

JJAB MEETING

JJAB Chairperson: David Finke

Vice Chairperson: Kristy Flippins-Bartlett

JUNE 20, 2025, 1PM – 4PM EST

ELIZABETHTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT, ELIZABETHTOWN, KY



JUNE 2025 Meeting Summary

Date | time FRI, JUNE 20, 2025, | 1 pm - 4 pm | **Meeting Location** ELIZABETHTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT, ELIZABETHTOWN, KY

Meeting called to order by Dr. David Finke at 1:10 pm

WELCOME & MEMBER ROLL CALL – 1:15PM

Board Members in person: Dr. David Finke, Ashely Clark, Anna Sumerall

Board Members online: Dr. Deonte Hollowell, Dr Cicely Cottrell, Kristy Flippins-Bartlett, Jansen Hammock, Dr George Moorman, Stephanie Spires, Sydney Scaggs, Donna Simmons, Tamar Israel, Sarah Hail

DJJ Staff present: Tara Kelly, Carly Gill, Linda Thomason,

Guest Present: Rae Cowan, Ionda Adkins, Louanne Marston, Bailee Dowler, William Codell

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Approval of February’s minutes:** A quorum was not present
- **OJJDP Compliance Audit:** Between May 5 and May 9, representatives from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention conducted a compliance audit of Kentucky’s Title II administration and Juvenile Justice Advisory Board practices. A preliminary report—distributed to all members—identified several areas where our procedures diverge from the requirements outlined in our Compliance Manual. Most notably, DJJ has not been conducting the statutorily required site visits to ensure adult jails, county and regional detention centers do not hold juveniles. Mental health treatment facilities separate adults and children. These omissions triggered the majority of the audit findings. In each case, our manual mandates inspections to verify that juveniles are not placed in settings that fail to meet federally prescribed safety and programming standards. There are a couple of questions that DJJ has about private mental health facilities, because of privacy issues.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **JJAB Retreat** –Retreat is set for Thursday July 24th at Durry Inn on Brownsboro Rd in Louisville, KY. The agenda was sent out with the meeting pre-reads last week. This retreat will be conducted a little differently from past years. It will only be one day this year, and the other is there will be a more intentional focus on the JJAB plan for the next three years. Lunch will be provided on site for a working lunch connecting with area youth and hoping that they can be part of a panel discussion as we talk about what the needs are for justice involved youth in the community so JJAB can do a better job of serving the Commonwealth.
- **FFY22 Title II Grant Submissions** – There were a total 16 applicants this year with a total request of \$1,841,134.00. There is a little over 500K to award. There are two teams of reviews, DJJ reviews and JJAB reviewers. The DJJ team consists of 4 folks from Community, financial, and aftercare reentry. The reviews should be completed by July 7th, then there will be a risk assessment. JJAB will meet on July 9th to determine what will be recommended to the board. Couple of new programs this year, couple of programs that were awarded before my time that have reapplied. There is no cap on how many years a program can be awarded.

- **Kentucky Justice Commission on Mental Health-** The Commission on Mental Health has been active for three years and includes two primary work groups focused on juvenile justice: **Asset Mapping** and **Legislative Affairs**. The legislative work group is facilitated by **David Finke** and includes members such as **Ashley Clark**. This group is responsible for evaluating policy priorities and presenting formal recommendations to the Commission's **Steering Committee**, which then determines whether to advance those recommendations. Two of the group's current priority recommendations include:
 1. **Establishing a Minimum Age for Prosecution** This policy would prohibit criminal charges against youth below a certain age threshold. While national momentum supports this reform—many states have implemented or proposed minimum age statutes—Kentucky has not yet taken formal action. Previous conversations have explored age thresholds of **10 or 12**, but no statutory changes have been adopted.
 2. **Juvenile Competency Reforms** This proposal raises critical questions about whether youth can meaningfully understand legal charges and assist in their own defense. It calls for revisiting competency standards to ensure they are developmentally appropriate and aligned with best practices in youth justice.
- **Office of Violence Prevention-** This presentation will be pushed to the next meeting in August

DJJ UPDATED:

- **R/ED Update:** Due to an updated federal timeline, the Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) Plan update is now due in July rather than the previously anticipated August deadline. At this time, all required data has been received except for the secure confinement dataset, which is expected shortly. Once that final piece is received, Tara will lead the compilation of Kentucky's R/ED update, ensuring it incorporates the six new questions required by OJJDP. Tara and Dr. Hollowell will collaborate directly to complete the R/ED submission and strengthen the analysis and recommendations embedded within it.
- **Compliance Report:** Compliance monitoring tool is now open. Linda and Carly have completed the compliance data submission, waiting for the R/ED update and we will be ready to submit to OJJDP.
- **CJJ Conference Report out:** The Annual conference and Hill Day was held May 28-31 of this year. It was attended by the DJJ staff and two members of the JJAB, Dr Moorman and Anna Sumerall. It was great to see the work that is being done across the country and the resources that are available to youth. Dr Moorman felt reenergized by this conference and has a lot of hope for the direction the states are heading. Linda was able to connect with other state compliance monitors and get their insight.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- **Executive:** - Primarily focus on the retreat
- **Grants:** – Grant Review committee will meet on July 9th to determine what will be recommended to the board.
- **SEJAY:** - Given the accelerated timeline of the R/ED plan update, the decision was made to cancel the SEJAY Retreat for this year. There will be a member's only meeting on July 10th to present the submitted update to the committee. There was a visit to the Fayette Co YDC to plan a Listen Session for June 19th. Met with Dr Sweat and Director Lundy to plan a visit to the Adair facility.
- **Capacity Building:** - There was not a full complement at regular May meeting, the ones that were in attendance are looking forward to ironing out the details of the Capacity Building scope and goals to support the strategic plan during the retreat.
- **Emerging Leaders:** - On June 9th, the Emerging Leaders (EL) team held a youth engagement session at Morehead, meeting with two participants amid some behavioral disruptions. The session, titled "**Leading the Way: Finding Your Voice, Power, and Purpose,**" focused on building self-awareness and leadership skills. Despite the limited turnout, the youth offered meaningful feedback on future programming.

They expressed strong interest in hearing from individuals with **lived experience**—someone who has walked in their shoes and can offer relatable guidance. Additionally, both youths were enthusiastic about incorporating **vision board activities** into future sessions to support goal setting and personal growth.

In a parallel effort to raise awareness and inform youth about policy developments, **Anna Sumerall** launched an Instagram account: **@JuvenileJusticeofKY**. This platform is being used to provide accessible information on **House Bill 611 (HB611)**, its implications, and how youth can get involved.

The next EL session is scheduled for **July 21st**, where there will be a **live discussion on HB611**. The **CEO of the Louisville Urban League (LUL)** will be in attendance to share services, resources, and insights relevant to justice-involved youth.

YOUTH VOICE: - In May, Anna Sumerall represented Kentucky at the **Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) Annual Hill Day** in Washington, D.C. She participated in the morning Hill Day training and completed **three Hill office visits**, meeting directly with legislative directors from **Congressman Brett Guthrie** and **Congressman Morgan McGarvey**. During these meetings, both offices expressed strong interest in the **reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP)** as well as federal legislative efforts to address **human trafficking**, particularly its intersection with youth justice. Following the Hill Day, **Senators Chuck Grassley and Thom Whiteside** introduced the reauthorization bill. In response, Anna has been in contact with **Senator Rand Paul's office** and has followed up with **Congressman McGarvey** to provide additional context and reaffirm Kentucky's commitment to the JJDP's core protections and funding priorities. Her outreach and participation have ensured that Kentucky's youth justice perspective remains visible and aligned with national advocacy efforts.

PUBLIC FORUM-

ACTION ITEMS:

- Determine a possible site for the August 15th meeting. Any suggestions please let Carly know.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 15, 2025 @1PM TBA

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned.