



October 4, 2022 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Attended by phone: Jackie Jainga Hyllseth, Donald Felder, Jasmine Lee Fry, Jack Edgerton, Helena Stephens, Hikma Sherka, Nicole Herron, Rita Alcantara, James Lovell, Lidiya Gebre, Suzette Espinoza-Cruz, Fernanda Maria Martinez Novoa, Annu Luthra, Yolanda Trout, Carol Goertzel, Thomas Bales.

*Membership status pending final transmission of appointment by KC clerk.

Members Not Present: Abigail Echo Hawk, Alex Cho, Angela Griffin^E, Ariana Sherlock^E, Beth Larsen, Cindy Elizalde^E, Erin Lee, Kimmy Nguyen, Mohamed Abdi, Meena Natajara, Friday Hernandez-Perez, Kedrick Glover, Dwane Chappelle, Nancy Woodland^E

CYAB Applicant for appointment Present: Dwane Chappelle, Kimmy Nguyen, Meena Natarajan, Maria-Fernanda Martinez Novoa

Guests: Hali Willis (SCA), Ben Danielson

Staff Present: Kerry Wade, Zac Davis, Eula Matsumoto, Sheila Ater Capestany,

6:00 PM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2022; ZOOM MEETING

Meeting called to order: Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

- Co-chairs stated the purpose and goal of the meeting
 - Short Term: How do we address what is taking place in juvenile detention currently
 - What are our long-term goals as it pertains to the repurposing of the facility
- **OVERSIGHT AND ADVISORY: Juvenile Detention Concerns CFJC Advisory Subcommittee – Hikma Sherka & Ben Danielson** provide an overview of concerns and current challenges impacting young people detained at the Children and Family Justice Center youth detention.
- Concerns from a CFJC Strategic Planning group meeting last month where there was a presentation about the current state of young people in detention
 - Number of young people in detention recently increasing by 41 percent between 2021 and the second quarter of 2022.
 - Staffing shortages, prolonged isolation because of staffing shortages and other reasons.
 - Increase in the length of stay went from 17.4 days pre pandemic to 37 days in 2022.
 - Concerns about the possibility of not paying as much attention to what is happening today in the name of sober planning for the future and how to balance that.
 - What is the board's role in addressing these issues?

Discussion and Questions

- Commented that the assumption is every child going into the detention facility is a common client for multiple organizations.
- What type of data is collected upon entry to know whether they are part of a school program, whether they can read, do they have special needs? What type of data is being collected?
- What's the process of tonight's meeting?
- **Juvenile Detention Interim Director, Quanetta West**
 - Each young person is screened, assessed for mental health and medical
 - Screening instrument does assess school; Contracted teachers conduct a full assessment youth. Class work is designed to meet each youth's needs. They also have a Special Ed teacher on site to assist with those needs.
 - DAJD does not specifically collect that data. but rather have a contract with the Seattle Public Schools

- GED completion is offered. They are also required to attend school there; so, they do meet the 300 hours of school.
- DAJD started case management model where they are reaching out to care providers. Each youth receives a care plan; there is also family involvement.

Discussion and Questions

- Member would like a follow-up on the average length of stay. What is driving the increase? Would like to have a fuller explanation on what is going on.
 - Interim Director West confirmed that length of stay increased by 50 percent. In 2021, the average population was 22, in 2022 it went up to 32 and in August 2022 we're at 37 and today the population is 40. She mentioned they've reached its highest with 50 youth in detention.
 - According to statistics, there's 56 percent of the youth in detention that are African American when they only make up about 10 percent in King County. The average youth age is 16. Also, length of stay is higher than what Hikma had reported. It went from 19 days up to 38 days which is nearly double. As for the kids that are being charged as an adult, they are averaging 182 days in detention.
 - Out of the 40 kids in detention, 17 of them have been in detention over six months. Their longest kid has been in detention 535 days. She mentioned that it is a concern for them as detention is supposed to be for a short stay and this creates challenges for how detention is designed and set up.
 - One staff to eight youth in the detention center. Not more than 16 youth per unit.
 - Confirmation of staffing challenges: 18 vacancies currently; 42% of their staff is on FMLA, and 100% of graveyard staff have overtime restrictions.
 - DAJD continues to meet with labor management groups, create incentive packages, marketing, bonuses, overtime, etc.
 - What is acceptable for the way youth are experiencing incarceration right now? What are we hoping that we can hold our county accountable to support as this is a worsening situation?
 - Is the shortage of staff one of the reasons why the youth are kept in isolation or are there other reasons for that? A: There are several reasons for youth going into isolation (e.g., fight, COVID protocol, etc.).
 - Are there young people currently in detention that could be in other programs or alternative programs for them to not be in the detention center? Delayed in processing young people through judicial system? Is there opportunity to explore partnerships?
 - Medical, mental health, religion, meals, community-based services, hygiene are provided. They are provided their basic needs and services.
 - There are already partnerships around diversion programs in that way and we are tapping out the community at this point with some of those programs. Everybody should understand that young people can be charged and sent to detention for holding stage. Not everyone that gets charged are sent to detention. The waiting time is a big deal for the young person.
- **Breakout Room Discussion and Report Out:** What will the board like to do with the information they've heard today? What are the next steps?
 - 6 month or 12-month process report that summarizes the situation. Data would be used to power a letter from the CYAB saying we want fewer young people in detention for shorter periods of time in better conditions.
 - Proposed tour of the detention facility.
 - Contact TeamChild to understand the details of the lawsuit that took place in the late 90's that contributed to the significant drop and rates within the youth detention.
 - CYAB is uniquely positioned to put out an advisory statement. We know that this conversation around zero youth detention is happening in 2025 but also, we can connect to real causes that we know needs

to be addressed now. We need to talk about what's going on right now and connect it to what are other systems involved.

Is there any data collected on the youth that have gone through the detention center--where and when their first encounter with law enforcement was?

- Focus must remain on the kids that are in detention right now. CYAB has the power to hold the county accountable.
- Do not want to lose the urgency of the conversation tonight. What are the next steps? Where do we go from here?
- Nancy will connect with Zac regarding youth justice committee.

BOARD BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – Kerry Wade

- Special Notice

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.