

THIS MEETING DID NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION

JJPOC Gender Responsiveness Subgroup

April 7th, 2025

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Web Based Meeting- Zoom

Attendance

Beth Hamilton
Chyann Higgs
Erin Williamson
Maribel Martinez
Martha Stone
Michael Pierce
Sharmese Walcott
Sukhmani Singh

TYJI Staff

Brittany LaMarr
Erika Nowakowski

Meeting Objectives:

The April 7th, 2025, Gender Responsiveness Subgroup meeting included an update regarding legislation, a discussion of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) feedback of the Additional Metrics Document and the 2024 first draft recommendations, and a review of the subgroup's workplan.

Meeting Summary:

- Legislative Update
 - Between December 2024 and January 2025, the JJPOC membership passed numerous recommendations for legislative consideration which originated from the Incarceration, Diversion, Gender Responsiveness, Community Expertise, and Education workgroups. These recommendations are included in H.B. 7250, which recently had a public hearing in the Judiciary Committee, where it currently resides. Amendments are anticipated as the bill moves through the legislative process.
 - The Gender Responsiveness recommendation that is included in this bill is that DCF will report to the JJPOC by July 1st, 2025, and annually thereafter regarding their implementation of the new STTAR plan that was released in 2024. Currently available metrics should be reported on as well as the consideration of additional metrics in September 2025 and in subsequent annual reports.

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- Discuss DCF Feedback to Additional Metrics Document and 2024 First Draft Recommendations
 - The JJPOC membership voted on and passed a recommendation in which DCF will report to the JJPOC by March 1st, 2025, regarding the number of calls received of possible suspected child sexual abuse, how many of these calls are substantiated, and how many are referred to the regional multidisciplinary teams (MDT).
 - It was recommended that the JJPOC is provided definition clarification due to perceived confusion between sexual abuse and human trafficking.
 - Further analysis of abuse substantiation will be completed by DCF in the coming weeks as well as the separation of sexual abuse substantiation in schools between public and private institutions.
 - An overview of the metrics that were originally going to be requested of DCF as part of the recommendations was provided to the subgroup and this metrics list was provided to DCF. These metrics describe funding, youth time in care, and services provided.
 - Some of the metrics are not available and are not able to be developed due to DCF's capacity and the tedious nature of the individual case reviews that would be needed.
 - DCF representatives are continuing to review the common themes among the youth in their care, focusing on crossover youth. These measures are expected to be presented to the JJPOC on an annual basis.
- Workplan Review
 - The workplan items were reviewed, which are as follows:
 - revisit initial 6 recommendations and continue the work that didn't get passed in 2025;
 - These recommendations were presented in brief.
 - receive the STTAR program update that gets shared with JJPOC in July to review;
 - in collaboration with DCF develop additional metrics for reporting on, beginning in September, as stated and passed in the recommendations 2025, including a case file review, previously asked of the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) in the recommendations; and
 - review Landscape Report.

Next Meeting: June 2nd, 2025

