

# JUVENILE JUSTICE OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

## Minutes

July 18, 2024

### Call to Order and Roll Call

The second meeting of the Juvenile Justice Oversight Council was held on July 18, 2024, at 3:00 PM in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Whitney Westerfield, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

### Present were:

Members: Senator Whitney Westerfield non-voting Co-Chair; Representatives Daniel Elliott, non-voting Co-Chair; and Keturah Herron; Ashley Clark for Katie Comstock, Lesa Dennis, Christina Weeter for Robbie Fletcher, Mona Womack for Keith Jackson, Patty Clark for Katie Marks, Damon Preston, Mona Womack for Randy White, Patrick Boardman for Paula Garner, Steven Gold, and John Ward.

Guests: Kristy James, Social Service Specialist, Department for Community Based Services; Sarah Quackenbush, Parent Education Meeting Facilitator, Northern Kentucky Community Action Commission

LRC Staff: Matt Trebelhorn, Joshua Shelepak, Stephanie Larkin, Eric Rodenberg, and Robert Wright.

### Approval of Minutes of the June 21, 2024 Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Gold and seconded by Representative Elliott to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2024, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

### Agency Updates

Senator Westerfield 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, and trends in detentions.

### Parent Engagement Model

Kristy James, Social Service Specialist, Department for Community Based Services and Sarah Quackenbush, Parent Education Meeting Facilitator, Northern Kentucky Community Action Commission, discussed their professional backgrounds. Ms. James described the purpose of the Parent Engagement Meeting Program and elaborated upon its origin. Ms. James outlined the parameters for referrals to the program and the content and goals of a parent

engagement meeting once a referral has been made. Ms. James described paperwork that is completed during a meeting, including an action plan for improved attendance. Ms. James reviewed recent program data from academic year 2022 - 2023. Ms. Quackenbush detailed her recent experiences as a meeting facilitator.

In response to questions from Senator Westerfield, Ms. James described barriers to improved school attendance for youths referred to the program. Some parents do not wish to meet with facilitators when their children have been referred to the program. Referred youth have been present at engagement meetings, but it is not standard. PEM has been successful in getting parents involved. The average age of referred children are 5 to 11 years old. Ms. James agreed to provide information regarding the names of the 22 counties PEM has been implemented in. Ms. James agreed to provide information on similar programs in other states.

In response to questions from Mr. Preston, Ms. James elaborated on the gap that the PEM fills in the 22 counties it has been implemented in. Ms. James explained how the program is designed to prevent parents from thinking the PEM is a disciplinary meeting.

In response to a question from Ms. P. Clark, Ms. James described the difference between PEM and the alternative response model that has been implemented in some counties.

In response to questions from Ms. Weeter, Ms. James elaborated on the family resource coordinator's role in the PEM program. Ms. James and Ms. Quackenbush explained the decision process behind determining when a referral to PEM should be made and how the PEM program is funded. The PEM program has partnered with other programs to provide additional assistance to families. Demographic data is beginning to be collected.

In response to a question from Ms. P. Clark, Ms. James described how often mental health, substance abuse, or intellectual developmental disabilities are barriers to school attendance and the cause for referrals to the PEM program.

In response to a question from Mr. Gold, Ms. Dennis stated PEM has been implemented in 22 counties and agreed to provide information on how the program could be scaled up.

In response to a question from Mr. Boardman, Ms. Quackenbush clarified the average amount of time families stay in the program.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.