

JUVENILE JUSTICE OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

Minutes

June 21, 2024

Call to Order and Roll Call

The first meeting of the Juvenile Justice Oversight Council was held on June 21, 2024, at 1:00 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; Senator Danny Carroll; Representatives Kevin D. Bratcher and Keturah Herron; Ashley Clark for Katie Comstock, Laura Begin for Lesa Dennis, Christina Weeter for Robbie Fletcher, Elzie Burger for Keith Jackson, Stephanie Craycraft for Katie Marks, Damon Preston, Elzie Burger for Randy White, Paula Garner, and Steve Gold.

Guests: Travis Claybrooks, Founder & CEO, Raphah Institute; Ashlee Sellars, Director of Network and Power-Building, Raphah Institute

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

Introductory Remarks

Representative Elliott reiterated the jurisdiction of the committee.

Representative Elliott recognized the newest members of the committee, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Secretary Keith Jackson, Department of Juvenile Justice Commissioner Randy White, and Commissioner of Education Dr. Robbie Fletcher.

Approval of Minutes of the October 31, 2023 Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Preston and seconded by Representative Herron to approve the minutes of the October 31, 2023, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

Agency Updates

Representative Elliott examined 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, trends in detentions, and the retirement of Rachel Bingham.

Working Restoratively with People Harmed by Crime

Travis Claybrooks, Founder & CEO, Raphah Institute and Ashlee Sellars, Director of Network and Power-Building, Raphah Institute, discussed their professional backgrounds. Mr. Claybrooks described the impetus for starting the Raphah Institute and discussed local community partners in Nashville, TN. Mr. Claybrooks and Ms. Sellars presented a short video outlining restorative justice and discussed restorative justice and how it is defined. Mr. Claybrooks described the pillars of restorative justice and how Raphah Institute counselors implement these pillars in their work using a hypothetical case of an individual's car being stolen. Mr. Claybrooks and Ms. Sellars presented a short testimonial video from an individual who completed the Raphah Institute program. Ms. Sellars clarified that the Raphah Institute's program is voluntary and participation is driven by the victim of a crime. Ms. Sellars stated that the Raphah Institute provides victim advocate services.

In response to questions from Representative Elliott, Mr. Claybrooks discussed the average length of the Raphah Institute program. Mr. Claybrooks stated that Raphah works with organizations in other states that provide similar programs and services.

In response to questions from Representative Herron, Ms. Sellars discussed how Raphah determines which cases to take. Mr. Claybrooks and Ms. Sellars discussed how restorative justice councils in Kentucky can operate in good faith with community partners.

In response to questions from Christina Weeter, Mr. Claybrooks stated that statistics on community impacts from the Raphah Institute program's are not yet available. Mr. Claybrooks discussed the commonalities shared by individuals who participated in Raphah programs and went on to reoffend.

In response to questions from Paula Garner, Ms. Sellars discussed the involvement that Raphah has with family members of individuals participating in their programs. Ms. Sellars outlined the relationship between Raphah and the Nashville public school system. Ms. Sellars stated that Raphah conducts quarterly public trainings regarding their programs.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m.