

Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Thursday, September 19, 2024
1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.
U.S. Department of Justice
810 7th Street, NW
Washington, DC

Meeting Participants

Federal Members

Brent J. Cohen, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)

Elizabeth Ryan, OJJDP, Administrator and Council Vice Chair

Julie Herr, Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of Justice

Amanda Benton, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Director, Division of Children and Youth Policy

Meghan Bishop, U.S. Department of the Interior, Senior Counselor, Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Kellie Blue, Co-Chair, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Joseph Bullock, Ph.D., Health Services Administration, Senior Public Health Advisor

Mary “Tib” Campise, U.S. Department of Defense, Associate Director, Child and Youth Advocacy

Gregory Henschel, U.S. Department of Education, Senior Research Analyst

Jennifer Kemp, U.S. Department of Labor, Division of Youth Services

Kristen Kracke, Associate Administrator, OJJDP

Manny Lamarre, U.S. Department of Labor, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training

Nataki MacMurray, Ph.D., Policy Analyst, Office of Public Health

Marcy Mistrett, Senior Policy Specialist, OJJDP

Maria-Lana Queen, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Project SOAR Program Manager

Jennifer Bastress Tahmasebi, Deputy Director, AmeriCorps State and National

Shaina Vanek, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Senior Policy Analyst

Bonita Williams, Ph.D., U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Program Leader, Vulnerable Populations

Practitioner Members

Amiyah Davis, Project Coordinator, Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform

Michael Mendoza, Consultant, Juvenile and Criminal Justice, Reentry and Second Chances

Mark Patterson, Administrator, Hawai‘i Youth Correctional Facility, Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center

Lourdes Rosado, President and General Counsel, LatinoJustice PRLDEF

Liz Simons, Chair of the Board, Heising-Simons Foundation, Chair of the Board, Marshall Project

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Administrator Liz Ryan

Administrator Ryan opened the meeting and introduced Acting Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Brent Cohen. AAG Cohen recognized and thanked members of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and AmeriCorps, and he thanked practitioner members for their work on the Council.

The AAG provided information on his background. Before he was a part of the Department of Justice, he was the Director of Legislative and Government Affairs for the New York City Department of Probation. He worked on the Close to Home Initiative, which realigned the back end of the juvenile justice system and helped keep young people in and around the five boroughs.

During the Obama Administration, he served as a senior advisor at the Office of Justice Programs with a focus on eliminating racial disparities and implementing developmentally appropriate responses for children and young adults.

Noting the importance of interagency collaboration, AAG Cohen said that agencies can disrupt the pipelines that feed into the justice system, which means more opportunities and better lives for young people and improved public safety. In this meeting, he noted, members will 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.

Administrator Ryan said that today's meeting will focus on the value of partnerships among agencies and organizations, as well as our shared priorities. Members will hear about ongoing cross-agency coordination from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and AmeriCorps. These partnerships exemplify two critical priorities for young people involved in the justice system. First: opening up opportunities for young people as early as possible, and second: centering young people's voices so that we can prioritize and respond to their needs. To serve young people effectively, it is critical to get their input about what works in the juvenile justice system, what does not work, and why.

Administrator Ryan said that during recent listening sessions at USDA and at AmeriCorps, young people emphasized the urgent need for better access to mental health services and for dependable daily access to adequate nutrition. They spoke about the importance of service, how opportunities for service help them develop leadership skills, and emphasized the value of education and preparing for work.

Young people also mentioned the importance of having caring and reliable adults and peers in their lives, which has led to critical collaborations for this group. OJJDP is partnering with AmeriCorps to enhance services and service opportunities for young people who are at risk of involvement with the justice system, or who are already involved, to help them transition back to their communities and encourage them to become active citizens. OJJDP has partnered with USDA's Division of Youth and 4-H to launch the Mentoring at Risk and Rural Youth (MARRY) Program. This program will offer mentoring services through 4-H programming. It will 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 justice system involvement. Additionally, 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.

Agency and Practitioner Introductions

Meeting participants introduced themselves.

Agency Partnership Spotlight: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Tina Namian, Director, School Meals Policy Division Food and Nutrition Service

Tina's presentation focused on "Child Nutrition Programs in Residential Care."

Public and nonprofit private residential childcare institutions (RCCIs) may participate in:

- National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- NSLP Afterschool Snack
- School Breakfast Program (SBP)
- Special Milk Program (SMP)

Tina noted that nonprofit, private RCCIs must be licensed to provide residential childcare services by the State or a subordinate level of government.

Meal Requirements

Breakfast must consist of fruit, grain, and fluid milk. Lunch must consist of fruit, vegetables, grains, meat or a meat alternative, and fluid milk. Menus must meet weekly dietary specifications or limits for calories, sodium, saturated fat, and—effective fiscal year 2027—sugar. These requirements cannot be waived once they are set. Juvenile facilities serve breakfast and lunch, and they get reimbursed if the meals meet the guidelines.

Tina stressed the importance of kids having agency around their food. Kids are offered foods in a residential setting, and they have to take a certain number of items, but they can choose what they want. Other ways to engage kids include taste testing and having them plan a menu.

Choosing food as reward or punishment might modify behavior in the short term, but it also might make a child's relationship with food problematic in the long term. It is not something USDA encourages.

Maria-Lana asked if kids could go back for seconds, and Tina said that USDA reimburses for one serving and facilities have to plan a menu that would meet the requirements for one meal. Snacks throughout the day are not regulated, nor is dinner.

Nataki asked about culturally relevant foods, and asked how food ties into body image, healthy living, etc. Tina said that USDA has nutrition educational materials and USDA sends those to facilities at no cost and the materials are on USDA's website. She said that USDA has thought a lot about culturally relevant foods, and they have developed menus that meet the cultural needs of the population.

Greg asked to what extent do programs follow religious accommodations and food allergies, and Tina said that USDA strongly encourage religious and kosher diets, though they are not required to follow kosher diets. Furthermore, if there is a disability around food, then they are required to accommodate for that disability.

USDA NIFA – 4H PYD and the OJJDP Collaboration

Bonita Williams, Ph.D., National Program Leader, Division of Youth and 4-H

Bonita's presentation shared the collaboration between 4-H and OJJDP. 4-H means head, heart, hands, and health. 4-H is USDA's flagship Youth Development Program, which has responsibility for educating young people in a non-formal setting. USDA/National Institute of Food and Agriculture (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 through more than 110 land-grant colleges and universities across the United States and its territories. The programs operate at State and local levels, as well as rural, suburban, and urban levels.

The collaboration between 4-H and USDA is meant to develop a program to expand opportunities for 1) rural youth, 2) juvenile justice-involved youth, and 3) youth at risk of juvenile justice involvement to receive mentoring services through 4-H programming.

There are six grantees that will receive funding from 4-H: Ohio State University, West Virginia University, Cornell University, Utah State University, University of Maine, and Purdue University. Of the six grantees, five are prevention based and one is intervention based.

Bonita noted the six critical components of the 4-H Program: Evidence-based projects; juvenile justice-involved youth; rural youth; youth at risk of juvenile justice involvement; mentoring services; and collaboration with the National Mentoring Resource Center.

Long-term outcomes of the 4-H program include academic or vocational success, civic engagement, positive youth development, youth with a growth mindset, and a hopeful purpose.

Lourdes asked if grantees are working with youth in facilities or in their homes, and Bonita said that grantees are primarily working with youth at home.

Tib asked how at-risk youth get identified. Bonita said that some youth are going to work with Purdue, and organizations will work with the courts to identify young people. Some grantees will rely upon organizations to help them identify young people.

Nataki asked when grantees start implementing their programs. Bonita said that as soon as they receive funding, they can get started.

Maria-Lana asked what about the activities that grantees can implement. Bonita said that some of the activities include career readiness, life skill-building, improved communications, and stronger youth and family partnerships.

Agency Partnership Spotlight: AmeriCorps

Jennifer Bastress-Tahmasebi, Deputy Director AmeriCorps State and National

AmeriCorps is the Federal agency for national service and volunteerism. AmeriCorps provides opportunities for Americans of all backgrounds to serve their country, address the Nation's most pressing challenges, and improve lives and communities. AmeriCorps' mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. AmeriCorps achieves its mission by providing disaster services, economic opportunities, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, and supporting veterans and military families. AmeriCorps helps 290,000 families by connecting them to educational opportunities, jobs, and other benefits. Many of AmeriCorps' members are veterans continuing their services to the community.

OJJDP and AmeriCorps Partnership

The partnership between the Justice Department and AmeriCorps is rooted in the belief that when agencies work together, they will positively impact the lives of justice-involved youth by offering support, guidance, and resources to help these young people overcome obstacles and successfully contribute to their communities.

There are 12 innovative programs that support youth transitioning back into their communities across 37 States with 4,000 AmeriCorps members.

Jennifer mentioned several AmeriCorps/OJJDP partnerships, including the Credible Messenger Mentoring Movement, Impact Justice: California Justice Leaders, PowerCorps PHL, the Second Chance Roundtable, and the AmeriCorps/OJJDP Site Visit in District Heights, Maryland.

Final Draft – Fiscal Year 2024 Report of the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to Congress and The President

Marcy Mistrett, Senior Policy Specialist

Marcy said that the Annual Report is due no later than 120 days following the last Council meeting of the fiscal year, which is this September meeting. The report will be delivered in January 2025. As an independent entity in Federal government, the Council's report is branded and published under the Coordinating Council logo. A separate report by the Council's practitioner members is also required.

Marcy showed a timeline, indicating that the Council was relaunched in October 2022. From January to April 2024, the subcommittees have been developing and prioritizing recommendations that will appear in

the report. In June 2024, the recommendations were further developed and planning for future activities began. In this meeting, the Council will vote on approving the draft report.

Marcy spoke about the key sections of the Report and reviewed the 18 recommendations. Following the recommendations, Marcy reviewed the six proposed action steps for the Council to take in 2025 and 2026.

Discussion and Approval – Fiscal Year 2024 Report to Congress

The Council took a voice vote to approve the draft report. Member agencies have already approved the content, and this vote is for the record. Members voted, and the draft report was approved.

Fiscal Year 2024 Practitioner Report: An Independent Statement by the Council's Practitioner Members

Lourdes Rosado President & General Counsel, LatinoJustice PRLDEF

Lourdes provided the Council with an overview of the Practitioner's Statement, which will accompany the full report to Congress and the White House.

According to the statute in the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act, practitioner members are charged with writing an independent report. The focus of the report will be on opportunities for Federal agencies to strengthen youth outcomes through collaboration and partnership.

The report will be divided into four sections:

- Current Needs of Youth Who Are At risk of Becoming or are Justice Involved
- Effective and Promising Approaches
- Adopting and Strengthening the Continuum of Care
- Future Opportunities to Support Youth Across the Continuum of Care

Greg asked when out-of-home placements are at their best. He said that we often hear about how ineffective they are. Lourdes said that studies have shown that generally, the recidivism rates of youth who are in out-of-home placement are higher than those of young people who are kept in their communities, and that they experience poor outcomes in education, employment, and health.

Nataki wondered how representatives from agencies can take the recommendations from practitioners to amplify and share with agencies, without it being a FACA-endorsed product.

Lourdes noted that one thing that has changed is how much more demanding practitioners are that programs that serve youth are evidence based and that we follow kids and see how they do in the programs.

Maria-Lana noted that some States have driving license restrictions for youth who have been involved in juvenile justice, and those restrictions can prohibit youth from driving to work. She asked if that topic is covered in the Practitioner Report. Lourdes said that the topic is not covered in this report, but it could be covered in future reports.

Council Business: Subcommittee Report and Recommendations

Kristen Kracke, chair of the Policy Subcommittee, and Kellie Blue, co-chair of the Programs and Practice Subcommittee, shared updates on the subcommittees since the last full Council meeting. The subcommittees met jointly to review and contribute to the recommendations and the subsequent draft report for the Council. The Programs and Practice subcommittee continues to plan for the National Conference in November. By voice vote, the Council approved the subcommittees' reports.

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.