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JJOC Full Mtg

Oct 19, 2026

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Committee approved minutes and discussed the Yehdi grant and juvenile justice data reports.

Meeting minutes approval

- Chief Johnson moved to approve the meeting minutes.
- April Graham seconded the motion to approve the minutes.
- The committee approved the meeting minutes with a 12 to 0 vote.

Youth early diversion initiative grant overview

- Kelsey Brock presented the 5-year Yehdi grant managed by DHHS and VOA at the YRC.
- The program targets youth aged 15 to 22 experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- Enrollment requires individuals to be prior to arrest or booking with no open charges.
- Services last up to 3 months and focus on community-based referrals and social services.
- The initiative targets 175 youth annually and trains staff across 125 community-based organizations.
- Participants receive incentives to complete follow-up surveys assessing post-service justice system involvement.
- The early diversion coalition will meet quarterly in hybrid formats to support systems mapping.

Juvenile justice annual report and system data

- Van Nguyen presented the updated accessible web page format for the annual report.
- The state recorded 14,273 court referrals representing a per capita rate of 3.39 per 100 youth.
- Non-judicial adjustments accounted for 66.33% of court referrals with a 93.51% successful completion rate.
- Locked detention reached a rate of 5 per 1,000 youth for the fiscal year.
- Community placement and secure care rates registered at 0.35 and 0.23 per 10,000 youth respectively.
- Youth services and school-based outreach achieved a 99.6% success rate in avoiding new court-ordered custody.
- The juvenile Care database was successfully connected to the state Google Cloud Platform in July.

Juvenile Justice Data Access and Collaboration

- Van Nguyen accessed the care database replication governed by statute instead of receiving separate spreadsheets.
- Van Nguyen collaborated closely with juvenile court and JJS data teams to ensure pulling accurate report information.

Detention and Secure Care Population Trends

- April Graham reported detention numbers remained consistent between 80 and 90 youth.
- April Graham noted secure care populations reached approximately 155 youth alongside 7 youth waiting in detention.
- April Graham highlighted that about 80 to 90 youth currently serve home detention sentences in the community.
- April Graham stated that 10% to 20% of secure care youth fell into presumptive lengths of stay.
- Pam Vickrey noted a majority of youth in detention entered through warrant overrides and pickup orders.

Judicial District Court Referral Rates

- Van Nguyen presented new referral rates per 100 youth adjusted by judicial district populations.
- Van Nguyen explained the 6th district showed an 8.54 referral rate due to a smaller youth population.

Serious Offenses and Homicide Trends

- Van Nguyen analyzed combined court data showing 23 adult charges for serious offenses in 2025.

- Pam Vickrey noted multiple direct file charges often occurred for single incidents involving multiple youth accomplices.
- Van Nguyen highlighted an increase in firearm-related offenses over recent years with the majority resulting in petitions.

Recidivism Analysis and Follow-Up Trends

- Van Nguyen reported a standardized recidivism definition established by the legislature counting reoffenses across multiple follow-up periods.
- Van Nguyen shared that 2025 non-judicial diversion cohorts showed a 16.9% reoffense rate at 12 months.
- Van Nguyen indicated that 2025 petition cohorts exhibited a 24.9% reoffense rate at the 12-month follow-up.
- Pam Vickrey highlighted a drop in petition recidivism rates from 40% in 2016 to 24% in 2025.

Out-of-State Youth Placements and Local Impact

- Pam Vickrey flagged that 6th district referral rates stemmed from out-of-state youth in private facilities.
- Chris Yannelli explained that out-of-area youth placed in private programs frequently entered detention or local court caseloads.
- Kyla Clark noted public school districts in treatment center areas experienced inflated populations of students on IEPs.
- David Litvack discussed complexities surrounding ICPC agreements and private pay treatment providers across state systems.

Working Groups Status Updates

- The non-judicial implementation working group is scheduled to meet on November 2.
- Van Nguyen collaborates with Emily and April on juvenile recidivism analysis.
- The communications and training working group engages external partners on juvenile justice legislation.
- Members cross-attend youth coalitions and working groups across Salt Lake, Weber, and Utah counties.

Legislative Interim Committees and Meeting Schedule

- Van Nguyen encourages members to monitor interim committees for law enforcement and judiciary.
- The annual report presentation for the interim committee is tentatively slated for November.
- The next meeting is scheduled for January 11 to avoid holiday conflicts.
- Weekly legislative meetings will begin after January to establish quorums for bill positions.

Next steps

- [ ] [Van Nguyen] Distribute Presentation Materials: Send the slide deck and meeting materials from the current presentation to all JJOC members.
- [ ] [The group] Join Coalition: Contact Kelsey Brock via email to register for the youth early diversion coalition if interested or if you know of relevant organizations to refer.
- [ ] [Van Nguyen] Rerun Serious Offense Data: Rerun historical analysis for serious offenses to facilitate year-over-year comparisons.
- [ ] [Van Nguyen] Share Media Analysis: Distribute the analysis covering aggravated murder, murder, and manslaughter charges.
- [ ] [Van Nguyen] Attach Supplemental Reports: Publish additional documents as attachments to the anchor report after coordinating with April.
- [ ] [The group] Revisit JJOC Topic: Discuss the previously noted concern regarding the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee.
- [ ] [Van Nguyen] Share Media News: Distribute any news articles or interviews resulting from the recent media inquiry to the group.
- [ ] [JJC] Investigate Referral Rates: Analyze the high referral rate in the 6th district and determine its correlation with out of state youth placements in private facilities.
- [ ] [Van Nguyen, Zerina Ocanovic] Analyze Placement Data: Examine available data to identify the impact of out of state youth in private placements on court referrals.
- [ ] [Van Nguyen] Provide Presentation Update: Notify the group regarding the scheduled date for the annual report presentation to the audit committee.

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