

**Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Wednesday, December 6, 2023
1:00PM - 4:00PM ET**

**U.S. Department of Justice
810 7th Street, NW
Washington, DC
Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor**

[00:33:19] Liz Ryan: Good afternoon. I'm Liz Ryan, Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, or OJJDP, and as administrator I also serve as Vice Chair of the Coordinating Council. Welcome, everyone, to this afternoon's meeting. After a fantastic informative visit to Houston in September, the council is back in Washington DC today at the Justice Department. Our September meeting was really special. Not only was it the first time that the council has convened outside the DC metro area ever, our colleagues in Harris County also invited us to visit an extraordinary multidisciplinary site called The Opportunity Center.

Harris County's Juvenile Probation Department has taken what once was a secure detention facility for youth and transformed it into a hub of support services for youth. A myriad of community partnerships makes the opportunity center possible. Caring, committed organizations are collaborating to give young people access to a wide range of programs and services from GED and ESL classes to healthcare services and treatment for substance abuse. Youth can access employment opportunities and training programs, counseling and case management, clothing, assistance with housing, and even more.

Harris County's Youth Justice Community Reinvestment Fund is taking the savings from facility closures and decarceration and reinvesting them into community-based organizations that work with youth, helping to reduce disparities in the juvenile justice system. No single agency or organization can meet all of the needs of every young person. That's clear to those of us who work with young people. Each youth is unique with needs that cut across numerous disciplines. We cannot act alone. We must partner strategically. It's hard work.

Partnerships can be complicated. They take commitment and in some cases, compromise. Organizations in Harris County have committed to that work and their young people and the wider community are benefiting. Harris County is a great example of the success that a community can have when we get creative and collaborate, when we pull our collective expertise and resources to serve youth. I was really thrilled to have a chance to visit. I look forward to similar opportunities in the future when we can take the council on the road to visit other communities and learn from their experiences.

I'm excited to build our knowledge base. It will inform council deliberations and shape our efforts to increase the range of multidisciplinary services available to the young people that we serve. Access to a wide range of programs and services benefits all youth. Whether they are system-involved, at risk for involvement, or currently in a good place. When youths receive the support they need and can take advantage of real opportunities for growth, they are less likely to engage in delinquent behaviors, and their chances for success increase. Access to needed services helps families stay together, and it helps keep communities safe.

In a few moments, we're going to hear from two panels of experts with a wealth of experience in the juvenile justice system. One of our panelists is a parent with lived system experience. One leads a state agency, another serves as a youth member on a state advisory group. Others are professionals who work in law enforcement and the juvenile courts. They are all experts in youth justice. We have asked them to respond to two questions. One, how can the council member agencies, that is the federal agencies represented on this council, enhance the coordination of services for youth to help ensure young people never enter the juvenile justice system?

Two, how can the member agencies coordinate to increase youth access to opportunities and services and decrease barriers so that justice-involved youth have the best chance of success in their home communities? I'm eager to hear our panelists' responses and our conversations will continue beyond this meeting. We're also eager to hear from you, the members of our audience who are here with us in person today, and all of you who have joined us virtually.

Because the council could only invite a limited number of people today as panelists, we are posing the same questions to young people, family members, practitioners, and other experts in the youth justice field. If you are attending today's meeting, whether virtually or here in this room with us, I encourage you to tell us what you think. We've created a unique page on the council's website where you can submit comments and other feedback. For those of you in the room, you will find the URL for that page printed on the bottom of your agenda and also on the screen behind me. There you go. Okay.

Those who are listening in virtually will see the URL on your screens as well. The statute that created the Coordinating Council requires the council to prepare a report to the President and Congress that makes recommendations to improve coordinated services across the federal government in ways that achieve the greatest benefit for youth, their families, and communities across the US. The feedback we hear today and the responses we receive online will inform the report.

The council's report will also reflect insights we heard last fall when a panel of justice-involved young people joined us and described, very frankly, the difficulties they faced in the system and the barriers they encountered and overcame as they reentered the community and rebuilt their lives. Their wisdom continues to inform us. You may have heard me say this before, when young people take the time to share their insights, we must listen.

Before I close, I'd like to thank the members of the council's two subcommittees, policy and programs, and practice. These subcommittees meet monthly in between our full council meetings, further evidence of their commitment to our young people. I'm very grateful for the time and effort they spend examining strategies and opportunities the council can leverage as we strive to create just policies and build communities our children deserve. Subcommittee work is essential to realizing the council's objectives. Thank you.

Finally, you will remember that we voted at the April council meeting in favor of co-sponsoring OJJDP's National Conference to be held in November 2024 here in Washington DC. Planning has begun. We'll hear some details this afternoon when the council subcommittees give their reports. I hope you are as excited about it as I am about this upcoming event and the council's role in it. Thank you again for everything you do to give our young people the best chance for a healthy, fulfilling future. We will introduce members of the council, and I'll start with my left on my left.

[00:40:54] Sonali Nijhawan: All right. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Sonali Nijhawan. I serve as the director for AmeriCorps. I'm here on behalf of our CEO Michael Smith who was unable to join, but I'm glad to be here on behalf of the agency. For those who don't know, AmeriCorps is the federal agency for service and volunteerism. We have nearly 200,000 members and volunteers serving every year in close to 40,000 locations across the country. We are so happy to have embarked on a partnership with the team at OJJDP around creating carve-outs and opportunities for second-chance youth for them to serve and for them to be supported by our program. Thanks for having me.

[00:41:42] Mark Patterson: Hello, everyone. My name is Mark Patterson. I'm the administrator of the Kawaioloa Youth and Family Wellness Center in the state of Hawaii. I'm here and I'm cold and saying hi to everyone. Aloha.

[00:41:58] Renee Rodriguez-Betancourt: Good afternoon. I am Renee Rodriguez-Betancourt. I am a district judge in the state of Texas for the 449th District Court. I preside over all juvenile cases in my county, a growing county of almost a million population. I'm excited to be here, but more importantly, I'm excited to hear from our panelists and just get more information from their views.

[00:42:24] Michael Mendoza: Good afternoon, everyone. Michael Mendoza, practitioner member of the council, also a director of advocacy with the Anti-Recidivism Coalition based in Los Angeles, California.

[00:42:37] Maria Lana Queen: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Maria Lana Queen. I'm representing the Department of Housing and Urban Development, specifically in the Office of Public and Indian Housing. We work with 3,200 public housing authorities across the country. A third of that population are vulnerable children and young people. I serve as the HUD Youth Liaison for federal interagency work as well as nonprofits. We work with all of your agencies, and I look forward to, or I should say HUD, further coordinating how we can serve young people who live in low-income housing.

[00:43:13] Rebecca Zornick: Hello. I'm Becky Zornick. I represent the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, part of the Department of Health and Human Services. I'm the Deputy Director for our National Mental Health and Substance Use Policy Laboratory.

[00:43:28] Shaina Vanek: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Shaina Vanek. I'm a Senior Policy Analyst with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and we serve consumer rights and love being able to work on justice-involved individuals and their families' issues and really further young people as consumers. Thank you.

[00:43:48] Ana Hageage: Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Ana Hageage. I'm the Chief of Staff for the Employment and Training Administration. I'm here in place of our Acting Assistant Secretary, Brent Parton, with my wonderful colleague Jennifer Kim. We oversee the nation's public workforce system. Part of that is our Office of Workforce Investment which supports a lot of our reentry grants as well as the Office of Job Corps, the Office of Registered Apprenticeship, and then Unemployment Insurance, and the Foreign Labor Certification.

[00:44:21] Adam Tierney: Hello. My name is Adam Tierney. I'm the representative for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. I'm looking forward to the panel members today.

[00:44:32] Liz Simons: I am Liz Simons, Chair of the Board of the Heising-Simons Foundation, which addresses, among other things, human rights, by which we mean people who are in the justice system as well as immigrants and others. I'm also Chair of the Board of the Marshall Project, which is a journalism outlet that looks at the criminal justice system and all the people associated with it. I volunteer for a magazine bind for incarcerated youth in juvenile halls in Santa Clara County. I'll just mention that our CEO and president of the Heising-Simons Foundation is here with us as a guest, Sushma Raman.

[00:45:13] Deborah Smith: Hi. Good afternoon. I'm Deborah Smith. I'm representing the US Department of Education. I work in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, and I manage a group of programs that serve high-need youth populations, one of which is our Title I, Part D program that serves justice-involved youth. These are programs that go to every state in the country. They're small programs, but they serve students all over the country. Thanks.

[00:45:47] Lourdes Rosado: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Lourdes Rosado. I'm President and General Counsel of LatinoJustice PRLDEF, which was started as the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund in the '70s. We are a civil rights and social justice organization, and one of our pillars of work is criminal legal system reforms, and I get to serve as a practitioner member of the Coordinating Council. I'm very happy to be here.

[00:46:15] Amiyah Davis: Good evening, everyone. I am Amiyah Davis. I'm the project coordinator at the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University, as well as a practitioner member for the council.

[00:46:26] Nataki MacMurray: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Dr. Nataki MacMurray. I'm with the Office of National Drug Control Policy. We are a small agency out of the White House, the executive office of the president, responsible for coordinating substance use policy across the federal government. I work in the area of public health, particularly on prevention. That's all things young people, especially. Glad to be here.

[00:46:52] Miranda Lynch-Smith: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Miranda Lynch-Smith. I'm representing the US Department of Health and Human Services. I am the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Services Policy in our office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. We serve as a think tank of sorts for the secretary and for the department. My office in particular covers issues from early childhood up to positive youth development. Talk about the intersections between human services and poverty and economic mobility. Very happy to be here today.

[00:47:28] Julie Herr: Good afternoon. My name is Julie Herr, and I'm the Designated Federal Official for the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

[00:47:37] Liz Ryan: Great. Thank you so much to all the council members for being here. We are going to start with our first panel. I'd like to invite our first panel to please come up and join us at the table. While they are getting assembled there, I'm just going to let you know who is on this panel. We have Vincent Schiraldi, who is the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services. We have Susan Badeau, family engagement and trauma expert, author, and parent. Angela Chang, Director Youth Defense Division, Hamilton County Public Defender.

Robert Rodemeyer, Assistant State Attorney, Cook County, and Kyla Woods, CEO Klover Strategies. I apologize if I have mispronounced anyone's name. What we're going to do for the panel is each panelist is going to present their statement. After each panelist speaks, we will go in order that I just read. Then after everyone on the panel has spoken, we will take questions from the council members. We will start with Vincent Schiraldi.

[00:48:58] Vincent Schiraldi: The one that looks like a face. Hi, everybody. Thanks for this opportunity to dialogue about youth justice and the role that the federal government can play. I've been in this field for 43 years now, and I've seen these cycles of concern about youth crime ebb and flow during which young people can often be vilified by officials of all stripes. Certain elements of today's dialogue feel uncomfortably familiar, so I hope to talk to you about some facts about youth crime, how we can promote what's effective and just, rather than just allowing political momentum to reverse decades of progress.

In 1996, Princeton's John Dilulio famously wrote that there was "a rising tide of juvenile super predators who were fatherless, godless, and without conscience about to engulf us." Going on to claim, "that all it's left of the Black community in some pockets of urban America is deviant, delinquent and criminal adults surrounded by severely abused and neglected children, virtually all of whom were born out of wedlock." Far from being vilified for this, he was later appointed to be the first head of the nation's faith-based initiatives office.

Although juvenile crime began falling precipitously in the early 1990, the damage from this kind of hyperbole had been done. During the '90s almost every state passed legislation pushing more kids into adult and juvenile prisons. By '99, there were 109,000 kids in youth prisons, another 10,000 kids slept in an adult prison or jail every night. This punitive turn was obviously not felt equally. Youth of color, particularly black youth, were disproportionately locked up even when they committed similar crimes and had similar prior records.

Since the super predator idea has been debunked, localities have tried to right the ship. Between 2000 and 2020, youth incarceration declined by an amazing 77%, and almost every single state had double-digit reductions in the number of kids they were locking up, red and blue, intentionally shifting away from punishment towards rehabilitation. The new research on brain development of young people, the advent of promising programs, and increasingly sophisticated advocacy often by young people themselves, all share the credit for this change.

Most importantly, this did not come at the expense of public safety. With youth crime declining by 80% between '96 and 2020, and the youth share of overall arrests dropping below 6%. Below 6% of all arrests are juveniles. These substantial declines in youth crime alongside similarly substantial declines in youth incarceration give the lie to the notion that less incarceration equals more crime. Now I feel the super predator misconceptions rearing its ugly head. Although kids account for a small percentage of crime over the last two years, juvenile crime has become a major focus in the media and among policymakers, with complaints about the system's leniency dominating the dialogue.

While some categories of youth crime have increased, these increases follow a period of historic lows. While we should take any increase in crime seriously, if we're not careful, we're going to repeat the mistakes of the past. We're already seeing this happening a bit according to analysis by the Casey Foundation. Detention populations have risen by more than half since 2020, that is, and twice as many black youth as white youth were in detention on a given day prior to the pandemic. There are now almost three times as many black youth as white youth in detention.

The federal government obviously plays a limited role but an important role in juvenile justice. You can use your resources and bully pulpit to send a message that we should follow evidence and best practices and avoid repeating the mistakes of the past. You can convene stakeholders and appoint task forces or commissions to promote national conversations about what's really happening with youth crime and what can be done about it, like was done with Bob Liston and Joe Torre around child abuse issues.

You can also put forth a national roadmap to achieve better outcomes in juvenile justice, advancing reforms that research suggests can actually make a positive impact on youth crime. Everything else I'm going to say pales in comparison to what I just said. This is the most important thing for you guys to do, because I spend between 400,000 and a million dollars per bed per year in one of my facilities. You can't give me that much money. If you guys all sat down and wrote checks today, you can't compete with that. I don't need your million-dollar grant. I'm spending that on one girl today in detention.

If you can get us to do that stupid stuff less frequently, and do the good stuff that all the evidence from all your departments tell us is the right way to handle kids when they run afoul of the law, that's going to reap a lot more benefits at the local level than any amount of money you could put out. Plus, you can't put out that much money because of the way things are. Your agencies can also help assure that policies don't create unnecessary barriers. I'll say, two, because I know I don't have a lot of time. DOE, you've done in the past and I think you could help again, remind us not to push kids out of school and into detention cells.

There was a lot of good work under the Obama administration around that, reminding people that social-emotional learning, restorative practices. Do that instead of kicking kids out, because I'm seeing that turn. I'm seeing kids getting kicked out quite a bit from schools. People just forgot there was a pandemic. The absentee rates in schools double what they were pre-pandemic. Kids who end up in my system are the ones that were just hanging on by a thread and that thread's cut.

Then DOL, you guys could help us out. You push a lot of kids out of programs. The way your programs are structured, they're rightly based on how well they do in terms of getting somebody a job. My kids are always a lousy bet because my kids are a pain in the ass who don't show up to work on time or show up stoned. There's a lot of disincentives to take them into the regular programs. If you could work to give people waivers or allow them to-- somebody told me it's called the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act waivers, to help lift up kids into the delinquency system in a way that reverses some of those disincentives. That would be super helpful.

If you work together with advocates, young people, state and local stakeholders, the Coordinating Council can promote an effective system rooted in research and best practices to help young people find their way out of the system and towards a productive future. Right now, we're continuing to hurt a lot of kids, and you guys could really help us out of that hole. Thank you.

[00:56:19] Liz Ryan: Thank you so much, Mr. Schiraldi. Next, we'll hear from Ms. Susan Badeau.

[00:56:27] Ms. Susan: Thank you. Good afternoon, Administrator Ryan, council members, panelists, and guests. I am Sue Badeau, and I'm here today to talk to you from the perspective and on behalf of the parents and family members of all those young people that Vinny was just talking about. Every one of those stories like mine is unique. Every one of our families has strengths, has pride but also has trauma and loss. In between all of that, there are some common themes from which I'll draw the recommendations that I'll share with you today.

I first became a parent to justice-involved youth 40-plus years ago. Since that time, I've raised 75 young people through a combination of birth, foster care, and adoption. We now have many grandchildren as well. I've also worked professionally in juvenile justice, foster care, child welfare, mental health, and special education. Through those roles, I had the opportunity to interview and spend time with family members and parents in all 50 states,

thousands and thousands of families, including as recently as last month. It is all those voices I'm going to try to bring to you in the next couple of minutes.

As a way of framing what I'd like to give you for three concrete recommendations that I'll leave you with, I just want to share a story. Now, I know I shared a couple in my written testimony that I hope you'll read, but this is a fresh one just from this week. You see, this week, our youngest son was arrested and locked up, something that has happened nearly every year at this time of year. Now in his early 30s, he was just 14 years old when he first became involved with the youth justice system.

He was four years old when our family adopted him. He was a delightful little boy who loved doing puzzles and riding his bike and playing little league baseball, and generally pestering all his older siblings. He also came to us with many medical, mental health, and educational special needs, and a boatload of trauma that came partly from multiple foster care moves already in his first four years. From the trauma of being the one who found his older brother who died at Christmas time, is it any wonder this is a hard time of year for him?

Now, before he entered the juvenile justice system, therefore, he had been failed by the child welfare and the special ed and the mental health, and multiple other systems across three states. He now had loving parents and a good home but it wasn't enough. We were actually ferocious advocates for him in all of those systems. Yet later when we had access to his file, we saw that we had been described alternatively as uninterested, disinterested, uncaring, or too demanding, too involved, overbearing, hostile, all kinds of words like that.

His arrest just this week brings home the urgency of everything I wanted to share with you today. I'm going to share, as I said, three actionable recommendations. First, I would say do everything Vinny said. Underline all of that. Then three recommendations that I believe are really in the purview of this council, and that's why I've limited myself to those three recommendations. I believe if you do these three things, you can literally not only save lives but save families like ours and like our sons from going through this kind of trauma again and again year after year.

First I'd like to just highlight a few of the themes that our families share in common that lead to these recommendations. One, families love their kids and they want them to be safe and thriving. Two, families who have needs in one area generally have needs in more than one area, and so, three, when they seek help, they often either get misdirected, or slipped through the cracks, because they're not quite asking at the right door in the right way. If they can get the right help at the right time, justice system involvement can be decreased. Four, children thrive best in the context of their families. Supporting families is supporting children. Five, both children and families thrive best in the context of their own communities, including their culture, their communities that they know, their language.

Based on those themes, my three recommendations are, one, establish a national family information and peer navigation clearing house with state affiliates. Families desperately desire and need accessible real-time trauma, responsive information developed by

families for families. There are examples of this, I've given some in my written testimony, but they need to be sustainable, they need to be funded, they need to be supported. Secondly, institutionalized roles for families at leadership levels at the highest level.

I'm delighted that this council today has a couple of members here with lived experience in the justice system, but it's not yet institutionalized in the requirements of who sits on this council. Actually, a dozen years ago, I sat at this very table, in this very room, and asked that two of the nine practitioner members of this council could be designated for youth and family members, so that you would always have the voice of youth and families at this leadership level. That has yet to pass.

It needs to happen, and it needs to happen now, because until those voices are institutionalized at this level, it won't happen at the state and county and community level. Then thirdly, I would really like to encourage you all to work better together to address both individual and collective trauma. By collective trauma, I also include that, which is created by historic racism, which leads to many of the disproportionate outcomes that Vinny mentioned a moment ago.

Nearly every single young person who enters the justice system or stands skirts around the edges of it is at risk for that kind of involvement, and their family members have experienced trauma. This council is uniquely situated to ensure that every single young person and their family members have access to research-based, trauma-responsive supports and services that are grounded in, and listening to, and informed by the voices and leadership of young people and their families with lived experience. Those are my three recommendations. I thank you for your time.

[01:02:42] Liz Ryan: Thank you, Ms. Fido. I want to commend both you and Mr. Schiraldi. I think both of you said you'd been in the field for more than 40 years, and I appreciate the decades of dedication to young people from both of you. Thank you. I'd like to next introduce Angela Chang, who serves as the Director of the Youth Defense Division for Hamilton County Public Defender's Office in Cincinnati, and she has extensive expertise as a trainer on youth defense. Ms. Chang?

[01:03:13] Ms. Chang: Thank you, Administrator Ryan and council for having me here. I am the Director of a Youth Defense Office that offers holistic defense, thanks in part to an OJJDP grant as the grantee. We're grateful to be here and to represent the voices of the youth that we serve. In preparation for this meeting, my staff was tasked with asking their youth clients what one thing they think could have made a difference in preventing them from having contact with the juvenile court.

As you might expect, there are a variety of answers, but a clear theme emerged. Our kids, predominantly Black youth that we serve, are constantly surveilled and disciplined for normative, youthful behaviors in the spaces that they're supposed to be able to feel safe. One young person said, "We get in trouble for everything everywhere we go." The system response is to continue to react and restrict instead of providing supportive resources.

For example, in the Winton Terrace neighborhood in Hamilton County, Ohio, where youth struggled to survive much less thrive, the basketball hoops were taken down recently in courts bulldozed, because there were too many fights. In Downtown Cincinnati, we built two beautiful parks with playgrounds that were built in just this past decade, but anytime you go there, it's heavily policed. Another young person told me, "We need places to get jobs, play sports, and do activities to stay out of trouble."

It's supposed to be the hallmark of childhood to experiment, explore, play, test boundaries, and make mistakes. However, the reality is that this idea of childhood is not available to Black, Brown, and Indigenous youth in our country. They're not safe, and they cannot drive. It's also a fundamental constitutional right for people to be secure in their persons houses, papers, effects, and against unreasonable searches and seizures. Yet, youth of color in our most system-impacted communities are, in fact, less secure because they're policed wherever they go: in school, in their neighborhoods, in their homes, in public spaces.

My ask to this council is to help reimagine safety. If we reimagine safety in communities, to be places where children can access food, healthcare interventions, recreation, education, and employment, instead of places of surveillance, we can make a much larger impact on the prevention of delinquency. We must devote resources to redeveloping the infrastructure of the communities to achieve this goal of true safety. We must commit to creating, maintaining, and protecting these communities for children.

I appreciate your attention to my written comments, but to summarize my recommendations for the council, I would ask that you consider the following five recommendations when developing policies and practices for prevention efforts. Number one, consult directly with the community and the individuals that interventions programming and services are meant to serve. Our kids are the experts in their own lives, and they need to have a say in what will make them safe and successful.

Number two, make interventions, programming and services accessible directly in the neighborhoods where youth live. Youth should be able to access quality education, recreation, treatment, and job opportunities, where they live. Number three, promote coordination and collaboration between youth-serving government agencies, non-profit organizations and care providers, to reduce the need for youth and families to navigate multiple systems and agencies.

Number four, prioritize creating safe spaces for youth to play, pursue creative interest, obtain employment, and build positive relationships. Number five, provide more funding to strengthen youth defense. Holistic, specialized youth defenders are critical to protecting youth and their rights, and the only advocates for their expressed interests. Of course, what [laughs] the panelists ahead of me said already in much better words. Thank you so much for listening and having me here.

[01:07:19] Liz Ryan: Thank you, Ms. Chang. Next, we will hear from Robert Rodemeyer, who is the Assistant State Attorney for Cook County, Illinois, and has extensive experience in juvenile justice and child welfare assistance. He also serves as the

gubernatorial-appointed member of the Illinois task force on racial disproportionality in child welfare. Mr. Rodemeyer?

[01:07:45] Robert Rodemeyer: Thank you so much for this opportunity to be here today. 17 years ago, I started working with young people in the child welfare system, and it was just a job out of law school. It has become a life's work, one I'm tremendously proud of. To think that I have an opportunity here to speak with you all today about that work is truly an honor. Thank you for giving me the time to share my experience. As professionals working in the juvenile justice system, we're standing on the bank of a stream. We're tasked with assisting young people as they're polled by a heavy current, further down and away.

From our position on the bank unassisted, our probability of success is, unfortunately, very low. Once in the stream, the current has the advantage. We must therefore position ourselves and change our directional focus to keeping youth out of the stream altogether. By promoting positive social and emotional development, secure attachments, as well as strong pro-social identities, and a sense of belongings to their communities, we keep our young people safe within those communities and on the shore.

Positive social and emotional development begins at birth. This is the most crucial time. ACE studies, adverse childhood experience, as well as childhood development research, has shown the positive effects of nurturing secure attachments for children in the first three years of their life. It also has established the effect and impact of adverse childhood experiences in this time period as well. I've laid out a lot of neuroscience research. In my testimonial, I would encourage you to look at it, but it cannot be overstated.

The adverse impact of those childhood experiences, and the lack of secure social attachments on emotional and social functioning later in life. Early childhood education centers, and early childhood education in and of itself, provide positive supports, secure attachments, as well as the ability to work with families. The child welfare sphere. We have seen the benefits of nurturing parenting programs on parental education in terms of helping parents understand the developmental stages and milestones of infants through toddlers. Child parent psychotherapy has been critical in the state of Illinois in terms of working with our young parents and understanding their actions and picking up on their child's cue.

The second most important phase of child development is adolescents. We must meet the children before they get to adolescence. This is when they're being targeted by negative peer influence. We must be well ingrained and entrenched before those negative influences, and it's much earlier than we ever thought. It's not 6th Grade, it's not 5th Grade. We need to be there at elementary. Neural pruning occurs during this time period. Adaptive behaviors are further cemented and formed. We need to make sure that those behaviors are not maladaptive.

Those behaviors came from someplace. They served a purpose and a function for survival. Those same behaviors that were critical of the juvenile justice sphere served a purpose for those young people. It was how they got by. We must teach them before

they're cemented, and we know this through scientific research alternatives to processing those emotions, and that work begins well before adolescence when they're formalized within the brain. Adolescence is also the phase where we're finding out who we are.

We're forming our attachments and our identity. We need to provide youth an identity within the community that rings authentic, that is representative of them, and kids know the difference. They need people to look up to, people from the community, people that they identify with, more positive social attachments. As they come into adolescence, financial opportunities must be there for young people to deter the influence of the street economy. It has to be part of any programming.

Most importantly, the street doesn't sleep and neither must our centers and those community centers. We need to have open access to youth at all times. We need to be as omnipresent and we need to work ourselves into the home. The beautiful thing about all of this preventative programming is that we need it at the stage where we're having our initial contact, standing back on the bank of our stream by investing in these programs and early childhood and in adolescence, we've made our youth stronger swimmers.

We have attachments in the stream with them that we can work on. We've seen great success with programs like SAS for our hospitalized youth. SAS work with youth after discharge from psychiatric facilities, they go in the home and they work with families to connect to resources. Foster care uses placement stabilization services to deter disruptions to foster placement and minimize costs. Similar resources are allocated for first contact with law enforcement, rather than saying, "Okay, go report to court the next day," or "Okay, a probation officer will be in touch with you with diversion." No, we go in the home and work with families to fashion an in-home response, to provide support to parents as they learn to work with the young person following this contact.

We also need to bring true accountability, a courthouse, a courtroom downtown with individuals who look like me saying, "Hey, we really disapprove of your actions," does nothing to foster a sense of accountability. It only further pushes historical trauma and racism on our young people. There's no chance of them thinking that we are invested in caring. We should invest in community courts, peer courts, the same community centers and early childhood centers that we have, building in juvenile justice proceedings for non-serious non-violent offenses, housing them there so people can hear from their neighbor the impact of those actions, so people can hear from the community what's going on and the community can fashion a response.

One of the issues we're seeing time and time again are long waiting lists for clinical services as well as high turnover of practitioners. No one is going to feel like we are invested in them or their success when they're on a waiting list. No one is going to form a real true clinical attachment capable of formulating change when there's frequent and high turnover. We need to incentivize good practitioners, reflective of the community or at the very least, cognizant of historical change and historical prejudice.

Lastly, in talking about effectuating positive change, and there's a fair amount here in my testimonial of what we are doing in Cook County, we need to look at the numbers. The

numbers that I cite come from the Chapin Hall Study out of the University of Chicago looking at Cook County of the real issue of dual system youth and the failures that we have as a juvenile justice system of dual system youth. When we're talking about our most at-risk kids, the kids at the highest risk of violent offenses, of incarceration, and mistreatment within the juvenile justice system, those are dual-system youth across the board.

What we have here are two systems not working together, not information sharing, when in reality, it's seen as one system by the family, and that is the way it should be. To the extent we can have one courtroom, one kid, everyone within the same room sharing what we know, sharing the successes as well as the struggles. I've laid out some of the things that we've set forth to try to accomplish that. I think we can start to see better results for those children. Thank you very much.

[01:16:27] Liz Ryan: Thank you, Mr. Rodemeyer. Next we'll hear from Kyla Woods, who serves as the CEO of the consulting firm Klover Strategies, which specializes in providing strategic capacity-building, support to marginalized communities. Ms. Woods also serves as the youth chair of Washington DC's Juvenile Justice Advisory Group. Ms. Woods.

[01:16:50] Kyla Woods: Thank you, Administrator Ryan, and council. It's wonderful to be here. I want to second so many things that my fellow panelists said, but the point that Robert made about the intersectional interaction that our young people have with systems, that's why coordination is so important and so I'm just going to jump into my testimony. It is a pleasure to be here with you all. I often advocate for a multifaceted approach to respond to the needs of youth and young adults, and I'm encouraged by the commitment council member agencies have made to system-wide collaboration.

My name is Kyla Woods. I'm a youth justice advocate with lived experience, a direct service provider, a policy expert, a member of the District's Juvenile Justice Advisory Group, and CEO of Klover Strategies. For the past five years, I have partnered with youth-serving agencies to ensure the integration of youth expertise to improve policy and program implementation. Since 2019, I have witnessed the value of creating space for young people to be directly involved in driving systems that heavily influence their lives.

I've had the privilege of mobilizing youth-centered initiatives within the Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Department of Behavioral Health, and the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group in the District of Columbia. In 2016, I sought out multiple youth service agencies after a trafficking sting operation resulted in my trafficker being arrested while I was charged with prostitution to ensure my testimony. I was left with a record, homeless, and suffering with depression at the age of 18. It was advocates and social service coordination that allowed me to foster the confidence to apply to the University of District of Columbia in 2017 and graduate magna cum laude in 2021 with my bachelor's in political science housing.

[applause]

Housing, legal, and healthcare resources provided me a path towards higher education and economic stability. I'm confident that without receiving support to meet my basic needs, I would have not been prepared to advocate for myself or imagine life beyond crisis. While it's often said that many metropolitan areas are resource-rich, it is also true that many are coordination-poor. Unfortunately, this leads to bureaucratic and often duplicative procedures that can be discouraging and confusing.

In 2019, I had the privilege of participating in a two-year HUD-funded fellowship designed to improve youth homeless services in the District of Columbia. During my tenure, my colleagues and I conducted countless listening sessions and participated in biweekly youth advisory board meetings. Our peers often responded that a combination of mental health, housing, and employment support would lead to the prevention of housing insecurity and legal system involvement.

In my experience, social service and justice agencies that partner strategically with youth and families benefit from consistent quality improvement by identifying pain points, and need of greater coordination. However, most of the youth justice sectors remain siloed. I have found myself advocating for similar interventions to prevent exploitation, housing instability, and incarceration in sectors that are not incentivized to collaborate on the ground.

As an advocate, I commend the investments made in recent years towards system collaboration but I've yet to see this reality fully realized in my direct service experience.

When advocating for service coordination for my clients, I've noticed that efforts can be often stunted or slowed due to limited incentives to partner. Service providers that are overwhelmed and under-resourced struggle to extend themselves not from apathy, but from a lack of organizational capacity.

In my experience, transparency among youth-serving agencies also remains a barrier, but yet, this is imperative for system improvement. Multidisciplinary prevention incentives must prioritize the implementation of oversight to match policy and resource advancements that have been made. By partnering and investing in the expertise of youth families and frontline staff, youth agencies can obtain a more accurate picture of the achievements made and lessons learned.

When considering long-term successes of justice-involved youth, we must not only respond to vulnerabilities that they face, but we must identify and build the capacity of protective factors that exist in their communities. Ultimately, we cannot rely on systems to provide the care, love, and consistent connection that young adults deserve. Investment in community-based organizations that build resilience and social connection for youth and families is key to achieving a proactive posture.

In many areas, there are mutual aid wellness, mentoring, and violence disruption organizers that meet the needs of their communities but lack the funding or coordination support to make impact at scale. I believe council member agencies can greatly benefit from calling on non-punitive community-based orgs, justice-impacted youth, and families

to reimagine prevention. Interventions will vary. However, collaboration with youth, families, and communities will have a long-lasting impact on both the youth-serving agencies and the individuals who have leveraged their systems knowledge to build resilience. Thank you.

[01:23:00] Liz Ryan: Thank you, Ms. Woods, and thank you all for your very thoughtful and comprehensive set of recommendations that you've provided to the council. For all the council members, you have copies in your packet of their lengthier statements. We're going to take questions now and we're going to start with Mr. Schiraldi because he has to leave a little bit early. If any members of the council have questions for Mr. Schiraldi, we'll start with that. I'm just looking around. Do you want to just raise your hand? Lourdes and then Liz.

[01:23:36] Lourdes: Hi, Mr. Schiraldi. **[unintelligible 01:23:37]** Nice to see you again. Could you repeat again, you said there was one thing that you wanted us to take and I really want to understand what it is that you think is the priority.

[01:23:50] Mr. Schiraldi: It's just that the more than any kind of thing each of your individual organizations, departments could do is to uplift the issue that youth crime is not as bad as what you see on the evening news, and that there are ways that this panel is laid out to address it that don't involve us rehearsing the way we are. That could be a commission that-- I remember when Mr. **[unintelligible 01:24:21]** and Joe Torrey were doing that commission, they went to numerous different places. Every place they went, there was a communication strategy so people heard all about it.

At the end, the recommendations had a big buzz. Right now, literally, I'm talking to elected officials who think that because Maryland before I got there passed a law that prohibits prosecuting kids 12 and under for nonviolent offenses. Because of that law, shootings are up. Parenthetically, shootings are down. Even before you get to that, the fact that not prosecuting a 12-year-old for stealing stuff doesn't relate to shootings, shootings actually are down and kids make up 1 of the 13 shootings in Maryland.

There's so much bad information out there, that they ask for a little extra money from America while I'm sitting here. Yes, by the way, if you want to give me extra money, I'm going to take your money but you need to help us with that message. I doubt you could do anything this year but if you started planning something for the year after the election, when people can actually hear again, I think that might be a pretty cool thing to do.

[01:25:39] Liz Ryan: Thank you. Yes, Liz Simons.

[01:25:43] Liz Simons: It's really a question for all of you. So many of you have talked about what we need to do to address the needs of children before they get into the system. Susan called it out explicitly, we need to support families and help to support their children and do it in a more literally upstream way, as Robert talked about. I'm curious if you could give us recommendations. This is really for any of you who want to comment on this. How can we think about that strategically as a council? How do we think about

doing this work outside of the system so that children aren't caught up inadvertently in families? What are some strategies we should think about?

[01:26:30] Mr. Schiraldi: I got a midstream thing I'm working on right now. It's totally upstream. I've got 1500 kids on my caseload, either on probation, or aftercare. I've been here 10 months in Maryland, and 42 of them have been shot or shot somebody, which is an incredible number of shootings. Think about high school, where on 42 different occasions, somebody was shot. I hooked up with the National Institute of Criminal Justice Reform, David Muhammad's group, Annie E. Casey Foundation, we took a hard analysis of three and a half years of data on kids involved in gun violence on our caseloads, the 2% versus the 98% that weren't involved, to see what factors teased out.

Then we used that as a screening criteria and then we got in a room with a bunch of formerly incarcerated people in police and said, "All right, just get the haystack to be smaller, but where are the needles?" That's our first 35 kids. Every one of those kids is now called the Thrive Academy. Every one of those kids, we sit down with a life coach that's formerly incarcerated, have a respectful conversation with them about the ramifications of gun violence, both in terms of harming themselves, harming others, going to prison, all that stuff, but respectful is important, but then offer what we call a suitcase for success.

Every one of them has a life coach, that life coach and them and my case managers create a life plan. We have money to send them to college if they want to go to college. We have money to stipend work. If they want to become a mechanic, we'll pay Joe a mechanic to employ them. We have money to move them and their families if they're really in danger. There's quite a bit of that. We take them on camping trips, and to museums. It's a no-bullshit bunch of stuff. It's not just a little MST and go forth and send no more. Not that MST. Nothing wrong with MST.

For these kids, they're so deep in. They've all been traumatized so we have trauma-informed therapy actually. Not just trauma-informed, trauma therapy. That is not upstream but they're not locked up. These are young people. If they're volunteering. In our case, they don't have to do this if they don't want to, and we pay them to do it. We give them \$150 the day they join, a bunch of milestones that they agree to, every time they hit one of those, another \$100, another \$150 is negotiated. The kids negotiate well.

To me, I think that that could have multiplier effects because it's reasonable to assume that my kids are disproportionately driving fear of guns, which is why a whole bunch of people-- like everybody's carrying in these neighborhoods right now because they think everybody else is carrying. I'm doing my part to tamp it down. I think that'll affect my kids, but it'll also affect all our friends and neighbors. We have not yet decided to try to get their guns away from them, which has been an absolutely fascinating conversation with the cops.

The credible messengers, all of whom were saying, if you try to take their guns away from them, they're leaving this program because they don't want to be the only one bringing a fist to a gunfight. They think everybody else has got a gun. As crazy as it is, I got these

kids that are the most at-risk. We're not yet having a conversation with them that says, "Can you give us your gun?" I think we will get there eventually, but we have to have a real serious relationship before we can get to that, I think.

[01:30:13] Liz Ryan: Thank you so much, Mr. Schiraldi. I know you have to leave in a few minutes. We really appreciate your taking the time to be with us here today. Thank you. Okay.

[laughter]

Okay, thank you. I'd like to open it up, yes, to other questions. Maria.

[01:30:32] Maria: Yes. Thank you all for sharing your testimonies and experiences. I have a question for Kyla. Thank you so much again for sharing your personal story. I too am an alumni of the University of the District of Columbia. Go Firebird. I'm 30 years before you, but it's all good. [laughs] I wanted to ask you, you spoke about your HUD experience and the program with the homeless-- I think it was the Homeless shelter program that we ran for about two years. We are constantly looking for more opportunities to engage young people with lived experiences such as yours. I wanted to ask you, might you have a vision or recommendation to the council for a more coordinated approach? Perhaps we can work in a more comprehensive manner to meet the needs of the same young people that we're serving. I'd love to hear your vision.

[01:31:26] Kyla: This is such a good question. The fellowship was a wonderful opportunity, not just because it was a job, but my system's knowledge expanded exponentially from being an advisory board member. I was on a youth advisory board, had some context of what it looked like to think about systems improvement, leveraging lived experience. I can say it's very difficult to fully grasp the ecosystem and know where you fit in, know where your talents are if you're not fully steeped into it.

It first started out as a part-time fellowship. We did really good the first year and were able to sell them upping our hours. It was almost full-time. It was amazing because we were in coordination with-- I was at the Interagency Council on Homelessness. My colleague was at the Department of Human Services, and all of us are the same age, and the other person was at the community partnership.

Our approach, we were coordinating, it was still focused on housing, but we were still coordinating in that we all were at different agencies, but then our cohort was packed in together. I can imagine something happening, all these member agencies and, say, there's a fellowship. The fellows, they're developing that coordinated plan from all of the insight that they're gaining from respective spaces. I think that would be awesome.

[01:32:55] Liz Ryan: Great. Thank you. Ms. Fido, go ahead.

[01:33:01] Ms. Fido: Could I have an opportunity to respond to Liz's question? I know she put it to everyone and really goes along with what Kyla was just saying. I think those internships and fellowships are really valuable. I actually participated in a few myself sometime ago. [laughs] I love the example that Vinny gave. A little further upstream

comes in that idea of the information clearinghouse that I was talking about. I just want to put a little more meat on those bones because family after family after family that I've ever gotten to know in this, who has ended up with a child in the justice system, including ours years before that, not days, not weeks, years before that has sought help for something related to their child.

It might be a medical need, it might be a mental health need, it might be a school, which very often it's a school need. It might be housing. There's just such a range. Every single family that I've ever gotten to know in this work has sought help, and not even knowing what help to ask for. First, they've sought information in order to get help and time after time after time again, they either get the door closed on them because of the waiting list that Robert talked about, or they get the door closed on them because, oh, we don't do that.

They don't even really know what they're asking for. Of course, any particular program doesn't always do that [laughs] because they don't know what that is, that they're even asking for. It's when they are able to get steered and met with peers, with other family members, with other young people, with other peers who have walked this journey, but maybe a month or two or a year or two before them, then they can, even in their inarticulate way of saying, "I'm not really sure what I need or I'm asking for, but I need something."

By the way, when I say inarticulate, that doesn't have anything to do with socioeconomic class or education. It means if your kid is in crisis, you don't know what to ask for no matter where you are on any of those other spectrums. Having the opportunity to meet with, talk to, get information from, get your hand held by someone who's walked that path and then can help you get the information and therefore the support you need before 10 doors have been slammed in your face, before you've had been on waiting lists forever and ever and ever, and then before behaviors and circumstances escalate to where they then become justice system involved.

It sounds like one of the simplest of the recommendations, but it's profound. I've seen it happen. I've seen it work. I did mention in my written testimony, the family to family health information centers that are funded under the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, I was part of the original team of people many years ago that got that movement off the ground and got that funded.

We've seen the tremendous difference that has made in the lives of families raising children with special healthcare needs and so I know that it can make a difference here. There's pockets where it's happening, but as I said before, it's not really sustained. That's a really upstream thing. The beauty of it is it's upstream, it's preventative, but it also serves people that are already in the system. It already serves people that are out and prevents them from going back in. It's upstream, but it's the whole stream at the same time.

[01:36:28] Ms. Chang: Yes. That's so good. I'd love to just jump on that. Because when I was reading both Susan and Kyla's testimony, I was so excited because I think this is where my community is hoping to go. I guess to add to that vision of that clearing house

of information and youth with lived experiences or people with lived experiences to be the experts and the navigators. Then to add on top of that, in your neighborhood, you shouldn't have to bus across town and miss work and pay for parking and do all these things to get to a job program.

If you get kicked out of school, then the services they have at school, you're not going to get because you're not in school. If all of these things are in the neighborhoods that need it the most and are guided by the people who are the experts in that neighborhood and with the trusted community organizations that are already there and we really need the funding and the resources to build up those trusted community members there, I think we could really impact all the entire stream, upstream and downstream.

[01:37:35] Liz Ryan: Thank you. Look like Ms. Woods **[unintelligible 01:37:37]**

[01:37:37] Kyla: Yes. I'll be brief. I just wanted to tease out a little bit about the protective factors that we're talking about. Just with a quick example, part of my job is mentoring, and so some of my mentees are 15, 16 or so. The difference between my ability to get whether it's just extracurriculars for them whether they're system involved or not, has made me so aware of the needs that the gaps that exist within prevention.

Because if I can get a boxing class for someone who currently has a charge to work on anger management and tie it to some, instead of us all knowing, yes, exercising, boxing, especially, all of these things are ways to not only like get rid of anger, but learn to be in community, learn to build resilience. I don't feel like it should be so much that we have to sell for that to be either free or low-cost. Because every single one of my clients, I can't go to their parents and be like, "Hey, this is \$100 a week, and can we put them in?" It's almost like just knowing there's a cost to it a lot of times for them, they don't even want me to look further into it. I think we can do so much more on the front end, even if we're starting with fun.

[01:38:56] Liz Ryan: Thank you. Lourdes, it looked like you had a question then. I saw a couple other hands up. Miranda's will be next. Yes.

[01:39:02] Lourdes: Thank you. Actually, it was to pick up on something that Ms. Chang was talking about is services being spread all over the place. It reminded me when we were in Harris County in Houston. In September, we spoke a lot about lack of transportation being a huge barrier for kids and their families who were on probation to cause people to violate terms of probation because we simply could not get there. I remember when I was doing defense work decades ago and taking kids in my car to get them to programs because I didn't want them to flunk out and getting yelled at for that, that I wasn't supposed to. It's a real issue that I think we really need to be paying a lot of attention to. Thank you for raising it.

[01:39:53] Ms. Chang: Yes. Thank you for pointing that out. Yes, transportation's a big one, and bus cards aren't going to cut it. If you think about the number of hours a kid spends on a bus, busing across to different places and just how many things could go wrong in that period of time and then we're on that, and then suddenly everybody's mad

at them for not making it to group. My motivation for taking an hour-and-a-half bus ride to something that's mandated for me to do is probably pretty low. I think even just being there and not making them come to you is a big deal.

[01:40:30] Liz Ryan: Thank you. Miranda.

[01:40:34] Miranda: I really appreciate your testimonies and I love this conversation that we've been having about prevention and working upstream and making sure that community-based systems are there to support families so that they don't have to get to these deep-end systems of child welfare and juvenile justice. At the same time, I also heard some of you speak to some of the real collaborative challenges between juvenile justice and child welfare, juvenile justice, and behavioral health, I think. I just wanted to tease that out a little bit to see if you could highlight perhaps some opportunities for us to think about in terms of how we can coordinate to close some of those collaboration gaps so that when folks are system-involved, we're best meeting their needs and getting them back to their communities.

[01:41:27] Robert: In Chicago, we have a dually involved group that functions out of our juvenile justice center which houses both the child protection as well as the juvenile justice system. This group meets once a month to discuss challenges in serving the population, to address redundancies, as well as information gaps, and to break down silos. It's proved pretty effective. One of the things that I think could truly assist that Chapin Hall pointed out in the study are trauma checkpoints.

We get very concerned about confidentiality and what system can share with what, particularly in child welfare systems because there is sensitive information in that that we don't want made widespread. I know from speaking with a lot of foster parents in the juvenile justice sphere, they don't have information about the youth in their home. They don't know what the needs are when they're coming to live with them. They don't know how to meet those needs.

I had an opportunity to speak with Angela coming in in terms of trauma treatment centers for youth and care. The number of criminal charges that come out of those trauma treatment centers is pretty disheartening. We're funding and providing these trauma treatment centers based on behaviors, behavioral disorders. Then when these youth go to these facilities, and they're exhibiting the type of behaviors which led to them being there, and then they're directing them at staff, and then staff turns around and presses charges on them, it's wild.

I think trauma checkpoints throughout the juvenile justice system where we can capitalize on those clinical staffing involving the youth, I think information fair sharing in the form of dossiers that transfer over when a youth becomes juvenile justice-involved from the child protection system so that the juvenile justice system is operating with the same information that's been gathered. What treatments at work? Who's the positive support? Real simple things.

We saw in Chicago, Illinois, when a youth was picked up at 12, 13 years of age, even if they were awarded the state and living within a foster home, they would give the police department mom's number. Mom would come in and sign them out, and then the youth would fail to appear for their court date. Their caseworker was never notified, and then a warrant would be issued for their arrest. Eliminating simple communication gaps like that downstream, I think those are big ways that we can assist and address some of those issues.

[01:44:16] Liz Ryan: Thank you. It looked like Dr. McMurray has--

[01:44:19] Dr. McMurray: Yes, good afternoon. Thank you so much for the information that you've shared, both the written and wearable testimony, and your responses to the question that we've asked around the table. It's interesting. I'm sitting here wearing multiple hats. The Office of National Drug Control Policy being at the federal level responsible for coordinating a range of services, also as a former practitioner working with young people, and more recently as a licensed foster parent. Reflecting almost everything that you've said was the experience that I had with at least one in a very short period of time. It makes me think about all the different hats.

The question I wanted to bring to you all is around, someone mentioned that these are dual system youth. It's triple, multiple-system youth, really. One of the challenges I think of working together in collaboration is not just the idea that everyone functions in a siloed approach because I think more people recognize the need to collaborate and integrate services, et cetera, but how do we do that in a way that helps us to show that it's better to work together without losing our dollars, that we can show multiple outcomes from programs that are more integrated in a way that allows us to continue our funding to programs that may be supporting children in foster care, children in juvenile justice systems, children in behavioral health systems, et cetera.

We want to be able to comprehensively serve them, but we don't often integrate services because we think that we may be losing our funding if what we're doing is being seen as duplicative. Your experience of how you may be mentored systems to change in a way that they can provide the services in an integrated way, demonstrate the multiple outcomes in multiple systems so that there's better justification for continuing to work in an integrated way rather than the continued silos.

[01:46:23] Kyla: I'll be brief because I feel like others may have more of a layered response. One way I've seen is just by funding that coordination, like having it tied to their dollars. It's not that you would rather use the carrot than the stick, but sometimes having it be a goal, whether it's a coordinated plan that must be delivered that speaks specifically to. It doesn't have to be that they're-- We don't want to duplicate services, but each agency would be responsible for what is their response within this larger plan, I think, could be a way to get folks to the table.

[01:46:58] Ms. Fido: Just to what everyone has said so far, programs and systems don't really heal trauma and don't solve these problems, people do, and primarily relationships do. The brain science research that Robert was referencing and all the research back set

up. It really does come to supporting the people that do the work and there is something to be said for historic knowledge of a case as well. Back in the '90s, I was actually the director of a federally funded program called The Longest Waiting Children in Foster Care.

Anyway, the thing that we found was that what caused a lot of children to just continue to cycle and stay in foster care, one of the most striking findings was absent of anything else related to the demographics of the child, their abilities, their disabilities, charges against them, duly adjudicated, all of that stuff. The single most important factor that determined if they got what they needed and got out, or if they still lingered longer in the system was if they had the same case worker over time or how many case workers they had.

Combining that with the family experience, this is a direct quote from a family member that I once interviewed who said, "Because my child has all these different systems in their life, we have case managers in our life from all these systems. I don't feel like I'm a parent anymore," she said, "I feel like I'm a traffic cop of case managers." If we can bring it to the point where we support our workforce so that they stay and they have the training and equipping that they need so that you really do get those long-lasting people with the historic knowledge, but more importantly connection, and relationship with the child and the family, but also with the community so they know about those boxing classes or whatever, other things.

The street knowledge; they know what's going on if they're there long enough to know that. Secondly, a single point of contact case manager for the family so that if you're involved with seven systems, you don't have seven case managers, you have one. That one person is then responsible for helping coordinate the others, not the parent who's already overwhelmed.

[01:49:09] Robert: I think taking the prosecutor and the judge and the legal system on the juvenile justice thing and requiring for them. Our office used to require a rotation within the child protection system before going into juvenile justice, which would enable them to develop that sense of empathy and to understand social welfare issues. I think baking that into judicial ED-con so that our judges are having that kind of understanding I think that's incredibly empathy-building to understand what truly is decision-making. If we're talking about all of this being rehabilitative and redirective for our young people, I think a critical understanding of to what extent are actual decisions being made versus social programming, maladaptive behaviors forged through years of neglect or abuse within systems, I think helping people better understand that requiring trauma-responsive training for judicial officers who are hearing these kinds of cases, requiring some familiarity of that and training within the Child Protection sphere because a lot of times our judges in the juvenile justice arena, they're criminally mindset. They're approaching it in these proceedings the same way they would approach an adult criminal proceeding and I think requiring them to be more versed within the child welfare sphere because ultimately, that is what these proceedings should be more akin to, I think can produce better results and treatment within the system.

[01:50:44] Judge Betancourt: Question?

[01:50:46] Liz Ryan: Thank you. We're a little bit over, we have time for one quick question. Judge Betancourt.

[01:50:50] Judge Betancourt: **[inaudible 01:50:50]** for status. A dual status court in my jurisdiction along with the Child Welfare judge has done amazing things, however, I'm more about prevention. Obviously, if I can go hear adult cases, I would, and not have a juvenile justice system, that is what a fairy tale would like to be.

My question to you is, you spoke in the information you provided us about early childhood. Again, that's more preventative, preventing our children from going into dual systems. What is your recommendation or what is your position in regards to working with certain agencies to implement that, especially early childhood type of services to teach parents to show them the effects of what happens when a child does endure some type of traumatic situation and how it can lead them into, unfortunately, going into these dual systems?

I know you've talked about certain programs, but anything else that you could give us guidance on or give us recommendations as to working with other federal agencies on this?

[01:52:00] Robert: I really benefited from the Erikson Institute which is located in Chicago, Illinois. It has an executive fellowship program that brings in judges, prosecutors, judicial officers, and lawmakers as part of an executive fellowship annually to talk about the benefits of early childhood education as well as the importance of the zero to three time period. We launched in Cook County and are currently launching statewide Zero to Three courthouse rooms in the Child Welfare sphere recognizing the specialized nature of Zero to Three youth and the chance for intervention in that time period and we're seeing a lot of success with those.

There's a federal organization called zerotothree.org. I would encourage you to look into it. They've done a lot of research on these types of court programs as well as working with families in implementing them because it's a great opportunity to work with families early and immediately before they're getting too deep into the Child Protection sphere. They're usually opt-in-type programs where families like, "Yes, we're out over our skis. Anything you can help us with here, we would greatly appreciate those interventions." They provide the clinical resources that I mentioned there. They do a lot of programming and education around Zero to Three. I would say look to them. They're great resources that have served us in our local area.

[01:53:40] Liz Ryan:: Thank you so much. I know we're a little bit over, but this was just such an engaging panel discussion. Please join me in thanking our panelists for today.

[applause]

[01:53:58] Liz Ryan:: We will take a short break. We will reconvene at 2:30 PM and that will give time for the next panel to come up by 2:30 PM. Thank you.

[pause 01:54:08] [silence]

[02:04:19] Liz Ryan: Okay, thank you for joining us after the break. We've had a couple members of the council join us in the interim, so I'd like to just give them the opportunity to introduce themselves before we start the second panel. If you want to introduce yourself,

[02:04:39] Speaker 1: Hi, I'm **[unintelligible 02:04:39]** and I work for the Department of Defense in Military Community and Family Policy, Child Youth Advocacy. It's great to be here. Thank you.

[02:04:50] Liz Ryan: Thank you. Then--

[background conversation]

[02:05:00] Bonita Williams: Ah, thank you. My name is Bonita Williams. I'm with the United States Department of Agriculture, the National Institute of Food and Nutrition, and the Division of Youth and 4-H.

[02:05:19] Liz Ryan: Great. Thank you. All right. We will hear from Steve Anjewierden, Chief of Police Services, Unified Police Department of Greater Salt Lake, retired, Laura Broyles, Director Office of Standards for Prevention and System Improvement, Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs, Ernestine Stewart Gray, retired juvenile court judge, and Kari Rumbaugh, Deputy Administrator Juvenile Probation Services Division, Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation. We will start with Mr. Anjewierden.

[02:05:57] Steve Anjewierden: Anjewierden. Well, done.

[02:05:59] Liz Ryan: Did I pronounce it right? [laughs]

[02:06:01] Steve: Well, we got there. Thank you for that courtesy. Since I'm already going to go over time, I'm just going to waste a few seconds, one, by saying thanks to the previous panel who set that standard so high that I feel a little uncomfortable with my comments. Two, the emphasis on the retired Chief of Police Services. I did have an opportunity to work for 25 years as a sworn police officer, and I retired approximately seven years ago but still felt that passion to serve our youth. I've been involved in direct services with the iCHAMPS Crime Prevention Center and also as a consultant for CCAS and been able to work with communities around the country, a few of which I'll reference in my comments, which look very different from where I started today.

With emphasis on preventing youth from entering the juvenile justice system, I'm going to state the obvious, the point of contact with youth and police is a critical decision point, and we need to make sure that our officers understand that there are a lot of options and there's a lot of discretion at that point to make the best decisions for the best outcomes for our young people. Police officers encounter youth every day and have a significant impact on a young person's life. These encounters can be positive or negative because positive police encounters are possible. These outcomes are highly influenced by the officer's actions. Officers often encounter youth in non-criminal situations, and these situations need to be maximized to create positive law enforcement and youth relations.

I'm also an advocate of ensuring that our officers have opportunities to see young people in positive circumstances, so they don't treat young people as a problem, because if you're only called to see the negative parts of our society, that's how you'll start to view it. We need to have opportunities for those positive encounters. Unfortunately, officers also encounter youth in situations where there are violations of the law. In many of these cases, the nature of the offense does not allow for discretionary decision-making. In other cases, there is a wide range of options that the officers can take, and in all of these situations, the officers need to know that they should be thoughtful about their actions and understand that the outcome we're looking for with young people is behavior change and not punishment-focused.

Today I'm going to talk about three specific areas where I think we can do better in law enforcement. As a council, I think y'all can help out by providing advice and incentives and continuing to support facilitations of building coalitions where law enforcement can be present and have alternatives to the traditional juvenile justice system where it's appropriate. Three areas are in training, partnerships, and internal policies.

Training for law enforcement can significantly reduce the number of arrests of youth, thereby keeping young people out of the system. For example, training on the teen brain can help officers understand youth development, that they're not just little adults and they will therefore be less likely to criminalize normal adolescent behavior. Training on restorative practices can provide law enforcement with a better understanding of how and why diversion programs produce better long-term outcomes for youth, the community, and for law enforcement.

In a recent training with detectives in the Minneapolis Police Department, we included several adolescent development and restorative practices. What made this training so special is that we invited community service providers to attend the training and describe the work that they're doing with youth. This was the first time these service providers and these detectives engaged in such training and it created an atmosphere of striving for the common goal of helping our young people succeed.

Second is partnerships. Law enforcement also says we can't arrest our way out of the problem, but we need partners to have those alternatives. Law enforcement should partner with several institutions and community-based organizations to increase the number of options to address areas of youth need, while also increasing protective factors. For example, in Kalispell, Montana the Kalispell Police Department partners with the local school district, the juvenile courts, and the Center for Restorative Youth Justice, which as the name says, is a diversion program based on restorative justice. Through this partnership, a large majority of school-based defenses are referred to CRYJ for programming as opposed to citations and arrest, thereby keeping young people out of the juvenile justice system.

The third area are policies. With my readers, I can't even see how many minutes I have left, so I got one page to go. Here we go. Internal policies, law enforcement agencies can implement internal policies that would improve the quality of professionalism among officers, improve the relationship with the community, and uphold the safety and well-

being of both community and law enforcement officers. Through these policies, we can generate a clear understanding for the appropriate use of law enforcement discretion to divert youth from arrest and establish minimum specialty training requirements for officers working with youth because specialized knowledge is important when we're interacting with young people.

For example, in school-based law enforcement programs, I think it's critical for there to be a memorandum of understanding between the law enforcement agencies and the partnering school districts. This will provide officers with a clear understanding of their role in the school environment. To be clear, that role is not to be the hammer. There are occasionally appropriate law enforcement interactions to be taken, but they're not the disciplinarian and they're not the punisher. A more appropriate role is one which is focused on relationship building, mentoring, and being a positive role model.

These MOUs should also establish training requirements for school resource officers, which are meant to create a safe and healthy learning environment for all the students. These policies can go above what state statutes require to actually raise that floor to provide further protections for the rights of students when they're interacting with police officers in schools. An example is requiring that a parent or guardian be present if a student is being questioned for a criminal violation. Some states require that, but not all. That's an example of a way we can look after our kiddos.

Those are just three areas where we can make a difference in the juvenile justice system. Please understand that based on the restrictions of time, it's just a quick overview. The implementation, of course, is certainly nuanced, but I just want to express that they can be done at a state level, the county level, or a local level, and that this council can help by setting policy and best practice guidelines based on research to help provide direction across the country. Another way is supporting communities with resources. I thought I heard somebody was giving away \$1 million earlier, but maybe I misunderstood that.

After creating a coalition with community and local resources and law enforcement and engaging in a data-driven analysis on what some solutions might be for that particular community through asset mapping or other gap analysis, maybe we can incentivize and fund some of these coalitions by providing the resources that are specific to that local level after some thoughtful approach that I just want to end with saying should absolutely have community input. So there's that community conversation about the standards where the level of diversion might be or where the resources should be. All of those entities come together in a comprehensive model which includes law enforcement to get better results for our youngsters. Thank you.

[02:15:11] Liz Ryan: Thank you, Mr. Anjewierden. Next, we'll hear from Laura Broyles, who serves as the director of the Office of Standards for Prevention and System Improvement at the Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs, where she oversees OJJDP's Title II, Juvenile Justice Formula Grants Program. Ms. Broyles.

[02:15:32] Laura Broyles: Good afternoon. Thank you, Administrator Ryan and council members. It is an honor, really, I take it very seriously that I'm here today and want to

share with you some of my recommendations. I've had the opportunity to serve for the Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs. It's a hope-centered trauma-informed juvenile justice agency. We are a centralized state agency that serves all of our kids in 77 counties across the state.

My first recommendation would be that the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act core requirements be embedded across all systems and in every part of the system. Law enforcement should understand it. Child Welfare should understand it. The Department of Mental Health should understand it. Too many times we see young people who are acting out due to mental health symptoms or when they're responding to their triggers to trauma. Instead of responding to that trauma appropriately, we find that they are either incarcerated in a detention setting or in some other type of setting that is just compounding their trauma. I would recommend that we cross-train them across the board.

An additional recommendation that I would make would be, underneath my work that I now do along with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Title II work is we started a program, a pilot project called The Hub and we have workforce Development specialists under it. We found that a lot of our youth who are reentering the community or who-- one of my pet peeves is I don't want you to penetrate deeper into the system to access resources, because that is not cost-effective and it's not fair to our young people. What we do is we make sure that young people, when they need a resource, think of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. When they have a basic need, we want to make sure that need is met right at the very basic place.

What we find sometimes, for example, in our partnership with the Department of Labor in the Workforce Investment Act, it says that if youth are out of school, that you get the smaller part of that budget, only 25%. Almost all of the kids that come to us are in school because one of the first things our probation staff do is they put them back into school, whether they're on a deferred agreement, whether they're on a probation plan, that's the first thing we're going to do. As soon as they are put back in school, they're no longer qualified for that higher level of funding. The Department of Labor funds shrink and that budget isn't as large. I would recommend that all juvenile justice system youth be automatically eligible for that Workforce Investment Act funding.

I would also recommend that we take a look at all of these policies to see whether our juvenile justice system involves youth, or those youth are at the highest risk, whether it's status offense behavior, whether it's mental health behavior. Are they getting access to those resources that they need to not penetrate into the juvenile justice system?

Another thing that we often see, especially for our reentry youth or duly adjudicated youth, is that they sometimes move around a lot. Those vital documents, it is not uncommon for them to have multiple moves, and those vital documents are hard to track. Sometimes there's lifetime limits on things like social security cards, and if they've had multiple caseworkers, then that could be very difficult and that can sometimes fall reentry, and that causes hardship to those young people. I would recommend that we do listening sessions actually with those young people and those caseworkers and find out what we

need to do to make that easier for them to access. I would think that we could do an interstate process that allows us to help those young people that are at that greatest risk.

We heard a lot in our first panel, we talked about young people and their continuum of care across all agencies. I would recommend that we think of our young people and our families as a single continuum of care. In every agency, whether it's the Department of Human Services or it's the Office of Juvenile Affairs in my state, they get into our care and we think of them in our continuum of care within our agency. We need to start thinking of our families and our youth as one single life continuum. There isn't any reason why we can't come up with a way to have a resource allocation plan, whether it's an interstate process where those kids are moving, those families are moving through that single continuum. Every time they come to us, whether it's in a court setting, whether it's to a provider, they're having to rehash that trauma every single time. That isn't fair.

There's a lot of intelligent people in this room, a lot of people with amazing resources and experience. I bet if we counted up how much each one of us have in years of experience, we'd be amazed. I think we can come up with a way that across all of us, that there is a way to figure out where we could put our families and our young people on a single life continuum instead of having them do individual continuums of care with every agency that they're in. I would recommend that we find a way to do that.

Lastly, one of the things that we have found to be the most effective in our agency is for our young people and our families to be what guides policy and practice at every level in our agency. Youth Voice is a part of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, and so is strengthening families. Pre-pandemic, it was much easier to do that. I'm going to tell you a story very briefly about some of the work that we did with our young people, just to give you an idea of what I'm talking about.

We had young people go with us to shelter. They were our youth emerging leaders. They went to a facility where they got to look at a shelter, and then they actually did listening sessions with the young people. As adults who are allies, we sit back, we let them run the meetings, they hear from the young people how their care is, and then they get recommendations. In a group home, a young person was told that they said, "It's really hard for me to go to sleep at night because I have a history of trauma, and there's a male that turns off the lights at night." We had a young person on our youth emerging leaders review those recommendations. He actually came from our secure care. He looked at me, and he had written down, he said, "This young lady said this was difficult for her to sleep." We need to change this policy.

To watch one of our formerly incarcerated youth recognize that a young lady in a group home was triggered by her trauma and then make a recommendation for a policy change that then went to a residential care director was powerful for that young person. That was a change because then those young people met with the director of that program. We should let our families and our young people guide policy and practice with providers. In closing, I just want to thank you for this opportunity to speak to you. Thank you.

[02:22:36] Liz Ryan: Thank you, Ms. Boyles. Next, we'll hear from the Honorable Ernestine Stewart Gray, who is a retired juvenile court judge among many other leadership positions, including as past president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Judge Gray served for many years in the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court in Louisiana. Judge Gray.

[02:22:57] Ernestine Stewart Gray: Thank you, and good afternoon. I'm going to add the 40 years to the first panel. It's an honor and a privilege to be here with you this afternoon. I cannot overstate the critical importance of the messages that we send to our children and the youth in the juvenile justice system. Their very future is at stake, and we must act now to ensure that they receive the support and guidance they need to succeed.

We must adapt and evolve. We cannot continue to rely on outdated and ineffective practices that perpetuate racial inequalities, stigmatize youth, and fail to address the root causes of delinquency. We must implement and continue to develop evidence-based practices and protocols that promote anti-racism, anti-classism, and any other anti-ism out there. We must promote programs that rely on research and findings and build consensus around probation reform.

We must eradicate the at-risk label and create opportunities for meaningful participation in reform efforts by those with lived experience. The at-risk label does what we say we should not do, stigmatize. It has negative impacts because of its deficit-based approach. It creates expectations of failure. The at-risk label is inconsistent with the principles of positive youth development on which we must focus as we listen to and are guided by the research on brain development.

Changing the wording I know is not going to change anything, but it is a start. It is one that requires us to think differently and act differently. We must empower the youth we are dealing with to actively shape their future, become the support systems that catapult them to healthy, productive, and happy lives, not the change that binds them and shackles them. We must redirect expenditures toward effective solutions such as community-based programs and services that address the underlying issues that led to youth delinquent behavior. We heard a lot about that during the first panel.

I wanted to say you would be surprised that as a judge, I agreed with a lot of what was said in that first panel because I think they were absolutely correct. I would endorse most, if not all, of the recommendations that they made. We must invest in communities, which means, for example, when we support community diversion efforts, we do not just fund evidence-based programs because that precludes grassroots and bottom-up approaches. We must fund bottom-up grassroots approaches alongside the best evidence.

We must be very intentional and inclusive with community and families. They are the real experts. You heard that from the first panel. I was really impressed by the thoughts, comments, and recommendations by the young people who participated in the October 26th, 2022 meeting of the council. I hope that the council has followed up on the

commitment that was made to the young people and figured out ways to keep them involved, perhaps by creating a team of youth advisors for courts and grantors. Impacted youth are the best experts.

We must stop relying on detention when interventions, methods and treatments seem to fail. Detention is harmful to adolescents and generally fails to address the underlying issues that led to their delinquent behavior and it doesn't make communities safer. You heard that as well earlier. Instead, we should focus on community-based programs that focus on rehabilitation, education, and community service, which have shown promise in reducing recidivism and supporting positive youth development.

We should, together, figure out how to reduce the front door and how to close the school-to-prison pipeline. Finally, we must really collaborate to ensure a no-wrong-door policy where children, youth, and families receive the services that they need the first time they encounter a problem and they seek support, rather than being shuffled from one agency to another with the expectation that the court is going to solve the problem.

Between the time I received the invitation to participate today and today, I had an opportunity to talk to several of my colleagues and ask them what I might say to you today. Surprisingly, to a judge, they each identified this as the most critical issue. They said, "Tell them to get rid of siloed funding which allows agencies to pass children from one agency to another because of funding concerns. We cannot afford to let our youth fall through the cracks because of a broken system or systems."

In conclusion, the future of our youth is at stake, and we must act now to transform the juvenile justice system in America into one that is more just, effective, and equitable. We must send positive messages to children and youth in the juvenile justice system, messages of hope and promise, not negativity and condemnation. Let us be good stewards of our children, our most precious possession. As Neil Postman wrote, "The living messages that we send to a time that we will never see." Thank you.

[02:28:37] Liz Ryan: Thank you, Judge Gray. Next, we will hear from Kari Rumbaugh, who is the deputy administrator of the Juvenile Probation Services Division in Lincoln, Nebraska. As part of her work in Lancaster County, she oversaw the development of the Rural Improvement for Schooling and Employment RISE program, which is a nationally recognized partnership with AmeriCorps. Ms. Rumbaugh.

[02:29:02] Kari Rumbaugh: Thank you so much. Good afternoon, Administrator Ryan and committee members. I am honored to receive this distinguished opportunity and invitation to come speak to you today as an expert panelist. Nebraska juvenile probation has strived over the last 10 years to implement juvenile justice reform which we believe has resulted in significant accomplishments. I come before you today with over 20 years of probation experience and a drive to positively impact youth and families in the justice system.

In 2013, Nebraska launched juvenile justice reform, really moving legislation to the rehabilitative model, as the previous panel discussed. We had passage of legislation due

to two essential items. One of them was to reduce the number of youth who are being placed outside of their home and the second was to reduce the number of youth becoming wards of the state in Nebraska for the sole purpose of receiving funding for services. This essential responsibility was placed within the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation, specifically juvenile probation due to marked leadership, and a previously very successful pilot.

Additionally, similar to many other states in 2006, Nebraska had previously prioritized the implementation of evidence-based practices as Judge Gray just discussed. We really focused and believed that research and that the principles of evidence-based practices directly impact recidivism reduction. I'm honored to talk to you about the probation perspective today and give you some information about the experiences that we've had in Nebraska. Many of these are detailed in my testimony, so I know today I am here to give you some quick information about them.

I wanted to focus on the six priorities that I had identified. The first, and you heard this in other panels, is that we want to spend time truly supporting local communities and what they identify as ways to prevent youth from entering or to help youth discharged from the juvenile justice system. I believe that it is essential that to help them be successful, we need to provide them with technical assistance, training, and support, especially supporting them and assisting them in determining ways to be able to do that successfully.

In Nebraska, with our significant legislation, one of the items lifted up was a statutory process, as well as funding for local communities across Nebraska, in our 93 counties. There was coordination with a local university to help assist them and support them, as well as statewide assistance to help support and assist them. Probation has been a partner in this along the way. I think it's really essential that as we see what happens in the deep end, that we're there to partner to help prevent youth from entering the system.

The second priority is that I believe it is essential to cultivate a highly skilled and trained probation officer. We have developed and prioritized for many years in Nebraska, a comprehensive eight-week new probation officer curriculum as well as what we call our Advanced Coaching for Excellence, or our ACE training, which is a booster or taking the skills for probation officers to the next level. We focus on skill building, teaching them how to help skill-build youth and families, as well as build relationships.

The third item I would recommend, as the judge also spoke about, was implementation of evidence-based programs and services. I speak about several of them that we've utilized in Nebraska from a recommendation matrix that our staff used to make targeted recommendations to the court when they're completing a predisposition investigation to our home-based initiative where we brought in evidence-based in-home services, as well as a tangible incentive program, and what we call our reentry unit. Because in Nebraska probation, we work from initial entry through reentry, if a young person is placed at our highest-level facility. I appreciate bringing up our RISE program or our AmeriCorps program that was implemented in 2007 and continues today. We also work and have worked very diligently on dual system youth projects, which I know they talked about as well.

The fourth area is promoting ways for us to be able to lift up youth individual strengths. One way we've done that in Nebraska is we have a youth artwork contest and the artwork is used in publications and brought to conferences across the state to recognize youth for their strengths and youth in the justice system. The fifth is to promote the engagement and the partnership with local and national experts. We have brought in different evaluation opportunities. The most recent we call our juvenile justice system enhancement in Nebraska, where we brought in the probation system review and multiple different national experts to help us implement juvenile justice and enhance what we already have been doing for the last 10 years.

I want to stress implementation as a key component of that because we have learned a lot about successful implementation and I do believe that is key to successful implementation within any department, especially probation. Then finally really lifting up the ability to provide clear data and data-informed reporting. We started an annual report in Nebraska not mandated by the legislature, that we chose to do to lift up essential juvenile justice elements to help educate stakeholders. I think those kinds of data reporting and those elements are essential. In our annual reports, we talk about these evidence-based programs and these items that I mentioned to you.

Those would be the six items that I wanted to talk about that I would encourage consideration, especially when it comes to the focus of probation and the work of probation. I want to thank you again, for this opportunity for allowing Nebraska to be at the table and me to be able to share our experiences with you and I hope they inform the council. Thank you.

[02:35:43] Liz Ryan: Thank you so much, Ms. Rumbaugh, and I want to also say to this panel how much we appreciate the time and effort that you took to put together such thoughtful testimony and concrete recommendations. I think we have about 15 minutes for questions. I'm going to look to this side because I wasn't looking at you all as much when we were doing the questions and I want to just see if anyone on this side has any questions they want to ask the panel. All right. Anyone over here, Lourdes. Yes. Go ahead.

[02:36:16] Lourdes: Hi, thank you, all. This actually is directed to Judge Gray and Ms. Rumbaugh. [chuckles] I knew that too. I knew I was going to ask you a question. It goes to what I call the yin yang or the tension between, on the one hand, making sure that we're using evidence-based practices to serve youth and their families, but on the other hand, not supporting innovation that rises up from the community. I say this as someone who I've been practicing for about 30, 35 years. When I got into the juvenile justice world, we were subjecting kids to things that were later proved to be harmful to them and increase recidivism.

I remember specifically military-style boot camps, and were scared straight. It was only to-- we were forcing folks to collect the data that we saw that, "Oh, my goodness, it increases recidivism, it increases all sorts of negative things." For me, it was important to know that we were requiring evaluation and really tracking what they were doing. On the flip side, I realized that so much, and we saw this in Harris County when we were there a

few months ago, so much of the innovation comes from the community and from the grassroots. How do you balance that? How do we balance that?

[02:37:44] Kari: I don't know that I know the answer, but my experience is that in the past, not much has been done with the grassroots initiatives. When we have looked at grassroots initiatives, we've done it without financial support. They don't have the ability to do things. I think the grassroot programs are valuable in the individual connection, the one-on-one connection with the kid. If you have someone who is going to be a part-time coach at the recreation center, figuring out ways to support that after-hour, after-school participation by the adult and both the children. I think one of the things we expect community people to do is to give of their time, without support. The people that were asking to do that still have to feed their families, they have to pay the rent, they have to do all the other things that people are getting paid to do the work.

I think we have to figure out valuing their time and their commitment to their communities and figuring out how to support that financially. That goes to supporting the organizations with little \$5,000 grants, perhaps that's all they need. They don't need a big office, they don't need any of that, but they might need some money to provide some snacks for kids after they're in a program. Just really thinking about how it might be when we've talked to people in the community about what they need in order to be a successful program that is able to pull in the kids, get them off the street, and get them involved in programs.

[02:39:26] Lourdes: Thank you.

[02:39:28] Liz Ryan: Thank you. I want to just reserve my right to ask a quick question before we go to the other folks. Each of you talked a little bit about involvement of young people, involvement of community and I thought maybe you could each speak to incentives that you think would ensure that funding gets to community and also community are involved. Mr. Anjewierden you talked about law enforcement being part of a community coalition. It'd be helpful to get just a little more detail from each of you on those incentives you think would be helpful.

[02:40:09] Steve: I don't want to step in front of anybody. In my haste to get to my testimony, I forgot to tell you thank you for the opportunity to be here. Thank you administrator Ryan for the opportunity to be here, and thank you to this council for the invitation. I think that in general, law enforcement has challenges with authentically hearing what the community has to say. I think the first thing we have to do is talk to my colleagues about the value of the input that can come in. I think it's often, there's a fear that, "Well, look, we're the professional police, and the community doesn't know how to approach issue A or B," but they do have valuable input on how they're impacted by the way that you police, and there has to be some common ground that we find to have that conversation.

Often, community members don't have that faith or trust in law enforcement that it's worth their time to show up and give that information. I think it's understanding that from the law enforcement side, we just got to keep trying, and we got to keep building that relationship

until there is enough common ground where we can have that dialogue, and that will range across the country, right? There'll be different areas of that.

One example that might fit the bill here is in the Denver Police Department, they have a program called the Correlates of Crime where it's an effort to understand that there's often reasons underlying the challenges that people have that can lead to crime. They started a program where they can try to address those issues that officers come across in the course of their duties.

By the way, I think this is fantastic because, you find out pretty quick when you're a young police officer that the challenges of the world are too big for you to fix by yourself, and if you're not sure where to reference somebody, there's a lot of helplessness out there that then turns to making arrests, using force to solve it. If those officers have a place to make those referrals, then we can do something about the underpinnings of that, but in the development of that program, there was a lot of community conversations, and one message from the community was, "We want our local existing resources to be valued and not replaced."

Sometimes when those federal dollars come in, they displace an organization that's maybe been there for 30 years and does a great job. Part of that asset mapping in that community conversation is, "What are your needs? What do we have? How can we work best together?" Then fill the gaps. That's what I was trying to allude to in my testimony about, that might be a good funding formula, maybe isn't the right word, but to make sure that we're honoring the work that goes on in communities and has forever.

Quite frankly, law enforcement is slow to see some of that community work, and slow to partner with them, and, of course, the opposite is true. Not everybody wants to partner with law enforcement, and that's okay, we'll get better until you do. I think that through a program like this where we want to hear what you have to say, we want to know the best way that we can actually serve the community is a good way to get the community together, and start to build that legitimacy of policing back and build that trust.

[02:43:53] Liz Ryan: Thank you. Yes, I'll just hear from you.

[02:43:56] Kari: Can I add as well? Mine will be more of a probation perspective, but, again, I think the answers are always complicated, right? My answer would be, it should be individualized. We really have tried hard. In Nebraska, I have a couple examples. One, I talked about in my testimony, which is a tangible incentive program that we have for youth, and we started a special exception incentive program within that after hearing from probation officers that, "This youth wants to work on something they really need." For example, we've had some youth moving into independent living, needing a microwave, or a young person needing transportation, and they've worked to get a bike. They're doing some of those individualized.

We did a very similar process when it came to working with probation officers. We asked them to assist us in creating short training videos to boost our ACE initiative that I mentioned, and we asked the group, "How might you like to be celebrated once you

accomplish this?" Bringing them together to co-create, but helping them identify what they would like for them to receive to be recognized for the work that they put in. They had a listing of ideas that they brought up from the very beginning, and now our job is to make sure they get those when we accomplish our outcomes. That's just a little bit of a different response to that, but we really are learning that individualizing is really where we're finding the most success.

[02:45:35] Liz Ryan: Thank you.

[02:45:39] Ernestine: One of the things I've learned quickly is that as a government, it doesn't work to tell them what to do, right? Go in and listen and find out what their needs are, help them. Part of my role is to help pass money through at the state level for prevention services. All of those youth service agencies, there's designated dollars that we have at the state level. They go to them, they each have a local board, they do their local community needs assessment. My job is really to support them, let them hear from their own community members, and do that.

I do that work with Title II as well in our grant process. In Title II, I also work with law enforcement agencies, letting them identify who their youth specialist officer is going to be to drive that process. I think it always comes down to listening to what the community needs, and then supporting them at the government level. It's really helping them build their infrastructure, would be what I would say.

[02:46:42] Laura: I just wanted to say that I think in this work we have to, particularly as we're talking about the police and bringing them into the community, we just have to be honest, there are a lot of communities that do not trust the police, and for a good reason. I think that there will have to be some efforts that really build the trust that the community has. For a lot of the people that we are dealing with, the police have been the ones who have surveilled them for years. My own experience, I know what it's like to be surveilled.

I talk about my experience of going to Sachs, and going into the rich, really muckety-muck section, and looking at a fur coat or whatever I'm looking at, or some designer thing, and being followed by the salesperson. For a lot of the people that we are dealing with, their experience with the police department hasn't been that great, but I don't think that that means that we can't build a great relationship.

I'm reminded of, I don't remember what it was called when the cops were in the neighborhoods, and they were almost like the preacher, that people felt comfortable because they knew the individual police officer, and knew that that person, that officer had their back, but for a lot of them, they don't have that feeling today. I think until we are able to get back to something like that, it's going to be really difficult to get the relationships that we need in order for us to work, police, court, probation, human, everybody working together to address the needs of the families that issues are pushing them to our attention.

Right now, we are not doing as well as we all want to do, we want to do better. I think the only way we're going to do that is to do this coordination that we've been talking about with all those agencies who have a piece of the lives of those people, housing, drug

enforcement, all of those agencies working together to figure out what it is we need to do. We know why kids come to court. We know what's driving them, and for many of them, it's because they don't have the resources. They don't have a decent income, they don't have health insurance.

They don't have the things that we know families need in order to be able to survive. Until we are able to try to make that available to everybody, we are still going to have these issues.

[02:49:10] Liz Ryan: Thank you all. I want to see if there are any other questions from the council. Yes. Ms. Senek.

[02:49:17] Ms. Senek: Thank you so much for your testimony. I really appreciate both Laura and Carrie, your comments on how to recognize and honor the stories and the experiences and the policy recommendations that come from the youth that you serve. I wonder, are there ways you can think of that would help the federal government to better articulate when we do hear those policy recommendations and the ideas from youth and the families that we serve, how can we help them see that they created that change? How do we promote that same level at the federal level of helping them see themselves in it?

[02:49:56] Laura: Make them the subject matter expert like you're doing. I think a recommendation of someone on this council is a great idea. I also think it is powerful when they make a recommendation on a specific policy, and then they actually see the change, or they see the program be developed. When they say, "I have this need," and then they see you respond to that need, that makes a difference. If that's a possible thing to do, that's what I would recommend, for sure.

[02:50:29] Kari: I would add feedback loops in regards to letting them know they were heard. I also think promoting them as the expert who helped the implementation happen. Lifting that up, maybe if you are opening up some application, linking it to that individual. I think, really, that would help them feel heard, and feel like, "Oh, they listened to me, and now they may listen to someone else."

[02:51:01] Ernestine: I would say too, it's not a run and done. Unfortunately, there are a lot of young people out there who've been touched by the system, and obviously, you can't have all of them be involved in policy development. Like the two previous speakers **[inaudible 02:51:19]**. I'm sorry. It's to give up their time, and participate, and then not ever see anything good come of what they've done. I think regular contact with them, feedback loops with them, and letting them know what happened with the recommendations that they made is critically important.

The other thing I think is to encourage young people who are out there to-- I was impressed by Kala, she's still here. What I wrote down when she was talking was that I wanted every kid, every child that I dealt with in the juvenile court system to grow up and be like Kala. That's what I think we should all want for the kids who are coming through our system, that all of them have that opportunity to grow up, and to contribute, and be productive adults, then we would've succeeded.

[02:52:19] ?Laura: I would also add, if I might, that one of the things that we realized too was that they need some compensation. We're all getting paid to do this, but they often have to leave sometimes an hourly job if they have one, or their parent and chaperone does too. Making sure that there's some sort of-- for us, we worked on rates, and had them established through a process so that they are getting an allowance.

[02:52:50] Liz Ryan: Thank you all. I think there are more questions, but we'll need to wrap up the panel here. Please join me in thanking this distinguished panel.

[applause]

As the panelists make their way to their seats, I wanted to take a moment to reflect with the council members what we've heard today, and also just thinking back to our visit to Houston, and our meeting at Department of Labor early in the year where we heard about the US Department of Agriculture Programs, and Department of Labor Programs, and last fall when we heard from young people with lived experience talking about their recommendations.

I know that's a lot to take in, but I want to take 15, 20 minutes with you all now just to let you share any reflections that you have. It'd be great to hear from as many of you as possible. I don't want to put anyone on the spot. I'll just look in this direction, and if anyone over here, Maria, why don't you start?

[02:54:06] Maria: I'll start. I had two questions for the panel, but I think it's an overall reflection. I just wanted to say, I love the idea, Steven, you made regarding an MOU with the local law enforcement agencies, entities and schools. I just think that that might be doable, but I don't want to be too optimistic. Or maybe it's a template or a suggestion to all agencies that are in the school system, or maybe case managers so that they learn to work better with vulnerable individuals who have been in the juvenile justice system.

I love this idea, and I think it can be done, and maybe we can work together as a council to consider it. Because you have justice here, we have the Department of education here. Happy to help as well, perspective from HEARD. Then the other reflection is that, Judge Gray, I love this idea of removing the at risk terminology. Is that something that we can do? We don't have to talk about it today, it may be a longer conversation, but it does make a huge difference.

To your point, we as federal agencies, I think have the ability to do that, and perhaps it's a low hanging fruit piece where we can deliver this to say that we are moving in this direction, and then all of these other great suggestions, maybe they're middle or higher hanging fruit. Again, every panelist today made excellent points, which some of us ask questions today about, but just excellent today, and I have a lot to reflect on from today, so thank you.

[02:55:57] Liz Ryan: Thank you. Judge Betancourt, and then Michael Mendoza.

[02:56:03] Judge Betancourt: The MOU, it's very simple, and jurisdictions across, not only my state of Texas, but the United States do that with agencies such as police

departments. It is something that is doable and easy. I think the most important thing you're pointing out is the language, about requiring them even through funding sources, requiring them to do some type of trauma-informed training, making that a requirement in order when they're applying for these funds, that they understand that the police agency is going to implement this training and do this training as part of the requisite to obtain that funding, and then exactly the same thing with the MOU, but is very doable.

[02:56:52] Michael Mendoza: Thank you for the opportunity to provide some comments in hindsight or reflection. Two things stand out to me. Well, actually both from Vinny. You mentioned how right now we're in a moment where we're hearing the super predator term all over again, but just in different ways. We're hearing it in terms of children being called sociopaths or psychopaths in terms of worst case scenarios, and how it's really impacting a lot of the work that has been done successfully across the country.

I think it'd be great for us to figure out how from the bully pulpit we can really acknowledge the wins that have been successful, while keeping our community safe, and encouraging elected officials and policy makers to continue in the right path really hit home with me.

I remember it was like being called a super predator, and how it makes you feel. It's really discouraging. That stands out to me, but so does the thought of a national roadmap. It just feels like every state's trying to figure it out on their own. How can we provide a national roadmap, if you will, attach policies, and really help states get to a certain place where we know it can be effective, and it can work? Those are just two things that I see as priorities that can really help shape things in the next few years.

[02:58:28] Liz Ryan: Thank you. Yes.

[02:58:32] Speaker: Two things. First, I think trauma training is great, but I think we need to go deeper than that, and really look at how these systems are trauma-informed. One training does not make one trauma-informed. I think we've been doing a lot of work around that, and I think there's a lot more work we can do. I'd really love it if this council continues to talk about the family engagement and the family networks. I know in behavioral health, families often feel invisible, and I'm hearing that that's how they feel across the system.

How do we, first of all not have them, these various networks and all these different systems, but one network, one family network, and one voice. I think especially at the federal level, we have our focus on the youth, we have our focus on adults, but really raising that family voice. I think this council could do a great job of that.

[02:59:24] Liz Ryan: Thank you. Liz Simons?

[02:59:28] Liz Simons: First, echoing Michael, and Maria Lana's, and the judge's emphasis on language, I do think it begins there. Frankly, I think the name of our council, the word delinquency in it, we might want to think about at some point in juvenile. Yes. [chuckles] I was really also struck by the judge's point about evidence-based. It's like I myself have used evidence-based frequently when I talk about promising programs. I also made the point in one of our last committee discussions the same point I think the judge was making that all too often, really promising practices are left off the table because

those community organizations that are trying to do this work don't have the money to pay for evidence-based, they don't have the research.

They can't pay for research to make sure that they actually are meeting certain designations that make them become evidence-based. I'm not explaining it well, but I think that we need to think about better ways to bring in these programs. Perhaps it's something a philanthropy could do with funding programs to have research done that brings them into our purview so we can take them seriously. It's ironic that funding breeds funding, but I do think we need to think about that, and I'm excited to lean into that work.

[03:00:59] Liz Ryan: Thank you, Liz. Miranda?

[03:01:02] Miranda: Thank you. I have a lot of thoughts. One, and part of this was influenced from the conversation we had even before the meeting was discussed. It's this idea of, how do we really get to this place where we are all working towards the shared goals that we have for our children, our youth, our families. I think we all agree that we want folks to thrive. We want to increase their resilience, build-up their protective factors. We don't want them to go through trauma.

That's consistent across a lot of different systems. There's the opportunity, I think, if we work towards some shared outcomes, some shared metrics of well-being, what that looks like, that we can refocus our multiple programs across our member agencies to point towards those shared well-being outcomes so we can measure ourselves, that we can demonstrate that we are contributing to people's healthy development and young people's healthy development. That's one line of thought that I had in reflection of the conversation today.

The other is that there was a lot of conversation about the silos that we have in our programs. They are funding silos, and they are system silos. One of the things that I think we can do well as a coordinating council in the federal government is put spotlights on those communities that are breaking through that, that are doing a good job of actually taking many different federal and state funding streams, and actually providing community-based services that serve people's needs well.

I think there's an opportunity for us to think about how we can lean into that spotlighting feature, developing a toolkit, showing folks how this can be done, because there are lots of opportunities across the many programs. Then I think with lived experience, and really making sure that young people and families with lived experience are centered in this work, I think that there are opportunities for the council to promote how you can make sure that that is a requirement/condition of needs assessments, of plan requirements, of reporting requirements.

I think we can promote ways for agencies to ensure that they are including people with lived experience meaningfully, and demonstrating that they are not just having people at the table, but they are then taking their input, providing feedback, and changing policy and program design based on it. There's a lot of encouragement I think we can do in

using our belief pulpit so that we are shaping the way that we want programs to be designed in support of young people and families.

[03:04:17] Liz Ryan: Thank you. Oh, go ahead. Sonali. Yes.

[03:04:21] Sonali: I just want to add, I really appreciate the reference to spotlights. I think there are so many spotlights, and sometimes what happens is the spotlight doesn't need to be just for us. There's a lot of power in the spotlight being available to practitioners so they can see how folks have navigated. I just think that that is so critical, and finding ways for that information to be shared beyond this committee so that access gets right to the community.

I think we heard a lot about collaboration, and the importance of collaboration. I think our power and influence sits in like what we identify as our funding priorities. I'm going to go back to our office and say, "How do we prioritize coordination so that it's called out, so that people who receive our resources are doing that?" Then just something that I think sat with me this entire time is, there's a lot of conversation about collaboration.

There's a lot of conversation about neighborhoods in place, and it just made me think about how important it is to have time and space to build trust. I think that is also something that I want to go back and think about, how do we help cultivate that trust between various stakeholders.

[03:05:49] Liz Ryan: Thank you. Lourdes and then Deborah.

[03:05:53] Lourdes: Thank you. Right before today's meeting, I was looking at the notes of our meeting in Houston, which a number of us went to, but some people didn't get a chance to go to. There's so many themes that came up today that directly tie to the themes and issues that we discussed there. I wanted to reflect on that for a moment. Really, they are working in Harris County on fundamental transformation, and they boiled it down to three words, which I really took with me today. Reduce, improve and reinvest. We heard similar themes today.

Reduce the number of kids who come into contact with the system. Reduce the number of kids who are put on probation. The number of kids who are detained, certainly reduce the number of probation conditions that kids have to go through, but to do that, they really saw it as, the issue that they're facing is having to reimagine public safety, and our conception, the public's conception of what drives public safety because, unfortunately, it is tied to a narrative that in order to be safe, we have to lock people up, we have to punish them.

All of us in this room know that that's not the case. We know a lot of these practices that emphasize incarceration and punishment, in fact, make us less safe by increasing recidivism, and creating a lot of hopelessness and lack of opportunity, reduce. Improve, they spoke about the fact that there was a very negative view of the juvenile justice system in their community, and for reason. It was viewed as racist and harmful, putting kids under surveillance, and that they really wanted to work to create a positive view of the system.

To do that, it was about making the system community-driven and community-rooted. That's what led to the Opportunity center, which has a very different vibe than a lot of programs I've been in, and we met some of the young people who were graduates of that program, and they were talking about all the services they got, their educational workforce development, mental health guidance, all sorts of stuff. They also told us that those were the services that they could not and did not get in the community before they got into the justice system. That led to the third component, which is reinvest.

They were saying, we have to reinvest the money we save by not locking up all these kids, and being able to provide these services way before there's any chance that they're going to get involved with the justice system. I remember the mapping that they did. That the gaps analysis to see where they should put the money to put the services that aren't there. I think a lot of the themes are the same ones that came up today, and really should guide a lot of our thinking about what we should be doing, reduce, improve, reinvest.

[03:08:40] Liz Ryan: Thank you, Lourdes, for that recap of Houston, is it Deborah?

[03:08:47] Deborah: Yes. One of the things that stood out to me, and it's something that we talk a lot about with my programs is the idea of keeping youth in their communities, in their homes. Once they're justice-involved, how do we reduce taking them out of their communities, putting them in facilities, whatever. I think what we hear is there's a lot of movement in states towards that. We heard some of that on this panel. I work on a program that was designed around kids in institutions and in residential programs. We talk a lot about how to get away from that, but if it's built into the structure of our program, then there are bigger fixes that need to be talked about.

That was something that stood out to me. The other thing, and this isn't-- several people mentioned just records management, and data sharing, and that's something that comes up for us a lot because we serve kids who move in and out of either their community school systems to maybe a state-run system or something, or they're in and out of different systems. That's true of a lot of these kids.

I think that a lot of the current data policies are designed to-- what we hear a lot from our grantees is, "We can't track how these kids are doing because they don't want labels to follow them because they don't want them to be stigmatized." How do we balance that need for privacy with the need of, we heard from a few people about just the need to share data, and share records, and these kids aren't carrying around suitcases of their school records with them. That prevents our being able to serve them well, or holding systems accountable for serving those kids well. I will stop there, but that's what I was thinking about.

[03:11:06] Liz Ryan: Thank you. Dr. McMurray?

[03:11:09] Dr. McMurray: A few things I've heard from the presentations and the discussions that have me reflecting on some of the work that we as a council can do. Just thinking about, over the years we talk about the various best practices, the various

technical assistance and training centers, resource centers that all of our agencies have access to that we promote for our particular issue of interest.

It strikes me that so much of that is happening, but not many practitioners or providers or community-level members know that they exist, are able to access them or utilize them in a way that makes sense, and can expand the benefit of having a technical assistance center.

I'm thinking about, as we all work within our agency's approach, **[unintelligible 03:12:01]**, that we may need to rethink about how we share across lines the best practices, promising practices, technical assistance centers, et cetera, et cetera so that my world may be around substance use prevention, but because we know that the risk and protective factors are very similar to children who may be truant, who may be justice involved, who may be at risk, sorry to use that term, for homelessness and other things, that my programs, my best practices, my technical assistance could be beneficial to the programs, to the organizations and providers in New York Community that may be doing your work.

How can we better share without recreating more centers and more resources, how can we better share across? Something for us to be thinking about. The second thing I heard in the conversation was around workforce development, but also workforce investment. We've known for years that often the folks who do the yeoman's work are the ones that are least paid, least invested in, but have the greatest connection to some of our young people and families.

We may need to think about how we raise the level of profile of those who do some of that more on-ground work so that they are part of not just the conversation where we're thinking about planning, but they're incentivized to continue to do the great work that they do with connecting directly with families and children and communities. Then also just thinking about how we-- were very interested in integrating lived experiences.

I'm starting to see or wonder whether or not we can learn from each other's lived experiences, instead of having to recreate an advisory council of parents and children with lived experience around substance use issues. What can I learn from the advisory councils or the other works that the others have been doing to integrate families and their voice? Rather than recreate, how can I learn from others? I think that's just things that I've heard as we've gone along for today that I'm going to be reflecting on going back to ODCP.

[03:14:16] Liz Ryan: Thank you. Mark Patterson and then Judge Bettencourt.

[03:14:24] Mark Patterson: Great discussion today. I heard a lot of things, but the thing that really resonated with me right now is really, if I put a number to it, 15 or 20 years of juvenile justice reform is the need now really to put out that positive message. That the ability and the opportunities for the states to create diversions to our incarceration has made a difference, and has made a change.

Then the work that we do so much, we're constantly trying to get resources in order to maintain our programs in Hawaii, to maintain the diversion. We don't have the time to promote that it's succeeding, so everyone that came to the front and presented as a panel, I can put a Hawaiian leader back home to, public defenders, judicial, family advocates. What's lucky for Hawaii is all of them are able to work together.

We'd be able to move our system through, including the police department, the office of the prosecutor and whatnot. For some reason, we're not getting the message. When I go to the legislature, they tell me, "Well, Hawaii's DOE is number one in suspending kids from school." I said, "The first thing in your mind is, I don't work for the DOE," but I've been told and trained to look at them and say, "I'll go talk to the DOE [chuckles] to see if there's programs we can help them with," because I know they're high risk. I'll use that, or eventually become part of our system. It helps me to go help them or offer my help to slow that next step to me.

I just think it's just crazy to-- when we hear about legislators talking about the rise of juvenile crime, and the rise of this, and you just want to tell them, "You do know we just came out of COVID, right?" There's a lot of people have been locked down and now they're out, and it's still not where it was pre-COVID. I think, I want to just mirror what Marilyn Vincent was saying, is that we have to get that positive message out. The biggest threat to reform is just the political and the media's perception that prison equals a safe environment, that equals lower crime. We ignore the socio economic issues that are the root causes. That's where my thoughts are right now.

[03:17:02] Liz Ryan: Thank you so much. Then we'll hear from Judge Bettencourt, and then we'll wrap this part.

[03:17:05] Judge Bettencourt: I just wanted to take the time to say thank you to Judge Gray. As judges, we serve our purpose, and most think that we are to listen to cases and make rulings, but when it comes to the juvenile justice system, there's so much more we can do. Judge Gray has shown that, and has been a vocal point, and has been vocal in making that point. More importantly, we sat here, and we heard from pretty much every type of playmaker, player in the system. We've heard everything was pretty much echoed from making sure that we're doing everything we can for our children.

I think what we just need to do is really help other states, and the agencies come and help these states truly understand what more there is out there as far as resources, funding, grants. We can sit here and talk fancy words all day and say everything we want to say, but what are we doing, and how are we getting it done? That's our responsibility now. We've heard, we've seen, we've heard from youth involved, we've heard from so many different individuals, and everything is accurate.

As you sit on a bench like I do and Judge Gray, we see these children, and we see what causes them to come before us. Sometimes we're asked to quiet down, but we don't because we want to make sure that people understand what is out there, and what we're seeing daily. As practitioners, I think it's key that we continue to use our voices, and we

continue to say, not only what the good, the bad, the ugly, but also show what everybody is doing, and how we're doing it differently.

I just wanted to take the time and say thank you, Judge Gray, for showing that we can do that as judges as well. Because I know, we don't really get to, but more importantly now the point is, where are we going with this, and how are we going to get things done?

[03:19:00] Liz Ryan: Thank you so much Judge Bettencourt for that charge ahead. Before we wrap, we are going to hear from our two subcommittees from the two chairs. We will first hear from subcommittee co-chairs, Kelly Blue and Sonali Nijhawan, who are reporting out on the programs and practice subcommittee.

[03:19:34] Kelly Blue: All right. Can you hear me? [chuckling] Good afternoon. On behalf of the programs and practices subcommittee, I'm pleased to let you know that we've had the opportunity to meet two times since the full council meeting that was held in September. Also during that time, our subcommittee has expanded. We are now up to a total of 26 members representing 11 federal agencies and 6 practitioners from the field, so our subcommittee is expanding.

Over the course of the past couple of months, the subcommittee has focused on two items. One is related to finalizing goals and objectives, and the other is planning for coordinating council sponsor track at the 2024 OJJDP National Conference that will be held in Washington DC in November. First, regarding newly developed goals and objectives, they're attached with our report for your review and consideration. Next steps with the goals and objectives, the subcommittee will be looking at those goals and objectives, and prioritizing them, and then working towards developing potential action plans to move forward with those goals and objectives.

We've been working on the conference track that the council will sponsor. We looked at the recommendations from the youth panel that was held on October 22 to help guide the development of our conference session proposal ideas. Then we also took into consideration what we as federal agencies can bring to the table. Specifically looking at the notion of resources that we have, and how we could push out to conference participants how to access those resources. Exactly what we've just been talking about. We took that into consideration as well.

We ended up coming up with 14 different proposed session ideas representing these ideas. I want to note that the sessions are attached to your report as well so you have an opportunity to look at the different sessions. Our intent with the sessions is to engage youth, family and community voices where we can. It's important to us. I think the other piece of this too with these sessions is to really look across our federal agencies and make sure that we are plugging in all the federal agencies where they need to be. We're going to make a really big effort to do that, especially when we talk about resources and access to resources.

As a result of developing these sessions, our subcommittee does have a recommendation to put forth to the council, and I'd like to put that recommendation forth at this time. The

subcommittee recommends approval of the attached 14 conference session proposals for possible inclusion in the Coordinating Council track at OJJDP national conference in November 2024. Upon approval, members will continue work with conference planners to prioritize and refine the council's session proposals.

[03:23:18] Liz Ryan: Thank you so much Kelly and Sonali. Before we do a voice vote on this, I wanted to see if anyone on the council has questions or feedback or comments for the subcommittee co-chairs before we vote on this. Okay, all right. All in favor of the recommendation put forward by the subcommittee, please say aye.

[03:23:48] Members: Aye.

[03:23:50] Liz Ryan: All opposed, please say nay. Okay, so that recommendation is passed. Thank you so much. Thank you, Kelly and Sonali-

[03:23:57] Kelly: Thank you.

[03:23:57] Liz Ryan: -for co-chairing the subcommittee. I appreciate it. Next, I'd like to invite Kristen Kracke from OJJDP Policy Coordination Division, who is the chair of the policy subcommittee to share that report.

[03:24:22] Kristen Kracke: Good afternoon council members. I am pleased to share the policy subcommittee report, and would ask that you reference that report in your packet for your review. The policy subcommittee has also met twice since the September Houston meeting. We currently have 15 members representing 6 federal agency and 5 practitioner members on the policy subcommittee. You may recall from the Houston meeting that we presented in the council approved goals and objectives for the policy subcommittee there was one goal and five objectives. Those objectives were identified by our committee upon examination of the statutory language for the coordinating council.

In our last two meetings since Houston, the policy subcommittee prioritized objective one, examining legislation, regulation and organizational policy across the federal member agencies, and objective five, exploring policies and practices for youth and federal facilities to develop background material and recommendations to the council. With those two objectives being prioritized and pursuant to those priorities, the subcommittee has begun work to collect and build a living repository for legislative and regulatory information across our member agencies.

Specifically, for example, a master spreadsheet has been created and populated through key informant interviews with our member agencies, and a shared drive has been created for the subcommittee members for their youth to review and comment, at which point recommendations will come to the council. Additionally, with respect to the objective five on federal facilities that we have begun gathering data and background information, and we will continue this work with the subcommittee, and that will be ongoing work as well to bring back to the Council for recommendations.

Along with this work, I would like to recognize Sarahmiehn, a presidential management fellow on detail from the Center for Disease Control to OJJDP, who has been instrumental

in building this initial repository, as well as each of the subcommittee members, the federal representatives who have participated in those key informant interviews, and contributed a vast amount of information from each of your respective agencies. A big thanks to the committee for that, and a promise to the council that we will bring this work forward to you at a future meeting.

[03:27:17] Liz Ryan: Thank you so much, Kristen. Does anyone have questions for Kristen on this subcommittee? [silence] Okay. We should approve by voice vote the report from the subcommittee. All in favor say aye, please.

[03:27:34] Members: Aye.

[03:27:35] Liz Ryan: All opposed say nay. [silence] Okay, the subcommittee report is approved. I want to just take a moment now before we wrap up just to thank all of you who participated today, everybody. I think we had close to 300 people joining us virtually, and all of the people in the room here, we invite you to share recommendations with the council. We shared the URL on the screen there. We hope you will give us feedback, additional recommendations that you want to put forward, public comments.

I also really want to thank the members of this council for your time and your effort today. It was a really rich discussion. I also want to highlight and thank all of the panelists who spoke on these two panels for taking the time to be with us to put their recommendations in writing and share such concrete recommendations for us to think about. As we head into the holiday season, I hope you all have a good holiday, and I look forward to working with you in the new year. I just want to thank you again for your dedication and commitment to our young people. Thank you so much.

[applause]

[03:28:55] Liz Ryan: With that, our meeting is officially closed.

[03:29:14] [END OF AUDIO]