

# Juvenile Justice Steering Committee Meeting - Notes

## 4/14/2026

### I. Core Strategic Alignment and Future Planning

The committee confirmed its direction and planned key initiatives for community engagement and data review.

- **Goals and Objectives:** The general consensus was to maintain the current goals and objectives for 2026.
- **Community Engagement Subcommittee:** An initial conversation was held about creating a new subcommittee to utilize the Family Voice Council and other impacted parents to inform the JJSC's work.
- **Upcoming Data and Presentations:**
  - **May Meeting:** Will feature an in-depth data presentation from the Department of Community Justice (DCJ) data team on SB 1008 youth (those with charges that were previously automatically waived to adult court). Data will cover January 1, 2020, through February 1, 2025, and examine recidivism, petition filings, and dismissals.
  - **Upcoming/Possible June:** Michaela Thurman and Sarah Delepine will prepare an in-depth presentation on volunteer work, PSU Capstone, and programs in detention.
  - **Future Session:** Marcel Frazier was invited to present specific Gresham data.

### II. Family Voice Council (FVC) Introduction

Deborah Kim introduced the newly formed FVC, which will be leveraged for community engagement.

- **Launch and Membership:** The FVC officially launched in December 2023 at Juvenile Services Division (JSD). It consists of seven members, including

former youth involved with the department and parents/guardians of involved young people.

- **Mission and Focus:** The mission is to include youth and families with lived experience to share feedback on juvenile justice system policies and procedures to improve and strengthen services. Topics of interest include:
  - Learning about holdable and non-holdable offenses and roles of different parties in a youth's case.
  - Alternatives to detention.
  - Ensuring appropriate care for youth in custody at Donald Long.

### **III. Agency and Operational Updates**

Key updates were provided on capacity, crime data, and programs.

- **Homicide and Gun Violence Data (Marcel Frasier and Jarom Sweazey):**
  - Zero homicides were reported in the first quarter of the year, which is the first time since COVID.
  - For non-fatal shootings last year, the suspects and victims for all 25 incidents were under the age of 18.
- **Detention Capacity:**
  - There are currently 20 youth in detention, which is under the county's capacity.
  - 90% of the youth currently in detention are males of color.
  - The division is working to expand access to visiting rooms and drop-in spaces for attorneys in detention due to expressed concerns.
- **Latino Coalition Update:** The coalition is planning to launch a mental health initiative for Community Driven Initiative (CDI) workers and is undertaking a half-million-dollar project to build capacity for community interruption organizations.
- **Other Program Updates:**
  - The Community Monitoring Program with Volunteers of America is serving 15 youth (capacity is 25).
  - MESD-Donald E. Long School Detention and Walden Crossing School are applying for extended state funding, which could transition Walden Crossing into a long-term care treatment program.

- The Youth Education Fair is in its final stages, scheduled for the 25th at Latino Network, and organizers are soliciting raffle prizes and organizations for summer job opportunities.

#### **IV. Centers for Restoration and Collective Impact Proposal**

Orlando and Charla Hale presented their organization's approach to systems alignment.

- **Organization and Philosophy:** The organization positions itself as "relationship counselors," aiming to help institutions, systems, and organizations better communicate and collaborate. Their philosophy is rooted in listening first and utilizing a proven process with flexible execution.
- **Proposed Work:** Their work would involve discovery sessions with stakeholders, data review, and providing technical support to Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to ease processes between them and the county.
- **Goal:** To improve system logistics and increase cross-sector alignment, shared measurement adoption, and partner capacity/confidence.
- **Proposal Status:** The presentation was a proposal, and the county has not yet decided on moving forward with the partnership. Co-chairs noted that a neutral perspective is essential for collective work and aligns with existing county efforts.

#### **V. Budget Constraints and Pre-Adjudication Focus**

The division is managing budget constraints while focusing on key systemic issues.

- **Budget Navigation:** The division is currently navigating conversations about mandated versus non-mandated work given the county's general fund budget constraints.
- **Pre-Adjudication Concern:** A key focus is on pre-adjudication status. A concern was raised about frontloading services when cases are ultimately

dismissed, and the trauma/expense of deep involvement with the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, particularly for young people of color.

## **VI. Next Steps**

- **Kyla Armstrong Romero:** Schedule a follow-up conversation with Charla and Orlando.
- **Ximena, Kamille, and Annette:** Distribute Parent Summit flyers and calendar invitations via email this week.
- **Charla Hale:** Send the presentation slide deck and organization brochure to Kyla for sharing out.
- **Michaela Thurman, Sarah Delepine:** Prepare an in-depth presentation on volunteer work, PSU Capstone, and programs in detention for an upcoming meeting (possibly June).
- **Marcel:** Present specific Gresham data in a future session

**Next Meeting: May 12, 2026**