

JJAB MEETING

JJAB Chairperson: David Finke

Vice Chairperson: Kristy Flippins-Bartlett

AUGUST 15, 2025, 1PM – 4PM EST

KY TRANSPORTATION CABINET BUILDING, FRANKFORT, KY



JUNE 2025 Meeting Summary

Date | time FRI, AUGUST 15, 2025, | 1 pm - 4 pm | **Meeting Location** KY TRANSPORTATION CABINET BUILDING, FRANKFORT, 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, Laura Karem, Tiffany Mullis

Board Members online: Dr. Deonte Hollowell, Dr Cicely Cottrell, Kristy Flippins-Bartlett, Harry Clark, Dr George Moorman, Lawrence Weathers, Tamar Israel, Angel Wilson, Ashley Clark, Christina Weeter

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

Guest Present: Rae Cowan, Kenya Wade, Danielle Farhat, Ashley Webb, James Britton, Stephan Robinson, Roberta Kiser, Tya Cook, Daryrell Mayes,

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Approval of August's minutes:** A correction was noted by Ashley Clark regarding the guest list from the previous meeting: Londa Adkins should be listed as a guest. Motion made by Dr Hollowell to accept the minutes as amended. Motion Seconded by Angela Wilson. Motion passed unanimously. August minutes approved as amended.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **FFY22 Title II Grant Recommendations** – The Grants Subcommittee presented its recommendations for funding allocations under the FFY22 Title II grant cycle. After careful review of proposals and consideration of available funding, the Subcommittee recommended awards to six organizations, with adjustments made where necessary to align with budget constraints and program priorities. **Bookworks** was recommended for funding in the amount of \$125,600, reflecting a 15% reduction from its original request. Similarly, the **Northern Kentucky Children's Law Center** was recommended for \$125,301, also reflecting a 15% reduction. **Mountain Comprehensive Care** was recommended for \$100,000, which represents a \$50,000 reduction from its requested amount. Three organizations—**Men2BE, YouthBuild, and the Administrative Office of the Courts**—were recommended for full funding at their requested amounts of \$96,640, \$75,000, and \$64,099 respectively. The total recommended funding across all six organizations is \$586,400.

These recommendations will now be forwarded to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) leadership for review and subsequent submission to the Governor's Office for final approval.

- **Office of Violence Prevention-** The **Office of Violence Prevention** (formerly the Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods) continues its mission of addressing the root causes of violence through a public health approach. Its work is anchored by two divisions: **Trauma Resilient Communities**, funded by SAMHSA, which connects individuals impacted by violence to mental health services and resources, and **Community Engagement Services**, which amplifies youth voices, creates safe spaces, and ensures community visibility and support. As part of its community presence, the office will host the

Community Sanctuary Project this Saturday at the Chestnut YMCA, offering a space for healing with mental health providers and outreach teams.

In alignment with this mission, **Danielle Farhat** is leading an **18-month OJJDP-funded grant** focused on assessment and planning to build a sustainable continuum of care for Louisville youth and families. The project maps existing resources, identifies gaps, and convenes stakeholders across schools, courts, and grassroots organizations to break down silos and align strategies. A **data-driven framework** is being developed to prevent youth from entering the justice system, divert those already involved from going deeper, and track measurable outcomes. Central to this effort is **youth voice**, highlighted through initiatives like *Youth Photo Voice*, ensuring the framework is both evidence-based and authentically grounded in lived experience.

Complementing these efforts, **Pivot to Peace**, in partnership with the Office of Violence Prevention, deploys **Outreach Coordinators** who serve as trusted agents of change for individuals at highest risk of gang or group violence. Unlike direct service providers, they focus on outreach, relationship-building, and empowerment, connecting participants to wraparound supports such as education, employment, mental health services, and community programs. The program is fully voluntary, with coordinators working alongside clients to set short- and long-term goals over an approximate two-year timeline while maintaining ongoing contact beyond that period. By fostering trust, stability, and access to resources, Outreach Coordinators address the root causes of violence and create pathways toward safer, healthier communities.

DJJ UPDATED:

- **R/ED Update:** On July 8th, Tara Kelly submitted the Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) Plan to OJJDP. The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is currently awaiting OJJDP's review and formal approval of the plan.
- **Compliance Report:** Linda Thomason has completed the written response to the **OJJDP Compliance Audit** conducted on May 5th, and the document has been submitted to leadership for review and approval. In addition, the compliance team will be in **Western Kentucky next week** to conduct scheduled site visits as part of ongoing monitoring and oversight.
- **CJJ Youth Justice in Action Conference:** The upcoming conference will be held in **Minneapolis, October 14–17**. Kentucky has submitted participation requests for **Dr. Hollowell, Dr. Moorman, Kristy Flippins-Bartlett, Tamar Israel, and Brionna Readus**, along with three DJJ staff members, making up an **eight-member Kentucky delegation**. While the agenda has not yet been finalized, Kentucky is honored to have **Ms. Tara Kelly serving on the national planning committee** for this year's event.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- **Executive:** - Dr. Courtney Kiem from **Bellarmino University** will join us today at **3:00 PM** to share ideas for the upcoming **JJAB annual meeting** and explore opportunities for collaboration with her **Psychology class** on potential class projects. Last year's partnership focused on supporting **Emerging Leaders** with member recruitment strategies using a variety of media platforms, and this year's discussion will build on that momentum to identify new areas of collaboration.
- **Grants:** – Please see above
- **SEJAY:** - On **Saturday, August 9th**, Tara and Dr. Hollowell visited the **Adair Youth Detention Center** to engage with the young people in the facility. Special thanks to **Elzie and Mr. Lundy** for making this visit possible. Plans are underway to host a **listening session at Adair in October**, with an additional session at **PAVE in Louisville** pending approval, which Adair youth may also be able to attend. Looking ahead, a visit to the **Fayette Youth Detention Center** is scheduled for **September 6th**,

and **SEJAY members are encouraged to participate**. In addition, a **Listening Session Training** for both **SEJAY and JJAB members** will take place on **October 11th**.

- **Capacity Building**: - No updates at this time
- **Emerging Leaders**: - No update at this time.

YOUTH VOICE: -

PUBLIC FORUM- Dr. Courtney Kiem has requested ideas to continue the JJAB partnership with her Psychology class for this fall's Community Engagement project, and several meaningful opportunities have been identified. Students could examine how social media shapes public understanding of youth justice issues by reporting back on messaging and its influence, conduct research on truancy court and its impact, or explore the effects of Jefferson County's lack of a detention center on youth and families. Additional project options include studying the consequences of automatic waivers on young people, developing strategies to strengthen outreach to rural counties about Title II funds and symposium opportunities, and examining the intersection of youth homelessness and its impact on school engagement and outcomes. Each of these topics offers students a chance to contribute valuable insights while supporting JJAB's mission to advance equity and improve outcomes for youth.

ACTION ITEMS: It has come to the Board's attention that some of the topics discussed during meetings may be triggering for both members and the public. To address this, two suggestions have been raised: (1) providing dedicated space at the end of each meeting for members and attendees to process or discuss sensitive issues, and (2) including a disclaimer on the meeting agenda noting that certain topics may be triggering. These steps are intended to create a more supportive and transparent environment for all participants.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Justice Commission on Mental Health Legislative Workgroup update

NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 10, 2025 @1PM OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION
LOUISVILLE

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Hollowell moved to adjourn the meeting at **4:25 PM**. The motion was **seconded by Angela Willson** and **passed unanimously**.