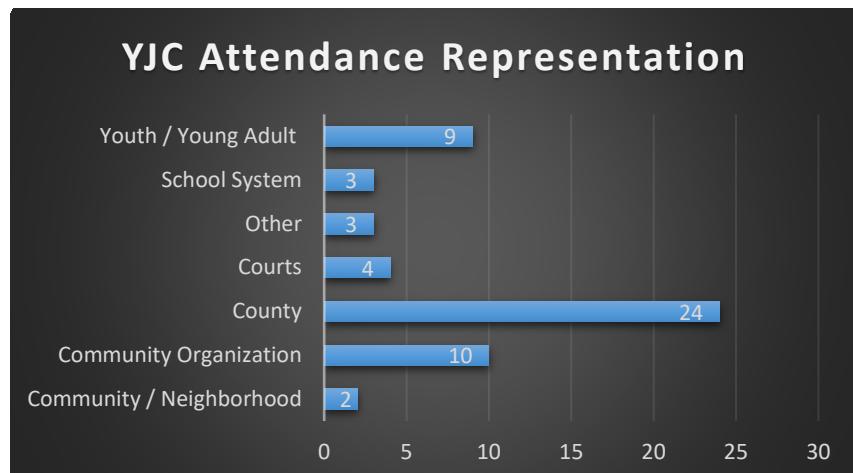
Minutes

Welcome and Introductions:

The Youth Justice Council Steering committee has many new members, and those new members were introduced at the YJC meeting.

Representatives from Minneapolis Public Schools,

Youth Justice Council (YJC) Youth Advisory Board, community members, Juvenile Detention Center, Youth Connection Center, and Brooklyn Park Police Department are all new to the YJC Steering committee.



MLK Commemorate:

In honor of Martin Luther King (MLK) Day, which was Monday, Jan. 16th, the YJC watched a six-minute video of Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous speech, "I Have a Dream." People had an opportunity to reflect what MLK day means to them and how MLK continues to affect the work they do in the community and within the various systems. Some of those reflections were shared on a jam board, which is included at the end of these meeting notes.

Community Based Array of Services:

Field Services Client Programming (FSCP) Division, a new division within the Department of Corrections and Community Rehabilitation (DOCCR), was introduced to those in attendance. Their mission is to provide clients and families with programming and services across the departments in the field and facilities. They have specific programming for adults and youth. In the last year (2022) they have

implemented new programming and services in the juvenile detention center (JDC) which include: chemical independence through Canvas Health where they host groups twice a week that are gender specific; A Mother's Love will be doing empowerment groups for females; art therapy for males and females was added; and the JDC is providing one-on-one parenting support to young pregnant females. FSCP is currently working with the JDC to add an empowerment group for young males through the Encouraging Leaders organization. These programs are to help young people while they are at the JDC as well as when they transition back into the community. There was a question if further programming would be added to the JDC, or if these programs were added due to a need. The focus currently is to identify immediate needs and provide those programming/services. However, FSCP will continue to work with the JDC to ensure they have the capacity for additional programming/services as needs arise. Clarification was asked on how all youth at the JDC have access to programming and are still safe within the JDC. It was acknowledged that this is a challenge because not all youth can participate for various safety reasons, however programming/services will transition from MOD to MOD to help address this challenge. Another question was asked how they get young people engaged while they're in the JDC when many young people may be frustrated about being there and not wanting to participate in the programming. Young people have more trust with community organizations so to address this challenge the JDC, along with the help of FSCP, have community organizations come into the JDC to provide the programming and services. This also assists the young person as they transition back into the community because they can continue with the various community organizations once they leave the JDC. Having community organizations provide the programming within the JDC also provides an opportunity for young people to leave the confinement of their room and do something different. For example, A Mother's Love program has been very popular with the young females at the JDC. Questions was asked if there was a document that outlines the work of FSCP Community Base Array of Services. The document will be updated and shared with the YJC. FSCP are committed to fill gaps in terms of services and would love to hear from the community with any ideas or suggestions.

Public Defenders Expungement:

The Public Defender's Office shared a new service they will be providing people (youth and adults) who have a juvenile record. They will assist individuals who have a juvenile record get their record expunged. The public defender's office will assist with paperwork, and ensuring a person has an attorney present at expungement hearings, which the courts will have once a month. There is an expungement brochure that was shared with the YJC, and it will be posted on YJC website. A question was asked what the barriers are around not assisting with gun rights restoration. The Public Defender's office does not have the capacity to assist with these requests currently. There is only one attorney assisting with expungements. The other issue is gun rights must be restored before the expungement process begins, if a person wants their gun rights reinstated. The Public Defender's office can share instructions on how to restore their gun rights, and once that process is completed then the Public Defender's office can assist with the expungement process. Another question was asked regarding limits of expungements for certain charges, and what those charges are. In the juvenile justice system, there are no limitations when it comes to specific charges. What are the ages for juveniles for expungements? There is no age limit to have a juvenile record expunged including Extended Juvenile Jurisdiction (EJJ) cases. Another resource for expungement help is through the Legal Rights Center. What can the community do to help with the expungement process? It's important that people can articulate why it's important to have their record expunged and how having a juvenile record may have caused barriers. This is something that community organization can help emphasize and assist individuals with. Question was asked if this

process is separate from the attorney's general office process. Yes, this is a completely different process. How long does the process take to have a juvenile record expunged? There is at least a 60-day notice period where individuals will have the time to get all the paperwork completed and submitted. Then from there it depends on the court schedule for expungements. So currently there is not a definite timeline at this time in how long it takes to have a juvenile record expunged. Juvenile Probation officers also speak to young people on expungements and will share this new resource available through the Public Defender's office.

Sub-Committee and Workgroup:

Reducing Racial Disparities (RRD): RRD is currently working on EJJ and the way negotiations are offered when out of home placement (OHP) is involved. They are looking at how plea offers are made and whether OHP is offered as part of the plea offers. They are looking for community members with experience with EJJ and OHP to be a part of this work. If people are interested they can contact Sierra Leone Samuels at sierraleone.samuels@hennepin.us or Carrie Yeager at carrie.yeager@hennepin.us.

Youth Panel ad hoc workgroup: Young people asked to host a youth panel at YJC meeting in 2022. A meeting is being scheduled to start the process. More information will be shared at the next YJC meeting.

Community Forum:

A comment was made from a young person who has lived experience with Extended Juvenile Jurisdiction (EJJ), stating how specific programming in EJJ was extremely helpful for him. The cog course, which helped him build skills to handle various situations. EJJ is a chance for a young person to serve time through juvenile probation, up to the age of 21, instead of being under the adult supervision. It's beneficial for young people who may commit an offense at 16 and could possibly be charged as an adult. EJJ allows the young person to avoid the adult system and stay under the jurisdiction of juvenile.

A request was asked for someone to elaborate on a restorative justice bill that was introduced at the state. Bill HF 46 would establish the Office of Juvenile Restorative Justice and was presented to the Minnesota House legislature by Representative Sandra Feist, who also authored the bill. The bill will ensure that every county has restorative justice reforms in place, and funding to support their efforts. A question was asked if anyone in Hennepin County is currently working on this issue. Malaika Eban, from the Legal Rights Center, has been following the bill and provided some background. The bill would create an office of Youth Restorative Justice, which proposes that this new office be housed within the Department of Human Services under Children and Family Services Administration.

A question was asked what the 2023 goals are for the juvenile detention center (JDC), regarding assisting youth who transition from the JDC back into the community and will there be help with housing. The goal for the JDC is to continue to bring community programming into the JDC such as, mentorship, and therapy to assist with the transition. Some of this includes providing mental health and substance abuse. Along with looking at what's currently being offered and identifying gaps that need to be filled. There are chemical dependency services that have been added at the JDC. A question was asked, how can community organizations provide programming in the JDC, who should they contact. Community organizations can reach out to Monica Long at monica.long@hennepin.us.

Juvenile Behavioral Health Initiative is hoping to bring what they are doing to the next YJC meeting, outlining the work they are doing and how it's connected to the YJC.

Comments from the Zoom Chat:

CeMarr Peterson to Everyone:

One of the things I think about is Dr. MLK's team! Gay people, women, politicians, athletes. It just shows the value that each person brings to the fight. We all have a purpose.

Abbie Thebault- Spieker to Everyone:

I'm also thinking about his team. And the generations of Black folks before him that built work and foundations

CeMarr Peterson to Everyone:

A dream is a first draft blue print!

Jerald Moore to Everyone:

JDC-Juvenile Detention Center

Alyssa Benson to Everyone:

Alyssa.benson@hennepin.us (Field Services Client Programming)

TaShonda Williamson, The Link to Everyone:

Why aren't there gun rights restorations and why?

Sarah Davis (she / her) to Everyone:

Here's info on Legal Rights Center free expungement support as well:

<https://airtable.com/shrNd9DK0bJaajpsb>

Kathrine Williams to Everyone:

Does this new support apply to EJJ designated cases?

Tracy Reid to Everyone:

tracy.reid@hennepin.us; Text/Tel 612.424.0450 (Public Defender's Office Expungements)

Sierra Leone Samuels to Everyone:

sierraleone.samuels@hennepin.us for Reducing Racial Disparities EJJ OHP

Sierra Leone Samuels to Everyone:

Please reach out to Carrie if you are interested in the Youth Panel: Carrie.Yeager@hennepin.us

Malaika Eban to Everyone:

Thanks all! I'll send information to Sierra about Rep. Feist's Office of Youth Restorative Justice Bill. For anyone interested in directly getting connected in legislative advocacy, feel free to reach out meban@legalrightscenter.org

Judge Tanya Bransford to Everyone:

I think the bill was just introduced today. It is HF 46. Posted this afternoon.

Sonya Emerick to Everyone:

Sonya.Emerick@mpls.k12.mn.us (Minneapolis School Board Representative)

MLK Jam Board Reflections

The work in striving for justice continues. We are still trying to get to that mountaintop.

Justice. Love. Humility

Courage to speak truth to power.

Call for action.

**"MAKE A CAREER OUT OF HUMANITY.
COMMIT YOURSELF TO THE NOBLE
STRUGGLE FOR EQUAL RIGHTS. YOU WILL MAKE
A BETTER PERSON OF YOURSELF,
A GREATER NATION OF YOUR COUNTRY,
AND A FINER WORLD TO LIVE IN."**

- MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Continue to hold onto, "Injustice Anywhere is a Threat to Justice Everywhere."

Each year this day is a reminder of both how far we have come and how far we still have to go.

We can all be upstanders.

Call for unity

Celebration of common humanity along with differences.

If you see something that is not right, not fair, you have a MORAL OBLIGATION to do something about it! RIP John Lewis