

JUVENILE JUSTICE OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

Minutes

November 8, 2024

Call to Order and Roll Call

The fifth meeting of the Juvenile Justice Oversight Council was held on November 8, 2024, at 11:00 AM in Room 171 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, Co-Chair; Senator Whitney Westerfield, Co-Chair; Senators Danny Carroll and Robin L. Webb; Representative Kevin D. Bratcher; Ashley Clark for Jason McGinnis, Lesa Dennis, Christina Weeter for Robbie Fletcher, Mona Womack for Keith Jackson, Dr. Katie Marks, Damon Preston, Randy White, Paula Garner, Steven Gold, and Tyra Walker.

Guests: Libby Mills, Consultant, Volunteers of America Mid-States; Dallas Hurley, Senior Director of Advocacy and Policy, Volunteers of America Mid-States; and Nina Salomon, Deputy Division Director, Corrections and Reentry, Council of State Governments Justice Center.

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Senator Carroll and seconded by Representative Bratcher to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2024, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

Agency Updates

Representative Elliott examined a report provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) regarding FAIR Team outcomes and mandated member attendance, AOC judicial training related to juvenile justice, and trends in detentions.

Volunteers of America - Restorative Justice

Libby Mills, Consultant, Volunteers of America Mid-States, and Dallas Hurley, Senior Director of Advocacy and Policy, Volunteers of America Mid-States, presented on restorative justice and creating safer communities through restorative practices. Mr. Hurley provided an overview of the restorative justice model. Ms. Mills detailed the restorative

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justice model that Volunteers of America (VOA) uses when referrals are received from the criminal justice system. Mr. Hurley detailed two restorative justice models that VOA uses in schools they have contracts with, and Fiscal Year 2023 and 2024 referral statistics. Ms. Mills highlighted VOA's service areas, plans to expand restorative justice services across the state, and discussed the percentage of youth who completed the restorative justice process. Ms. Mills also discussed VOA's Alternative to Detention program (ATD) and provided an update on VOA's contract with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

In response to Representative Elliott, Ms. Mills discussed services provided in VOA's service areas. Ms. Mills detailed VOA's contract with DJJ. Mr. White discussed DJJ's plans to expand ATD and barriers to entry regarding restorative justice programs.

In response to Senator Webb, Ms. Mills detailed the range of offenses VOA provides services, where VOA receives diversion cases, when in the criminal trial process VOA receives a referral, and the credentials of VOA employees. Ms. Mills stated that studies on recidivism rates and cost benefit analyses of restorative justice models are currently being conducted. Ms. Mills also outlined the oversight process for the DJJ contract renewal.

In response to Mr. Gold, Ms. Mills discussed obstacles VOA faces in implementing restorative justice programs in service counties.

In response to Dr. Marks, Ms. Mills discussed services VOA offers to victims.

In response to Mr. Preston, Ms. Mills detailed challenges VOA faces, including funding, resources, and existing institutional practices.

In response to Ms. Weeter, Ms. Mills discussed referrals from Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) and the number of JCPS schools implementing restorative justice practices. Ms. Mills discussed the demographics of VOA's restorative justice program referrals.

In response to Ms. Garner, Ms. Mills shared the rate of JCPS families participation in restorative justice programs and the mental health services VOA provides to offenders.

In response to Representative Bratcher, Ms. Mills discussed the process when an offender is not meeting previously agreed benchmarks.

In response to Ms. Walker, Ms. Mills confirmed the information VOA receives with referrals.

Juvenile Probation

Nina Salomon, Deputy Division Director, Corrections and Reentry Justice Center, Council of State Governments (CSG), presented on juvenile probation. Ms. Salomon discussed the

current juvenile probation system, and opportunities to improve the system and outcomes for juveniles on probation. Ms. Salomon discussed key takeaways and key questions related to policy changes.

In response to Representative Elliott, Ms. Salomon confirmed most states use pre-disposition investigations for juveniles being sentenced. Mr. White confirmed the use of pre-disposition investigations for juveniles in Kentucky.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM.