

Mar 10, 2026

Juvenile Justice Steering Committee Meeting - Hybrid

Invited [Kyla Armstrong-Romero](#) [Juvenile Justice Steering Committee](#)
[Lily Yamamoto](#) [Enrique Rivera](#) [Micaela Thurman](#) [Silvia Gomez](#) [John Cookus](#)
[Sarah Delepine](#) [Deborah Kim](#) [Leticia Longoria-Navarro](#) [Carla Gay](#)
[Annette Majekodunmi](#) ~~[Ansley Flores](#)~~ ~~[Kelsey Ravindren](#)~~

Attachments [📎 Juvenile Justice Steering Committee Meeting - Hybrid](#)

Summary

Multnomah County Juvenile Detention Center's overcapacity issues dominated the discussion, with reports on electronic monitoring strains and required out-of-county placements for youth.

Detention Center Overcapacity Strain

The Donald E. Long Juvenile Detention Center (DEL) is over capacity with 31 Multnomah County youth, 87% of whom are youth of color. Multnomah County's capacity is 29 youth. Overall detention capacity is 36 which includes OYA, Runaway, Out of State. The youth center is only funded to staff 36 beds, per PREA and CBA, so exceeding 36 will mean that the county must explore out-of-county placement and mutual aid agreements with partner counties like Yamhill and Marion County.

Addressing Long Detentions

Long lengths of stay, compounded by serious offenses like Senate Bill 1008, include cases exceeding 400 days, forcing the county to pay a per-bed, per-day rate from the county general fund. A suggestion was made to accelerate the assessment and decision-making process for youth

facing serious charges to reduce the length of time held.

Subcommittee Reorganization and Goals

The Behavioral Health Subcommittee, previously inactive, will be reorganized and co-championed by Judge Gates and Yolanda Gonzalez to document and assess existing mental health services. The group decided to maintain Goal 1 and Goal 3 of the 2025 goals and objectives, focusing on family support and the parent handbook update.

Details

- **Meeting Logistics and Introductions:** The meeting commenced with greetings and a statement that the session was being recorded by Gemini for note-taking purposes. Participants introduced themselves, stating their name, role, and any agency updates. Attendees included Nichelle Moore (Victim and Survivor Services Manager at Department of Community Justice), Ximena Ospina (Director for Youth Empowerment and Violence Prevention at Latino Network), Marisa Moon (District Manager for ODHS services in Multnomah County), and Kyla Armstrong-Romero (Juvenile Director for Multnomah County Juvenile Services Division).
- **Consultant Update and Departure:** John Cookus, a consultant from the Annie Casey Foundation, provided a brief update on their efforts to assist Multnomah County in system transformation. They expressed enthusiasm for the work being done and noted that they would need to depart the meeting at 12:30 PM due to a prior commitment.
- **Victim and Survivor Services and Court Involvement:** Nichelle Moore confirmed their role as the Manager of Victim and Survivor Services at the Department of Community Justice, working with both juvenile and adult populations. A representative from Supporting Our Society (SOS) mentioned working with Sarah to establish a presence within the Detention Center.
- **Multnomah County Juvenile Detention Overcapacity:** An agency update was provided that the Donald E. Long Juvenile Detention Center (DEL) in Multnomah County is currently over capacity with 31 youth. Additionally, the electronic monitoring program is also nearing or over capacity, with 23 youth currently

enrolled and three referrals pending. Emails regarding the overcapacity have been sent to judges and the district attorney's office.

- **Electronic Monitoring (EM) Capacity Management:** To address the overcapacity in the electronic monitoring program, an effort has been made to identify youth who could be taken off the program after an extended period. The practice of "stepping down" youth from Electronic Monitoring to Community Monitoring (CM) has reportedly extended the length of stay, which has now increased from a traditional 30 days to closer to 60 days.
- **Distinction Between Monitoring Programs:** Greg Cussen, Community Monitoring Program Director with Volunteers of America, clarified the difference between Electronic Monitoring and Community Monitoring. Electronic Monitoring includes an ankle bracelet for monitoring, while Community Monitoring does not, although both programs require check-in calls and visits that vary based on the youth's level.
- **Detention Demographics and Out-of-County Placement:** The detention center population of 31 youth was broken down by race and gender: 87% of the detained youth are youth of color, with 14 identifying as Black and six as Hispanic. There are 2 females and 29 males. Due to understaffing that prevents safely housing more than 36 youth, the county will have to explore moving youth outside of Multnomah County and arranging mutual aid agreements with partner counties like Yamhill and Marion County.
- **Fiscal Implications of Out-of-County Placement:** In response to a query from Judge Maurisa R. Gates, it was clarified that housing youth in outside facilities requires the county to pay a per-bed, per-day rate from the county general fund, which was not planned for in the budget. The cost to house youth in Multnomah County is \$619 per day.
- **Challenges of Long-Term Detentions:** A discussion followed about the long length of stays, which is compounded by serious offenses like Senate Bill 1008 and waiver offenses, taking longer to resolve. Examples of long-haul youth stays include 418 days, 410 days, and multiple stays exceeding 250 days. A suggestion was made to accelerate the assessment and decision-making process for youth facing serious charges (waiver or no-waiver) to reduce the length of time they are held in detention, as the facility is not designed for stays over 400 days.
- **Community Support for Detained Youth:** The representative from Supporting Our Society (SOS) offered assistance for females in detention, preferably Black and

Brown youth, through one-on-one mentoring, group activities, and a forthcoming day trip to Seattle. They expressed continued interest in supporting youth involved in the court system and noted that they currently run three programs segmented by age and circumstance.

- **Parent Summit Planning and Goals:** Annette Majekodunmi provided details about the upcoming Parent Summit, scheduled for May 16th. The one-day event, now in its eighth year, focuses on addressing parents' concerns and needs, with this year's topics including immigration and community violence, and will be hosted at the Latino Network facility. The overarching goal is to support families, promote family unity, and foster connection between parents and community systems.
- **Community-Based Youth Activities and Events:** The POIC agency, in partnership with Latino Network, hosts community activities for youth and their families, including a robust spring break program that offers family unity and skill-building activities, such as a beach trip and a visit to Wings and Waves. They also provide specialized, individual activities like movie passes or gift cards for high-risk youth who are not invited to mainstream events, due to past safety concerns.
- **Education Subcommittee Update and Requests:** The Education Subcommittee, which includes Latino Network, sheriff partners, and MESD, is organizing a community event on April 25th at La Plaza Esperanza. The subcommittee is asking for raffle prizes, such as gift cards or items for themed baskets (like a family movie night), to be collected by April 15th to support the event. The event will feature professionals from trades, education, and various career paths to answer questions for young people focusing on education and job opportunities.
- **Behavioral Health Subcommittee Reorganization:** The Behavioral Health Subcommittee, previously led by former deputy district attorney Kate Molina, has not been meeting, and its primary goal was to document and assess existing mental health services for youth in detention and the community. The consensus was to keep Goal 2 (improving access to mental health services) and reorganize the subcommittee with a new lead and members.
- **New Behavioral Health Subcommittee Members and Deadline:** Judge Gates and Yolanda Gonzalez offered to co-champion the Behavioral Health Subcommittee, with Ansley Flores and a representative from Supporting Our Society also volunteering to be part of the group. The new group will build upon existing

foundational work, which includes a largely completed spreadsheet of mental health providers. They are aiming to provide an update at the May 12th meeting.

- **Goals and Objectives Discussion:** The group decided to maintain Goal 1 (quarterly workshops for families) and Goal 3 of the 2025 goals and objectives. Regarding Goal 1, there has been progress in updating the parent handbook, and there are plans to re-engage the Family Voice Council and incorporate family-engaged case planning orientations.
- **Future Agenda Topics:** Potential future agenda items include an update from Walden Crossing, a data review presentation related to Senate Bill 108's youth recidivism, a Volunteers of America presentation on youth length of stay on electronic and community monitoring, and a presentation from Dr. Nuri about the Youth Advisory Council.
- **Student Engagement and System Feedback:** The meeting concluded with a mention of a recent event where 100 students from Portland Public Schools visited the county building, interacted with commissioners and directors, and provided feedback on what is working and not working within youth and family systems. Director Pena was acknowledged for attending and socializing with the youth.
- **Recruitment and Executive Coaching:** The discussion began with a brief mention of a previous professional's activities, noting that they were involved in both recruitment and executive coaching. The speaker affirmed that they were aware of these professional roles and the person's activities in that space.
- **Small World Connection and Future Tasks:** The speaker acknowledged a shared connection, finding it to be a "small world". They committed to telling the staff about the fair and keeping the items in the intake room to distribute them. The speaker also agreed to help with the raffle, and requested Gunnar to uplift information about the fair to their staff.

Suggested next steps

- Kyla Armstrong-Romero will make a connection with Work Systems to see if they can participate in the education and job event.

- Maurisa R. Gates, Yolanda Gonzalez, Ansley Flores, and Supporting Our Society SOS will provide an update from the behavioral health committee by the May 12th agenda.
- Someone in Large Rm - 1201 - C (JJC, 1) will help with the raffle.