

# MINNESOTA JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## THREE-YEAR PLAN, 2024-2026

### PRIORITY AREA #1: ETHNIC AND RACIAL DISPARITIES (ERD)

#### Goals:

1. Enhance and build upon statewide data already collected to gain a better sense for where disparities are the greatest, identify where gaps exist, and understand which interventions are effective.
2. Support partnerships between community and system stakeholders focused on reducing ethnic and racial disparities in the juvenile justice system.
3. Drive policy change that will reduce out-of-home placement of youth who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).
4. Enhance knowledge and understanding of the juvenile justice system.

#### Objectives/Activities (what we are going to do):

1. Enhance and build upon statewide data already collected to gain a better sense for where disparities are the greatest, identify where gaps exist, and understand which interventions are effective.
  - a) Improve upon what data we collect.
    - i) Data transparency: stakeholders should regularly report data in a way that will allow real time tracking of numbers and demographics of youth in detention facilities and correctional out-of-home placements.
    - ii) Develop and promote racial census forms to courts.
  - b) Improve upon how we collect data.
    - i) Establish a statewide data hub that provides consistent definitions and data points for all reported data so that data can be gathered and compared in a meaningful way.
    - ii) Pursue policy and practice changes that require prosecutors' offices to report on the following data points based on race, ethnicity, gender, age and offense: cases charged, cases diverted pre-charge, cases diverted post-charge, cases declined, cases designated Extended Jurisdiction Juvenile (EJJ), cases motioned EJJ, cases motioned adult certification, and cases certified to adult court;
    - iii) Pursue policy and practice changes that require all judicial districts to report on the following data points based on race, ethnicity, gender, age and offense: cases sustained with a stay of adjudication of delinquency, cases sustained with an adjudication of delinquency, cases designated as EJJ, and cases certified to adult court.
2. Support partnerships between community and system stakeholders focused on reducing ethnic and racial disparities in the juvenile justice system.

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- a) Secure additional funding to support interventions aimed at avoiding out-of-home placements.
  - b) Partner with creative thought processes/agencies.
  - c) Support pilot initiatives that foster community and systems partnerships.
3. Drive policy change that will reduce out-of-home placement of youth who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.
- a) Collaborate with high-level decision-makers and influential systems partners in drafting and revising policies impacting youth.
  - b) When drafting and revising policies, seek out the input of youth and their families, value this expertise and prioritize these perspectives in all decision-making.
4. Enhance knowledge and understanding of the juvenile justice system.
- a) Support education and training opportunities for youth and families about the juvenile justice system.
  - b) Seek out and identify opportunities to learn about what's working, ongoing challenges, promising practices.

### **Performance Indicators (how we are going to measure what we do):**

1. Enhance and build upon statewide data already collected to gain a better sense of where disparities are the greatest, identify where gaps exist, and understand which interventions are effective.
  - a) Identify stakeholders and key informants.
  - b) Partner/collaborate/establish protocol and process for consistent data collection across judicial districts.
  - c) OJP staff to summarize current data used for ERD reporting, identify data gaps, and recommend decision collection points in each judicial district to address.
2. Support partnerships between community and system stakeholders focused on reducing ethnic and racial disparities in the juvenile justice system.
  - a) Conversations in community and field across Minnesota.
  - b) Strengthen prevention strategies.
  - c) Implement a solution-based public health model.
  - d) Fewer barriers preventing some youth and families from accessing services.
  - e) Service providers and advocates are made aware of these services so they can better facilitate access for their clients.
3. Drive policy change that will reduce out-of-home placement of Black, Indigenous, and Youth of Color.
  - a) Create more visibility around issues through decision-maker education.
  - b) Identify services that help service providers avoid out-of-home placement.
4. Enhance knowledge and understanding of the juvenile justice system.

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- a) Education and training events completed; audiences include youth and their families, law enforcement, community providers, judiciary, and juvenile justice system professionals.
- b) Support opportunities to learn about what’s working, ongoing challenges, promising practices.

**ERD Action Plan:**

Goal:	Task:	Person(s) responsible:	When:	Support/ Resources needed:	Outcome measures:
<b>#1: Enhance and build upon statewide data already collected to gain a better sense of where disparities are the greatest, identify where gaps exist, and understand which interventions are effective.</b>	Data Collection Policy and Practice Changes	ERD Committee ERD Coordinator Policy and Partnership Committee	Calendar years 2024-2026	Contacts Coalitions Legislation	Legislation passed
	Create training around the importance and difficulties of data collection and interpretation	ERD Committee ERD Coordinator Policy and Partnership Committee	Fall 2024	Youth Justice Office Data Analyst	Curriculum developed

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<p><b>#2: Support partnerships between community and system stakeholders focused on reducing ethnic and racial disparities in the juvenile justice system.</b></p>	<p>Fund crisis services and rehabilitation services</p> <p>Identify opportunities for deflection by providing law enforcement with a comprehensive list of community advocates and partners</p> <p>Connect with community partners and systems to develop a plan for deflection and diversion</p> <p>Identify opportunities to gather additional resources as JJAC transitions to the Department of Children Youth and Families</p>	<p>JAC's Title II RFP JJAC Policy and Partnership Committee ERD Committee ERD Coordinator</p>	<p>2024-26</p>	<p>Title II Funding</p>	<p>Grantees will report on the impact of their programming</p>
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<p><b>#3: Drive policy change that will reduce out-of-home placement of Black, Indigenous, and Youth of Color</b></p>	<p>Partner with the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice and the National Center for Juvenile Justice on 15-month disparities-reduction project</p>	<p>JJAC’s ERD Subcommittee ERD Coordinator</p>	<p>Early 2024 – June 2025</p>	<p>Title II funding Contract Coalitions</p>	<p>Statewide disparities reduction model produced</p>
<p><b>#4: Enhance knowledge and understanding of the juvenile justice system</b></p>	<p>Educate law enforcement agencies about diversion (and the concept of deflection with a way to document when deflection/diversion occurs)</p>	<p>JJAC’s Compliance Subcommittee ERD Coordinator</p>	<p>Calendar years 2024-2026</p>	<p>Contacts Coalitions Funding</p>	<p>Trainings/presentation completed, increased utilization of diversion</p>

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### PRIORITY AREA #2: REDUCING HARM

#### Goals:

1. Keep youth out of the juvenile justice system who do not need to be there.
2. Improve outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system.
3. Direct funding toward specific reform initiatives that will “change the narrative.”

#### Objectives/Activities (what we are going to do):

1. Keep youth out of the juvenile justice system who do not need to be there.
  - a) Identify and make available funding to support the following policies and practices:
    - i. Comprehensive preventative health screening access for all youth.
    - ii. Divert Rule 20 youth to restorative practices and out of the traditional, punitive system.
    - iii. School-based mental health services.
    - iv. Houseless resources and support.
    - v. Community-led problem solving (ie community restorative practices/restorative justice).
    - vi. Crisis services and stabilization for children.
  - b) Pursue policy and practice changes that reduce youth incarceration, including:
    - i. Alternatives to juvenile justice system referral for youth ages 10 -12, including creating a pilot program that would significantly reduce or eliminate referrals to the juvenile justice system for youth under the age of 13.
    - ii. Bar admission to secure detention facilities for youth under the age of 13 except in extraordinary and rare cases.
    - iii. Provide support funding for mental health services aimed at triaging immediate and urgent needs.
    - iv. Provide intensive, consistent mental health services for youth in correctional settings.
    - v. School- and shelter-linked mental health care will follow youth when they enter/exit detention centers and/or juvenile facilities.
    - vi. Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) used for all detention facilities holding youth across Minnesota.
    - vii. Increase funding for community-based alternatives.
2. Improve outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system.
  - a) Develop a Juvenile Justice-Mental Health Continuum of Care:
    - i. Identify the service gaps and determine who can fill those gaps.

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- ii. Identify strategies that support promising and evidence-based approaches that advance the long-term well-being and success of youth and their families.
    - iii. Prioritize collaborative mental health case management, ensuring services and placement that best benefits the mental health needs of each individual.
    - iv. Enhance communities' abilities to meet the needs of youth involved in or at risk of entering the juvenile justice system through community-based strategies.
    - v. Develop economic impact strategies that result in cost savings and identify how those cost savings can be reinvested into the larger continuum of care.
    - vi. Establish a sustainable framework that supports the decarceration of youth and the diversion of children identified as being at risk of involvement in the criminal justice system through a coordinated, collaborative strategy and promotes safe communities.
  - b) Support the development of new policies, or revision of existing policies related to conditions for incarcerated youth:
    - i. Development or revision of a health and safety response for youth in correctional facilities (ensure compliance with COVID- and other disease-related health mandates, release for high-risk youth).
    - ii. Revision of Rule 2960 initiated by Department of Corrections to address modification of Disciplinary Room Time (DRT), including Due Process, and Strip Searches, with intent to limit the use of DRT and provide for assurances that individuals in DRT are supervised and cared for with dignity and according to their needs and rights.
    - iii. Modify Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) disqualifications for youth.
    - iv. Eliminate public hearings and public records for 16- and 17-year-olds charged with a felony.
    - v. Modify (or eliminate) predatory offender registration for youth (end automatic, create presumption of no registration).
- 3. Launch a data-centered, multi-faceted prevention and intervention initiative to support children of incarcerated parents/caregivers.
  - a) Raise Awareness about parental/family incarceration within county government, among professionals, elected officials and the community.
    - i. Training for law enforcement and attorneys on how to reduce the traumatic impact of a parent arrest/incarceration.
    - ii. Work with schools and school districts to support children of incarcerated Parents.
  - b) Prioritize supporting the parent-child bond, building resilience, strengthening the family and reducing parental recidivism.
    - i. Changes in policies for pregnant detainees.

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- ii. Continued /ongoing education and support for families and children directly affected by incarceration.
  - c) Develop actionable strategies to build resilient children & Families.
    - i. Parenting education.
    - ii. Caregiver support.
    - iii. Design of jail and prison facilities – friendlier environment.
    - iv. Jail and prison visitation – face to face contact.
  - d) Promote best practices:
    - i. Continue to promote the Crossover Youth/Dual Status Youth Model; increase supportive services for youth who are dual jurisdiction.
    - ii. Try to get youth under the age of 14 out of the system either through another system response or an alternative response.
    - iii. Rehabilitation, positive youth development and overall community health.
    - iv. Make children’s mental health services mandatory in delinquency cases.
    - v. Identify and make available funding to support improved policies and practices.
- 4. Direct funding toward specific reform initiatives that will “change the narrative.”
  - a) Provide Title II funding: Programs funded by JJAC will engage communities - including youth, families and systems leaders to participate in ongoing courageous conversations that focus on policies to address disparities.
  - b) Consider pilot projects that explore new strategies - explore other options for mental health service funding for justice involved and system involved youth.
  - c) Develop a continuum care model that coordinates mental health resources among mental health service providers for youth at various points of involvement in the juvenile justice system.

### **Performance Indicators (how we are going to measure what we do):**

- 1. Keep youth out of the juvenile justice system who do not need to be there.
  - a) Develop a clear statewide response set forth by law that handles children 10-12 as cross-over/dual status youth, reinforcing that these are children in need of services.
  - b) Secure a funding stream that ensures the needs of these children are met and the behaviors are addressed in order to reduce further involvement in the juvenile justice system.
- 2. Improve outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system.
  - a) Mental Health Continuum of Care will result in:
    - i. Identification of service gaps (geographic, cultural, socioeconomic, etc.).
    - ii. Strategies for filling those gaps.



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- iii. Elimination of those gaps.
- iv. Collaborative communication and follow-up between facilities and treatment providers.
- v. Awareness of all the available services and placement options.
- vi. Improved operating procedures, including mental health criteria that determine which placement would best serve the mental-health needs of the individual.

3. Direct funding toward specific reform initiatives that will “change the narrative.”
  - a) Communities will gather and build relationships that result in new strategies and policies that address the long-standing, seemingly intractable problems within the juvenile justice system.

### Reducing Harm Action Plan:

Goal:	Task:	Person(s) responsible:	When:	Support/ Resources needed:	Outcome measures
<b>#1: Keep youth out of the juvenile justice system who do not need to be there</b>	Review existing data and identify gaps	JJAC’s Policy & Partnership Subcommittee  Youth Justice Office’s Data Specialist	Early 2024	Data report	Data report (including gaps) submitted to, and reviewed by JJAC
	Reach out to Minnesota County Attorney’s Association to facilitate data collection	JJAC’s Policy & Partnership Subcommittee  Youth Justice Office’s Data Specialist	2024-2026	Letter articulating our ‘ask’	Letter sent Report sent Meeting scheduled
	Educate law enforcement agencies (LEAs) about diversion	JJAC’s Compliance Subcommittee	Mid 2024	Educational Materials	Trainings completed
	Crossover and Dual-Status Youth Model Grants - \$1,000,000 each year for two years will support grants to local units of government to	Youth Justice Office Juvenile Justice Specialist and Grant Manager	Mid 2024 – Mid 2026	RFP process implemented by YJO. JJAC members offered the opportunity to serve as	Grant terms completed, Crossover/Dual Status programming completed and/or sustained

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	initiate or expand Crossover Youth Practice Model and Dual-Status Youth Programs.			grant reviewers.	
<b>#2: Improve outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system</b>	Develop a juvenile justice-mental health continuum of care tool that will assist facilities and treatment providers in coordinating care for youth	JJAC's Mental Health Subcommittee	Jan, 2024 – June 2025	OJJDP funding  Partners	Continuum of care model produced
	Forge relationships with agencies currently working on eliminating juvenile predatory offender registration (BCA, DOC, MN County Attorneys Association, MN Sherriff's Association, MN Chiefs of Police Association, Workgroup members)	JJAC's Policy & Partnership Subcommittee	Mid-2024 through 2026	Staff time to assist with presentation to legislators  Follow-up letter to legislators	Eliminate/limit Juvenile Predatory Offender Registration  Meeting conducted, agreement reached
	Identify additional partners to engage in work to eliminate/limit Juvenile Predatory Offender Registration and engage in discussion	JJAC's Policy & Partnership Subcommittee	Mid 2024		Partners identified
	Develop a JJAC Position Paper that includes data and recommendations related to best practices for youth, also educating about the importance of	JJAC Policy & Partnership Subcommittee	Spring 2024	Authors  Data - number of youth impacted by Juvenile Predatory	Paper produced

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	providing greater privacy in proceedings involving youth ages 16 and 17 charged with felonies (making juvenile hearings closed to the public unless there has been a designation as EJJ or a motion for certification)			Offender Registration	
<b>#3: Direct funding toward specific reform initiatives that will “change the narrative”</b>	Launch a data-driven, multi-faceted initiative that will inform changes to family programming and visitation spaces in jails, work with schools to support impacted children, implement training for law enforcement and attorneys to reduce negative impact of incarceration, inform changes to policies around pregnant detainees, and promote sentencing alternatives that keep parents at home	JJAC’s Children of Incarcerated Parents Subcommittee  Youth Justice Office’s Health and Resiliency Coordinator	Early 2024	Funding	Partnerships developed  Programming initiated

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## PRIORITY AREA #3: YOUTH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**Goals:**

1. Center youth voice in decision-making.
2. Engage in power-sharing with youth.
3. Foster and prioritize youth leadership.

**Objectives/Activities (what we're going to do):**

1. Establish a Youth Advisory Council.
2. Expand Governor-appointed youth membership.
3. Secure continued training for JJAC around shared power and decision-making.

**Performance Indicators (how we are going to measure what we do):**

1. At least 5 youth participate in each monthly JJAC meetings.
2. At least two Youth Engagement trainings per year for JJAC members.
3. Youth Advisory Council members and Governor-appointed youth JJAC members report feeling included, valued, and supported.

**Youth and Community Engagement Action Plan:**

Goal:	Task:	Person(s) responsible:	When:	Support/ Resources needed:	Outcome measures
<b>#1:</b> Center youth voice in decision-making	Expand outreach to youth programs, juvenile detention centers and schools  Recruit 10-15 youth members.  Review applications and select members.	JJAC Youth & Community Outreach Subcommittee  Youth Justice Office Staff	2024-2025	Title II special project (sub-award)	Involvement of youth in JJAC Youth Advisory Meetings

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<p><b>#2:</b> Engage in power-sharing with youth</p>	<p>Recruit partners to train JJAC in authentic youth engagement</p>	<p>JJAC Youth &amp; Community Outreach Subcommittee  Youth Justice Office Staff</p>	<p>2024-2025</p>	<p>Title II special project (sub-award)</p>	<p>Youth focus group meetings completed  Youth report satisfaction in surveys</p>
<p><b>#3:</b> Foster and prioritize youth leadership</p>	<p>Expand youth voice in policy development and the Title II funding allocation process</p>	<p>JJAC Youth &amp; Community Outreach Subcommittee  Youth Justice Office Staff</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>		<p>Youth participation in JJAC projects  JJAC's youth members report feeling included and respected as partners</p>