

JUVENILE JUSTICE OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

Minutes

September 24, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The second meeting of the Juvenile Justice Oversight Council was held on September 24, 2026, at 2:00 PM ET/1:00 PM CT in Room 129 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 Brandon J. Storm, non-voting Co-Chair; Lesa Dennis, Christina Weeter for Robbie Fletcher, Mona Womack for Keith Jackson, Melanie Lowe for Public Advocate, Randy White, Paula Garner, Steven Gold, Jason Reynolds for Jason McGinnis, and Tyra Walker.

Guests: Devine Carama, Director, One Lexington; Larry Johnson, Community Outreach Coordinator, One Lexington; and Kenneth Payne, Crisis Response Coordinator, One Lexington.

LRC Staff: Randall Roof, Joshua Shelepak, Eric Rodenberg, and Robert Wright.

Approval of Minutes of the February 6, 2026 Meeting

A motion was made by Co-Chair Storm and seconded by Steve Gold to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2026, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

Agency Updates

Chair Elliott reviewed a report provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) regarding child and adolescent needs and strengths assessment; choices matter curriculum; data and trends related to Court Designated Workers (CDW); and the impact of legislation passed during the 2026 Regular Session.

Strategies to Address Youth Violence

Devine Carama, Director, One Lexington, outlined One Lexington's community-based approach to reducing gun violence among youth and young adults. He detailed the organization's partnership with Lexington-area law enforcement, schools, health providers, faith-based organizations, and community groups. He also discussed services

the organization provides including summer programming, in-school mentoring, and services for families. He explained the role of crisis outreach advocates and detailed how these individuals serve as credible messengers following incidents of gun violence, emphasizing the importance of intervening quickly to prevent retaliatory violence, and stating that most gun violence in Lexington is interpersonal rather than gang-related. He also emphasized the importance of building the capacity of community organizations like One Lexington, so violence prevention efforts can continue despite possible changes in governmental leadership.

Kenneth Payne, Crisis Response Coordinator, One Lexington, detailed One Lexington's crisis response strategy including weekly violence intervention team meetings, neighborhood engagement walks following incidents of gun violence, conflict resolution and mediation, and survivor support services. He emphasized the organization takes a holistic approach to supporting families and communities affected by gun violence.

Larry Johnson, Community Outreach Coordinator, One Lexington, discussed how One Lexington provides community outreach and capacity building. He stated the organization works to connect and strengthen community organizations rather than compete with them for limited resources. He also outlined how the organization provides capacity building by informing community groups of violence prevention grants, providing trauma and grief support, and holding bi-monthly trainings. He discussed the organization's efforts to promote safe gun ownership, distribute gun locks, and reduce firearm theft and youth access to unsecured firearms.

In response to Chair Elliott, Mr. Carama discussed how One Lexington partners with the Lexington Police Department (LPD) through violence intervention meetings and service referrals for at-risk youth. Mr. Carama agreed to provide Chair Elliot One Lexington's policy recommendations.

In response to Ms. Walker, Mr. Carama detailed One Lexington's communication with Louisville Metro Government officials and Louisville community partners and using lessons learned in Lexington to inform violence-prevention efforts in Louisville. He discussed individualized restoration plans for high-risk youth based on each youth's circumstances and needs.

In response to Deputy Public Advocate Lowe, Mr. Carama and Mr. Payne discussed referrals to One Lexington's mentoring programs through Lexington-area schools, parents of at-risk youth, court officials, law enforcement officials, and community partners.

In response to Mr. Gold, Mr. Carama discussed how One Lexington's services can be replicated in smaller communities. He clarified juvenile confidentiality requirements and the use of parental consent for participation in school-based programs. He discussed One Lexington's annual budget and previous funding sources.

In response to Co-Chair Storm, Mr. Carama detailed the source of One Lexington's gun violence data and discussed the use of LPD statistics to evaluate multi-year trends.

In response to Ms. Weeter, Mr. Carama discussed One Lexington's partnership with Lexington-area schools and background check requirements that may limit the use of rehabilitated individuals with relevant lived experience as mentors.

Co-Chair Storm recognized Ashely Clark, Executive Officer, Department of Family & Juvenile Services, AOC, for work related to 2026 RS SB 170.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned.