Washington State Department of CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

WA State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice (PCJJ)

Full Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 10, 2025
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Microsoft Teams

Welcome and Introductions: Meeting called to order by Chair Gordon McHenry Jr. Welcomed attendees and provided an overview of the agenda for the special convening of the Council. Provided a land acknowledgement recognizing the unceded lands of the ancestral and indigenous people on which we live- made a call for reaffirming commitments to and improving relationships with the local indigenous people. Council members took turns introducing themselves following the welcome and introduction of the new Council Member.

Council Attendees: Drew Hill, Dr. Ben Danielson, Clinton Taylor, Gordon McHenry, Jr., Judge Jennifer Forbes, Jimmy Hung, Rep. Mari Leavitt, Tashawn Deville, Doug Jeske, Carolina Mejia, Dre Thornock, Diana Cockrell, JD Nielsen, Mike Johnson, Dr. Eric Trupin, Kendra Moore, Alex Narvaez, Jenny Heddin and Mary Sprute Garlant.

OJJ Staff: Jenny Young, Heidi Sadri, Alexi Castilla, Whitney Queral, Christina Valera & Soraya Ayoubi

Guests: WA Thriving Presenter: Hanna Traphagan, Justice for Girls: Tristan Eddy

Minutes Approval:
Motion to approve meeting minutes for April 17, 2025, Full Council Meeting by Rep. Mari Leavitt. Motion Seconded by Jimmy Hung. Council members voted unanimously to approve meeting minutes

Supplemental Materials:
- April 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes
- 07.10.25 PCJJ Meeting PowerPoint
- Washington Thrive PowerPoint
- Grants & TA Committee Report
- Legislative Committee Report
- Behavior Health Re-Entry Committee Report

Special Announcements:

New Council Member Introduction: Carolina Mejia

Introduction of New OJJ Staff: Soraya Ayoubi, OJJ Specialist

PCJJ Leadership Update: Gordon shared with the Council that he and Sean Goode would be resigning from Council at the end of October. They have reached out to Dre Thornock to inquire about their interest in Chairing the Council. Dre is willing if the Governor chooses to make the appointment. Gordon and Sean have a meeting with the Governor's office to make their recommendation, and Gordon reminded the Council that the Governor appoints the Chair and the Chair appoints the Vice Chair. Members responded to Gordon's announcement with thanks for Gordon and Sean's leadership throughout their tenure on the Council.

OJJ Staff Updates- Jenny Young

PCJJ Fall Retreat

-Jenny shared that planning was underway for the Council's Fall Retreat to be held in Marysville, WA. Jenny invited members to complete an online form allowing OJJ to collect information regarding member's attendance and travel reimbursement and accommodation needs.

-A concern was raised by a council member regarding the budget spent on resources, such as food and lodging. Further discussions and brainstorming around cost-effective budgeting strategies will be conducted. Additionally, continuing to build and strengthen our partnership with the Tulalip Tribe remains a top priority.

Raise the Age Policy Study- Heidi Sadri

- July: Draft reviews by workgroup and collaborators, TA providers finalizing findings
- August: Incorporate final edits, review and approval by PCJJ
- September: Further reviews by DCYF, OFM, submitted to Legislature

- A question was raised about the importance of follow-up meetings and ensuring the work is taken seriously after publication is completed. The committee can make recommendations and carry the work forward. Leveraging these priorities ahead of the upcoming legislative session should be a key focus. We remain committed to continuing this important work beyond Heidi's departure in September.

**See PowerPoint for additional information

Federal Compliance Monitoring Report- Christina Valera

- Statewide Data and Supporting Documentation submitted on 7/3
- 97% Response Rate from 207 facilities
- Total 2025 sites visit to date: 47

-A question was raised regarding Christina's experience and presence at the facilities. Overall, her experience has been positive. While there have been a few minor mishaps, they have provided opportunities for learning and improvement. Staff have been responsive and

communicative throughout. There are ongoing discussions about opportunities for others to accompany Christina on future visits.

**See PowerPoint for additional information

Racial and Ethnic Disparities Action Plan Update- Whitney Queral

- Submitted a three-year racial and ethnic disparities action plan.
- Diversion increased significantly, and the youth of color continued to be positively overrepresented.
- Secure confinement for Black youth significantly increased from 17% to 27%.

-Question regarding the disparities with Black youth, and additional data were raised which OJJ staff will make available. The Racial and Ethnic Disparities committee will be exploring the data in more depth and detail at their next committee meeting.

**See PowerPoint for additional information

Diversion Summit- Alexi Castilla

August 22nd, 2025, 10am – 3pm at OIC of Washington: 815 Fruitvale Blvd, Yakima, WA 98902 and will be paired with the Racial and Ethnic Disparities meeting.

**See PowerPoint for additional information

WA Thriving Presentation- Diana Cockrell and Hanna Traphagan

-Provided a high level of overview of WA Thriving, an organization addressing a statewide crisis in behavioral health among children, youth, young adults and their parents and caregivers.

-There was a discussion regarding the WA Thriving developmental groupings, identified service gaps, and upcoming plans for decision packages. A policy shift is anticipated within the next couple of years. WA Thriving is hopeful for support from both the legislature and the Governor, and we welcome your suggestions as we move forward.

**See PowerPoint for additional information

Break

PCJJ Committee Reports- Committee Chairs

Legislative Committee- Andrew Hill

-Identified 3 interim priorities:

- Convene and education
  - June: Hosted the first of our Advancing Priorities Series
  - September: Presentation on juvenile sentencing reform
- Be a resource for lawmakers

    - Exploring targeted outreach to offer education and guidance
- Publish
    - Outlining first informational one-pager

Behavioral Health & Re-Entry- Dr. Trupin

-Provided a brief overview of system and community connections for El Puentes Tri-Cities and Medicaid transformation-JR integrated care pathway.

- El Puentes Tri-Cities
    - Connected to Northwest Credible Messengers & Center for Children and Youth Justice, invited to Diversion Summit in Yakima
- Medicaid Transformation-JR Integrated Care Pathway
    - The goal is to build a Medicaid funded re-entry pathway for young people leaving JR institutions

Grants & Technical Assistance (TA)- Jenny Young

Provided a brief overview of Year 3 funding schedule for sub-awardees and Grants & TA committee responsibilities. Updates from the federal level were shared and payment to sub-awardees is being paid out in a timely manner.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities- Jimmy Hung

-Began planning community film screening of Juvenile Five Stories and convened monthly event planning workgroups. The film screening will also be held on August 22nd in the same location as the Diversion Summit. The screening is a public event and all are welcome.

-June- completed analysis of disparity data and submitted annual evaluation to OJJDP

**See PowerPoint for additional information

Youth Voice – Echo Glen

Jenny Young provided an update regarding the action items identified during the last PCJJ meeting, followed by an introduction for Echo Glen's proposal. Dr. Trupin visited with the young people at Echo Glen and invited them to come to this Council meeting with a few ideas regarding projects they would like the PCJJ to support them in moving forward.

Action Items:

-GED testing barriers at Echo Glen

- One youth was able to travel to Green Hill for testing.
- Working on GED offerings and testing to Echo Glen & Harbor Heights.

-Institutional Education Compliance

- On pause while Ada tends to personal family matter.

-Connect with Strengthening Families

- A concern was raised by a council member regarding the current visitation spaces and the lack of child-friendly amenities and funding sources were identified to fund improvements. A meeting was held, and participants expressed a willingness within their capacities to collaborate with Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) on improving visitation spaces to ensure they are family-friendly and appropriate for meaningful visits.

-Meet with JR to review the Beh. Management System

- The meeting has not yet been scheduled due to the current vacancy in the Assistant Secretary position at Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR).

-PCJJ Members attending Full Council meetings at Echo Glen and Green Hill with young people

- The debrief meeting with Echo Glen happened but not with Green Hill due to staffing capacity. The proposal is to set up monthly meetings with the schools and JR.

Echo Glen Proposal: Alexis, John, Lola

- Communications and support for transitions to either DOC facilities or home.
- Phone calls and family friendly visitation spaces.
- Facilitate access for DOC residents to Securus tablets. Include youth and young adults in the design of family-friendly visitation spaces.

-Jenny Heddin responded to the Echo Glen proposal and explained the challenge with obtaining Securus tablets as the budget item was vetoed from the final budget bill. DCYF is preparing a Decision Package request for the next Leg. Session requesting these funds. Currently there is a pilot at Harbor Heights with another secure communication provider as DCYF was able to direct-buy due to the smaller number of tablets needed.

Public Comment:

None shared this time

Adjourn

12:56 PM

Next Meeting: Quarterly Meeting October 9-10, 2025 (in person at Tulalip, WA)