



*The Colorado Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Council provides
Statewide leadership and advocacy to improve the juvenile justice system, prevent delinquency, ensure equal justice
and accountability for all youth while maximizing community safety.*

JJDP Council Meeting Minutes May 16, 2025/ 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Location: Hybrid - In Person or Zoom
690 Kipling St., Lakewood, CO 80215 /1st Floor Training Room
Call in information on Calendar Invite

Attendees:

Members: Jamin Alabiso, Rebekah Arnold, Brian Bumbarger, Elycia Cook, Lindsay Edwards, Kelly Friesen, Brad Geiger, Charles Gilford III, Rebecca Gleason, Sheryl Gurrentz, Will Hayes, Katie Hecker, Elizabeth Higgs, Ashley Jellison, Kira Jukes, Claire Polini, Paula Ramaekers, Kyle Ragland, Daniel Sampson, Tammy Schneiderman, Effie Seibold, Carrie Steele, Thomas Steele, Rebekah Stewart

Guests: Berrick Abramson

Staff: Kate Ferebee, Hanna Gootée, Tom Harbaugh, Gianina Horton, Director Matt Lunn, Leah Swenson

Quorum Established: 9:03AM

Chair Report Ramaekers

Paula

Paula asked for a new chair for the Diversion subcommittee. The Diversion subcommittee is looking for a new chair and encouraged interested individuals, especially new members, to volunteer.

Motion to accept February minutes.

Legislative Update

Kelly Abbott

Kelly discussed how the Youth Deflection and Investment Grant bill was pulled into HB25-1146. It was originally part of SB25-43, concerning the treatment of individuals with Behavioral Health concerns in the Juvenile Justice (JJ) system. Bill HB25-1146 raised the number of emergency beds available and reduces barriers to accessing them. The deflection part of the new bill allows communities to come together to find ways to intervene with youth who have had contact with law enforcement before they encounter a district attorney. Kelly Frieson asked the following question "The Deflection portion of the Bill stipulates that DCJ will have to distribute funding through a non-profit. Is there going to be a waiver of this? Lots of communities and small organizations may miss out on this funding who don't have a non-profit in their communities" The response DCJ has at the moment is that "We will have to revisit the question after examining the bill more thoroughly." Thomas Steele had a question, "Is there a list of beds by county that is available due to HB25-1146?" Kelly Abbott responded, "The is not one by county, but by Judicial District."

Another bill just passed and will be implemented by the end of this year that Juveniles no longer need to pay Court costs or fees. There were some conflicting statutes in legislation between Title 42 and Title 19 which allowed for juvenile misdemeanor traffic cases to be held for up to 72 hours in an adult jail, if the juvenile facility was more than 40 miles away.

Subcommittee Reports

Emerging Leaders

Rebekah Arnold

Bekah shared an upcoming project that is a re-entry guide for young people getting back into the community; it will contain resources, tips and advice. Bekah also recognized Tom Harbaugh for creating an app to process Emerging Leaders stipends. The Emerging Leaders began testing the app will create a guide on how to use it. Bekah mentioned her tour at Mount View and shared that they would like to welcome currently incarcerated young people to join the subcommittee.

The Emerging Leaders also mentioned the Mentor sign-up sheet and asked councilmembers to send Bekah a one-liner about what they do (area of expertise) to help pay with an Emerging Leader mentee.

Children's Code

Jamin Alabiso and Rebecca Gleason

The work on the enormous project of going through the Children's Code line by line continues with strong focus. OMNI continues to facilitate the project and has done some survey work of interested parties to help determine what other areas of the Code need to be reviewed. The subcommittee has developed a public-facing form so that anyone can submit suggestions for language to be reviewed. Brian Bumbarger asked if AI is going to be used in the future? Rebecca responded that the subcommittee is reluctant to utilize AI "Some of the changes actually would impact legal meaning, impact legal terms of art potentially in other areas of the statute that reference, those terms.

CRRED

Gianina Horton

In January of this year, CRRED participated in the Youth Justice Forum, and had one quarterly meeting in April. Both were successful in creating relationships between juvenile justice practitioners and professionals in community organizations. The next step for the subcommittee is to draft an action plan, which will be the next Subcommittee meeting taking place next week in person. CRRED is looking forward to submitting policy presented to the Council for their input.

Diversion

Berrick Abramson, Carrie Steele and Brian

Bumbarger

he subcommittee exists to complement Hanna and Tom's work. Informed by their work along with the three-year strategic plan for the Council, a work plan has been developed for the Diversion Committee. Brian Bumbarger highlighted that the Diversion subcommittee was created due to it being a new priority in the Council's three-year plan. This momentum is great and there's a clear plan. Brian has stepped down as chair due to schedule changes from starting a new job. The next chair will be tasked with leading an effort to execute the work plan, collect and amplify stories about successes in Diversion, and use those to create a set of best practices. Additionally, the subcommittee is expected to provide input on the funding process managed by DCJ that will start in the fall.

The subcommittee has invited council members to sit in the next diversion subcommittee meeting at 9:30am on May 22, 2025.

Youth Intervention and Support (YISS)

Kelly Friesen

The Subcommittee is tasked to examine the issue of system-involved youth having multiple referrals to DHS but possibly being screened out and missing opportunities for service.

A three-step process has been implemented by the subcommittee: 1) Identifying what programs and services are available to juveniles & their families based on where they live, 2) conducting a gap analysis of which services aren't available and where, and 3) developing a set of recommendations, with care not to attempt to dictate who providers should be.

The subcommittee's next meeting will be held on June 24, 2025, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Councilmembers are encouraged to attend.

Juvenile Diversion Update

Hanna Gootee

Hanna discussed the subcommittee's outcomes and how they would like assistance streamlining the approach to Diversion, as right now it looks vastly different from program to program across the state. The subcommittee is looking forward to providing more resources to rural communities that align with those available in more populous / metro areas. Hanna also shared she has convened a work group to create a Juvenile Diversion Handbook, which would include details surrounding intake requirements, what informs best practices, etc.

Kelly Friesen mentioned that more money has to be attached to the standardization of Diversion to include “high-risk” youth - it sets everyone up for failure to ask organizations to serve “high-risk” youth but not provide any additional resources to support that service. If possible, demonstrating that lack of funding is tied to kids not being given diversion, that might create leverage for some future legislature. Jamin Alabiso asked “if racial and ethnic disparities are a part of these discussions, and Hanna responded that many demographics are considered in addition to race/ethnicity in terms of disparities in the system.

Hanna explained that the subcommittee and the working group consist of diversion directors, DAs, and community-based diversion program directors or staff members. Once the first draft of the handbook has been created, the Council will be able to provide input and seek better clarification.

Emergency Funding Request

Kelly Abbott

There have been two requests for emergency funding received: one from the Latino Coalition, and one from Youth Zone. Daniel Sampson discloses a potential conflict of interest for one of the requests: his organization has a fiscal relationship with one of the requestors. It was decided that Daniel may stay for the discussion but abstain from voting.

A motion to deny both requests was put forward by Kyle Ragland. Thomas Steele seconded the motion. The motion carried with 8 in favor of denial, 4 opposed to denial, and 3 abstaining from the vote.

A motion to create a subcommittee to evaluate the Emergency Funding procedures is put forth by Kelly Friesen. Daniel Sampson seconded the motion.

The motion was carried without opposition or abstention.

Thomas Steel moved to add a statement to the DCJ website that states consideration of Emergency Funding is paused while the Council re-evaluates its process. Katie Hecker second motion.

The motion carried with 11 in favor and 5 opposed.

Colorado Juvenile Detention Screen

Erika Knutson, *DYS Detention Bed Coordinator*

Erika Knutson shared a presentation on the screening process. She mentioned that all screeners attend training annually to keep up to date. Senate Bill 19-108 defined a substantial risk of serious harm and informed the creation of the screening tool; the new tool requires screeners to evaluate youth’s risk for engaging in future violence. The screening tool uses collateral information to complete the screen including youth, parent, and/or professional’s interview; court data access; and a modification to access the Trails database. The tool has been working well with ongoing open houses, virtual training, and lunch and learn series.

Brian Bumbarger asked, if there is any plan to develop something like a “report card” for Judicial Districts, to let the districts know how they are doing compared to others. Erika responded they plan to develop a district-based summary, but it may not be what you one would call think of as a “report card.” Questions and answers for that summary are still being developed. Jurisdictions currently have their own ability to pull their own data.

Public Comment

Paula Ramaekers

Paula Ramaekers confirmed that there were no guests attending to make public comment.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2:27PM.