

Jul 20, 2026

JJOC Full Mtg

Disclaimer: The following notes were generated by Gemini and reviewed by staff for accuracy.

Attendees: April Graham (DHHS) Carolyn Hansen Chris Yannelli David Litvack
Judge Steven Beck Jared Reynolds James Toledo Kyla Clark (DHHS)
Karlene Kidman Voorhies, Leah Mariah Hurst Martin Matt Johnson
Michelle Sanchez (DHHS) Nathan Hutchinson tainui@me.com Lowry Snow
Zerina Ocanovic alietz@saltlakecounty.gov Aubrey Myers (DHHS)
jrose@parkcity.gov Van Nguyen Adrienne Buhler Erica Wood

Attachments 📅 JJOC Full Mtg 📄 7/20/26 JJOC Mtg Agenda
📄 DRAFT 4/27/26 JJOC Full Mtg Minutes

Decisions

- **April 27th meeting minutes approved** The April 27th meeting minutes are formally approved by JJOC.

Next steps

- ☐ [DOCJ Staff] Share Meeting Minutes: Review and edit notes for accuracy. Distribute the final minutes once completed.
- ☐ [DOCJ Staff] Update Data Variable: Notify members when the dual involvement or child welfare variable is integrated. Seek expert interpretation once the data is available.
- ☐ [DOCJ Staff] Analyze Non-Judicial Data: Explore data on repeat non-judicial occurrences for NJ working group.

- ☐ [DOCJ Staff] Report Mentorship Update: Update the full working group on the clearinghouse logistics once finalized.
- ☐ [DOCJ Staff] Share interim presentation on trauma and JJ system once it is public.

Meeting Detailed Notes

- **Meeting Administrative Updates and Governance:** Van Nguyen opened the meeting, noting the use of the Gemini note-taking AI for staff and host review before distribution ([00:01:17](#)). Van Nguyen announced the retirement of Charri Brummer, Assistant Director for the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), after over 30 years of service. Kyla Clark will continue representing DCFS at legislative meetings, and Jennifer Larson has been appointed as the new Assistant Director. Van Nguyen skipped the approval of the April meeting minutes due to the lack of a 10-member quorum ([00:05:08](#)). Van Nguyen announced a department transition effective July 1st of this year, where the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) was renamed the Department of Criminal Justice and moved out of the governor's office to become its own department ([00:06:43](#)). This restructuring aims to modernize and better reflect the various services, policy boards, and commissions the office oversees ([00:07:57](#)). Functionally, nothing changes for the divisions, and the three juvenile justice groups—the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC), the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice (UBJJ) staffed by Adrienne Buhler, and the Racial and Ethnic Disparities Collaborative staffed by Erica Wood—remain the same under the updated website `justice.utah.gov` ([00:06:43](#)). Additionally, Tom Ross, now the Commissioner, designated Van Nguyen as the voting staff representative for the Department of Criminal Justice ([00:10:20](#)).
- **Juvenile Justice Data Integration and Platform Security:** Van Nguyen credited Zerina, Tucker, Morgan from the Juvenile Court, and April Graham and Natasha from Juvenile Justice Youth Services (JJYS) for completing a data sharing agreement to link juvenile justice data from the CARE database system. The CARE system tracks youth contact across both agencies and is now connected to a "data lake" portal, which originally began four years prior on the adult side to connect data from law enforcement, prosecutors, courts,

corrections, and the Board of Pardons and Paroles ([00:11:28](#)). The juvenile data remains completely separate from adult data within the portal to maintain security and privacy constraints. Access is restricted to staff within the department, though future plans include exploring cross-agency access([00:13:00](#)). Zerina agreed with the summary and noted that the data connection is complete ([00:14:20](#)).

- **Potential Expansion to Child Welfare Data Variables:** David Litvack raised a question regarding the opportunity to expand the data lake by integrating child welfare data to trace initial entry points into the system, noting that some youth begin in the child welfare system before moving into delinquency ([00:15:30](#)). Kyla Clark expressed excitement from DCFS regarding this suggestion, noting that the line between delinquency and dependency can become muddy and supporting the inclusion of this flow to paint a clearer picture of how children enter the system ([00:17:36](#)). Van Nguyen responded that the data team had explored variables within CARE to connect to the portal ([00:15:30](#)). Zerina Ocanovic confirmed that the specific dual-involvement variable—indicating if a youth had a history of a child welfare petition filed by DCFS—is still in development, but noted that the core statutory variables for the annual report are finalized. Zerina Ocanovic stated that because CARE houses child welfare data, the court is open to future data-sharing conversations ([00:16:38](#)) ([00:18:49](#)). Kyla Clark suggested that an ideal future state would differentiate whether youth entered for abuse, neglect, or dependency ([00:18:49](#)). Van Nguyen stated that once the child welfare variable connection is established, they will consult the team's expertise for interpretation ([00:19:57](#)).
- **Legislative Inquiries and Trauma Data Analysis:** Van Nguyen reported that the data team is on track for the fall deadline for the annual report and explained how the data sharing agreement recently alleviated the technical burden on the courts and JJYS during a legislative inquiry. Senator Musselman requested data regarding youth with extended jurisdiction, direct files to district courts, or transfers from juvenile to adult court, with a focus on understanding trauma in the juvenile justice system ([00:21:13](#)). Guided by Tucker, Zerina Ocanovic, and Morgan, Van Nguyen analyzed the juvenile and adult court data, while April Graham's team examined specific assessments for youth in JJYS custody under provisionally housed or extended jurisdiction provisions to look for trauma histories ([00:22:31](#)). Van Nguyen emphasized that information gleaned from the

portal is sent back to the respective teams to verify accuracy and ensure broad takeaways make sense ([00:23:40](#)).

- **Upcoming Legislative Presentation and Study Interim:** Van Nguyen announced that they and Pam are scheduled to present their findings on Senator Musselman's request during the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee meeting on the third Wednesday of August. The presentation will summarize the data and address other trauma related research questions. Van Nguyen clarified that this topic is a study interim item, meaning committee members are exploring a topic of interest, which does not guarantee that legislative recommendations will follow ([00:24:54](#)). Although Senator Musselman requested specific recommendations, Van Nguyen was unsure what would be delivered but committed to sharing the presentation once it becomes public. Van Nguyen advised that the public can subscribe, listen live, or access recordings via `le.utah.gov`, and noted the topic will be discussed further at the next JJOC meeting in October ([00:26:06](#)).
- **Training and Education Working Group Progress:** Adrienne Buhler reported that the Training and Education working group will focus on collaborating with JJYS to create training and communications, with an initial meeting scheduled for August 3rd alongside a select group of JJYS staff. Erica Wood updated the committee that the JJOC recently hosted well-received panel presentations at both the Promising Youth Conference and the School Safety Conference ([00:27:19](#)). The presentations, which remain accessible on the [updated website](#), provided legislative updates and safety resources for schools. Van Nguyen added that this working group was originally initiated two years ago following Representative Peck's non-judicial bill, which revealed widespread misunderstandings regarding current and new laws governing drug behavior in schools, court referrals, and diversion eligibility ([00:28:21](#)). The work was further formalized by Senator McCay's Senate Bill 267, which statutorily tasked the JJOC with providing training on recent juvenile justice legislation. Moving forward, a smaller subgroup will meet with April Graham's team to focus on facilities to build a better narrative around how community placements, locked detention, and secure care operate to balance public safety, accountability, and rehabilitation ([00:29:29](#)).
- **Target Audience Planning for Facility Training:** In response to a question from David Litvack regarding the primary target audience for the upcoming facility training, Van Nguyen identified state legislators as a key audience, noting

that April Graham's team is planning facility tours with them over the summer ([00:30:59](#)). Van Nguyen highlighted law enforcement officers, specifically noting the attendance of Chief Johnson and Officer Rose, as another critical partner group for building relationships and explaining available JJYS resources, such as youth services. Van Nguyen invited committee members to share further recommendations or join the effort ([00:32:06](#)).

- **Non-Judicial Process and Pending Supreme Court Clarification:** Van Nguyen reported that the Non-Judicial working group met in June to discuss tracking repeat non-judicial data, an effort that will resume after the annual report is finalized. The group also discussed the non-judicial referral process, particularly looking into when a prosecutor should review a case ([00:33:15](#)). Chris Yannelli explained that prosecutors want probation officers to have the ability within CARE to ask legal questions or clarify charges when a direct law enforcement referral is received. However, Chris Yannelli discovered that probation agents received directives from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) stating they must proceed strictly on the law enforcement referral without seeking prosecutor clarification ([00:34:51](#)). Chris Yannelli added that defense counsel now gets involved early to advise minors on whether to accept a non-judicial adjustment or go to court, and these defenders can ask prosecutors to review charges for a reasonable basis. Chris Yannelli argued that if the defense has early involvement, probation should also be allowed to consult prosecutors, expressing a desire for statutory change ([00:36:26](#)). Judge Steven Beck provided context, explaining that the Board of Juvenile Court Judges adopted their uniform stance because prosecutors in several counties explicitly shared that reviewing these referrals was not their statutory job and asked probation to stop contacting them ([00:37:39](#)). Judge Steven Beck added that a pending Supreme Court case, which has been under review since January, is expected to clarify the legal function of a prosecutor in this context. Van Nguyen noted that they are waiting on this decision to drive the working group's next steps and stated that, in the interim, individuals asking about the process will be directed to the updated chart in the sentencing commission's annual juvenile disposition guidelines ([00:39:46](#)). The working group's next meeting is scheduled for August 10th ([00:40:37](#)).
- **Mentorship Working Group and Clearing House Logistics:** Van Nguyen and Erica Wood provided an update on the Mentorship working group, which is exploring the creation of a mentorship clearinghouse. The clearinghouse aims

to address gaps for specific youth populations and standardize training requirements ([00:41:38](#)). April Graham's team offered their division as a starting point to test the logistics of a clearinghouse ([00:42:52](#)). Van Nguyen acknowledged that operational, training, and funding logistics must still be resolved by a smaller subgroup before reopening discussions with the larger working group ([00:44:25](#)). Erica Wood clarified that the larger group has not met since spring, but members will be updated as plans solidify ([00:45:22](#)).

- **Legislative Engagement and Youth Court Advocacy:** During the roundtable segment, Karlene Kidman shared an update regarding Representative Peck, noting that the Tooele Youth Court successfully invited them to witness a session in person. Representative Peck, who previously lacked an understanding of youth courts, was highly impressed, volunteered resources to participating families, and expressed a strong desire to become an advocate for the program ([00:46:26](#)). Van Nguyen celebrated this outcome, recalled how modifications were required during the last legislative session when an unexpected amendment sought to impose burdensome requirements on youth and peer courts, and commended Karlene Kidman for proactively building that relationship during the interim ([00:47:38](#)).
- **Juvenile Policy and Detention Capacity Discussions:** April Graham announced an upcoming meeting with Representative Auxier to discuss potential changes to juvenile policy, noting that Pam had also spoken with them. Van Nguyen recalled that during the last legislative session, Representative Auxier sought to expand the judicial toolkit by introducing a bill allowing suspended court orders for additional detention days to motivate treatment compliance; however, the bill stalled due to a high fiscal note ([00:49:42](#)). Van Nguyen clarified that Representative Auxier is conducting individual outreach rather than engaging the entire JJOC body, and while they will monitor for interim bills, they expect any formal legislation to return next session ([00:50:49](#)). April Graham shared that Representative Auxier appears to be preparing something for the August interim specifically related to detention capacity, noting that a new unit is scheduled to open in mid-August ([00:49:42](#)) ([00:52:00](#)).
- **Secure Care Projections and Secure Housing Growth:** Van Nguyen and April Graham discussed secure care capacity projections recently generated by the research team. Van Nguyen explained that JJYS serves youth across distinct statutory categories: the general secure care population, extended jurisdiction youth, and provisionally housed youth (focusing on young adults aged 21 to 25).

(00:52:00). Following the passage of the 2017 comprehensive policy package, the general secure care population decreased; however, the extended jurisdiction and provisionally housed populations—introduced via legislation passed in 2021 and 2022—are projected to rise as expected (00:53:03). April Graham and David Litvack are evaluating what this growth means for facility capacity and funding, especially since several facilities were closed after 2017. April Graham noted that they are seeing older youth successfully parole directly from their facilities rather than transitioning to adult prison, including one who rolled out successfully 300 days prior and another scheduled for February, which requires ongoing partnership with the Utah Department of Corrections (UDC) (00:54:24).

- **Trauma Histories in Older Secure Care Populations:** Van Nguyen shared preliminary research findings from April Graham's team regarding Senator Musselman's inquiry into trauma within the extended jurisdiction and provisionally housed populations. A review of psychological evaluations and mental health assessments for 68 youth in these categories over the past five years (since 2020) revealed that only nine individuals did not have an identified trauma history (00:55:38). Van Nguyen described this as a sobering finding that underscores the challenge of balancing public safety and rehabilitation for youth who commit egregious crimes. Van Nguyen noted that literature supports keeping these young adults in JJYS custody to provide access to treatment and wraparound parole services, which yields better outcomes than direct placement in the adult system. April Graham's team will utilize these findings during budget discussions to address capacity, funding, and potential facility utilization by other stakeholders like Representative Auxier (00:57:00).
- **Upcoming Events:** James Toledo from the Division of Indian Affairs announced the annual [Native American Summit](#) taking place the following week. The event begins with a tribal leader summit on July 29th and 30th, featuring rotation schedules for state agencies to meet individually with each tribe to report accomplishments from the previous fiscal year. The public-facing conference, featuring panels and breakout sessions, will occur on Friday, July 31st, with details and registration available at ``ind.utah.gov`` (00:59:26). Van Nguyen confirmed that representatives from the department, including Adrienne Buhler, Erica Wood, and staff from the Utah Office for Victims of Crime (UOVC), will attend. Adrienne Buhler works to allocate Title II grant funding through the UBJJ to tribal partners, and the department actively seeks to fulfill this dedicated

funding allocation annually ([01:00:24](#)). Van Nguyen noted that tribal partners encounter specific operational barriers when attempting to access funding. To address this issue, Van Nguyen stated that they plan to attend the upcoming tribal leaders summit to improve communication and explicitly promote available funding streams, with the ultimate motivation of supporting local juvenile delinquency prevention initiatives ([01:01:22](#)). Van Nguyen also emphasized that any relevant external funding opportunities or conferences will be distributed to partners through their [organizational newsletter](#), prompting participants to sign up if they have not done so already ([01:02:36](#)).

- **Approval of April 27th Meeting Minutes:** Van Nguyen called for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes from April 27th. Judge Steven Beck moved to approve the minutes, and David Litvack (DHHS) provided the second to the motion. Van Nguyen called for any opposition, and hearing none, officially ruled that the motion passed to approve the April 27th meeting minutes ([01:01:22](#)).
- **October Meeting Agenda Planning:** Van Nguyen initiated the planning for the upcoming October meeting, noting that they will present the annual report during that session. They requested that all participants send over any specific agenda items they would like to see included in the October meeting agenda ([01:02:36](#)).
- **Working Groups and Closing Remarks:** Van Nguyen acknowledged that August would be a highly demanding and busy month due to all the scheduled working groups. They expressed gratitude for the ongoing partnerships and reminded attendees to reach out if they require any assistance or support in the meantime ([01:02:36](#)). The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:59 PM ([01:01:22](#)).