

**[00:00:00] Brent:** It's really wonderful to be with you all today. I want to thank Liz for her leadership both as administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and as vice chair of this council. As all of you know, from working with Liz, she is deeply, deeply committed to this council's work and is such a strong voice for youth of our country. As Liz said, we've known each other a long time, and I cannot think of anyone who's been a more fierce advocate for our nation's children or for a more fair and effective juvenile justice system.

To see Liz at the helm of OJJDP and to see all that has come because of Liz's leadership and the tremendous work of that office is incredibly exciting, and I'm grateful, Liz, for your leadership. I'd like to take just a moment and recognize that this year is the 50th anniversary of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, which, of course, created OJJDP and created this council. This council is building on, and specifically this council, the folks around the table now are building on the momentum of 50 years of work, led by OJJDP in concert with its federal partners and Juvenile Justice leaders across the country.

Huge congratulations to Liz, to OJJDP, to all of our partners on an anniversary that marks half a century of serving some of our nation's most vulnerable young people and for really transforming how we think about Juvenile Justice and how we think about opportunity, how we think about what accountability means in this country, 50 years. It's been a sea change because of the JJDPA, and yet we still know, of course, we've got much more to go, and grateful for JJ's leadership in that space.

I also want to thank our friends with the USDA and AmeriCorps for presenting on your work today. You are our teammates in this work, and we are excited to continue building positive momentum together. I also want to thank practitioner members, some of whom traveled a very long distance to be here. Whether you're coming from near or from far, thank you for bringing your expertise into this room and for informing the work that we do, not just at the Office of Justice Programs, but across all of the federal government.

This work is near and dear to my heart. Since this is my first coordinating council meeting since I've been in this role as acting Assistant Attorney General, one, I just share just a little bit about my background that's specific to working with young people. Before coming to DC just over 11 years ago, I was the Director of Legislative and Government Affairs for the New York City Department of Probation. There I had a chance to work on some landmark reforms, including the close to home initiative, and the close to home initiative realigned the backend of the Juvenile Justice system, specifically out-of-home placement from the state to the city.

Specifically so that we could keep young people in and around the five boroughs so that family members were not trying to get to their young people that were three, four, or five, six hours away often in some remote part of the state. A civil rights division investigation actually found that the conditions in those facilities were violating the rights of young people, kids were not getting credit for going to school despite going to school every single day without **[unintelligible 00:03:31]** facility.

They didn't have a choice. They were in school every single day, and yet those schools were unaccredited.

Kids were coming back home with nothing to show for the work that they put in. Kids were getting routinely beaten and abused for things like laughing in line or taking an extra cookie during lunch. We worked to realign the system and say let's keep our young people in and around the five boroughs. Not just that, we wanted to significantly expand community-based interventions so that it wasn't a one-for-one switch you were in placement and some upstate town, and now you're in placement in the city.

We said, "Let's realign kids." Those kids who are going to be in placement or in placement near family members and communities but also significantly expand what community-based intervention looks like because there's a lot of kids who didn't need to be in placement whatsoever. We did that. Significantly reducing reliance on secure care following implementation of the close-to-home initiative. Research has shown that both out-of-home placement and juvenile arrests declined significantly in New York City in the years following implementation, showing that we successfully reduced both juvenile incarceration and increased community safety simultaneously.

Those things happened at the same time. That's such an important point to make, particularly given where the conversation is today. During the Obama administration, I served as a senior advisor at the Office of Justice Programs here in this building with a particular focus on eliminating racial disparities and implementing developmentally appropriate responses for children and young adults. I got to work really closely with OJJDP during those times and some familiar faces in the room from those years, and became familiar with the council's work as well, attending several meetings during the Obama administration. I've always believed that this work is fundamental to a healthy, functioning, and compassionate society.

There is no more important investment we can make than our investments in the children of our country. While that sounds cliché, it is even more important when we're talking about young people who are at risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system or who have come into contact with the justice system, whether charged as a child or as an adult. I want to thank you, the council for your work on this front and in particular to recognize your accomplishments since the council's relaunch in October 2022.

I know that the council has held listening sessions and engagements with both professionals in the field and with justice-involved young people and their families, developed a plan that incorporates knowledge gained from people moving through the system and those who have dedicated their lives to making the system better. I'm eager to see how the council builds on this momentum over the next few years as we continue to build out partnerships and support. Partnership really is key to this work.

Effectively serving young people and their families is much more feasible when industry professionals, practitioners, and agencies have a shared vision and shared goals. I've seen this firsthand the role that you as the council members play in creating opportunities for youth. From helping to meet basic needs like food, housing, and healthcare to expanding opportunities for education and employment to identifying positive role models in young people's lives.

We know if we can work together more effectively, we can disrupt the pipelines that feed into the justice system. It means more opportunities and better lives for young people, and it also means improved public safety for all of us. I'm excited that in today's meeting, you'll have a chance to hear about new ways agencies are leveraging partnerships to better serve young people in the system and those at risk of contact with the law.

Truly inspiring work is being done, and I regret that I won't be able to stay here, sorry, Liz, for the full meeting to engage with this committed group of partners but so thrilled to be able to join you here at the beginning. Again, thank you all for being here. I'll now hand things off to Liz.

**[00:07:39] Liz:** Thank you so much, Brent, for joining us this afternoon and for your remarks. We really appreciate it. Good afternoon. I'm Liz Ryan, Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and I also serve as Vice Chair for the Coordinating Council. I want to thank Brent again for his leadership and commitment to our nation's young people and for living out the values and convictions you just expressed. Thank you. Today's council meeting will focus on two core themes. First, the value of partnership that Brent just shared among the agencies and organizations, and individuals that make up this council, and the second is our shared priorities.

As you know, one of the council's charges is to coordinate the diverse federal programs that strive to prevent and reduce delinquent behavior by young people. I'm really pleased today that at our meeting, we're going to have the opportunity to hear some great examples of ongoing cross-agency coordination. These partnerships exemplify two critical priorities for young people involved in the justice system.

First is opening up opportunities for young people as early as possible, and second is centering young people's voices so that we can prioritize and respond to their needs. To serve young people effectively, we need their input about what works in the juvenile justice system, what doesn't, and why. Two recent council meetings featured young people as panelists. They shared their insights on issues impacting them, and on the programs our agencies and organizations offer and coordinate. During my tenure at OJJDP, my staff and I have also attended many listening sessions across the nation, very open and frank conversations with young people and their families.

That includes several listening sessions with young people who participate in the US Department of Agriculture's 4-H Youth Development Program, listening sessions with

young people who are in the justice system along with USDA's Food Nutrition Service to learn more about the nutritional needs of young people and also several sessions with AmeriCorps members and program staff. During these meetings, young people spoke about serious topics that impact them every single day.

For example, they underscored an urgent need for better access to mental health services and for dependable daily access to adequate nutrition. Young people spoke about the importance of service, how opportunities for service help them develop their leadership skills, and they emphasized the value of education and preparing for work. They also told us about having caring reliable adults and peers in their lives, people they can trust, and they can count on. Those insights that the young people shared have led to critical collaborations in this group.

One is OJJDP is partnering with AmeriCorps to enhance services and service opportunities for young people who are at risk of, or involved in the juvenile justice system, to help them transition back to their communities and encourage them to become active citizens. Second is OJJDP has partnered with USDA's Division of Youth and 4-H to launch the Mentoring at Risk and Rural Youth program. This program will offer mentoring services, and you'll hear more about it, through 4-H programming. It will especially target three groups of young people, young people living in rural communities, young people involved in the justice system, and young people who are at risk of involvement in the justice system.

Third, OJJDP is exploring ways to partner with USDA's Food and Nutrition Service to enhance nutrition for young people who are involved in the juvenile justice system. We're going to hear additional information about all of these collaborations later this afternoon. As Brent mentioned, the council will soon release its report to Congress and the administration, and this has been informed by listening to the field and learning over the past couple of years. The report emphasizes cross-agency collaboration because no single agency or organization acting alone can answer all of young people's needs. Young people need all of us working together.

The Council's recommendations to Congress reflect our renewed commitment to federal partnership that enhance opportunities for young people and support their development into healthy, happy, productive adults. I'd like to list some of the other shared priorities that are outlined in the report. We agree that federal agencies need to meaningfully partner with young people and their families who have lived experience in the juvenile justice system. We know that young people suffer trauma in their everyday lives, and to be both compassionate and effective, our policies and programs must support trauma-informed and healing-focused approaches.

We also encourage communities to develop continuums of care that enable young people to access needed resources and services where they live and at every stage of involvement in the juvenile justice system. Every point on the continuum of care is important and should be addressed. The strategies we support and the solutions we offer must also be community based, accessible to youth and families who need

them, and they should also reduce administrative burdens for communities. Federal coordination of services should deepen cultural competence.

Federal coordination must not create new silos. Silos divide, and our collaborations must unite. The Council's recommendations reflect a holistic approach to youth justice, and the member agencies and organizations are committed to collaborations with each other, with youth and families, and with practitioners across the juvenile justice field. Throughout today's meeting, we will hear that commitment to a shared priority, also that goes beyond funding. We are working to achieve equity and opportunity for young people, and we must think and act creatively to leverage our combined resources in novel ways. I'm really excited about all that we can accomplish together.

Again, thank you for your commitment to our nation's youth, and I look forward to a productive afternoon. All right, I'm introducing Shaina. All right. I have the pleasure of introducing one of our partners from the US Department of Agriculture-- Sorry.

**[00:14:12] Speaker 1: [inaudible 00:14:12]**

**[00:14:14] Liz:** Oh, my apologies. I skipped over introductions for everyone in this group. My apologies. All right. Just excited to hear all that's going to be happening. We're going to go around and hear from every member of the Council. We'd love to get your name and if you're affiliated with an organization or agency. I think I will start on my left here, so I'll turn it over to you to introduce yourself.

**[00:14:44] Manny:** Good afternoon, everyone. Manny Lamarre, I'm a deputy assistant secretary at Department of Labor's ETA, the Employment and Training Administration. We oversee the publicly funded workforce system, and I'm joined by my colleague Jennifer Kemp, who's our leader and our reemployment program that supports both youth and adults in the reentry space. Pleasure to be with you all.

**[00:15:10] Joseph:** Good afternoon, everyone. Joseph Bullock, Senior Public Health Advisor for the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration. Thank you and happy to be here.

**[00:15:22] Nataki:** Good afternoon, everyone. Dr. Nataki MacMurray at the Office of National Drug Control Policy. I focus on prevention issues within our Office of Public Health. I'm happy to be here to always be an advocate for what we can do for youth, families, and communities.

**[00:15:48] Mark:** Hello? Hello, everyone. Can you hear me? Okay. Hi, I'm Mark Patterson. I'm from the Hawaii Youth Correction Facility, one of the practitioners here on the coordinating council. I'm glad to be here. Thank you.

**[00:16:01] Amiyah:** Good afternoon, everyone. Amiyah Davis, Project Coordinator at the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University, as well as a practicing member for the coordinating council.

**[00:16:12] Shania:** Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Shania Vanek. I'm a Senior Policy Advisor and Analyst at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. My focus within our agency is around criminal justice and **[inaudible 00:16:23]** people, their families, and also youth. Thank you for having me.

**[00:16:29] Maria-Lana:** Good afternoon. I am Maria-Lana Queen. I'm representing the Department of Housing and Urban Development. I work in the Office of Public and Indian Housing. I wear a couple of hats there, but I serve as the liaison for youth-related initiatives, and I manage the HUD Strong Families Program, formerly Father's Day Initiative. Very happy to be here.

**[00:16:56] Speaker 2:** Good afternoon, everyone. I'm **[unintelligible 00:16:57]**, and I work for the Department of Defense. I'm the Associate Director for Child Youth Advocacy under Military Community Advocacy.

**[00:17:09] Gregory:** Hi, I'm Gregory Henschel with the US Department of Education's, Office of Correctional Education, where I'm a Senior Policy Analyst. Thank you.

**[00:17:20] Michael:** Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Michael Mendoza, a member practitioner out of California and a member of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition. Thank you.

**[00:17:28] Lourdes:** Good afternoon all, I'm Lourdes Rosado. I'm President General Counsel of Latino Justice and one of the practitioner members of the coordinating council.

**[00:17:39] Bonita:** Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Bonita Williams. I am a National Program Leader with USDA and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture in the division of youth and 4-H and have responsibility for vulnerable populations.

**[00:17:57] Liz:** Hi, I'm Liz Simons, Chair of the Board of the Heising-Simons Foundation, also Chair of the Board of the Marshall Project, and a long-time volunteer as a writing facilitator in Juvenile Hall in Santa Clara County, California.

**[00:18:14] Jennifer:** Good afternoon. I'm Jennifer Bastress Tahmasebi with AmeriCorps. I'm the Deputy Director of AmeriCorps State National, the largest program at the agency.

**[00:18:25] Amanda:** I'm Amanda Benton, the Director of Children and Youth Policy within the Department of Health and Human Services. I also serve as the Chair of the Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs.

**[00:18:37] Liz:** Great. Thank you all so much. We are going to hear a couple of member agency spotlights. I wanted to share with you that there are statutory requirements in the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act which require the Council to report out on any shared funding. That's what we're going to hear this

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afternoon. I also want to highlight that the partnerships that we're talking about today are really working to address gaps in the continuum of care and that the information that is going to be shared also really aligns with this Council's goals. I am very, very excited.

Obviously, I skipped over your intros on this because I'm so excited. I apologize for that again. I'm so excited, really, to hear about all the things that we can do as a Council, what we've been doing, and what we're doing going forward. I'm going to introduce one of our colleagues from the US Department of Agriculture. I want to just give a little bit of background to this. As many of you know, as OJJDP administrator, I travel around the country, and I have the opportunity to really meet and talk with people who are working on youth justice all over the place.

I talk with young people everywhere I go, particularly young people who are incarcerated or detained. One of the issues that comes up in every single conversation without fail with young people is about food and what's going on with what they're accessing, what they're eating, all of those kind of things. It's very, very important to them. In thinking about this, I recently connected with the Food and Nutrition Service at USDA.

I was incredibly excited that they were willing to come with OJJDP on, I would call it a mini listening tour, to hear from young people directly, to talk with program staff in facilities, and also meet with people running juvenile justice agencies to get a full picture of what's going on on this. They were willing to take the time and effort to come and join OJJDP. I just want to thank them because it took resources, it took time, it took prep, and it also means that we're going to be doing some work together going forward. They made this commitment to work with us.

I'm really, really pleased that we're able to be joined by Tina Namian here, who was the director of the School Meals Policy division at USDA. Tina was one of the leaders from USDA who joined us on this listening tour. Tina, I'm going to invite you up to the podium and ask you to share.

**[pause 00:21:24]**

**[00:22:35] Maria:** Okay. Ah, yes. That's different. I hear it now. First of all, I have on the slide there residential childcare institutions. That's the term that we use at USDA. That's the term in our regulations and in our statute where a juvenile justice facility would fall. Those are institutions where children are living on a day-to-day basis and going to school, and so they are eligible to participate in our programs.

It just occurred to me as Mr. Cohen was speaking that residential childcare institutions have been a part of our program since 1975. I guess that's about the same time you all, the Office of Juvenile Justice, your office, came into being. I'm wondering if there's some connection there. Could be. You never know. We may have been working together for 50 years, and we just don't have the people from that time period. They've been in the program for a very long time.

We have guidance materials that are for residential childcare facilities specifically that look like they're from 1975. We are working on updating those. We've been thinking about doing that for a few years, so this relationship has really helped us move forward on that. Anyway, as you can see here, juvenile justice facilities can participate in the National School Lunch Program and our school breakfast program and can provide an afterschool snack. They have to be non-profit or public institutions in order to participate. Then to participate in our programs, one of the things that schools and facilities would need to do is to follow our meal requirements.

If you have kids in school, you may know about those requirements, or if you've heard anything on the news about school meals over the past 15 years or so. We've been doing a lot to increase the health and fullness, and nutrition around those meals, but also to encourage schools or provide schools with the resources to provide meals that are nutritious as well, or that are tasty as well as nutritious and that kids enjoy. We've been putting a lot of work into that.

You'll see on the screen those are some of the requirements. One of the things when we were able to travel with you all last month, we were able to talk with the council and juvenile justice administrators. It ended up being a listening session for us where they could give us feedback on the programs and some issues that they see with the programs, what they like about them, what they don't like about them. We are used to doing listening sessions. Food is a big deal for people. Obviously, people have a lot of opinions and a lot of passion around food.

Kids historically just don't like school lunch. You hear that a lot. Hopefully, that's changing. We're used to hearing a lot of things about school meals that aren't always positive. That's great feedback for us because we can take it back, and we can think about ways to improve or think about new materials we can provide to people. We're fine listening to that. We did hear a lot of things that day. [chuckles] It was good though because we heard some different things. Coming from a juvenile justice facility, some of the things that we think about solutions that we could give to a school don't necessarily work in those sorts of facilities. It made us think about that.

One of the main things they talked about was not having enough food. As you can see on the slide, menus have to meet a weekly calorie limit, and those have been set based on the dietary guidelines for Americans. We stand behind our calorie limits, but they're limits for average kids. If you're in a facility where kids are getting a lot of - We heard from one facility where they get a lot of exercise. They said they're really outside a lot, and they're mostly young men, and they need more calories. We hear that and understand that. We don't have a lot of flexibility around our rules. Our statute is pretty clear that we can't waive the nutrition requirements once they're set in the regulations.

We don't have a lot of flexibility to say, "Well, you don't have to follow that." There are other things that we can think about. Juvenile facilities serve breakfast and lunch, and then through our programs, we would reimburse them for those meals if they



meet our requirements. Then for supper, we don't reimburse for that. They could serve whatever they wanted at supper.

They could serve more at supper. They can also provide food throughout the day, snacks, that kind of thing throughout the day. That also wouldn't be regulated by us. There are ways that we can work with the facilities to help them come up with ideas. That's one of the things that we want to do in the guidance. That was one of the really big issues that we heard.

We have really, in the last 10 years or so, been focusing on, or have been promoting farm-to-school programs. We heard from some facilities that they were interested in that and having gardens and that sort of thing. We have a lot of grant programs around farm-to-school. We want to incorporate some guidance around how juvenile justice facilities could participate in some of that. It gives kids nutrition education. It teaches them about where their food comes from. It connects them with the earth which we feel like is a good thing for kids. There might be a lot of positive benefits for incorporating some of that. That's something else we heard.

One of the things that we promote, too, is kids having agency around their food. We talk about offer versus serve. We require that in high school. That means that you're offered foods, and then you have to take a certain number of them for it to be a reimbursable meal, so something that we'll pay for, but they have choices, and they don't have to take all the food if they're not going to eat it, that sort of thing.

It's interesting to hear from juvenile justice facilities that maybe having some of those flexibilities doesn't work as well. How can we work with facilities to think about the kinds of things that they could do to promote agency or to engage kids in the food? We promote taste testing or having kids help with menus and that sort of thing. Will that work in all the facilities? I don't know, but it's something that we'd like to learn more about how that could work.

One of the things that we commonly talk about especially when people are saying, "Oh, they're not getting enough food." We talk about shared tables where a kid takes their lunch, and when there's something they don't want, they can put it on a shared table, someone else can take it. We've heard that absolutely doesn't work in a lot of these facilities, that you don't want that food just sitting out there that could be thrown or taken back and traded. I've heard lots of things about that.

It's good for us to hear that and to think about, well, what are some other alternatives then, or what are some ways that maybe it could work. Those were a few of the things. One of the things, too, we have heard is using food as a reward or as a punishment, taking away food as a punishment. That's something we would really like to address in guidance, talk about best practices around that because that's not something that we would encourage.

There's a lot of research that shows that that might help in the short term, it might modify behavior in the short term, but in the long term, it can do a lot to kids as far as how they think about food and how their relationship with food for their lifetime, which

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we know is very important. Those are some of the things that we heard and that we are thinking about ways that we can develop guidance, work with you all.

We would love to engage more and hear more. We would love to be able to share our guidance when we develop it with people working in the field so they can give us feedback to say, that's crazy, that doesn't work, that kind of thing, or this is something that might work. We really do appreciate the partnership and look forward to more and look forward to develop the guidance and update our 50-year-old handbook on this. [chuckles]

**[00:31:24] Liz:** Thank you so much, Tina. I really appreciate you sharing all of that, particularly all the takeaways that you all brought back with you. I want to open it up now to members of the council, if you have a question or questions or feedback or comments, anything you want to share? Yes, Maria-Lana?

**[00:31:43] Maria-Lana:** Yes, thank you. Very interesting. I wanted to ask you, were there any concerns about the menu as far as the type of food, what's on the menu, or was it mostly it's not enough food, like we need more, but can you be more specific?

**[00:32:01] Maria:** Sure. Yes, we definitely heard that, too, that it's not food that kids are familiar with, that they don't like the food, or maybe they haven't had a whole lot of scratch-cooked food, that sort of thing. We heard that a lot. You hear that in schools, too, that they don't like the healthy food. We hear that, but then a lot of the research really does show that the more they try it, they get to like it.

There's a lot of things that you can do to make healthy food really tasty. I think yes, we heard that, and we would like to work into that guidance, maybe menus that are more accommodating to that environment. I don't know. It's an interesting point because I think a lot of those kids just maybe haven't been exposed to it. Then when they're there for a short time, maybe they are long enough to accept it. We'll just start on that, end and we'll just go this way.

**[00:33:15] Liz:** Oh, I'm sorry.

**[00:33:15] Maria:** Go ahead.

**[00:33:18] Liz:** Yes. Getting back to some of the first line of questioning if a child is hungry or perhaps in a child's facility, food is being used as a punishment, I'm sure that happens. How do you hear about that? In other words, do you have direct connections to an, I imagine different ombudsman offices in the different states? Do you hear directly from kids about their food needs? I'm curious how often that happens as well.

**[00:33:50] Maria:** The way the programs are structured, there's a state agency that oversees the programs in each state. A facility would go to that state agency to talk to them about any issues that are coming up. We get tons of letters from kids all over the country all the time. [chuckles] I don't really remember getting any from anybody

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in a juvenile justice facility, but students write to us a lot. I think it's often school projects maybe. We do hear directly from children often. The state agency would be the first line, and then they come to us if there are issues, but it would be the state.

**[00:34:35] Liz:** Liz, just to answer part of your question, part of the reason for doing this, listening to her was so that together, USDA and OJJDP could hear from young people directly. As you heard a lot of takeaways from those conversations, and we want to bring that into the work that we would explore together. You raised a really good point about where are we hearing that from. I think we hear it all the time at OJJDP. Every time I go to a facility, I'm always informed by young people. Having this with our partners was a way to bring that information directly to USDA.

**[00:35:21] Amanda:** On your earlier slide, I think it was four programs, school lunch, breakfast, et cetera, that folks are eligible for **[inaudible 00:35:29]** too. Is there a differential uptake by these facilities, different programs, breakfast versus lunch versus others? If so, do you have a sense of whether that pattern is pretty similar as it would be for a "typical school," or if there's a difference in which types of programs these facilities are opting into or not opting into?

**[00:35:52] Maria:** I can't go backwards for some reason. The National School Lunch Program is our biggest program. Oh, yes, that was the right one. The National School Lunch Program is the biggest program across the country. I don't know specifically about juvenile justice facilities. I don't have that data specifically because they would just participate in the programs as a school, and so they would get lumped in with everyone else as far as our data is concerned. I don't know. I would assume that breakfast and lunch would be the main programs. The Afterschool Snack program, it's possible that they're participating in that.

It's probably less likely because that would be one that if they participate in that program, they would be regulated in what they could serve. Probably they would want to not have those regulations and want to serve whatever they want in those snacks. Special Milk Program, that's really rare. Very, very small program, so doubt if it's that one. I would say it's lunch and breakfast. I would imagine if they're participating in the program, they're doing both of those.

**[00:37:06] Gregory:** I'd like to know to what extent the programs accommodate religious restriction diets, kosher, vegetarian, and what about accommodations for people with food allergies? Thank you.

**[00:37:23] Maria:** We strongly encourage schools to accommodate religious diets and vegan diets, vegetarian diets. We encourage menus that encompass all of those things. I know kosher diets, it's harder for schools to do that. I think it's an expense. They're not required to, but certainly, if they have large populations of kids in those sorts of diets, we encourage that. If they have an actual disability around food, then that's required that they accommodate that disability. I don't know specifically in the juvenile justice facilities what they're doing necessarily around those special diets at all.

**[00:38:08] Liz:** Thank you so much. Thank you, Tina, so much for your presentation and for your time and effort on this. We really appreciate it and look forward to working with you on the guidance.

**[00:38:17] Maria:** Thank you. Thanks for inviting us.

**[00:38:18] Liz:** Thank you, **[inaudible 00:38:18]** thanking Tina.

[applause]

**[00:38:25] Liz:** I'm excited now to introduce another one of our partners from USDA. I want to again, just give you a little background on this. That is, I referenced when I spoke earlier that OJJDP participated in a listening session, actually a couple of listening sessions with young people who were participating in the 4-H program. This year and last year, we had young people in 4-H come and present to us recommendations for OJJDP on our programs and services, and opportunities for young people. These were absolutely so moving and so powerful. We had, I don't know, at least, 20 staff, maybe more listening to these young people, and it was an incredible, incredible experience for us.

As part of our partnership with USDA, we reached out to our next speaker to ask about how we could support 4-H in terms of a partnership there, and she'll talk more about that. I think this is a direct result again of hearing from young people about their experiences and ways that we can support them. I'm pleased to invite Bonita Williams, who is the National Program Leader with the Division of 4-H, to talk about another exciting partnership, so Bonita.

**[00:39:54] Bonita:** Thank you so much. We're excited about this partnership as well. I'm Bonita Williams, and I am with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture in the Division of Youth and 4-H.

**[pause 00:40:08]**

**[00:40:20] Lourdes:** **[inaudible 00:40:20]** There you go.

**[00:40:23] Bonita:** Ah, thank you.

**[00:40:25] Lourdes:** No problem.

**[00:40:27] Bonita:** The purpose today is to share a collaboration with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Office of Justice Programs. The collaboration, of course, was with USDA and specifically with the 4-H program. Now, I'm going to be sharing information with you about 4-H. We also need some participation from you today. Wow. Sorry about that. Something happened. [laughs] Who has heard of 4-H before? Okay. Now, what do the 4-Hs stand for? I need somebody to raise their hand if you know what the 4-Hs stand for.

**[00:41:18] Jennifer:** Head, heart, hand, and health.

**[00:41:22] Bonita:** Yes. Very good.

[applause]

**[00:41:26] Bonita:** We have a small prize for you.

**[00:41:29] Jennifer:** [unintelligible 00:41:29] for me.

[laughter]

**[00:41:35] Bonita:** I'm going to ask you all if you could repeat the 4-H pledge. It's right up here. I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service and my health to better living for my club, my community, my country, and my world. Give yourselves a round of applause.

[applause]

**[00:42:13] Bonita:** I keep hitting it.

**[00:42:14] Laurdes:** [inaudible 00:42:14]

**[00:42:15] Bonita:** I don't know. Ah, there we go. 4-H is USDA's flagship Youth Development Program which has responsibility for educating young people in a non-formal setting. USDA/NIFA is responsible for the organization, supervision, and administration of the 4-H program at the federal level. 4-H is administered at the local level by the Cooperative Extension Program.

Now, I wanted just to share with you the Division of Youth and 4-H team. We have a very small staff. We have a staff right now of eight. Just to let you know, our division director is Dr. Manoharan Muthusamy. I also specifically want to point out the young lady at the very bottom. She's a program specialist. Her name is Andrea Wikiera, and she's working with me on the Mary Program, which I will give you more information concerning.

The 4-H program does have a rich history in positive youth development. The program has been around for over a century, about 125 years, actually. 4-H is the Youth Outreach Program of the United States States Department of Agriculture. The implementation of the program takes place at, or with, I should say, in partnership with land-grant institutions across the country. There are 110 land-grant institutions. 4-H operates at the state and local level. We have about 6 million young people who are participants in rural programming, suburban and urban programming. We have about 3,500 professionals across the country. We depend upon our 4H volunteers. We have about a half a million trained volunteers.

Now, the 4-H system works as a partnership. We have basically three partners I mentioned to you, NIFA and USDA, that is the federal partner. Our next partner is National 4-H Council. That is the fundraising arm of the 4H program. Many of you know that National 4-H council was in Chevy Chase, Maryland, a pretty large facility

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or campus, I should say, but they moved a couple of years ago and they're now on 15th Street Northwest. The next partner is the largest partner, and this is the Cooperative Extension Service. As I mentioned before, they're 110 land grant institutions and there are four basic programs that are part of Cooperative Extension, agriculture, family and Consumer Science, community development, and 4-H and youth development.

We are in every county in the country and the funding is cooperative at federal level, state level, and local level. Let's see. Now if you would look to the right, it's hard to see, sorry, but that is the land grant map. As I mentioned, we have 110 land grant institutions, and they're basically three types of land grant institutions. We have the 1994s, which are the tribal schools, and we have about 32 of those.

They're the HBCUs and they're the 1890 institutions. They're 19 of those and the PWIs, which were established in 1862, and we have 54 of those. This basically gives you the definition of a 4-H member. A 4-H member basically is any young person who participates in the 4-H program and has educational contact with an extension employee that is the 4-H. Now, onto the collaboration, there are three basic audiences that we will be serving in this particular collaboration. It's rural youth, juvenile justice-involved youth, and youth at risk of juvenile justice involvement. All three will be receiving mentoring services.

I need to indicate that Keisha Kersey is the individual here with the Office of Justice programs that we have been working with. She has been diligently working with us and we certainly appreciate her service. She's a senior grants management specialist, and we entered into an inter-agency agreement a few months ago and the agreement is for five years. The grantees will receive the funding for three years, and the amount of money is \$2 million. The name of the project is MARRY, that's the acronym.

It's Mentoring at Risk and Rural Youth and it does align with the USDA strategic plan, goal number five, which is to expand opportunities for economic development and to improve the quality of life in rural and tribal communities. There were basically six critical components. Evidence-based Projects, Juvenile Justice-Involved Youth, Rural Youth. I mentioned these before, and Youth At-risk of Juvenile Justice Involvement, Mentoring Services, and collaboration with the National Mentoring Resource Center.

I wanted to share this with you. This is the thriving model. I'm so sorry there's a bunch of overlap taking place I do not know what happened, but this is the thriving model. This is the model that the projects will be using. They're basically four components. The developmental context, which is at the bottom which involves the spark. We believe in 4-H that young people can have a spark in their lives that can change the trajectory of their life.

Next, we have the new thriving component and the developmental outcomes as well as the long-term outcomes. We believe that all four of those components are critical

for young people to thrive. We developed a competitive RFA and the land grant institutions were the ones who were eligible to apply for the funding. We had six grantees, and those are the six institutions that received the funding or will receive the funding, I should say.

Ohio State University, Cornell University, Utah State University, West Virginia University, The University of Maine, and Purdue University. Considering the OJJDP Continuum of Care for Communities, with those six grantees, five are prevention-based programs, or they will implement prevention-based programs, and there's one that would be considered intervention. There's a lot missing here, but anyway.

These are the anticipated engagements and you don't see the outcomes based on how these appear but with those six institutions, they plan to reach 400 youths grades 4 through 12. They will reach them through one-on-one mentoring or group mentoring, and they will be working with youth at risk of juvenile justice involvement, rural economically disadvantaged youth, and youth already involved with the juvenile justice system. Basically, we have to always include this. USDA NIFA does not discriminate. Thank you.

**[00:51:47] Liz:** Thank you so much, Bonita, for that wonderful presentation. Looks like, Lourdes, you have some feedback, and then--

**[00:51:53] Lourdes:** A question. For the grantees that are working with juvenile justice-involved youth, are they working with youth in facilities or only youth who are at home in the community?

**[00:52:06] Bonita:** Primarily at home.

**[00:52:08] Lourdes:** At home in the community?

**[00:52:12] Bonita:** With that one-- Oh, **[unintelligible 00:52:14]**

**[00:52:14] Liz:** Can you turn the mic on? Thank you.

**[00:52:20] Bonita:** With that one institution that is actually going to be working with court-involved youth.

**[00:52:26] Lourdes:** Which institution is going to be doing that?

**[00:52:29] Bonita:** Purdue.

**[00:52:29] Lourdes:** Purdue.

**[00:52:30] Bonita:** Yes.

**[00:52:30] Lourdes:** Court involved youth in the community not in any **[unintelligible 00:52:33]**

**[00:52:33] Bonita:** Right.

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**[00:52:34] Lourdes:** Got it. Thank you.

**[00:52:40] Liz:** Can you turn your mic up? Thanks.

**[00:52:43] Speaker 5:** How will the at-risk youth be identified?

**[00:52:47] Bonita:** Oh, wow, it varies depending on the institution. Some of them are going to work particularly with Purdue, they're going to be working with the courts to identify the young people. Some of them will rely upon organizations to help them identify the young people. That's with the court involved, but primarily, I shouldn't say primarily, many of them are going to be working with rural youth, which is one of the three groups of young people that were identified that they're supposed to be working with.

**[00:53:43] Speaker 5:** Would Ohio State and Purdue, when they're writing their proposal, I would assume that that would be in the proposal in terms of how they're going to identify the at-risk?

**[00:53:54] Bonita:** Oh, they've already done it. Those were the six institutions.

**[00:53:57] Speaker 5:** Oh, they've already.

**[00:53:58] Bonita:** We've already paneled and so those were the six institutions that were recommended for funding.

**[00:54:12] Liz:** Any other questions or feedback? Oh, over here. Thank you.

**[00:54:15] Speaker 6:** Down on this end. Down on this end, yes. Dr. Williams, so excited to hear about the expansion of the work that NIFA is already doing through 4-H with working with young people and excited to see what they're going to be able to share post the grant cycle. When will they act? Now that the six institutions have been selected, when do they hit the road running with implementation, number one, and then number two, have they already defined the evaluative outcomes of what areas of "risk" do these young people face so that on the other end, after having an opportunity for mentorship and other interventions, what will we be looking at to see where they've made some improvements in their trajectory? Is it going to include if they've been screened for being at risk for A, B, C, and D, and then on the other end, have they made any improvement, any increase in risk or decrease in risk, et cetera? How is that going to be evaluated or has that been discussed already in their grant proposal?

**[00:55:33] Bonita:** In terms of your question about when will they hit the ground running, hopefully in the next few weeks, they have been recommended for funding, and as soon as they receive the funding from the agency, they can begin. Now, in terms of the outcomes, I did have those listed for you, but somehow, they disappeared on the slide, but the outcomes have already been identified. They had to be a part of their application. Also, they will have the opportunity to work with the



National Mentoring Resource Center, should they need further help regarding evaluation. That's been a resource made available to them by OJJDP. Did I answer?

**[00:56:34] Speaker 6:** Yes, ma'am, thank you.

**[00:56:39] Liz:** Thank you, Bonita. It's good to see you. A while back, HUD partnered with 4-H to help recruit more young people who lived in HUD-assisted housing, and this conversation is sparking more interest to revisit that. I wanted to ask you, what are the activities involved, because I know when we worked together with HUD, some of the activities were engaging young people outdoors. We worked with your agency to waive any fees that may have been associated so that low-income students could take advantage without parents having to worry about that added expense. What will these six universities be doing with these young people?

**[00:57:26] Bonita:** Well, partially, life skill development, career readiness. They anticipate improved communication through some of the-- and that's including the parents, through some of the curriculum that the young people will be involved in. They anticipate youth and family partnerships increasing, but that is based on a strong families curriculum. Am I going in the right direction of what you want?

**[00:58:04] Liz:** Yes, very helpful.

**[00:58:05] Bonita:** Okay. Let's see. They hope to build technology skills, career readiness, and increase self-concept. I would add too that all of the projects indicated that they want the young people to be involved in the 4-H program, not just the opportunities that were created through this experience, but through the regular 4-H program as well.

**[00:58:59] Liz:** Great. Does anyone else have questions or feedback? Bonita, thank you so much. Please join me in thanking Bonita. [applause] Thank you. I want to invite one more presentation this afternoon, and I just want to say a couple of things, is that we're going to feature AmeriCorp's partnership with OJJDP. Jennifer Bastress Tahmasebi, I don't know if I pronounced your name correctly. Thank you. Jennifer is going to be presenting on that.

Just some context setting on that is that OJJDP when I first came on board, and it actually was one of these council meetings, and I don't know how the seating arrangement was, but I was sitting right next to Michael Smith, who's the AmeriCorps CEO. We got to talking, and my boss at the time, Amy Solomon, who came to previous meetings, we both started talking, and we realized that both Amy and I were previous AmeriCorps members, so we're alumni of the program, and we started talking.

It turns out Amy and I were both AmeriCorps members in the same city 30 years ago. It was very funny. We started talking with Michael Smith about the importance of AmeriCorps. We shared some information. AmeriCorps invited us to participate in their days of service that they do on September 11th and on MLK Day in January, which some of our team members were able to do.

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Then we also invited AmeriCorps to come and meet with all of OJJDP and to have a conversation with OJJDP about ways we could partner together. Then AmeriCorps invited me to join one of their grantee stakeholder meetings to learn more about their grantees and how they work and how they could work with young people. This has just been, I have to say, very, very fruitful and very impactful in terms of our understanding of how AmeriCorps works.

I just want to thank you, Jennifer, for partnering with us. I know you're going to share all the details of that, but just lifting up just what a conversation here around the Council table can really yield. It's both a funding partnership, but there's also so much more, as Jennifer will share with you. I invite you up to the podium to share. Thank you. Can you hit the red button, I think? **[01:01:48]**

**[01:01:49] Jennifer Bastress Tahmasebi:** Sure.

**[01:01:54] Liz:** Green button. Oh, no wonder. The green button. Yes.

**[01:01:58] Jennifer:** No. That?

**[01:02:05] Liz:** Juan, can you help?

**[01:02:06] Jennifer:** Okay. Excellent.

**[01:02:07] Juan:** **[inaudible 01:02:08]**

**[01:02:10] Liz:** Talking about the mic.

**[01:02:11] Jennifer:** Are you talking about the mic?

**[01:02:13] Liz:** There's a light.

**[01:02:15] Juan:** **[inaudible 01:02:15]**

**[01:02:18] Jennifer:** It was on? Okay. I can see the curse of myself in AV has not dissipated, so that's awesome. I'm going to cheat a little bit and talk about AmeriCorps. We are a small but mighty federal agency. Our total budget is but a mere rounding error for some of you. This is what we do. You can see what our agency is. Our CBJ is very small. Oh, okay. One of the things that people say about our agency is we are the best-kept secret in federal government.

I am deeply committed to that no longer being true. I'm going to talk a little bit about the focus areas that we fund and that we support across the country. The first is disaster services. We repair homes, assist survivors, and help restore communities. We have deployed thousands of members and volunteers to areas affected by hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and tornadoes. Our next area is economic opportunity. Those members are very close to each other working on that house.



Our programs serve as a pathway to employment opportunities and help develop vital work skills. We rehab houses, we provide financial literacy and training, and we connect people to jobs. The next focus area is education. More than 54,000 members and volunteers support students in more than 10,000 schools across the country. Through our work, we work with improving attendance, engagement, increasing high school graduation rates, and expanding college enrollment.

We work in environmental stewardship. We help conserve natural habitats, protect clean air and water, reduce utility bills by improving energy efficiency. Our next area is healthy futures. We provide independent living services for 310,000 elderly Americans. We also work with food banks, combat opioid crisis, tackle homelessness, and address food insecurity. This year, as part of the Biden Administration's work, we worked with our Office of General Counsel to reinterpret some of our rules so that we could work with our programs that work to grow healthy food, and contribute to the USDA program of the school lunches which we're really excited about. Our final category that we work in is veterans and military families. We provide assistance to nearly 290,000 veterans and military families, by connecting them to educational opportunities, to jobs, to benefits that they can earn. Also, many of our members are veterans and are continuing their service to the community.

We have two types of programs. We have AmeriCorps programs and AmeriCorps Seniors programs. Each have three programs. We have VISTA which addresses community challenges where the need is greatest. They are doing capacity-building work in offices while they fight poverty. They have about 7,000 members every year. VISTA will be celebrating 60 years of being in existence next year. The next program is the National Civilian Community Corps that we call in shorthand, NCCC.

It is a residential program for young people ages 18 to 26, where they gain experience while supporting climate change mitigation, building affordable housing, disaster response, and more. They travel the country all expenses paid while serving on a team full-time. They operate out of four campuses. One in Sacramento, one in Aurora, Colorado, one in Vinton, Iowa, and the final one in Vicksburg, Mississippi. They enroll about 2,000 AmeriCorps members every year.

The next program is State and National which is the program that I work with, which allows people to channel their passions to make an impact. They can earn money for college, gain leadership experience, and boost their resume. State and National enrolls about 50,000 to 55,000 AmeriCorps members a year. There are no age limits or restrictions on that, even though it does skew somewhat young as a gap year program for people although it has been successful as a career transition program for people that are middle-aged such as myself. Both NCCC and State and National turn 30 this year.

In our Seniors programs, and I may be advocating for a change as I get closer and closer to 55, which does not feel like that's senior is our foster grand-- I have two more years and then I can be a Senior Corps volunteer. Foster grandparents program is basically they are grandparents in schools. They guide students to higher

academic achievement. They care for premature infants, children with disabilities, and mentor teenagers and young mothers.

Our Senior Companions program is based on helping seniors remain in their homes and their independence. Helping with daily activities and keeping them longer in their homes. Both of the first two programs are means-tested and so we are engaging seniors that are low income helping other seniors. Our last program is RSVP, which is a program that is most flexible. You can serve a couple of hours to full-time in organizations in your community that see service as a solution.

This is our partnership. We provide grants to community-based organizations that enhance and expand reentry for youth, including engaging those young people as AmeriCorps members. This partnership supports OJJDP's priority of opening up opportunities for young people who come in contact with the juvenile system. It also furthers their mission of supporting efforts to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for youth returning to communities.

It has been a funding priority for us in AmeriCorps for the last two years, and I highly encourage any of the practitioners who are here to consider applying for funding. What does the partnership look like? It is 12 innovative programs spread across 37 states and about 4,000 AmeriCorps members. Here are some of the organizations that we funded, hopefully some of these are familiar to you, and other of them may be new.

All right. Here is a quote from Liz about the partnership. I think two things jump out. One is what she shared already is she's a proud AmeriCorps alum having served in VISTA. Then also that there is really a win-win component to this partnership. I think sometimes we have partnerships that is round hole, square peg. This actually was a partnership that made perfect sense to us.

This is a quote from my big boss, our CEO Michael Smith, who has talked about, I think this partnership is frankly a continuation of the great work he did during the Obama Administration with My Brother's Keeper. It also met a goal that both he and we shared, which was to bring new organizations, new community-based organizations into the AmeriCorps umbrella. I'm going to talk about three of the programs that we fund that we're very excited about. The first is Credible Messenger Mentors.

They work with justice-involved youth who improve the capacity of their communities, turning back the impacts of poverty and marginalization by developing career pathways for themselves, assuming leadership roles, and improving public safety. A key component of this investment for us will focus on the recruitment development empowerment of the mentors who are AmeriCorps members.

There is no substitute for the impact of community-rooted natural leaders providing services in their own communities and sharing how they have successfully navigated their own prior involvement in the justice system and sharing those experiences with young people and their families that they serve. This is a program with the stats. It's  
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50 members. It's in four states. They have some big deliverables that they're looking forward to do this year. They're planning to serve 500 justice-involved youth.

The next program is Impact Justice. They have pioneered our first program that is specifically only for formerly incarcerated and other system-impacted individuals in California. They will be offering coaching and guidance to assist young people in making a successful reentry in connecting with the range of resources and services, and increasing the participation in the important honorable discharge determination process. 63 members and also big plans 275 beneficiaries in the state of California.

The final program that I want to focus on is PowerCorpsPHL. They connect people to careers and advancing in the community. In Philadelphia, they're engaging unemployed and underemployed under 18 to 30-year-olds in an immersive paid 4 to 24-month program that results in a connection to living wage, jobs in clean energy, green infrastructure, and community-based careers. They have a team that works with members to do legal advocacy and supports them through any barriers they may find so they can serve and be successful.

The program focuses on three main areas, workforce development, youth violence prevention, and environmental stewardship. It is their aim to prove that a cleaner and greener community is a safer community. The group uses an earn-and-learn model providing career-connected education and paid experiences in collaboration with the city of Philadelphia. They have 118 members and expect to revitalize 600 acres of public lands, plant 1,000 trees, collect and divert 65 metric tons of debris, and engage 250 community members.

Liz talked about several times that we had an opportunity to have events together. The first one was at the Second Chance Roundtable in celebration of Second Chance month. This event was more localized. We focused on Chicago and the surrounding area and had grantees as well as community partners gather and learn. Both our CEO, the director of AmeriCorps State and National, Sonali, as well as Administrator Ryan were there along with great organizations in the Chicago area. The other event was a site visit that we did in District Heights in DC, that illustrated our partnership. Attendees heard from three of the AmeriCorps grantees about their upcoming plans. I made it through.

**[01:15:22] Liz:** Thank you so much, Jennifer. We can clap for you now. [applause] Are there questions or comments from any of the council members?

**[01:15:38] Nataki:** Great work. Are we going to get a copy of these slides?

**[01:15:42] Liz:** Sure. I said that with a level of confidence that maybe I shouldn't have had. I think so, yes.

[laughter]

**[01:15:52] Jennifer:** Just to expand, one of the things I know about AmeriCorps and their flexibility, you all, a few years ago, did a great job of allowing some communities

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to reshape or reinterpret the eligibility criteria to create what we call recovery core. Persons who are in recovery from substance use disorders were able to be peer leaders and helpers in their community. I just want to bring that forward and thank you all for that flexibility.

It also makes me think about coming back to that idea of how we can incorporate not only justice-involved youth but young people who are coming off of the mental health challenges that our country is facing and how we can get more of them engaged and involved in supporting their community and creating a wellness environment in their community. Just wanted to thank you for the work that you all are doing and look forward to the--

**[01:16:50] Liz:** Well, thank you for the work that you're doing. I think we are big fans at AmeriCorps in near-peer and people having lived experience providing the services and, in some cases, flipping the script from having a lifetime of being service recipients to being service providers. I think that hits different and has a different level of impact. That's something I saw when I worked for years at YouthBuild USA, and we had an AmeriCorps program.

**[01:17:20] Speaker 8:** I believe you're in Hawaii too, right?

**[01:17:22] Liz:** Yes.

**[01:17:23] Speaker 8:** [unintelligible 01:17:23]

**[01:17:24] Liz:** Yes.

**[01:17:28] Speaker 8:** Corpus is an intricate part of juvenile justice reform.

**[01:17:31] Liz:** Oh, I love that.

**[01:17:32] Speaker 8:** Both the preventive as well as serving the kids on probation, and they're one of my biggest partners.

**[01:17:38] Liz:** They're a great program.

**[01:17:40] Speaker 8:** Coming with the kids to work on our farm and our ranch and things like that.

**[01:17:43] Liz:** Oh, I love that.

**[01:17:45] Speaker 8:** Just [crosstalk].

**[01:17:45] Liz:** That's great. Yes, they're a great program. Thank you for partnering with them. I just wanted to say in response to Nataki's question, all of the slides from today's meeting are posted on the Coordinating Council's website if you go to the September 19th meeting page. We will double-check to make sure that a good

version of Bonita's terrific slides about 4-H is on the website as well. Other questions? Feedback? Okay. Thank you so much, Jennifer.

**[01:18:22] Jennifer:** Thank you. [applause]

**[01:18:27] Liz:** Just to recap this section of the meeting, I just, again, want to thank USDA and AmeriCorps for their work and their partnership and just to say how this really relates to the continuum of care that the council has adopted, which is looking at hearing from young people and then looking at ways to support them around different parts of the continuum of care. I would welcome all of the agencies here, as you were thinking about potential partnerships that we can explore and expand going forward.

We're out and about in with the juvenile justice system regularly, and we invite you to join us at any point to talk and hear from young people and to think about ways we can expand these partnerships. I just want to thank everyone for this section. We're going to take a 15-minute break, so we will come back here at 2:45 and we'll hear more exciting developments about the report. Thank you.

For this part of the meeting, we are going to hear a presentation from Marcy Mistrett, who is a senior policy specialist for OJJDP, and she's going to talk about the report to Congress and the White House. Following Marcy's presentation, we can have some discussion, and then we will have approval of the report. Marcy.

**[01:20:01] Marcy:** Thanks, Liz. Great. Hi, everybody. I'm not sure if you can see me, but hopefully-- Can I just turn it off? No? Okay. Hopefully, you can hear me even if you can't see me. Just wanted to say that we should probably start with a big hand of applause for all of ourselves because, for the past two years, this committee has been-- Is it working? Okay. For the past two years, this committee has been working extraordinarily hard to come up with the recommendations in this report. I think we should give ourselves a big round of applause for getting to this point, so, woo.

[applause]

All right. Here we go. I was waiting for the magic to happen. This is just procedural stuff here. Just a reminder that this is a statutory requirement. It is due 120 days following this meeting and that this council's an independent entity, so it will go under the seal of the coordinating council. Not any independent agency. This report is of the council.

Just a little quick recap of how we got here. We started with really the relaunch of the council after COVID and started with a series of listening sessions. Obviously, we started with young people who have lived experience in the justice system then took it on the road to Houston and got to see in live time what is happening in jurisdiction. Then we heard from **[inaudible 01:21:44]** about partnerships and how you are serving young people at risk or part of the new justice system. Then finally in December of last year, met with two separate stakeholder panels. In addition to that, we also had an open portal from the community.

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Through that, we had more than 100 recommendations come in. Both through our subcommittee process and through some calling and matching of things that were related, we called that down to about 16 recommendations. Those recommendations were approved through the subcommittees and then those reports were approved by the council. We then looked at the 16 and decided which five were going to be our priority over the immediate next step. Then just want to say that the recommendations that we're making to Congress and the White House that are in this report tied to those five priorities.

There was a question that came up last time, if anyone could crosswalk this back with the recommendations that directly came from the young people themselves, and they do. They highly represent and reflect what those young people said with the eye on the inter-agency piece. We've heard several people say not one group can do this alone. We really need our collective will and that was reflected. So happy to be here.

We're good? Any questions on that? All right. The continuum of care that's been mentioned several times today still continues to be the anchoring framework of our recommendations. Liz opened up by talking about some of the shared values and we've certainly heard that through the other agency's presentations today. In terms of prioritizing young people with lived experience, really listening to them and building our programs around that, making sure that we are being culturally responsive, trauma-informed, and healing-focused, and that we are ensuring that we are addressing all pieces of this continuum of care. The continuum as you can see the green pie starts at prevention and goes all the way through low, medium, high intervention, out-of-home placements, and then reintegration back to community.

There are six sections, I'm sorry, let me count again, nine sections of the report. Obviously, an introduction and then we've got just an overview of who the membership is and what our meeting structure's been, then our activities and accomplishments. Again, we're going to talk about the continuum of care for communities framework. Then the fact that the council is supporting the 50th anniversary conference that'll be happening in November. I don't want to steal Kelly's **[unintelligible 01:24:55]** because she'll get on that later, but you guys have been working really hard on that as well. I am going to focus on the two green pieces of this, which is the recommendations to Congress and the White House, and then this group's proposed action plan for the immediate future. Then joint funding, which we heard about earlier today from two of the partners, USDA, and AmeriCorp, and then an accounting of expenses. That is the flow of the report. As Julie said, this is posted on the website right now in draft form so that people have access to it.

Here are the recommendations. I am not going to read through all of them verbatim because you guys should have these memorized in your sleep by now because you have gone over them over and over, and added, and contributed to them. Really, in this first slide, we're really focusing on education and career opportunities early on in community, and really focusing on keeping young people in school.



The four and five really focus on school-based interventions. Looking at culturally responsive healing and well-being focus for young people. Recommendations six through eight are looking at both mental health and specifically tribal communities. Building safety and wellness of children online, and then looking at mental health, substance use, and disability.

Numbers 9 through 11 are really expanding modalities of treatment that respond to BIPOC communities and ensuring that we are using treatment modalities that respond to young people in their own communities. Also, examining and uplifting the ways that local jurisdictions can build cross-agency data sharing while protecting confidentiality, and then really looking at data measures and programs that have good returns on investment.

When we move to the deeper end of the system when young people are out of home placement, that we are ensuring that they're educated. That education does meet their needs, and ensure that they're continuing to learn even when they're away from their homeschool. Then the second piece of this is really looking to forgive USDA bonds. If the facility is old or no longer needed, those bonds are allowed to be closed, so it can be repurposed as requested by the community.

Number 14 and 15 is really about the opportunities piece that we've talked about earlier. I'm sorry, my slides are very small and my eyes are not so good as they used to be, Jennifer, because I hit that 55. Anyway, [chuckles] we are going to really be focusing on expanding diversion at all aspects. We call that diversion and deflection. Wherever we can, we want to create off-ramps to more appropriate systems of care, and then really improving access to behavioral health. Number 15 was something that ran through continuously through the recommendations.

Last but not least, the last three is really focusing on ensuring that in the rear instance where young people do have to be removed and placed in residential care, that that care causes no harm and keeps young people connected to families. Ensuring that programs for youth at risk use that positive youth development framework. Again, both of our presenters today reference that, and then youthbuild, which Jennifer already gave a shout-out to. Then, finally, that we are supporting the inter-agent task force that already exists on trauma-informed care, which is really looking at the systemic levels and responses to trauma, and so ensuring that work continues. Those are the 18. Sound good?

All right. I want to just emphasize really you rose to the task and the challenge of hitting every piece of that continuum pie, but also really focused on moving to that front end. What can we do to stop young people from having contact and from getting their needs met early on in that continuum? I think we should feel really good about that. In terms of action steps, I do want to just say on the record here that this is about-- we created these action steps when our budgets are set when our staffing is set. We are starting out doing what we know that we can do based on that with a vision for the future beyond that. We have six things here. One, we talked about a webinar series around the five priorities that we identified. Enhancing federal

coordination, really looking at-- and we heard a lot of this today, the intersection of activities and cooperation that's already happening from young people who are either at risk of or involved in the justice system.

Then we talked about that series of barriers and opportunities because one thing that did happen with a lot of the recommendations is we realized there's already been a quite a bit of federal action that's taken place. Capturing that somewhere so that people know the work that has already happened. Then we really also want to document where they already are going across agencies in terms of supporting some of these priorities.

Then, of course, ensuring that when there are youths, we all acknowledge the importance of including people with lived experience in all of our work, and so the ask is wherever that is possible to also ensure that you're including young people who are just as involved as you're convening those groups because oftentimes they aren't included. Making that commitment where it's possible and then tracking and cataloging the ways that we are all engaging youth and adult partnerships. All right. Questions. Go ahead, Lloyd.

**[01:32:25] Lloyd:** I know the date is 120 days after this meeting, so are we going to do it on the 120th day of that? What is the timing of actually submitting it? [laughs]

**[01:32:37] Marcy:** Julie, do you have a date for me? Did you count it? [laughs]

**[01:32:43] Julie:** As soon as humanly possible. [laughs] We'll need to fill in the report with a brief blurb that summarizes what happened at today's meeting and we'll need to fill in some end-of-fiscal-year financial data that we won't have until September 30th, and then we will begin working on formatting. We want to make it look nice and pretty. That's one of the reasons why we're hoping to take a group photo after the meeting today so that we can include that photo in the report. Then once we have all the editorial work done, then we can work on getting it up to the Hill and to the President. Fingers crossed, we will be able to get all that accomplished relatively swiftly, and we will meet our deadlines.

**[01:33:39] Marcy:** I just do want to thank everyone. I know everyone's got their own process and their own agencies, but you all did a really good job of getting that in and signed off on before today. Thank you for following that deadline with us. We really appreciate it. [chuckles] Go ahead, Maria Lana.

**[01:33:54] Maria:** After the 120 days and it's submitted, there's a review process, I take it, or another layer before it's official or not? I'm not exactly sure with the protocol because I'm asking a follow-up question as far as the timeframe and then schedule for implementing these six steps.

**[01:34:18] Julie:** These are really good-- [crosstalk]

**[01:34:18] Maria:** The Likelihood of that happening item. Okay.

**[01:34:22] Julie:** These are really good questions. The submission to Congress and the President is the final step. That's the end point for us in terms of getting that report out the door. In the meanwhile, we have lots of action steps that we, as a Council, can begin working on in the background. We are keeping our fingers crossed that folks on the Hill and in the White House will be reading and paying close attention to the recommendations that everyone has worked so hard on.

We'll be thinking about how to help fulfill those recommendations in the coming months. As I mentioned, in the meanwhile, we'll be looking at our action steps. We will also be looking at taking a second look at our subcommittee structure and possibly doing a little bit of reorganization more around the activities that are outlined in those action steps. Stay tuned. We'll be in contact about that.

**[01:35:24] Marcy:** Yes, Liz.

**[01:35:29] Liz:** Yes, just a quick question. Is what you just presented identical to what we have that you sent us a couple of days ago in advance of this meeting, or have there been some changes already?

**[01:35:42] Marcy:** There is a couple. At this point, it's only tactical changes. There's a language that people said needs to be clarified or commas and--As I said, we haven't run it through an editorial process yet, so nothing substantive. Any substantive changes were ended in August.

**[01:36:05] Liz:** Just to be clear, what we have in our folder, is that identical to what you just showed us in the slides or just this evening? [crosstalk]

**[01:36:12] Marcy:** Yes, outside of maybe a period and a comma. We did insert the word then AAG in Amy Solomon because she's no longer the AAG. We write. Just things like that, small things that are--

**[01:36:27] Liz:** Thank you so much.

**[01:36:34] Marcy:** Anything else? Any excitement? Good, good. All right. Am I good? Should I sit? Okay.

**[01:36:44] Jennifer:** Thank you so much, Marcy.

[applause]

**[01:36:50] Jennifer:** Thank you for that presentation. Again, I echo Marcy's praise and applause to all of you for your commitment to this process over the last two years to move these recommendations forward. I know that federal agencies together and developing a consensus on recommendations can be a challenge, and that's what makes this a really special effort because you all accomplish that. I just want to really lift up and thank you for all your work on that.

We're going to be just doing a voice vote in a couple of minutes on the report, and I just want to clarify for everyone that we have two pieces here. The piece we're going to vote on is the report you just heard about. There is also an independent practitioner report, which Lourdes is going to do a presentation on. This vote is just the full Council's report. We're going to package both of them together so that they both go together to the Hill and to the White House. The Practitioner Statement will be an appendix attached to the full Council's report so that they both go together in two documents together so that they're read together by everybody they get sent to.

As Julie said, there might be a period, a comma, those kinds of things, technical changes, but nothing substantive. My understanding is that all of your agencies have already approved, and all the practitioner members have all approved this report. This is just a vote to be on the record. I'm just going to ask that all of those in favor of approving the Council's report, please say aye.

**[01:38:47] Members:** Aye.

**[01:38:47] Jennifer:** All those opposed, please say nay. Okay. The aye's have it, and the report is approved. Congratulations.

[applause]

**[01:39:01] Jennifer:** I'll next turn to Lourdes Rosado, who is a practitioner member of the Council, to come forward with her presentation on the Practitioner Statement. Lourdes?

**[pause 01:39:13]**

**[01:39:30] Lourdes:** Hello. Can everyone hear? Yes. Great. I'm just waiting for this slide deck to come up. Great. Thank you. I have the privilege of presenting on this Practitioner Report, which was truly a collaborative effort. I do want to give a special acknowledgment and thanks to Marcy Mistrett who took from OJJDP, who took the labor and **[unintelligible 01:39:59]** to make sure that we would have this draft ready today. Next slide, please. There we go. Okay, thank you. Also, under the statute, the practitioner members of the Council are charged with writing an interdependent report to Congress. The focus of the practitioner's report is really on, again, on opportunities for federal agencies to strengthen youth outcomes through collaboration and partnership.

The report is divided into four sections. One is an overview of current needs of youth who are at risk of becoming involved or are involved in the justice system. Of course, this isn't a comprehensive picture, but we highlighted those needs that most drove the recommendations that come in the report. We identified effective and promising practices. We looked at the consumer care and how we can strengthen it, as well identify future opportunities to support youth across the continuum.

With regard to the current needs of youth, the ones that really stood out for us, first, with regard to youth well-being were just the unprecedented amount of anxiety,

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depression, youth suicide that we're seeing in the youth population, including the youth who are most at risk or are involved in the system. We also gave special recognition to learning losses suffered during the pandemic and their prolonged effects, as well as challenges for youth to reintegrate into the school system.

We also looked at particular factors that were driving disproportionate arrests of youth, disproportionate by race and ethnicity, and particularly things like unstable housing and homelessness, and policing in schools. We also looked at the current state of the JJ system and noted the good news. There's a lot of good news, an overall decline in youth crime in this country, and the majority of youth who touch the Juvenile Justice System really do so only once and for low-level offenses. That's been very important, as well as the fact that those youth who are touching the system and become involved are often involved in other systems, such as the Child Welfare System, Homeless System, and so forth.

Another piece of good news is that youth incarceration has fallen dramatically in the last three decades, since when I started working in this field back in 1995. We've also seen a really great reduction in the number of youth who are in youth-adult facilities, also another key priority. The not-so-good news is for those kids who are an out-of-home placement, and when they come home to their communities, they are still experiencing great instability in terms of housing, incomplete education. This is an issue and just not having access to services to complete their education and to launch careers, and many of them are coming home with trauma and facing even more trauma in their communities.

What are some of the effective and promising approaches that we identified? Again, we emphasize, in the Council report, that youth have stronger outcomes when they are supported in their communities, in their homes with caring adults. All intervention should be based on what we know about adolescent development. What we also know is that more punishment and severe treatment does not lead to improved public safety. Most youth simply age out or desist from offending behavior as they grow up. These are all the things that we should build on.

Again, restorative practices that provide developmentally appropriate off-ramps that address harm are more effective than punishment. Unfortunately, what we are charged with trying to tackle is the fact that the US continues to be a real outlier around the world in terms of a primitive approach to young people who engage in offending behavior, and particularly with respect to young children under 14.

With respect to the continuum of care, we, again, emphasize that addressing child well-being means that the Juvenile Justice System should be the system of last resort. We all embrace the continuum of care that has the visual graphic of a circle or pie with six wedges, right from prevention, three different levels of intervention to high to out-of-home placement to reentry. In the graphic, they are represented as equally sized wedges, but that's not how it is and that's not how it should be. Prevention should be the largest wedge by far in that continuum of care. That's something that we emphasized in the report. After that, the focus of federal agency

resources and strategies should be diversion and deflection. That out-of-home placement wedge is really thin because we know that that out-of-home placement is currently the least effective wedge of the continuum, but, unfortunately, the one where the most resources go.

The report really talks about diverting those resources to where we think we can have most opportunity to help young people and keep them out. The other thing that we noted is that the young people can be involved or their families can be involved also in multiple wedges at one time. That calls upon us and the agencies, in particular, to coordinate and have a No Wrong Doors Policy.

Future opportunities, really this is the big need of the report. We identified future opportunities for collaboration and to develop new programming that really is developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed, and responsive to the needs of the youth in their communities. We divided those opportunities into five different sections, prevention, diversion and intervention, out-of-home placement, reentry, and workforce opportunities.

I will not name all of the recommendations under each of those areas. Instead, I'm just going to highlight a few before I open it up to comments from my colleagues and questions.

For example, in prevention, we really emphasize supporting families and caring for their children while retaining custody, keeping them at home by including access to the fundamental stable housing, food, quality childcare, and access to healthcare.

We also talked on the prevention front about incentivizing states and localities to remove police from schools by increasing fundings for alternatives to promote public school safety or promote school safety. On the diversion and intervention end, we are urging that agencies issue joint guidance on best practices to minimize the number of youth who are detained or incarcerated due to their homelessness or unstable housing.

To prevent homelessness of youth once they are released from detention incarceration and go back into the community. On the same topic, we are urging that we provide funding through the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act to jurisdictions to develop and implement diversion program, specifically targeted at youth, again, who have unstable housing and experiencing homelessness that bring them, as a result of, which they come into contact with police.

That doesn't look like my slide deck. [laughs] I'll just follow up. The last slide-- Oh, here we go. Thank you. Out-of-home placement opportunities. Here we looked specifically a lot at youth with disabilities and their disproportionate representation in out-of-home placements. Really focused on our recommendations around keeping those numbers down. I think this applies to all youth, that we should fund the protection and advocacy program specifically for JJ youth to ensure that youth with disabilities are not unfairly and disproportionate placed in out-of-home placement.

On reentry, we talked a lot about opening up opportunities for education and career development.

Finally on workforce opportunities here the focus was on the workforce of all youth-serving staff. Particularly that they get regular, ongoing, and updated training on all the areas that we've identified as a coordinating counsel that is so important to positive youth development, including trauma-informed care, adolescent development and how to respectfully and meaningfully engage their families in their pathways. That's really a summary of the report. I would just first invite any of my fellow practitioner members to pipe in and open to any questions. Liz has her hands up. Liz Simons, not Liz Ryan. [chuckles]

**[01:50:26] Liz:** Excuse me. First of all, I think this is a wonderfully put together report. Hats off to you and all who are involved in it.

**[01:50:34] Lourdes:** [chuckles]

**[01:50:35] Liz:** I just want to say that. Then I have one quick question. I'm not suggesting we change anything, but just maybe food for thought for later. As we think about reentry, for example, there are currently laws and policies in many places that make that hard for kids by penalizing them right at the moment when they're leaving. For example, youth restitution laws in California, we just amended that a few days ago.

**[01:51:01] Lourdes:** I hope to the better?

**[01:51:03] Liz:** Oh, yes.

**[01:51:04] Lourdes:** Yes. [chuckles] That's great. That's great news.

**[01:51:06] Liz:** We had or Call 1186, they definitely amend it, but for the better. Until then, you said young people were hit over the head with incredible fines and fees that didn't even necessarily go to the victims. That's just one example. Maybe would it be possible in the future to think about policies and laws that that can be obstacles for reentry for young people?

**[01:51:33] Lourdes:** I leave it to this group. I think we can. I'm all in favor. I would think along for me, one of the barriers to reentry has always been credit transfer for education. I can't believe that this is still an issue, but it's still an issue. Getting youth who have been in facilities, their credits transferred so they are not put back in school, it's still an obstacle. I think I would urge this group to think about what we can recommend in terms of changes.

**[01:52:02] Liz:** Thank you.

**[01:52:08] Lourdes:** Hearing nothing more, I think I'll excuse myself, but thank you all.

[applause]

**[01:52:15] Jennifer:** Thank you, Lourdes.

**[01:52:18] Speaker 9:** [crosstalk] we were just talking to practitioner members. I wanted to ask you about, what do we know about out of home placements when they're at their best? When I hear about the ineffectiveness about home placements and the bad outcomes of them, I'm thinking about them being bad experiences, devoid of anything of value very much. I'd just like you to-- if we could kind of go a little bit deeper on this out of home placement part.

**[01:52:50] Lourdes:** I think I'm referring specifically to longitudinal studies that have been done by folks like Beth Kaufman and Ed Molvi, that have looked over years, and years, and years at cohorts of children and young people, and who have found that generally, for example, the recidivism rates of youth who are in out-of-home placement are actually higher than those of young people who are kept in communities. Then they experience also poor outcomes to all sorts of criteria, including education and employment, in particular, and health, I think.

I welcome other people. That's not to say that there aren't particular out-of-home placements that are good or good facilities that have good people, but that we're talking generally that the evidence that has been established has shown that out-of-home placements should be last resort because of the generally poor outcomes that the population of youth experience post out-of-home placement as compared to those who are kept in the community.

**[01:54:11] Speaker 9:** I find it terribly easy to believe and just wondered if we know anything about the exceptions in terms of quality program then. I wasn't going to **[inaudible 01:54:22]**.

**[01:54:23] Lourdes:** Yes.

**[01:54:24] Speaker 10:** I wasn't going to respond to that, but I did want to just, first of all, thank the practitioner members for your work and reinforcement of what we've walked through and talked through this last year. It mirrors what we as feds are going to include in our appeal to the White House and Congress. That's going to hopefully dovetail into what we can incorporate into our guidance to our federal partners around their budget request for FY, at this point, '27.

I just wanted to have us have maybe some discussion or thought around those of us who are from agencies that are constantly reticent to stay away from Federal Advisory Council, whatever FACA stands for. I can't always remember the second A. Maybe Act. That's what it is. How we can take the recommendations from the practitioners that we've been able to walk with and talk with throughout this last year? How we can amplify this in sharing this throughout our agencies to really back up a lot of what we've been advocating for, probably on our home turf without it being questioned as a FACA-induced product. If there's a way for us to just continue to include your input into what we talk to our colleagues about, especially when it

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comes to giving guidance or giving some direction to our federal partners that are beginning to put together their plans for FY '27. I just want to look at what we can do to amplify this into those settings. I'm already thinking about that for OJJDP, but just for the rest of the feds, how we can amplify this information in some of our other settings of influence.

**[01:56:18] Lourdes:** I think that's wonderful. I think both the practitioner report and the Council's main report are things that we, the practitioners, also want to amplify in our networks as well.

**[01:56:32] Speaker 11:** I just wanted to add something real quick and maybe answer your question. If I was to share with you the profile of the child that's incarcerated in Hawaii right now, 80% of the population are still with child welfare. I think when we talk about auto home placement, we're really looking at what's still left in the system at the back end. These are the most vulnerable of the children that have been taking, or child welfare has.

Whenever I hear out of placement, I think child welfare. If I'm wrong, let me know. In Hawaii, those are crossover youth that are not in a home, homeless, committing the crimes and whatnot, or ended up in the system because we don't have a placement for them. It's really not the majority, it's what's in the system now and how do we work on figuring out better ways to deal with their home situation that could improve their journey or give them the off-ramp that they need to get out of the systems. That's how I look at it. Yes.

**[01:57:43] Lourdes:** If I may just add one thing. I guess I've been in this business now about 30 years, and I think [chuckles] that one thing that really has changed, which is wonderful, is how much more demanding we are at programs that serve youth, involved in child welfare, juvenile justice, are evidence-based. We follow kids and see how they do.

I think when I first started practicing in the early '90s, for example, we were sending youth to military-style bootcamp. Do you all remember that craze and later they were found to be increased recidivism, not decrease it. There were things that we were doing with young people that were just-- because someone thought it was a good idea with good intentions. Good intentions obviously, but we need to make sure that what we're working on, what we're exposing our youth to really can stand up to muster. I think Maria Lana.

**[01:58:47] Maria:** No. Thank you very much. Something that we worked on, I guess with HUD and the larger Reentry Council was looking at collateral consequences. I'm wondering, there are some states that have driver license restrictions for youths who have been formerly involved in the justice system. That also could impact their workforce opportunities, being able to just honestly drive to and from work or get an opportunity, but would need a car, and then also some voter rights restrictions. Is any of that being covered with your recommendations? I apologize if I may have missed that.

**[01:59:32] Lourdes:** No. [laughs] That was something that wasn't included. It certainly is something to be considered for hopefully future reports that we work on. It would definitely go into reentry. I think collateral consequences are huge. I remember working very hard on model legislation that the ABA adopted around expungement of juvenile records, juvenile court records, juvenile probation records, et cetera. There are many collateral consequences and I do think it would be a fruitful avenue of future work for the counsel to look at those.

**[02:00:05] Maria:** Okay. Thank you.

**[02:00:13] Lourdes:** All righty. Thank you so much. I really appreciate the engagement.

**[02:00:15] Jennifer:** Thank you so much, Lourdes. Please join me in thanking the practitioner members. Thank you so much. We will next turn to some of the Council business, and I'm going to invite Kristin Kratky, who is the Policy Sub-committee Chair, and Kelly Wu, who is the Programs and Practice Subcommittee Co-chair, to the podium to talk about the Joint Subcommittee Report covering the activities of both subcommittees. Kristin and Kelly.

**[02:00:47] Kristin Kratky:** Thank you very much. We're at the end of the show here, and just wrapping up with some final administrative details. The Council, Policy, and Programs and Practice Subcommittees have met two times since the last Council meeting. The subcommittees met jointly due to the pursuit of shared objectives, which were to review and contribute to the recommendations and the subsequent draft report for the Council.

The Council, as you know, has already reviewed this report and today accepted the subcommittee's recommendation to approve the Council's final report, so congratulations on that. Then Marcy Mistrett has already presented on the contents of the report, so we will be reporting out today simply for the formal record and adoption of the minutes.

With that, I will refer you to the subcommittee reports in your packet for your review today. Subcommittee members met on July 24th and August 28th to receive staff updates on the review process for this report, and to review and discuss input from the participating agencies on the proposed report recommendations. Additionally, at the August 28th meeting, the practitioners provided a preview of the draft independent practitioner statement required by statute, which you just heard about from Lourdes. I'm now going to turn to Kelly to report on the subcommittee work and activities related to the Council's co-sponsorship of the OJJDP National Conference.

**[02:02:27] Kelly Wu:** I think, as you know, the Council is sponsoring seven sessions. I'm pleased to report that we have great representation across the Council membership participating in these sessions, so thank you all for your willingness to join us. I'm also pleased to report that we have some really great participation by our practitioners as well. I think in terms of sponsorship, we have really honored the spirit of the Council.

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Thank you all for that. There's not a whole lot of updates on the conference. We're continuing to finalize our sessions and refine them. It's a fun experience, and I thank you all for your patience. We are also looking at opportunities for Council member agencies to participate in an exhibit hall or a resource hall. Stay tuned for more information on that. Thank you.

**[02:03:24] Kristin:** With this report out and on behalf of both Subcommittees, we respectfully request the Council accept and approve the Subcommittee's Report to the Council. Thank you.

**[02:03:35] Jennifer:** Thank you, Kristin and Kelly. For everybody who participated in the subcommittee meetings, we appreciate all your contributions. We'll take a voice vote. All in favor of the subcommittee reports, please say aye.

**[02:03:48] Council Members:** Aye.

**[02:03:49] Jennifer:** All opposed, please say nay. Okay, the ayes have it, and the Subcommittee Report is adopted. Thank you so much.

**[02:03:55] Kristin:** Thank you.

[applause]

**[02:04:00] Jennifer:** We are almost at the conclusion here, but I want to share that the registration for the National Conference is out there. If you miss the link, we'll make sure you get it. We hope that everyone here will be joining us and that you'll share it with your colleagues, because we think it'll be a great opportunity to bring everyone together. This concludes our meeting. Again, I want to thank you all so much for your contributions and all your efforts. We are going to take a group photo. I invite all the Council members and anyone who participated on the subcommittee to please join me right back here for a photo. We'll do that momentarily, and I'll turn it back to Julie to close us out.

**[02:04:52] Julie:** Thank you all so much for coming. With that, we are adjourned.

**[02:04:57] Jennifer:** Great.

[applause]

**[02:05:05] [END OF AUDIO]**