Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency, and Correction
Juvenile Justice Subcommittee Special Meeting – Funding Finalization
August 26, 2026 – 9:00am-11:00am
Virtual Meeting

Members Present (13):

Barri Faucett
Brenda Thompson
Judge Maryclaire Akers
Phyllis Stewart-Brown
Jamie Styons
Mona Dues
Olivia Laverty
Stephanie Bond Proxy for Keith Hoover
Denny Dodson proxy for Shelby Searls
Gary "Gig" Robinson Proxy for Fred Wooton
Tanisha Travis Proxy for Kimberly Mason
Wanda Cox
Chris Casto

Members Absent (6):

Lindsey Sprouse
Dylan O'Sullivan
Greg Puckett
Jane Cabbiness
David Chapman
Karen Haring

DAS/JCS Staff Present (9):

Krista Ferrell
Tina Desmond
April Darnell
Jessica Underwood
John Stigall
Michele Bowles
Sarah Stallman
Monika Sterling
Riki Correal

Introductions and Roll Call:

The August 26, 2026, meeting was called to order by the Chairperson Barri Faucett and a roll call and introductions were conducted. There were thirteen (13) members either present or represented by proxy, which constitutes a quorum of the Subcommittee membership.

SAG Initiative and Best Practices Update: Chairperson Barri Faucett shared takeaways from a recent conference regarding State Advisory Group (SAG) initiatives, emphasizing the necessity of a three-year plan based on data-driven decision-making. Chairperson Barri Faucett highlighted the importance of youth involvement, particularly ensuring that youth with lived experience in the juvenile justice system have a voice at the table. They also noted that compliance, reporting, and staying engaged with grantees through regular report-outs and technical assistance are critical responsibilities of the committee members.

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Approval of Minutes:
Chairperson Barri asked all members to review the minutes of the June 26, 2026, meeting. Denny Dodson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Phyllis Stewart-Brown. All members were in favor; motion carried.

Agenda and Lived Experience: Jessica Underwood announced that the agenda was updated to exclude the review of youth resumes during this meeting; the focus shifted to the annual report because the current resumes lacked sufficient information regarding the candidates' lived experiences.

Youth Member Appointments and Bylaws: Director Tina Desmond clarified that under the bylaws, youth members of the committee are appointed by the cabinet secretary rather than selected by the committee itself. The committee discussed the difficulty of finding youth members with lived experience, noting that historical efforts included asking for community service credit for participants to help them on their resumes. It was agreed that while the committee does not formally select members, they can offer recommendations to the cabinet secretary, accompanied by resumes and personal synopsis to provide necessary context.

Deobligated Funds Update: Krista Ferrell informed the committee that Innovative Community Solutions was unable to fully expend their 2022 funding, resulting in $12,000 having to be returned to federal authorities because there was insufficient time to reallocate the funds. The committee was advised that if this organization applies for funding in the future, this history of unspent funds should be considered during their evaluation process.

Federal Funding Status: Krista Ferrell reported that the committee has received 2025 federal funding and is working to clear conditions for the release of those funds. The committee was also informed that 2024 funds are being awarded, and they anticipate receiving 2026 NOFO’s soon, which allows for proactive planning rather than reactive spending.

2026 Annual Report Review: The committee reviewed the 2026 Annual Report, which included updates regarding adult jail and lockup removal violations, site and sound separation compliance, and improved success rates in the diversion of Hispanic youth. Director Tina Desmond confirmed that the three-year plan section remained unchanged and that the report included updated 2025 statistical data.

Strategic Planning and Data Needs: Chairperson Barri Faucett emphasized the need for a "crimes and needs analysis" to guide the committee's decision-making and priority setting. Director Tina Desmond noted that previous planning involved intensive in-person sessions to select priority areas and suggested that future meetings would be required to develop the next three-year plan.

Mental Health and Juvenile Justice: Denny E Dodson raised concerns that a significant portion of delinquent youth are primarily mental health cases rather than delinquency cases, leading to inappropriate detention. The committee discussed the importance of using evidence-based data to direct grant money toward interventions that address these root causes, such as diversion and behavioral health programs, rather than relying solely on agency-proposed plans.

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Data Collection Challenges and Partnerships: The committee discussed the difficulty of accessing comprehensive, centralized juvenile justice data in West Virginia and the committee explored the possibility of partnering with outside entities like Marshall University for data collection, as well as reaching out to the Department of Education to obtain truancy and expulsion data, specifically noting that kindergarten has the highest expulsion rates. Members acknowledged that while previous federal efforts to unify data systems were unsuccessful, there is a strong desire to improve the committee's baseline understanding of the state's juvenile justice landscape.

Approval of Annual Report: Following the discussion of the report's contents, Denny Dodson moved to accept the submission of the 2026 Annual Report as written, seconded by Phyllis Stewart-Brown; the majority of members voted in affirmative with one member voting nay; motion carried.

Gary “Gig” Robinson recused himself from voting on the submission of the Annual Report.

Procedural Improvement Request: Chairperson Barri Faucett requested that for future meetings, the committee be provided with materials and voting items at least one to two weeks in advance to ensure they can make informed, responsible decisions. Director Tina Desmond acknowledged this request and committed to providing more timely distribution of documents in the future.

Data Submission and Compliance: The sub-committee discussed the importance of the governor's mandate requiring agencies to collaborate and submit data, noting that this requirement was essential for compliance and ensuring that data collection efforts are successful.

Upcoming Meeting Logistics: Director Tina Desmond confirmed that the next meeting will take place on October 29th at the Embassy Suites. This event will include a quarterly meeting in the morning, followed by the annual Governor’s Committee on Crime, Delinquency, and Correction meeting in the afternoon, with breakfast and lunch provided. Barri Faucett is expected to prepare a presentation covering the subcommittee's activities from the past year.

Strategic Planning Process: The group reviewed the timeline for the three-year plan, which covers the period from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2027. Director Tina Desnond emphasized that staff are responsible for maintaining an updated list of priority areas, similar to the process conducted in June 2024, which involved significant discussion and selection by the committee.

Meeting Location and Financial Planning: Director Tina Desmond and Chairperson Barri Faucett discussed the feasibility of hosting future meetings at different locations, such as Stonewall, acknowledging that such options depend on available funding. Director Tina Desmond committed to reviewing financial options with relevant staff to determine if travel or off-site meetings are sustainable.

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Strategic Plan Timeline: The participants agreed on the necessity of beginning the development process for the next three-year plan in early spring 2027. Staff will draft a timeline to ensure the plan is finalized and ready for implementation by October 2027, with progress reports to be presented at future quarterly meetings.

Grantee Accountability and Mid-Cycle Monitoring: Addressing concerns about grantees delaying expenditure until the end of a contract, Krista Ferrell proposed that staff implement mandatory check-ins at three, six, and nine months. The goal is to monitor performance and financial progress, with the option to reallocate funds from underperforming grantees to others who can effectively utilize them within the community.

Data-Driven Funding Decisions: Chairperson Barri Faucett and Director Tina Desmond discussed using historical data, such as past deobligation history, to inform future funding decisions. Chairperson Barri Faucett suggested re-introducing annual meetings with grantees to provide technical assistance and consultation, fostering greater accountability for their performance and fiscal responsibility.

Fiscal Year 2025 Funding: Krista Ferrell reported that the federal funding allocation for fiscal year 2025 is $624,027. While the allocation for 2026 is currently unknown, staff will monitor for the official notification.

Prevention Resource Officer (PRO) Conference Debrief: Gig Robinson shared his experiences attending the Prevention Resource Officer conference, noting the value of using real-world scenarios and testimonials in training. The discussion included the serious issue of suicide, particularly the impact of contagion in school environments, and the importance of recognizing risk factors.

Future Conference Planning: Plans for the 30th anniversary of the Prevention Resource Officer program were discussed, with the potential for an expanded conference next year. Director Tina Desmond mentioned they are evaluating locations and are exploring potential speaking contributions.

Suicide Prevention Training Needs: Chairperson Barri Faucett and Gig Robinson highlighted the importance of incorporating suicide prevention training into the curriculum for Prevention Resource Officers. Given that suicide is a leading cause of death for youth in West Virginia, they agreed that officers should be equipped to recognize and respond to suicide risks effectively.

Adjournment:
There being no additional business to discuss, Denny Dodson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Wanda Cox; motion carried.

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