



Lake County Juvenile Justice Council Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2026 at 10 am

Meeting was recorded

Participants:

LCJJC Members:

Chair Courtney Curry, Lake County Regional Office of Education
Vice Chair, Angel Lopez, Angel's Boxing Academy
Karen Levi, Lake County State's Attorney's Office
Dr. Muriel Adams, One World Shared Future Community
Sean Collins, Lake County Regional Office of Education
Hon. Judge Christian Bishop, 19th Judicial Circuit Court
Renetrice Pierre
Veronica Williams, Mothers Against Wrongful Convictions
Paola Martinez, NICASA Behavioral Health
Michele Esser, Lake County Health Department
Molly Ryan, CYN Counseling
Greg Ticsay, Lake County Public Defender

Other Participants:

Dr. Moises Prospero, iChamps Consulting
Linsay Hale, Lake County Juvenile Justice Coordinator

Meeting:

Called to order at 10:00 am

1. Approve the meeting minutes of the August 28, 2026 Juvenile Justice Council meeting.

LCJJC members present voted to approve the meeting minutes of the August 28, 2026 JJC meeting.

2. Racial/Ethnic Disparities Committee Report – Dr. Moises Prospero

Dr. Prospero serves as the Chair of the Racial/Ethnic Disparities Committee of the JJC. He presented his research and findings to date related to racial and ethnic disparities in the Lake County juvenile justice system, including next steps for data collection and law enforcement training.

3. Highlighting Lake County's Juvenile Resources – One World Shared Future Community Labs, Founder & Executive Director Dr. Muriel Adams

Website: [One World Shared Future](#)

Dr. Adams discussed her background and highlighted the services provided by One World Shared Future, and the urban river stewardship program, A River Runs Through It. This program provides youth and their communities with the environmental knowledge they need to plan, prepare, adapt and protect their health, homes and community environment from the impacts of climate change. The program works to develop young leaders and

teach problem-solving and critical thinking, while exploring opportunities for new job training and entrepreneurship.

4. Lake County Youth Advisory Board: Update & Next Steps – Lindsay Hale

At the direction of the JJC, the JJC bylaws were drafted to establish a Youth Advisory Board (YAB) for the LCJJC. The bylaws incorporated the discussion from the last JJC meeting, and were presented to JJC members via email in survey form for review and response. Eight survey responses were received and presented to the JJC for consideration.

The following concepts were unanimously approved by the responding JJC members:

- **Establishment of the YAB as an advisory body** to the JJC, with YAB members not becoming members of the JJC solely by virtue of their YAB service.
- **Purpose of the YAB**, including providing a meaningful and structured opportunity for youth to inform, advise, and contribute to the work of the JJC.
- **Advisory and advocacy functions**, allowing the YAB to engage in youth-led advocacy, education, outreach, and leadership activities consistent with the mission and responsibilities of the JJC.
- **Member participation requirements**, including regular participation, constructive contributions, and compliance with applicable confidentiality, conduct, and meeting requirements.
- **YAB leadership structure**, including election of a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson and provisions addressing officer terms and vacancies.
- **Stipends and other participation supports**, allowing the Board to authorize support for YAB members when permitted by law, grant requirements, and available funding.
- **JJC Coordinator responsibilities**, including recruitment, orientation, meeting coordination, YAB oversight, youth engagement, leadership development, communication, documentation, and reporting.
- **Youth input on future YAB-related bylaw amendments**, when practicable.

The following topics required further discussion:

1. Evaluation and Accountability (Result: 7 approved; 1 comment)

One respondent recommended identifying a specific timeframe for reporting YAB activities and accomplishments to the JJC, noting that the term "periodically" may be too vague.

Outcome: *Revise the provision to establish a specific reporting frequency. The JJC Coordinator will provide a quarterly update to the JJC regarding YAB participation, activities, recommendations, and accomplishments.*

2. YAB Membership (Result: 7 approved; 1 comment)

The proposed language establishes a YAB of at least eight and no more than 15 members, representing a range of experiences, backgrounds, interests, and perspectives. One respondent suggested that youth with direct experience involving the juvenile justice system be prioritized during the application and selection process.

Outcome: *Maintain the current language encouraging representation of youth with direct or indirect juvenile justice experience, while considering whether the recruitment strategy should specifically identify such experience as a desired characteristic during the selection process. Juvenile justice involvement will not be an eligibility requirement, since doing so could unnecessarily limit the diversity of perspectives available to the YAB.*

3. Age Range (Result: 6 approved; 2 comments)

The proposed language limits initial YAB membership to high-school-aged youth, approximately ages 14–18, while preserving the option to establish a separate component or branch for young adults in the future. Two respondents raised questions regarding the proposed age range: One suggested limiting membership to youth who are actually high-school-aged, noting that some 14-year-olds remain in middle school; another suggested expanding the age range to at least age 21 and considering youth as young as 11, noting that youth in that age range may be involved with juvenile detention.

Outcome: *Retain the proposed initial focus on high-school-aged youth, generally ages 14–18, consistent with the direction provided by the JJC at its August meeting but update bylaws language to emphasize youth should be 14 or entering high school. The comments regarding younger and older youth are important and can be considered as part of the Council's future discussion of whether to establish additional YAB components or modify the age structure after the initial YAB has been established.*

4. Application and Selection Process (Result: 6 approved; 1 comment)

The proposed language currently provides that individuals wishing to serve on the YAB contact the Coordinator, who presents membership to the Board Chairperson for approval. One respondent suggested that the process include questions and/or a short statement from applicants explaining why they want to participate. A question was asked about providing writing assistance to applicants.

Outcome: *The bylaws have been revised to authorize a formal recruitment and application process rather than simply requiring youth to contact the Coordinator. The specific application questions and selection criteria should be established through the YAB recruitment strategy, allowing the process to be modified without requiring a bylaw amendment.*

5. Membership Terms (Result: 6 approved; 1 comment)

The proposed language establishes two-year terms, with the opportunity for reappointment. One respondent suggested considering a minimum one-year term.

Outcome: *Maintain the proposed two-year term but allow the Council to revisit the issue after the inaugural YAB has been established. A two-year term provides continuity and allows members sufficient time to develop knowledge of the juvenile justice system and complete projects, while reappointment provides flexibility for youth whose circumstances change.*

6. YAB Participation in JJC Activities (Result: 7 approved; 1 "Need Further Discussion")

The proposed language permits the YAB to provide regular updates and recommendations to the JJC and allows YAB members to participate in Council or Board meetings, workgroups, trainings, seminars, or other activities when appropriate. One respondent requested additional discussion.

Outcome: *Retain the provision and clarify that participation is determined based on the purpose of the activity and does not confer voting authority on the YAB.*

7. Monthly Meetings (Result: 7 approved; 1 comment)

The proposed bylaws provide that the YAB will meet monthly. One respondent questioned whether monthly meetings are appropriate or feasible for youth and suggested that the meeting schedule could instead be determined by the YAB.

Outcome: *Modify the language to establish regular meetings while allowing the YAB, with Coordinator support, to determine the most appropriate meeting schedule. This would preserve accountability while giving youth meaningful input into how the YAB operates.*

8. YAB Voting (Result: 7 approved; 1 comment)

The proposed language provides that the YAB is an advisory body, does not require a quorum, and makes recommendations by a majority of members present. One respondent raised a concern that an eight-member YAB could result in a 4–4 vote and suggested consideration of a two-thirds voting requirement.

Outcome: *Because the YAB is advisory rather than a decision-making body, the voting structure will remain relatively simple, emphasizing that a YAB vote represents a recommendation to the JJC rather than an action binding upon the Council. In the event of a tied vote, no majority recommendation would be made; however, the YAB could forward the issue to the JJC along with the differing perspectives expressed by its members.*

Recruitment Strategy: Staff presented a proposed recruitment strategy for the YAB. The strategy recommends recruiting an inaugural group of approximately 8–15 youth, generally ages 14–18, with an emphasis on broad geographic, school, community, and experiential representation throughout Lake County. Recruitment will utilize schools, juvenile justice agencies, youth-serving organizations, community-based organizations, and other partners. The strategy also calls for a youth-friendly application process, outreach through trusted adults and community partners, and an effort to include youth with direct or indirect juvenile justice experience while not making such experience a requirement for membership.

The proposed recruitment timeline calls for outreach and applications in fall 2026, selection of the inaugural YAB by November 2026, orientation before the end of the year, and regular meetings beginning in January 2027.

LCJJC members present voted to recommend approval of the draft bylaws establishing the Youth Advisory Board and recruitment strategy to the JJC Board.

5. JJC Grant/Budget Update – Tabled
6. Next Meeting – October – Date and Time TBD

A Google Form will be sent to all Council members to set the date and time of the October JJC meeting.

7. Meeting adjourned at 11:18 am.