

Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Joint Report of the Policy Subcommittee and Programs & Practice Subcommittee to the Full Council

June 27, 2024

Overview

The Coordinating Council's Policy Subcommittee and its Programs and Practice Subcommittee met jointly on three occasions in the interim between spring (April 10) and summer (June 27) meetings of the full Council. Specifically, the subcommittees held combined meetings on April 24, May 22, and June 20.

The decision for subcommittees to meet jointly on a temporary basis was made to minimize duplicate conversations during early development of the Council's Report to Congress and the President.

Continued Development of Recommendations for the Report to Congress

In the period following the full Council meeting on April 10 when Councilmembers selected their top five priority recommendations for the report to Congress, subcommittees focused on exploring these recommendations in further detail and developing more specific ways to operationalize each. These recommendations will serve as the foundation for the Annual Report to Congress and the President, while also informing the Coordinating Council's workplan.

The Council's five priority recommendations, along with their respective placement on the continuum of care, were identified as follows:

1. [Re-]direct funds and concentrate efforts towards community-based programs and services that address the root causes of delinquency, such as poverty, absence of community development, poor health, lack of education, workforce disengagement, mental health, and substance use issues. *(Prevention)*
2. Promote and ensure funding, training, and implementation support for community-based, culturally and developmentally-informed services for youth and families. These programs need to be effective, affordable, and accessible. *(Low to Med Intervention)*
3. Inform and support access to mental health and substance use programs for justice involved youth to prevent/reduce out of home placements. These programs need to be comprehensive, community-based, and culturally responsive (e.g., family counseling, peer to peer supports, educational stabilization, mental health and substance use, arts and healing centered). *(Med-High intervention)*
4. Provide financial incentives/rewards to communities that successfully keep children and youth out of detention/commitment and with their families. *(High Intervention/Out of Home Placement)*
5. Improve access to post-secondary education and career training for youth exiting the justice system. *(Re-integration)*

During the first of three joint meetings, subcommittee members discussed the levers that Federal government uses to advance policy and programmatic change. These levers are: **fiscal/financial, legislative, practice, capacity building, policy, research, data/metrics, and communications.**

Keeping these levers in mind, subcommittee members used the online collaborative tool “Jamboard” to submit virtual sticky notes with specific ideas for implementing each of the recommendations.

In subsequent meetings, the group discussed organizing the Report to Congress in a way that identifies both things the Council would like Congress and the President to do, and things the Council as a group believes it can accomplish irrespective of Congressional action in support of its priorities. These things the Council hopes to do on its own would be organized into a three-year workplan.

The group’s “sticky note” ideas, were then integrated into spreadsheet format, organized under each of the 5 umbrella recommendations, and sub-categorized as either workplan items or recommendations for Congressional/White House action. Federal subcommittee members were subsequently asked to hold discussions within their respective agencies about these ideas, to offer edits where needed, and to provide comments on the ideas they could or could not support. Members were also asked to contribute additional ideas in each category, as appropriate.

During the final subcommittee meeting, it was noted that many agencies were struggling to provide feedback. Some members expressed concerns about committing to specific workplan activities without more intensive internal discussions about funding or staff time. In response to these concerns, members discussed a modified strategy focused more specifically on Congressional/White House recommendations as well as year one of the workplan. For its year one workplan, the group would attempt to target “easy wins” or “low-hanging fruit.”

Several ideas were proposed for group discussion, including a possible joint webinar series highlighting existing activities that support each Council recommendation; identifying federal agency investments that exist across OJJDP’s continuum of care; producing a publications series to highlight progress federal agencies are making under each priority area; and agency requests for FY 26 funds that support a priority in the Coordinating Council workplan.

These ideas will be discussed in greater detail at the June 27th full Council meeting.

National Conference

A subgroup within the Programs and Practice subcommittee has continued work to finalize the seven sessions approved on April 10 as a part of the Coordinating Council’s track at OJJDP’s November National Conference. Sessions will focus on exploring the work that the Federal government is doing as well as examining the challenging issues that communities face.

Policy Subcommittee Members

Kristen Kracke, Chair, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Jeffery Buehler, U.S. Department of Education
Joseph Bullock, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Mary Campise, U.S. Department of Defense
Amiyah Davis, Practitioner Member
Sherene Donaldson, U.S. Department of Education
Gregory Henschel, U.S. Department of Education
Cheri Hoffman, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Jennifer Kemp, U.S. Department of Labor
Michael Mendoza, Practitioner Member
Diana Morales, U.S. Department of Defense
Mark Patterson, Practitioner Member
Lourdes Rosado, Practitioner Member
Liz Simons, Practitioner Member

Programs and Practice Subcommittee Members

Kellie Blue, Co-Chair, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Sonali Nijhawan, Co-Chair, AmeriCorps
Kathryn Barry, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Jennifer Bastress Tahmasebi, AmeriCorps
Andrea Bizzell, U.S. Department of Labor
Jeffery Buehler, U.S. Department of Education
Amiyah Davis, Practitioner Member
Sheryl Davis, Practitioner Member
Sherene Donaldson, U.S. Department of Education
Greg Henschel, U.S. Department of Education
Cheri Hoffman, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Brandon Horning, U.S. Department of Labor
Shannon Horrillo, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Lisa Johnson, FHI 360
Nataki MacMurray, Office of National Drug Control Policy
Michael Mendoza, Practitioner Member
Sarah Oberlander, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mark Patterson, Practitioner Member
Maria-Lana Queen, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Dawn Rains, U.S. Department of Education
Judge Renee Rodriguez-Betancourt, Practitioner Member
Liz Simons, Practitioner Member
Deborah Spitz, U.S. Department of Education
Adam Tierney, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Lisa Trivits, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Shaina Vanek, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
Rebecca Zornick, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration