

JUVENILE JUSTICE OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

Minutes

August 23, 2024

Call to Order and Roll Call

The third meeting of the Juvenile Justice Oversight Council was held on August 23, 2024, at 3:00 PM in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Daniel Elliott, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Daniel Elliott non voting Co-Chair; Senators Whitney Westerfield, and Danny Carroll; Representative Keturah Herron; Katie Comstock, Lesa Dennis, Christina Weeter for Robbie Fletcher, Katie Marks, Damon Preston, Randy White, Derek Selznick for Paula Garner, and Steven Gold.

Guests: Roberta McCann, Director, Division of Administrative Services, Department of Juvenile Justice; Myrissa Ritter, Human Resource Branch Manager, Recruitment and Training, Office of Human Resource Management, Justice & Public Safety Cabinet; Tabitha Hobbs, Assistant Director II, Division of Human Resource Administration, Office of Human Resource Management, Justice & Public Safety Cabinet.

LRC Staff: Matt Trebelhorn, Roberta Kiser, Stephanie Larkin, and Robert Wright.

Approval of Minutes of the July 18, 2024 Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Gold and seconded by Ms. Comstock to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2024, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

Agency Updates

Representative Elliott discussed a report provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts regarding implementation of legislation from the 2023 and 2024 sessions, FAIR Team outcomes and mandated member attendance, and trends in detentions.

Department of Juvenile Justice

Roberta McCann, Director, Division of Administrative Services, Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ); Myrissa Ritter, Human Resource Branch Manager, Recruitment and Training, Office of Human Resource Management, Justice & Public Safety Cabinet; and Tabitha Hobbs, Assistant Director II, Division of Human Resource Administration, Office of Human Resource Management, Justice & Public Safety Cabinet, presented on the physical conditions, staffing, and population of juvenile facilities. Ms. McCann outlined the DJJ's

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mission and provided information on the current population of DJJ facilities. Ms. Ritter provided an update regarding DJJ staffing and employee recruitment and retention efforts.

In response to questions from Senator Westerfield, Ms. Ritter agreed to provide information regarding the funding and turnover rates of DJJ social workers, clinicians, and psychologists as well as staff-to-juvenile ratios in DJJ facilities. Ms. McCann agreed to provide information regarding DJJ employment figures. Ms. McCann stated that DJJ has made significant improvements to physical properties over the last two years. Ms. McCann agreed to provide information regarding renovations, security upgrades, and if facilities are not meeting the needs of inmates. Mr. White confirmed a number of DJJ facilities are undergoing maintenance.

In response to a question from Senator Carroll, Ms. McCann and Mr. White provided updates on regional detention centers.

In response to a question from Mr. Gold, Ms. McCann confirmed female juveniles are being transported to the Boyd Regional Juvenile Detention Center in Ashland, KY. Mr. White explained why Boyd Regional Juvenile Detention Center was chosen to house female juveniles.

In response to questions from Representative Elliott, Mr. White clarified why female juveniles were shifted from the Campbell Regional Juvenile Detention Center in Newport, KY, to the Boyd Regional Juvenile Detention Center and provided an update on communication between parents and incarcerated juveniles. Ms. Ritter agreed to provide information on current position vacancies and stated salary figures for DJJ correctional officers.

In response to a question from Mr. Preston, Ms. McCann and Mr. White provided updates on current DJJ construction projects.

In response to a question from Representative Herron, Ms. McCann provided an update on Jefferson County DJJ construction projects.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.