



Lake County Juvenile Justice Council Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2026 at 9 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
Kate Steinberg, Interfaith Chaplain
Lisa LeBeouf, Lake County State's Attorney's Office
Hon. Judge Christian Bishop, 19th Judicial Circuit Court
Cristina Thornton, Lake County Health Department & Community Health Center
Dennis McMahon, Hulse Detention Center
Greg Weider, Lake County Bar Association

Other Participants:

Gail Weil, CYN Counseling
Anna Oganisyan, CYN Counseling
Linsay Hale, Lake County Juvenile Justice Coordinator

Meeting:

Called to order at 9:05 am

1. Approve the meeting minutes of the July 21, 2026 Juvenile Justice Council meeting.

LCJJC members present voted to approve the meeting minutes of the July 21, 2026 JJC meeting.

2. Racial/Ethnic Disparities Committee Report - Tabled
3. HB 4639 (Expansion of Restorative Justice Options) Update – Linsay Hale
 - a. **Restorative Justice Resource Page:** At their July meeting, JJC members requested the development of a new online resource specifically designed to assist judges in identifying available restorative justice options to consider when sentencing juveniles in accordance with the new law. The LCJJC website currently includes an updated resources page that lists service providers by topic across Lake County, Illinois and the nation: [Community Resources | Lake County JJC](#).

The new resource will complement this page by providing a searchable index focused specifically on restorative justice services available through Lake County organizations and providers. Linsay hopes to have the page constructed and published in the coming weeks.

- b. Restorative Justice Seminar:** Linsay is developing a proposal to host a Restorative Justice Seminar in coordination with the SAO's Deflection and Diversion programs. The seminar will bring together restorative justice providers, judges, and law enforcement to highlight the range of restorative justice resources available throughout Lake County and the broader region. The proposed seminar will feature providers serving both juveniles and young adults, with particular attention to the service gap that can occur when the justice-involved youth age out of juvenile programs and transition into adulthood. More information to follow.

4. Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission Meeting Recap – Linsay Hale

Linsay met with newly appointed IJJC Director Twyla Moore, and the JJC Coordinators representing Kane, Peoria and St. Clair Counties. An update was provided on the work of the LCJJC, specifically the efforts to formalize the structure of the JJC, the JJC Board and its subcommittees, and the work to form a Youth Advisory Board. Linsay will continue to monitor the work of the other JJs and the IJJC to ensure the LCJJC remains aligned with emerging best practices and proactively incorporates any changes in expectations or guidance.

5. LCJJC Youth Advisory Board – Linsay Hale

Linsay presented information regarding the proposed establishment of a Youth Advisory Board (YAB) for the LCJJC. She reviewed several existing YAB models from Illinois and across the country to identify promising practices related to membership, structure, mission, purpose, youth engagement, and sustainability. Preliminary recommendations for consideration were presented for consideration.

Following discussion, JJC members present reached general agreement on the following:

- **Advisory Role:** The YAB should serve in an advisory capacity to the JJC rather than as members of the JJC. Members discussed the distinctions between an advisory and advocacy role and the potential benefits of providing youth with opportunities to participate in both capacities.
- **Coordination and Oversight:** The JJC Coordinator position should assume responsibility for the oversight and coordination of the YAB. Members discussed the additional staff time that would be required and the need to submit a grant modification to the grantor to support the additional costs. Linsay will develop a draft proposal for presentation to the grantor.
- **Age Range:** The initial YAB should focus on high-school-aged youth, generally ages 14-18. Members also discussed the importance of incorporating the perspectives of older youth and young adults, particularly considering the gaps in services available to individuals ages 18-21. It was generally agreed that the initial phase should focus on youth ages 14-18, with the potential to develop a separate component or branch of the YAB to incorporate the voices of young adults in the future.
- **Membership and Stipends:** Members discussed the appropriate number of YAB members and the potential use of stipends to support and recognize youth participation. Further consideration and decisions relating to these issues will be tabled for future discussion.

Ultimately the JJC determined that the initial priority should be to establish the foundational structure of the YAB, including the development of bylaws. Given the time restraint associated with the FY27 grant, members requested that draft materials be circulated electronically for review/discussion prior to the September JJC meeting.

Linsay will develop draft YAB bylaws/operating guidelines for electronic circulation in the coming weeks.

6. Highlighting Lake County's Juvenile Resources – Community Youth Network Counseling Center, Graylake – CEO Gail Weil

Website: [CYN Counseling Center](#)

Gail highlighted the services provided by CYN, to include comprehensive community-based youth services, school-based therapeutic services (including peace circles, alternatives to suspension, and intervention focused on sexting and other sexual behavioral problems), and crisis intervention. CYN works closely with schools around Lake County and the SAO Juvenile Division to implement restorative justice options tailored to meet the needs of Lake County's youth.

7. Next Meeting – September TBD

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

8. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.