Care and Closure: Final Strategic Planning Report on the Future of Secure Juvenile Detention

January 2024

King County

I. Contents

II. Proviso Text

Ordinance 19546, Section 106, Employment and Education Resources, Proviso P1[1]

Of this appropriation, $300,000 shall not be expended or encumbered until the executive transmits two progress reports on the strategic planning process for the future of secure juvenile detention at the children and family justice center ("CCFJC"), each accompanied by a motion to acknowledge receipt of the report and the motions acknowledging receipt of the reports are passed by the council. Each motion should reference the subject matter, the proviso's ordinance number, ordinance section and proviso number in both the title and body of the motion. Upon passage of each motion, $150,000 is released for expenditure or encumbrance.

A. The first report shall include, but not be limited to:

1. A discussion of progress on the project since the June 30, 2022, Children and Family Justice Center - Strategic Planning Project report;
2. An overview of community engagement activities from July 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, including a summary of key findings;
3. A draft recommendations framework developed by the project advisory committee;
4. A discussion of state law requirements for juvenile detention in King County, and how those requirements interact with CCFJC strategic planning;
5. A discussion of applicable labor laws that interact with CCFJC strategic planning; and
6. Identification of King County Council involvement and any legislative actions that are anticipated to be part of project implementation.

B. The second report shall include, but not be limited to:

1. The project advisory committee's final recommendations for the future of secure juvenile detention at CCFJC;
2. A summary of how the project advisory committee's recommendations were developed; and
3. An overview of community engagement conducted throughout the project including key findings.

The executive should electronically file the first report and motion required by this proviso no later than June 30, 2023, and the second report and motion required by this proviso no later than October 31, 2023, with the clerk of the council, who shall retain an electronic copy and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the lead staff for the law, justice, health and human services committee or its successor.[2]

[1] Ordinance 19546. [LINK]

[2] The Executive transmitted this report in January 2024 instead of October 2023 to reflect a more developed set of recommendations from the Advisory Committee and incorporate additional feedback from community engagement with impacted community members. Council voted to acknowledge receipt of the first of the two required reports on October 17, 2023. Motion 16445 [LINK].

III. Executive Summary

The King County Executive oversees the secure detention facility located within the Patricia H. Clark Children and Family Justice Center (CCFJC) at the request of King County Superior Court, which has statutory authority for juvenile detention under state law.[3] Under the County Executive, the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention's (DAJD) Juvenile Division is responsible for the care and custody of all youth in detention.[4] Multiple distinct uses occur within the CCFJC, including youth detention; Superior Court's Juvenile Court; courtrooms; youth probation; a respite center for youth involved in domestic violence and family violence issues; a resource center serving youth and families; offices for several youth legal system partners; and an interagency high school with Seattle Public Schools.

In July 2020, the Executive committed to converting youth detention units at the CCFJC to other uses no later than 2025: "phasing out centralized youth detention is no longer a goal in the far distance. We have made extraordinary progress and we have evolved to believe that even more can be done."[5]

This report is the fourth report submitted to the King County Council on the strategic planning effort to close the youth detention center at the CCFJC by 2025 and repurpose it for other community-identified uses, and the second report called for by Ordinance 19546. The Executive submitted the first report on September 30, 2021, the second report on June 30, 2022, and the third report on August 4, 2023. The three prior reports covered the historical timeline, engagement strategy and outreach with interested parties, and a progress update.[6]

In November 2023, an Executive-convened Advisory Committee has successfully put forth recommendations for the Executive that identify community-based alternatives needed to support youth healing, accountability, and community safety, and to close the youth detention center. This report responds to three requirements related to: 1) the Care and Closure project advisory committee's final recommendations for the future of secure juvenile detention at CCFJC; 2) a summary of how the project advisory committee's recommendations were developed; and 3) an overview of community engagement conducted throughout the project including key findings.[7]

Advisory Committee Recommendations
Beginning in March 2022, the Executive convened the Advisory Committee, a group of community partners, systems partners, and impacted community members, to guide the project and co-create recommendations informed by community input. The Advisory Committee demonstrated a remarkable commitment to envisioning alternatives that would support all youth under 18 years old and uphold community safety, with all members diligently engaging, debating differences, identifying areas of alignment, and working constructively throughout the process.

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[3] King County Code 2.16.175. Juvenile Court Services-Detention Facilities-Administration by the County Executive [LINK]. See also RCW 13.20.060. Transfer of administration of juvenile court services to county executive—Authorized—Advisory board—Procedure. [LINK]
[4] King County Code (KCC) 2.16.175. Title 2 Administration – Administrative Offices and Executive Departments. [LINK]
[5] King County Executive Office. Executive State of the County (2020). [LINK]
[6] This report does not substantially repeat the contents of the previous reports.
[7] Ordinance 19546. [LINK]

Informed by input from nearly 1,800 impacted community members and research on promising practices that other jurisdictions have implemented, the 14 Advisory Committee members and additional subcommittees developed six recommendations for the Executive's consideration. The recommendations lay out elements and characteristics of a system at a high level, including where applicable examples of where similar elements already exist in other jurisdictions. Each recommendation will require subsequent detailed planning and budgeting prior to implementation.

The Advisory Committee achieved high-level consensus about the importance of the Care and Closure effort and the framework of the recommendations. Of the six recommendations, the Advisory Committee strongly supported recommendations 3, 5, and 6; generally supported recommendation 4; and did not achieve consensus on recommendations 1 and 2, identifying the need for more deliberation or detail.

The recommendations are that King County:

- **Recommendation #1**: Create, operate, and maintain a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week respite and receiving center where law enforcement will take all youth under 18 years old upon arrest unless they can be released upon entering the center.
- **Recommendation #2**: Provide very short-term respite housing at the respite and receiving center for youth who cannot go home due to safety reasons.
- **Recommendation #3**: Provide enhanced immediate supports when youth return home to their families or are placed in kinship care with extended family members.
- **Recommendation #4**: Create, contract, and provide oversight to a network of diverse community care homes where youth would stay while their court case proceeds if they are unable to go home because of safety concerns.
- **Recommendation #5**: Strengthen community infrastructure and capacity to ensure all youth have access to and can benefit from culturally responsive and linguistically relevant, developmentally appropriate, and youth- and family-centered supports that address their identified needs, regardless of whether they are at home, with a relative, or at a community care home.
- **Recommendation #6**: Ensure the next steps for these recommendations are informed by and centered on input, expertise, and ideas of the community members most directly impacted by the youth legal system.

The report details each recommendation. Descriptions of each recommendation include a high-level summary, examples of other jurisdictions with similar models, questions to guide future work, and areas of support and lack of support with a need for more deliberation within the Advisory Committee members. For example, some Advisory Committee members stated that further deliberation and more detailed planning is needed on how the community-based system can maintain safety of the youth and safety for the community before they could consider supporting or strongly supporting the recommendation.

Timeline: To accomplish this significant transformation, the Advisory Committee identified the necessity for the Executive to expand the timeline to close the youth detention center to allow for the finalization, resourcing, and implementation of these recommendations. Creating a new system and set of practices that can achieve the goal of the Care and Closure initiative is a serious, transformative undertaking. A new network of facilities, practices, and operations must come first before the existing facility can fully close.

Just as this initiative has reinforced the importance of Care and Closure's goal, it has also revealed the complexity of bringing forth a new system that works better. Creating the new system will require participation, deliberation, agreement, and support from the King County Council and King County Superior Court. State-level legal or regulatory changes may also be necessary. The next phase of planning and implementation described in this report is anticipated to take until at least 2028 for the first components of the new system to be funded, implemented, and begin operating. Care and Closure-related actions cannot be fully in place to allow the end of youth detention at the CCFJC in 2025. That creating a better system for community and youth will go beyond 2025 is not an excuse to stop this effort. King County must embrace both the urgency of doing better and the importance of doing this work well.

Recommendation Development Process

The Advisory Committee arrived at these recommendations following a seven-step development process:

- Development of the initial recommendations framework, including the guiding principles
- Launch of subcommittees and recruitment of subcommittee members
- Development of the guiding questions for the subcommittees
- Development of emerging recommendations
- Iteration of emerging recommendations with the Advisory Committee and subcommittees
- Continued feedback loops with impacted community members
- Endorsement of recommendations with Advisory Committee

Overview of Community Engagement and Key Findings

This report updates the key findings from the County's engagement with impacted community members, including youth in detention, on electronic home monitoring, and in the community; parents and family members; harmed community members; and community organizations serving youth with experience in the youth legal system.

DCHS has engaged nearly 1,800 impacted community members as part of this process.

- Since November 2022, DCHS has held 28 listening sessions with youth in detention and engaged nearly 80 youth.
- DCHS partnered with and funded 11 community partners to engage more than 1,200 impacted youth, families, and harmed community members in more than 55 events.
- DCHS and DAJD have engaged detention staff in several ways. DAJD held 16 different listening sessions with staff, with four facilitated in partnership with DCHS; provided 20 project updates via email; and presented at New Employee Orientation.

The overwhelming feedback the County heard asks for less reliance on secure youth detention, more focus on enhanced supports for youth and harmed community partners, and community-centered responses when youth experience crises and cause harm in their communities. Engagement over the year highlighted the excitement and support for the recommendations; a continued focus on accountability within the system; enhanced supports for families; need for positive incentives and step-down models to adjust and tailor supports and responses to individual youth and their needs; and desire for greater engagement and leadership opportunities to inform changes to the youth legal system.

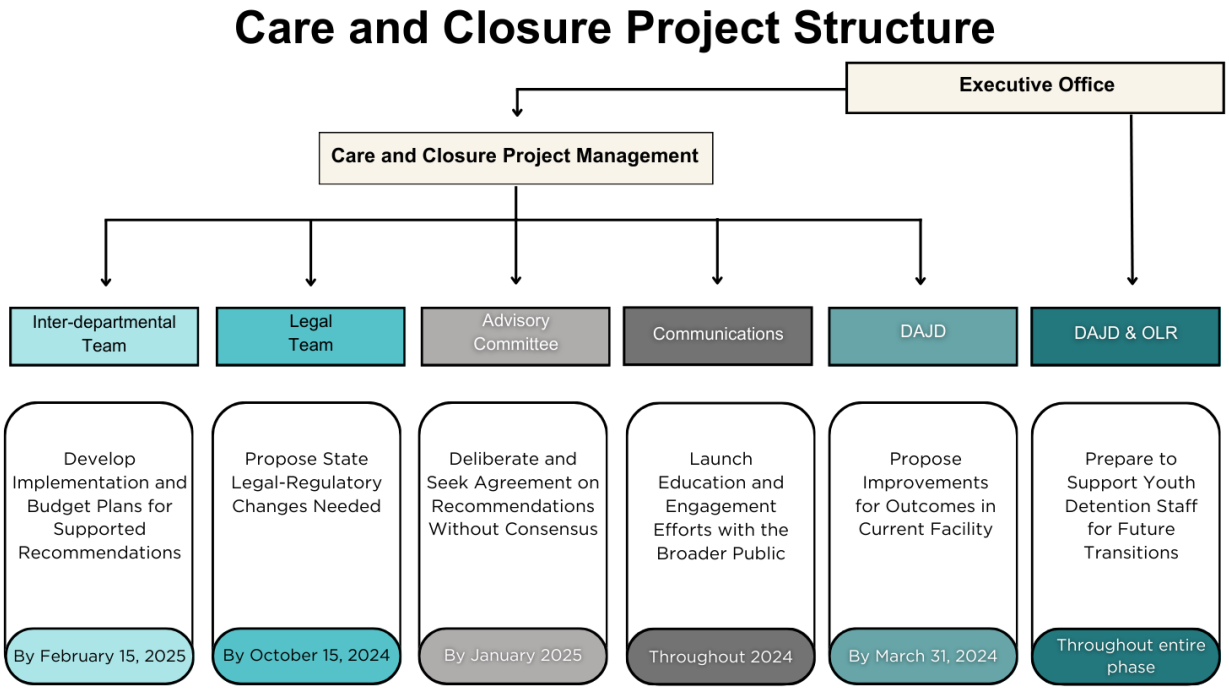
Next Phase: Planning and Implementation
In early 2024, the Executive will undertake six actions to advance the goals of Care and Closure, to continue the County's long-term progress in continually reducing the use of detention for youth, and to present feasible plans that, when funded and adopted, will begin operating the system envisioned by the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

This report details six time-bound actions that will advance the work of Care and Closure put King County in a position to consider real, feasible, detailed policy and budget decisions that would create a new system of care and accountability. The six actions items are:

- **Prepare to Implement Supported Recommendations:** Detailed implementation planning and budget proposals for recommendations 3, 4, and 5 for consideration in the 2026/2027 Biennial Budget
- **Draft Legal Changes:** Drafting and proposing necessary legal and regulatory changes in time for the 2025 State Legislative Session
- **Gain Consensus on Recommendations Without Full Support:** Reconvening the Advisory Committee to continue deliberating and seek agreement on Recommendations 1 and 2 so they are ready to advance to detailed implementation and budget planning in 2025
- **Continuously Improve Current Conditions:** Propose improvements for outcomes and conditions in the CCFJC that can begin in 2024
- **Communicate:** Educate and engage the broader public
- **Support Staff:** Prepare to support employees of the CCFJC for future transitions

County Organizational Structure
The Executive will utilize the organizational structure depicted in Figure 1 below to accomplish next actions outlined in the strategy planning and implementation phase described above. The project governance of the Care and Closure initiative will shift from DCHS to the Executive Office beginning in February 2024.

Figure 1: Care and Closure Project Structure



Conclusion

This report is not an endpoint. This report not only documents the Advisory Committee's vision of community-based alternatives that need to be in place to close the youth detention center, it also identifies specific necessary next actions toward achieving system transformation. Further progress will require shared action, purpose, cooperation, and perseverance among the three branches of King County government.

The Executive remains committed to ending the use of jail for children and youth. Care and Closure's extensive community engagement process and discussions within the Advisory Committee confirm consensus and important common ground. King County residents want:

- to be and feel safe.
- youth to be accountable and learn from their actions.
- legal interventions that improve a youth's long-term prospects by connecting them to mentorship, healthcare, education, and community supports.
- concrete and urgent action to eliminate the racial and ethnic disproportionality that has worsened even as fewer youth are being detained now than before.

No participant in the Care and Closure process asserted that the County's current system of youth detention should remain exactly how it is. The research and community engagement feedback are clear: youth who spend time in detention are more likely to be arrested and punished for future delinquent behavior; detention and incarceration negatively impact educational attainment, future employment, and physical and mental health; and other jurisdictions with diverse geographic and political conditions have implemented parts of the system that the Advisory Committee recommendations envision.

The question of Care and Closure is not *whether* to do better for community safety and youth healing and accountability, it is *how* to do better. The Advisory Committee through its diligent work offered an initial vision of a system that could do better.

While emphasizing the urgency and importance of ending the use of jail for children and youth, the process has also clarified the complexity of replacing it with something better. The focus on *closing* the existing facility sparked urgency and awareness to begin the Care and Closure initiative. Delivering on the initiative's promise now requires diligent work to *open* a system of youth healing and accountability and community safety that allows every King County resident to thrive.

IV. Background

Department Overview

As noted in greater detail in the August 2023 report submitted to the King County Council, King County's youth legal system and efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate the use of secure youth detention involves several different County departments.[8, 9] At the Executive's request, the Department of Community and Human Services served as the lead agency for the community-centered strategic planning project of Care and Closure.

While the Executive administers secure youth detention in King County on behalf of the Superior Court, the operations, roles, and responsibilities across the youth legal system are shared across the executive departments and departments overseen by separately elected officials, as outlined in Figure 2 below.[10] See Appendix A for more information on the departments outlined below.

Figure 2: King County Departments and Roles in Care and Closure Initiative

Department name	Role in Care and Closure Initiative
King County Superior Court	The Superior Court, including Juvenile Court and Juvenile Court Services were each represented on the Care and Closure Advisory Committee and the Engaging Impacted Communities subcommittee.
Department of Public Defense (DPD)	DPD was represented on the Care and Closure Advisory Committee and on the Identifying Alternatives to Secure Youth Detention subcommittee.
Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO)	The PAO Juvenile Division was represented on the Care and Closure Advisory Committee.
Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD)	Provided staff support for the Care and Closure Advisory Committee and represented on all subcommittees.
Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS)	Led the community-centered strategic planning process of the Care and Closure initiative featured in this proviso response. Convened the Care and Closure Advisory Committee and staffed the subcommittees.

Previous Reports

As called for by Proviso in Ordinance 19546, this report is the fourth report submitted to the King County Council by the Executive on the strategic planning effort to close the youth detention center at the CCFJC and repurpose it for other community-identified uses.[11] The Executive transmitted the first required report to the Council on September 30, 2021; the second required report on June 30, 2022; and the third required report on August 4, 2023.

[8] August 2023 Report [LINK]

[9] There are many terms associated with the youth legal system including the juvenile justice system, juvenile criminal legal system, and youth criminal legal system. This report uses "youth legal system" to encompass these many terms and use the non-stigmatizing term of "youth" rather than "juvenile", "offender", or "criminal".

[10] See the Appendix A and August 2023 Report for greater detail of these agencies. August 2023 Report [LINK].

[11] In the July 2020 State of the County address, King County Executive Constantine made the commitment to expand community-based alternatives to secure youth detention and fully convert the youth detention capacity to other uses no later than 2025. King County Executive Office. Executive Constantine's State of the County [LINK].

The September 2021 report included an overview of key historical context for the strategic planning effort to close the County's youth detention center and repurpose the space for other community-identified uses.[12] It highlighted that despite successful efforts to reduce the overall number of young people in detention in King County, the racial disparities of young people of color in detention has continued to worsen.[13] The report identified previous engagement with interested parties for the process, outlined next actions, and included an estimated timeline for the process.[14] See Appendix B for the Executive Summary of the September 2021 report.

The June 2022 report provided project updates and outlined next steps for the process.[15] It detailed the proposed approach for the community-centered engagement process to center the perspectives and experiences of impacted youth, family members, and harmed community members in King County. It outlined the project's Advisory Committee, a group of community partners, systems partners, and impacted community members, as a key component of the community-centered process. [16] The Advisory Committee continues to guide the project and ultimately co-developed the recommendations included in this report.[17]

The June 2022 report also highlighted a shift in the project's governance from the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD) to the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), in acknowledgement of the importance of expanding community-based alternatives to secure youth detention as the County prepares to close the youth detention center. Lastly, it updated the timeline of the project's implementation.[18] See Appendix C for the Executive Summary of the June 2022 report.

The August 2023 report highlighted the continued progress the County had made to close the youth detention center and expand community-based alternatives to secure youth detention since the June 2022 report.[19] It noted the branded name of the initiative: *Care and Closure: a plan for youth healing, accountability, and community safety* to help communicate the focus of centering youth and their well-being, ensuring accountability for harm caused, and bolstering community safety by resourcing communities and creating more effective responses to harm. It outlined project updates since June 2022 and summarized the support from impacted communities, including youth in detention, their families, harmed community members, and community organizations, to expand community-based alternatives to secure youth detention. It also addressed requirements from Council on a draft framework of recommendations, state laws that require secure youth detention, labor laws supporting detention staff

[12] September 2021 Report. [LINK]
[13] September 2021 Report. [LINK]
[14] September 2021 Report. [LINK]
[15] June 2022 Report, required by Ordinance 19210, Section 50, Proviso P3, as amended by Ordinance 19307, Section 31, Proviso P3. [LINK]
[16] The Executive Office established the Advisory Committee in March 2021 to guide and shape the project. The September 2021 report and June 2022 report outlined the Advisory Committee in further detail. September 2021 Report [LINK] and June 2022 Report [LINK].
[17] The Advisory Committee is comprised of community representatives, impacted young people and families, and systems partners. Out of the current 14 members on the Advisory Committee, seven members represent community perspectives, including three representatives under 25 years old and one parent. See Appendix E for information on the Advisory Committee members. The County provides stipends to the Advisory Committee's community members for their time and expertise, including participation in meetings and other opportunities such as serving on funding panels. See Appendix E for the composition of the Advisory Committee.
[18] June 2022 Report. [LINK]
[19] August 2023 Report [LINK]

through the transition, and opportunities for Council's involvement. It provided updated data and demonstrated how Executive departments have moved forward on the milestones and centered impacted communities in the planning process.

The August 2023 report detailed the continued work of the Advisory Committee and the role of the subcommittees to expand engagement with community organizations, impacted young people and family members, and systems partners, and for deeper discussion on specific topics. These subcommittees were connected to the Advisory Committee, and many Advisory Committee members participated in subcommittees. There were three subcommittees of the Advisory Committee: 1) Identifying alternatives to secure youth detention; 2) Strengthening community infrastructure; and 3) Engaging impacted communities. More information about the subcommittees' role in developing recommendations is included in Section B, and Appendix F includes information about the composition of the subcommittees. See Appendix C for the Executive Summary of the August 2023 report.

This report is the second report required by Ordinance 19546 and provides recommendations of the community-based alternatives to secure youth detention.[20] It draws on the County's previous commitments towards supporting the success of all youth into becoming happy, healthy, safe, and thriving adults, such as the 2015 Youth Action Plan, the 2018 Road Map to Zero Youth Detention, and the 2020 declaration of Racism as a Public Health Crisis. It specifically notes the shared commitment made in the 2015 adopted Youth Action Plan to eliminate the use of youth detention in King County.[21] This report highlights six recommendations from the Advisory Committee and developed in the subcommittees. Each recommendation includes a high-level description, support and lack of support with a need for more deliberation within the Advisory Committee members, questions to guide future work, and examples of other jurisdictions with similar models.

This report outlines the process of developing the recommendations with the Advisory Committee and the subcommittees. It notes the engagement with impacted community members throughout the process, including additional findings from engagement since the August 2023 report. The last section of the report maps out the project's next phase of planning and implementation.

Youth Detention Facility

The Juvenile Division of the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention operates King County's Alternatives to Secure Detention (ASD) program, providing community supervision to youth assigned to electronic home monitoring (EHM) by King County Superior Court.

Youth detention in Washington State is connected to but separate from the state's Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR).[22] Juvenile courts use detention to detain a young person pre-adjudication while court proceedings take place or for short sentences, no more than 30 days, after a youth has been adjudicated.[23] Youth detention is designed to be a short-term stay to detain youth while their court case moves through the system. In contrast, the state uses JR to detain a young person post-adjudication. This means that a juvenile court judge has found them guilty of an offense and has sentenced them to a

[20] Ordinance 19546. [LINK]
[21] Motion 14378. [LINK]
[22] Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) Juvenile Rehabilitation [LINK]
[23] Local sanctions for youth adjudicated in the juvenile court can include a) 0-30 days of confinement; b) 0-12 months of community supervision; or c) 150 hours of community restitution. RCW 13.40.020. Definitions [LINK]. RCW 13.40.0357. Juvenile Offender Sentencing Standards [LINK]

period of time according to state sentencing guidelines. Placements in JR facilities are longer stays, and these facilities serve youth until their 25th birthday.[24] Counties operate youth detention centers while the state operates the JR facilities.[25]

Context

The Executive's commitment to creating better, more effective, and more rehabilitative responses than secure youth detention is supported by research, builds on the County's established commitments to children, youth, and young adults, addresses systemic racism as a public health crisis, and draws from existing models in jurisdictions across the country to transform carceral systems.

Underlying this initiative is an explicit focus on racial equity and advancing pro-equity policies. Youth of color, specifically Black youth, are overrepresented in the youth detention center and across all the elements of the youth legal system.[26] [27] Thus, the elimination of secure youth detention and expansion of community-based alternatives focused on healing, accountability, and community safety will benefit all youth, address the disproportionality within the system, and expand the community-based alternatives and supports available in local communities.

Updated Research: Research shows that youth detention and incarceration fail to produce the desired outcomes of rehabilitation and accountability for young people and disproportionately impacts youth of color.[28] This growing body of research supports and aligns with the Executive's goal of diverting youth away from systems that don't work and creating new systems that will work. The August 2023 report provides a comprehensive overview of the research, and the research highlights are listed below.[29]

- Youth who spend time in detention are more likely to be arrested and punished for future delinquent behavior.[30]
- Youth of color, specifically Black youth, are overrepresented in the youth detention center and across all the elements of the youth legal system.[31] [32]
- Detention and incarceration hinder young people's future educational and employment success and negatively impacts their immediate and long-term physical and mental health. [33]
- Adolescent brain science shows that youth and young adults experiment, take risks, and focus on relationships with their peers as their prefrontal cortex develop until their mid-20s. As youth age and their prefrontal cortex develops, most youth, including those adjudicated for serious and violent offenses, grow out of their delinquent behavior.[34]
- Detention has both immediate and long-term collateral consequences for young people involved in the youth legal system. Immediate collateral consequences include financial

[24] DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation Frequently Asked Questions [LINK]
[25] King County Juvenile Legal System Family Handbook [LINK]
[26] Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention. Population information – Adult and Juvenile Detention [LINK]
[27] Road map to Zero Youth Detention (2019) [LINK]
[28] The Sentencing Project (2022). Why Youth Incarceration Fails: An Updated Review of the Evidence [LINK]
[29] August 2023 Report [LINK]
[30] The Sentencing Project (2022). Why Youth Incarceration Fails: An Updated Review of the Evidence [LINK]
[31] Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention. Population information – Adult and Juvenile Detention [LINK]
[32] Road map to Zero Youth Detention (2019) [LINK]
[33] The Sentencing Project (2022). Why Youth Incarceration Fails: An Updated Review of the Evidence [LINK]
[34] National Conference of State Legislatures. April 2023. Snapshot: Adolescent Brain Development and Youth Justice. [LINK]

penalties such as fines and fees, restrictions in public benefit programs, driver's license suspension, housing restrictions with public housing programs such as Section 8 housing assistance, disruptions and barriers to education, and trauma and continued stigma.[35]

- Adult and youth legal systems fail to support those who have been harmed, including those who have been harmed by young people.[36]
- Crime survivors are twice as likely to prefer investing in crime prevention, crisis assistance, and strong communities over increasing arrests, strict punishment, and incarceration.[37]
- Multi-faceted community-based interventions are more effective than placement in detention and juvenile rehabilitation, even for youth with the highest-risk levels. [38]
- Cognitive-behavioral skill-building, mentoring, family counseling and support, positive youth development opportunities, tutoring and academic support, employment and workforce development opportunities, wraparound care, and restorative justice are more effective in reducing young people's likelihood of reoffending than detention or incarceration. [39]
- Community-based interventions are most effective when they are layered or braided together so they can be tailored to meet the needs of each youth.[40]

Historical Conditions: Years of community and systems partner efforts in King County have bolstered support for and action to transform responses to young people in crisis involved in the legal system. The August 2023 report provided greater detail of this history beginning with the Black-led No New Youth Jail movement that catalyzed broader community attention on the importance of community-based alternatives to secure youth detention, highlighted the harms of detention on youth, and cultivated political will to transform the youth legal system.[41]

Collaborative and individual efforts from the departments involved in the youth legal system over the last two decades have led to significant declines in the use of secure youth detention, as further detailed in the Updated Data section below.[42] Additional administrative and operational changes made by these departments during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the adjustments made to the juvenile detention intake criteria, have helped further reduce the number of youth in detention while slowing the spread of the virus in the detention center.[43] Each County agency included in the Department Overview Section above has contributed to the reform efforts that have made the Executive's commitment to transform the response to youth in crisis in King County possible and achievable.

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[35] National Governors Association (2023). State Strategies to Address the Needs of Justice-Involved Youth Impacted by Collateral Consequences [LINK]

[36] Alliance for Safety and Justice (2022). Crime Survivors Speak: National Survey of Victims' Views on Safety and Justice. [LINK]

[37] Alliance for Safety and Justice (2022). Crime Survivors Speak: National Survey of Victims' Views on Safety and Justice. [LINK]

[38] Sentencing Project (2023). Effective Alternatives to Youth Incarceration. [LINK]

[39] Sentencing Project (2023). Effective Alternatives to Youth Incarceration. [LINK]

[40] Sentencing Project (2023). Effective Alternatives to Youth Incarceration. [LINK]

[41] No New Youth Jail [LINK]. August 2023 Report [LINK].

[42] The County's previous participation in national reform efforts such as MacArthur Foundation's Models for Change, Reclaiming Futures, and the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative has helped apply broader frameworks to system changes. Local efforts such as the Juvenile Justice Operational Master Plan, Uniting for Youth, Best Starts for Kids, Zero Youth Detention, and Juvenile Therapeutic Response and Accountability Court created specific investments and have further driven system changes to reduce the number of youth involved in the criminal legal system and in detention.

[43] Juvenile Court. Juvenile Detention Intake Criteria [LINK]

King County's Commitments to Supporting Youth and Addressing Racism in the Legal System

King County has made previous commitments to supporting youth and addressing racial inequities in government systems, including the criminal legal system. As described in the August 2023 report, the County also has developed a range of programs to achieve those commitments, such as Best Starts for Kids and Restorative Community Pathways.[44] The Care and Closure initiative and the recommendations outlined in this report of community-based alternatives to secure youth detention build on that strong foundation and apply the values that those commitments espouse.

Youth Action Plan: The County has long-standing commitments to ensure youth in King County are on the path to be happy, healthy, safe, and thriving adults. In the Youth Action Plan (YAP) adopted by Motion 14378 in 2015, the County committed to creating the conditions "where everyone has equitable opportunities to progress through childhood safe and healthy, building academic and life skills to be thriving members of their community."[45] One of the nine recommendation areas where the YAP focused was to Stop the School to Prison Pipeline, including calling for the "reduction in use of, and move towards eliminating, detention" for youth.[46]

This recommendation area and the broader YAP acknowledged the important roles that the government and all King County communities play in supporting healthy youth development. It also acknowledged the important role of providing support, dignity, and care to help redirect youth when needed. In many ways, this effort to expand community-based alternatives to secure youth detention and close the youth detention center is the County holding itself accountable to do better for young people involved the legal system and create more positive pathways for those youth to become happy, healthy, safe, and thriving adults.

The YAP and efforts that it helped create, including the Best Starts for Kids program, play an important role in bringing focus and deliberate action to the way King County supports its young people focused through promotion, prevention, and early intervention for youth development.[47] This Care and Closure effort focuses on the deep intervention work for youth already in the youth legal system.

Declaration of Racism as a Public Health Crisis: The County has also made recent commitments to addressing systemic and structural racism. In its declaration of Racism as a Public Health Crisis adopted by Motion 15655 in 2020, the County committed to addressing racism in its policies and practices. The Council's motion included specific commitments to:

- Recognize that eliminating racist policies and practices and the conditions that result in disparate access to resources and opportunities based on race requires engaging and being responsive to communities and residents impacted by racism, especially Black and Indigenous communities, as partners in identifying and implementing antiracist solutions, policies and practices;
- Commit to using its authority to enact anti-racist policies and practices that will meet human needs, promote healthy and strong communities, reduce structural inequities and advance

[44] See the Background Section on Countywide Coordination and Investments in Youth Legal System Transformation and Appendix D from the August 2023 Report for more information. August 2023 Report [LINK].
[45] King County Council Motion 14378. [LINK]
[46] King County Youth Action Plan. 2015 [LINK]
[47] Best Starts for Kids. Children and Youth Advisory Board [LINK]

equity and justice by eliminating policies and practices designed to oppress marginalized people; and

- Commit to implement and advocate for policies and procedures to ensure residents impacted by racism, especially Black and Indigenous communities, are not subject to violence at the hands of law enforcement, including ensuring appropriate levels of oversight and accountability for law enforcement and eliminating policies and practices that result in over policing, increased engagement with the justice system and violence directed towards communities of color and marginalized communities."[48]

National Landscape: As noted in the August 2023 proviso report, King County is one of several jurisdictions in the country committed to eliminating secure youth detention and expanding community-based alternatives that better support youth healing, accountability, and community safety.[49] The recommendations outlined in this report draw on examples of proven models used to reduce reliance on secure youth detention and expand community-based alternatives to support youth and their healing, accountability, and community safety. See Appendix G for more information on those examples.

Data

Despite King County's significant progress to reduce the number of youth in detention, disproportionality between youth of color and white youth in secure youth detention continues to persist. The August 2023 report highlighted the state of King County's secure youth detention in 2022, and the June 2022 report highlighted the state of King County's secure youth detention in 2021.[50] Data for the first three quarters of 2023 is included below.

Overall, the number of young people in detention has decreased over the past decade. Between 2010 and 2020, the average daily population of youth in secure detention dropped by 70 percent, from 89 to 27 youth. From 2021 through the end of the third quarter of 2023, the average daily population of youth in secure detention increased, from 22 youth to 41 youth, due likely to an increase in complexity of cases and needs of the young people in detention and COVID-19 related backlogs.[51] While this population increased by 60 percent over since 2021, this was still an overall reduction of 74 percent since 2010 when the average number of youth in detention was 89.[52]

Disproportionality between youth of color and white youth has continued to worsen in secure youth detention while the overall number of young people has decreased. In 2010, the average daily population of youth in secure detention was comprised of 73 percent youth of color and 27 percent white youth. By 2020, the representation of white youth in detention decreased to 23 percent, while the representation of youth of color increased to 77 percent. In the first three quarters of 2023, the percentage of white youth decreased again to 13 percent while the percentage of youth of color in

[48] Motion 15655 [LINK]

[49] Other jurisdictions have closed or are working to close their youth detention centers and youth prisons in favor of community-based alternatives. See the August 2023 Report for additional details on the list of jurisdictions across the country working on similar efforts. August 2023 Report [LINK]

[50] August 2023 Report [LINK]. June 2022 Report [LINK]

[51] The relative increase in King County's secure youth detention numbers between 2021 and 2022 mirror increases that took place in jurisdictions across the country. In August 2022, the Annie E. Casey Foundation reported that the number of youth held in detention nationally in June 2022 rose nearly to its pre-pandemic level. Annie E. Casey Foundation. The Number of Youth in Secure Detention Returns to Pre-Pandemic Levels [LINK]

[52] August 2023 Report [LINK]. June 2022 Report [LINK]

secure detention increased to 87 percent. Black and Latino/Hispanic youth continue to be disproportionately represented in secure youth detention compared to their proportion in the youth population in King County.[53] [54]

Most young people in King County's youth detention center are held for serious offenses. In the first three quarters of 2023, 60 percent of youth were held on felony crimes against persons, including assault or sexual violence. Approximately 20 percent were held on auto decline in adult court, 4 percent of youth were held on misdemeanor crimes against persons, and 9 percent of youth were held on felony crimes against property.[55]

Youth under 18 years old are most often charged in the juvenile court but can be charged as adults. The average daily population of young people in detention in the first three quarters of 2023 included an average of five youth charged as adults compared to six youth charged as adults in 2022.[56] As described first in the September 2021 report, the path through the adult legal system for youth charged as adults is complex, and the time for resolution of these cases is significantly longer than youth who are charged in juvenile court.[57]

DAJD's ASD program allows many youth involved in the court system to stay in their communities through house arrest or EHM.[58] In the first three quarters of 2023, the average daily population of youth on EHM was 38 youth, up 45 percent from 24 youth in 2022. Similar to the racial proportions of youth in detention, Black youth and Latinx youth are overrepresented in the population of youth on EHM.[59]

Report Methodology

DCHS led the development of this report on behalf of the Executive Office. The report was created with support from the Executive Office and DAJD and informed by the Advisory Committee. The information contained in this report draws upon data, reports, and presentations created by King County staff members from DCHS, DAJD, and PSB, as cited. The report summarizes continued engagement activities conducted by community partners funded by DCHS to inform this project, as detailed in Section C. Finally, the Advisory Committee and the subcommittees developed the recommendations provided in this document during its regular meetings.

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[53] Black youth made up 58 percent of youth in detention; Latino/Hispanic youth made up 18 percent; white youth made up 13 percent; Asian/Pacific Islander youth made up 7 percent; and Native American youth made up 2 percent. DAJD Population information – Adult and Juvenile Detention. 2022 Detention and Alternatives Report [LINK] and 2021 Detention and Alternatives Report [LINK]

[54] In comparison, the total youth population aged 12 to 17 years old in 2021 in King County had a proportion of 65 percent white youth; 11 percent Black youth; 22 percent Asian youth; and 2 percent Native youth. OJJDP Easy Access to Juvenile Populations, Population Profiles [LINK]

[55] DAJD Population information – Adult and Juvenile Detention. 2022 Detention and Alternatives Report [LINK] and 2021 Detention and Alternatives Report [LINK]

[56] DAJD Population information – Adult and Juvenile Detention. 2022 Detention and Alternatives Report [LINK] and 2021 Detention and Alternatives Report [LINK]

[57] September 2021 Report [LINK]

[58] Although youth can attend school and participate in community activities, the EHM program is considered a form of secure detention, although the data of secure youth detention and EHM are recorded separately.

[59] Among youth on EHM in the first three-quarters in 2023, Black youth made up 58 percent; Latinx youth made up 19 percent; white youth made up 18 percent; Asian/Pacific Islander youth made up 6 percent; and Native American youth made up less than one percent. DAJD Population information – Adult and Juvenile Detention. 2023 Detention and Alternatives Report [LINK]

As discussed above, the Advisory Committee is a group of community partners, systems partners, and impacted community members that guide the project and will co-create the recommendations. Led by DCHS, the County has convened the Advisory Committee from March 2022 through November 2023. The County received consultant support from the W. Haywood Burns Institute (Burns Institute).[60] The Advisory Committee is open to the public.[61] Its meetings often have several public guests, and staff from several King County agencies attend the meetings along with the official Advisory Committee members.

[60] The Burns Institute is a Black-led, national nonprofit with a diverse team working to transform the administration of justice. King County contracted with the Burns Institute to support the Advisory Committee and strategic planning process from March 2022 to August 2023. Burns Institute [LINK]. See Appendix K for recommendations from the Burns Institute.

[61] Information on the Advisory Committee meetings can be found on the Care and Closure project website. [LINK]

V. Report Requirements

Consistent with requirements of Ordinance 19546, this report describes: 1) the Care and Closure project advisory committee's final recommendations for the future of secure juvenile detention at CCFJC; 2) a summary of how the project advisory committee's recommendations were developed; and 3) an overview of community engagement conducted throughout the project including key findings. The report also describes what must come next to complete planning and begin implementation of the system that the advisory committee's recommendations envision.

King County's Care and Closure initiative is creating the alternate systems in community that work bringing healing, accountability, and safety. Having this new system in place must come before the County closes the youth detention center. The ultimate goal of the Care and Closure initiative is to transform a decades old system into a care-based alternative system that achieves healing, accountability, and community safety.[62] This means identifying better responses that, once operational, will make current approaches to youth incarceration obsolete.

Evidence shows that closing secure youth detention and expanding community-based approaches will lead to more just and accountable alternatives that support young people and community members who experience harm.[63] Detention punishes youth whose cases are not yet adjudicated by removing them from their families and communities and exacerbating underlying issues such as mental health, which can impede meaningful accountability for harmful behavior. Instead of keeping communities safe, detention often leads to situations where youth cycle in and out of the youth legal system because their underlying circumstances are left unaddressed. Youth detention falls short of aligning with and reinforcing the shared values that impacted youth, families, and harmed community members desire and that the Executive has committed to pursuing: making King County a welcoming community where every person can thrive.[64]

This work recognizes that knowing what doesn't work is as important as knowing what does. Study after study (as outlined on page 11 and in the August report) shows that behavioral health supports, family-focused therapy, restorative justice interventions, wraparound programs, mentoring, and credible messengers are key for young people's success and resiliency. These supports are most effective when they are tailored and layered to meet the individual and unique needs of the youth.[65] The County has heard from impacted youth, families, and harmed community members throughout this project that they want and need more resources, supports, and opportunities to help heal from traumas they have experienced.[66] Youth of color, who remain overrepresented in the detention center, especially want to see tailored supports and spaces that support their healing and accountability.[67] Acceptance of today's racial-ethnic disproportionality in youth detention promotes future racial-ethnic disproportionality in the negative outcomes that correlate strongly with youth detention.

Community-based alternatives to secure youth detention will promote community safety and well-being, especially in communities most affected by violence, by transforming and expanding the options

[62] This goal was outlined in the August 2023 Report. August 2023 Report [LINK].
[63] The Sentencing Project (2022). Why Youth Incarceration Fails: An Updated Review of the Evidence [LINK]
[64] King County. Executive True North and Values. [LINK]
[65] The Sentencing Project (2023). Effective Alternatives to Youth Incarceration [LINK]
[66] August 2023 Report [LINK].
[67] King County Care and Closure. Summary of Care and Closure Listening Sessions with Youth in Detention [LINK]

for young people in crisis beyond the current model of secure youth detention.[68] They will also advance anti-racist and pro-equity policies and operations needed to confront the embedded systemic racism of the legal system and mitigate the long-lasting harms of youth incarceration that disproportionately impact youth of color.[69,70] Ultimately, this work will help unwind generations of systemic racism by transforming the youth and adult legal systems and enhancing public safety, so every person is safe in their home and community.

The task is clear: closing the CCFJC requires urgent and fierce commitment to end youth detention and a commitment to resource, implement, and continuously improve better alternatives.[71] But just as this initiative has clarified the importance of Care and Closure's goals, it has also revealed the complexity of bringing forth a new system that works better. This work is nuanced, complex, and demands the best for our young people and communities.

This report is not an endpoint. This report not only documents the Advisory Committee's vision of community-based alternatives that need to be in place to close the youth detention center, it also identifies specific necessary next actions toward achieving system transformation. Further progress will require shared action, purpose, cooperation, and perseverance among the three branches of King County government.

[68] The Sentencing Project (2023). Effective Alternatives to Youth Incarceration [LINK]
[69] The Sentencing Project (2023). Effective Alternatives to Youth Incarceration [LINK]
[70] The Sentencing Project (2022). Why Youth Incarceration Fails: An Updated Review of the Evidence [LINK]
[71] See the background section of the report for more information on the County's commitments in the Youth Action Plan and the Declaration of Racism as a Public Health Crisis.

A. The project advisory committee's final recommendations for the future of secure juvenile detention at CCFJC;

Informed by research, robust engagement with impacted community members, and emerging recommendations from subcommittees, the Advisory Committee developed recommendations for the King County Executive's consideration. [72] The recommendations are high-level descriptions of parts of a new system or values that should inform future work. The recommendations are not sufficiently detailed to enable immediate implementation.

This section includes the Advisory Committee's recommendations for the community-based alternatives to secure youth detention needed to support youth healing, accountability, and community safety. It is important to note that the Advisory Committee achieved consensus on some recommendations and did not achieve consensus on others. For each recommendation, the Advisory Committee's strong support, general support, or lack of consensus and need for further deliberation is noted. The section also includes the Advisory Committee's guidance on these core components, highlights questions from the Advisory Committee to address in future work, and references similar, existing models of these components in other jurisdictions. The section then notes how the recommendations address the needs of youth in detention and outlines the differences between the recommendations and the current system of secure youth detention.

Advisory Committee Recommendations

The Advisory Committee recommendations identify the essential components of a new system needed to support youth and their healing, accountability, and community safety and close the youth detention center. The recommendations are listed below and further described in Figure 3.

1. Create, operate, and maintain a 24/7 respite and receiving center where law enforcement will take all youth under 18 years old upon arrest unless they can be released upon entering the center.
2. Provide very short-term respite housing at the respite and receiving center for youth who cannot go home due to safety reasons.
3. Provide enhanced immediate supports when youth return home to their families or are placed in kinship care with extended family members.
4. Create, contract, and provide oversight to a network of diverse community care homes where youth would stay while their court case proceeds if they are unable to go home because of safety concerns.
5. Strengthen community infrastructure and capacity to ensure all youth have access to and can benefit from culturally relevant, developmentally appropriate, and youth- and family-centered supports that address their identified needs, regardless of whether they are at home, with a relative, or at a community care home.
6. Ensure the next steps for these recommendations are informed by and centered on input, expertise, and ideas of the community members most directly impacted by the youth legal system.

The Advisory Committee's recommendations reflect significant complexity and tension. The tensions lie in the timing, scale, and necessity of creating an alternative system to get to the ultimate goal.[73] The

[72] More information formation about the process of developing and endorsing these recommendations is included in Section B of this report.

[73] To transform a decades old system into a new care-based system that achieves healing, accountability, and community safety.

complexities of this work involve identifying funding and engaging in transparent communication and ongoing collaboration between interested parties. Notably, while King County can lead work to meet this goal, some of the conditions that must change for Care and Closure's success can only happen at the state level.

Mindful of these complexities and tensions, the Executive tasked the Advisory Committee to design a community-based system that will support youth healing, accountability, and community safety needed to replace the current youth detention center. In advising the County on pursuing a change of this magnitude, members of the Advisory Committee reinforced the need to plan, resource, and implement the recommendations in a realistic, thoughtful, and tangible way. At the same time, the Advisory Committee recognized that true transformation requires seeing beyond current constraints.

All participants in the process were mindful of the harm that results when government institutions over-commit to a level and speed of change for which there is not sufficient funding or support. All remain mindful of the harm that continues when government institutions transform too slowly because of difficulty. Therefore, to accomplish this significant transformation, the Advisory Committee identified the necessity for the Executive to expand the timeline to close the youth detention center to allow for the finalization, resourcing, and implementation of these recommendations.

As shown in Figure 4, the Advisory Committee through its subcommittees developed and considered six recommendations, showing a commitment to create alternatives that support all youth under 18 years old and uphold community safety. As noted, the Advisory Committee expressed varying levels of support for individual recommendations. This difference in perspective reflects the importance of further deliberation in some areas, especially areas relating to a respite and receiving center with short-term housing, and how a community-based system would maintain safety of the youth and safety for the community.

The recommendations are summarized in Figures 3 and 4 below and graphically depicted in Figure 5.

Figure 3: Summary Table of Advisory Committee Recommendations

Recommendation	Description of Recommendation
1. Create, operate, and maintain a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week respite and receiving center where law enforcement will take all youth under 18 years old upon arrest unless they can be released upon entering the center.	The respite and receiving center (the center) should be safe, therapeutic, and designed with input from impacted youth and their families. The center should be geographically centralized. Youth will be screened and assessed at the center to determine their needs and safety concerns. Youth who can be diverted to existing diversion programs, such as Restorative Community Pathways or the Family Intervention and Restorative Services Center, should be diverted. The center should contain the following supports: • Behavioral health and medical health supports, including de-escalation and crisis support

Recommendation	Description of Recommendation
	• Basic needs supports • Standardized screenings and assessments to determine youth needs and safety concerns • Community organizations and staff with lived experience
2. Provide very short-term respite housing at the respite and receiving center for youth who cannot go home due to safety reasons.	Youth who cannot go home due to safety concerns should stay in homelike short-term respite housing at the center for up to 72 hours or until their first appearance hearing. During their stay in the short-term respite housing, youth should access the following supports: • Standardized screenings and assessments to determine their needs and safety concerns • Development of safety plans for the youth and placement plans with system and community providers • Behavioral health supports, including mental health therapists, and programming focused on healing • Visitation with their families and trusted community members such as previously established mentors.
3. Provide enhanced immediate supports when youth return home to their families or are placed in kinship care with extended family members.	The enhanced immediate supports should be provided in-home and in community. The immediate supports should include the following supports: • Next day and regular check-ins with community organization staff • Continued screenings and assessments to determine needs and safety concerns • Development of safety plans for the youth and their family • Basic needs supports for the youth and family • Connection to care and referrals with community-based service providers While the secure youth detention center still exists, these enhanced immediate supports should also be leveraged to help youth in detention develop safety plans and release plans to facilitate their transition out of detention.
4. Create, contract, and provide oversight to a network of community care homes where youth would stay while their court case proceeds if they are unable to go home because of safety concerns.	Community care homes should exist in a network with shared standards of care, resources, and training for staff. Community care homes should be operated by community organizations and staffed 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Community care homes should be located geographically across the County in both urban and rural areas.

Recommendation	Description of Recommendation
	Community care homes should be designed to meet the wide range of youth's needs. Youth in community care homes would access the following supports, either in-home or in community: • Behavioral health support including SUD treatment and mental health support • Education • Mentors and credible messengers • Nutrition • Recreation and programming • Transportation • Workforce development • Visitation with family members These supports should be culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate for youth and their families.
5. Strengthen community infrastructure and capacity to ensure all youth have access to and can benefit from culturally relevant, developmentally appropriate, and youth- and family-centered supports that address their identified needs, regardless of whether they are at home, with a relative, or at a community care home.	The County should standardize screening tools, assessments, safety plans, youth development plans, and information sharing. The County should develop shared resources across community and systems providers. The County should create an integrated referral system and case management system across the network of community service providers. The County should structure funding opportunities to encourage collaboration across community service providers. The County should incentivize community providers to prioritize youth in the respite center or community care homes for assessments, referrals, and placements. The County should provide flexible funds for community organizations and systems partners to address basic needs of youth and families. The County should enhance capacity building opportunities for community providers to support and sustain their workforce. The County should develop shared measures of accountability with community service providers to determine how youth safety and success will be measured and evaluated with these recommendations.

Recommendation	Description of Recommendation
6. Ensure the next steps for these recommendations are informed by and centered on input, expertise, and ideas of the community members most directly impacted by the youth legal system.	The Executive should continue to convene the Advisory Committee to provide input in the strategy planning and implementation phase. The Executive should continue to provide updates and opportunities for engagement with impacted youth, family members, harmed parties, and detention staff throughout the strategy planning and implementation phase.

Summary of Feedback from the Advisory Committee Members

Each Advisory Committee member had the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed recommendations.[74] Half of the six recommendations received strong support; one recommendations received general support; and two recommendations had lack of consensus. Figure 4 below summarizes the overall level of support or need for further deliberation on each recommendation.

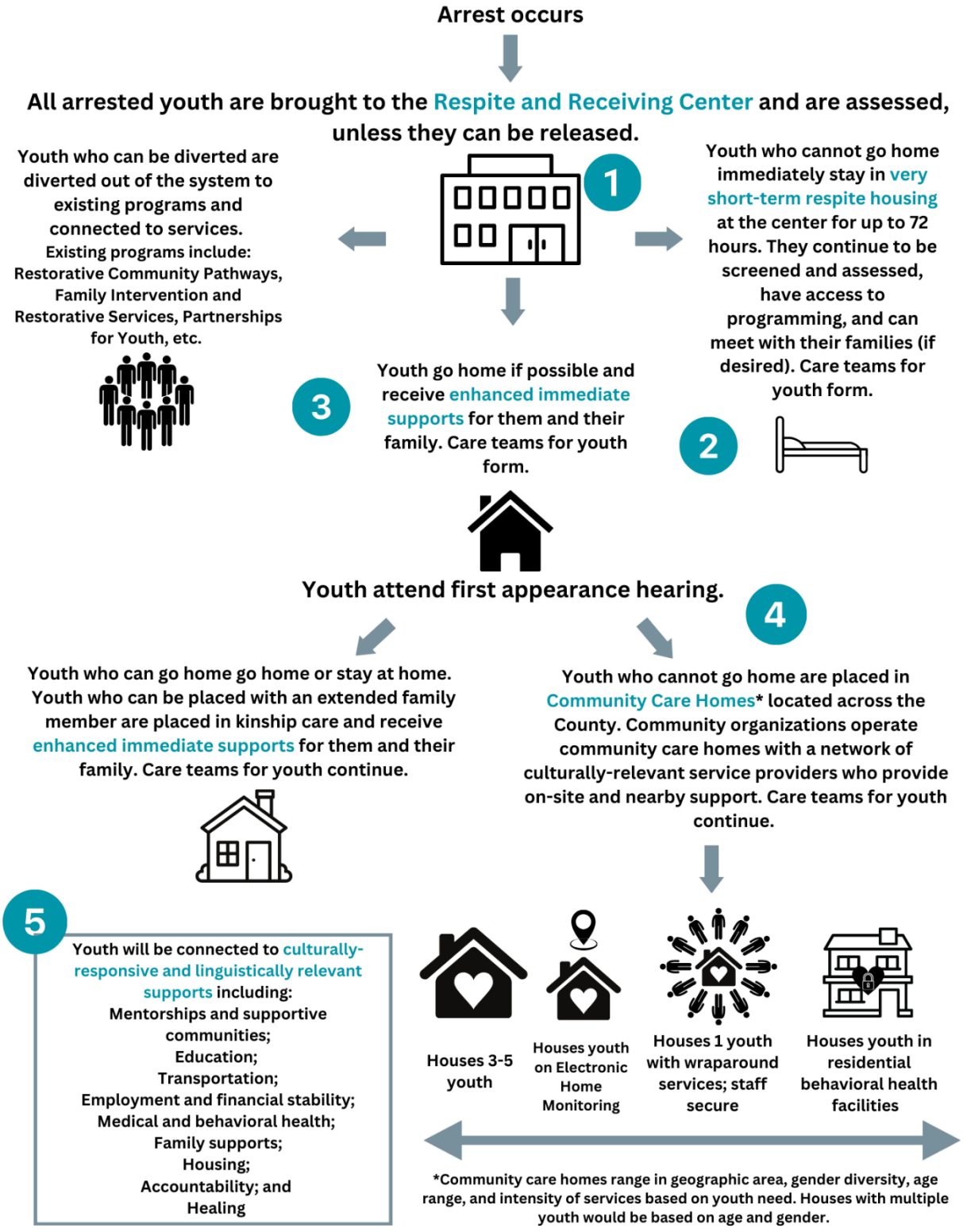
Figure 4: Summary of Feedback from the Advisory Committee Members

Recommendation	Lack of consensus or non-support; need for more deliberation	General support; requires refinement	Strong support
1. Create, operate, and maintain a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week respite and receiving center where law enforcement will take all youth under 18 years old upon arrest unless they can be released upon entering the center.	X		
2. Provide very short-term respite housing at the respite and receiving center for youth who cannot go home due to safety reasons.	X		
3. Provide enhanced immediate supports when youth return home to their families or are placed in kinship care with extended family members.			X
4. Create, contract, and provide oversight to a network of community care homes where youth would stay while their court case proceeds if they are unable to go home because of safety concerns.		X	
5. Strengthen community infrastructure and capacity to ensure all youth have access to and can benefit from			X

[74] As described in Section B, Advisory Committee members shared feedback at the November 30, 2023, meeting or provided written statements in advance or after the meeting if they did not attend the meeting. See Appendix H for the written feedback provided by the Advisory Committee members.

Recommendation	Lack of consensus or non-support; need for more deliberation	General support; requires refinement	Strong support
culturally relevant, developmentally appropriate, and youth- and family-centered supports that address their identified needs, regardless of whether they are at home, with a relative, or at a community care home.			
6. Ensure the next steps for these recommendations are informed by and centered on input, expertise, and ideas of the community members most directly impacted by the youth legal system.			X

Figure 5: Process for Youth Under the Advisory Committee's Recommendations



Advisory Committee's Recommendation Guidance

Recommendation #1: Create, operate, and maintain a 24/7 respite and receiving center where law enforcement will take all youth under 18 years old upon arrest unless they can be released upon entering the center.[75] This center would allow youth to get immediate crisis support, be removed from their immediate situation, and get their basic needs met after a likely traumatic situation. Youth would also get screened for their needs and safety to inform the most appropriate placement for them.[76]

Proven Models: Assessment and Receiving Centers Already Exist in Other Jurisdictions

Jurisdictions across the country successfully operate centers like the proposed respite and receiving center. Detroit, San Francisco, and Lincoln, Nebraska operate similar centers.[77] Often referred to as juvenile assessment centers or receiving centers, these centers are used to assess youth, connect them to community services to meet their needs and their family's needs, and divert them from secure youth detention or further involvement in the youth legal system.[78] Research finds that assessment centers are effective in reducing recidivism, increasing prevention, and creating cost savings for local jurisdictions.[79] These models differ on several factors: the types of youth that are eligible based on their alleged offense; their operating structures and whether they are run by community organizations or juvenile justice agencies; their hours and days of operations; and how youth are referred to the center.

Advisory Committee's Discussions on Safety and Security in the Respite and Receiving Center

The Advisory Committee and subcommittees discussed at length how the center can support safety of youth, staff, and community and how secure or non-secure features can maintain safety. The Advisory Committee's guiding principles outlined in the August 2023 proviso framework highlight prioritizing meeting the needs for all youth, harmed parties, and community members, which includes safety.[80]

The Advisory Committee stated that the next phase of Care and Closure work must include a process to establish how to most effectively promote safety at a 24/7 respite and receiving center and whether and how traditional or innovative approaches to securing youth and spaces would be a part of the facility. Committee members shared concerns about youth decision-making in the immediate aftermath of a serious and potentially violent incident and concerns about their and the broader community's immediate safety. They shared concerns about youth being at risk of retaliation by community members who were harmed. They also shared concerns about youth leaving the center and potentially causing additional harm, especially because of relatively easy access to weapons that many youth have. Members highlighted that youth need to have a safe space where they can deescalate and get support from trained professionals. However, members also acknowledged that traditional secure youth

[75] Note that law enforcement officers can release youth to their guardians after arrest. According to RCW 13.40.042, if law enforcement officers have reasonable cause to believe that a youth involved in a non-felony crime has a mental health issue or a substance use disorder, they can bring the youth to an alternative evaluation and treatment facility. RCW 13.40.042. Detention of juvenile suffering from mental disorder or substance use disorder. [LINK]

[76] As discussed in the August 2023 report, these needs include ensuring the youth has a safe and stable environment including but not limited to stable housing, caring and responsible adults and supervision, and behavioral health and physical health supports.

[77] See Appendix G for details.

[78] National Assessment Center Association. About. What is An Assessment Center? [LINK]

[79] National Assessment Center Association. "Why Detention is Not the Answer: An Alternative through Assessment Centers." [LINK].

[80] August 2023 Report [LINK].

detention isolates and harms youth, resulting in poor mental health outcomes and disconnections from families without effectively or equitably promoting community safety.

The Committee discussed that security can be achieved in many ways without relying on traditional methods of incarceration. They noted that security exists on a spectrum, and the safety of the center can be achieved through a combination of physical features, staff and intensive supervision, positive incentives, and programming that match the needs of youth, and trusting relationships between youth and staff. If physical security features are ultimately used to maintain safety in the center, the Advisory Committee wants to inform which features are used and how those features are implemented. The Identifying Alternatives to Secure Youth Detention Subcommittee highlighted three features of security its discussion, as follows:

- **Secure custody** includes residential facilities with construction features designed to physically restrict the movements and activities of persons in custody (e.g., cells, locked rooms and buildings, fences, locking windows, secured perimeter, or other physical structures).
- **Semi-secure custody** includes residential facilities operated in a manner to reasonably assure that youth placed there will not run away. Youth may be able to come and go from the facility during reasonable hours. Youth may be required to be accompanied by a staff member to leave the facility and may be required to share notice about where they plan to go and when they will be back.
- **Staff secure custody** includes physical restriction of movement or activity that is provided solely through facility staff. Often requires very high staff to youth ratio (e.g., 1:2 staff to youth).

Federal Guidance for Responding to Youth in Crisis

The federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) recently released National Guidelines for Child and Youth Behavioral Health Crisis Care encourages a three-part framework to inform approaches for youth who are in crisis: [81]

- Someone to talk to;
- Someone to respond; and
- A safe place to be.

The guidelines outline safety and security for staff and people in crisis and discourages the use of seclusion and physical restraint methods. Research highlights that these practices can be traumatizing for youth and are associated with higher rates of injuries to staff and youth. SAMSHA is "committed to reducing and ultimately eliminating the use of seclusion and restraint, with the goal of creating care environments that are free of coercion and violence."[82]

Advisory Committee's Questions to Inform Future Planning for the Respite and Receiving Center

- Who determines the youth placements after the respite center? What training do they have?
- Who notifies the harmed party if a youth is released or where they are headed?
- Where would the respite and receiving center be located?
- Who staffs the respite center? Are they mandated reporters?

[81] Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). 2022. National Guidelines for Child and Youth Behavioral Health Crisis Care. [LINK]

[82] Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). 2022. National Guidelines for Child and Youth Behavioral Health Crisis Care. Page 33. [LINK]

- How can we keep youths who are in violent conflict with each other safe in the respite and receiving center?
- How can we keep youth and staff safe if the location of the respite and receiving center is known?
- How will youth who have repeatedly been arrested be evaluated, assessed, and placed in this new model?

Advisory Committee's Guidance for the Respite and Receiving Center

- The center should be geographically centralized and open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- It should be staffed by behavioral health and medical health professionals, community members with lived experience in the legal system, staff trained in de-escalation and crisis management, peer parent supports, and community service providers.
- The center should be designed in partnership with impacted youth and families to be safe, caring, and therapeutic.
- The center should include on-site medical and behavioral health support and provide substance use disorder (SUD) treatment such as detoxification and medical SUD treatment; behavioral health crisis support including de-escalation; and medical support including vital health screenings and a pharmacy to address any medication needs.
- The center should address any basic needs that the youth has when they arrive, including food needs, hygiene needs like a shower or clean clothes, and sleep needs.
- The center should be safe and youth centered. Youth want to hear adults ask them what they need in the moment and how best they can respond to those needs.
- Trained community service providers and system staff should use standardized assessment tools and priority assessments to determine the youth's needs and potential risks to community and personal safety. Such standardized screenings should be used to determine if youth have developmental disabilities or serious mental health issues.
- Standardized screenings and subsequent assessments should determine the intensity of needs that a youth might have and should inform the Court's decision of where the youth would go next, either home or to a community care home. The screenings should inform if a youth is diverted from the legal system through existing programs such as Restorative Community Pathways or the Family Intervention and Restorative Services (FIRS) Center.
- The center should also have recreational and programming space like a gym or outdoor gardening area where youth could regulate and process their emotions. Youth in detention shared that they are often stressed and overstimulated when they interact with law enforcement, and so they wanted to have access to calming activities.

Advisory Committee Member Feedback on the Respite and Receiving Center

DCHS provided all Advisory Committee members the opportunity to note their support or need for further clarification to support for this recommendation. Figure 6 below outlines member feedback for Recommendation #1 and highlights where Advisory Committee members believe more deliberation is needed.

Feedback included below is provided verbatim from submitted feedback.

Figure 6: Advisory Committee Member Feedback on Recommendation #1

Member	Feedback
Department of Public Defense	Supports with the caveat that youth would not be locked in cells while at the respite and receiving center.

Member	Feedback
Impacted Parent	Supports this recommendation.
Juvenile Detention Guild	Does not endorse this recommendation. The Guild is concerned that if the respite and receiving center is secure, the current detention center should be improved, not replaced. In addition, the Guild is concerned that the safety of staff, youth, and the community will be at risk without a regulated secure facility. The Guild feels that the recommendation does not address the security of a new facility, whether staff are appropriately vetted and trained, whether the facility complies with standards (PREA, JDAI, best practices, state mandated laws, KCC Ordinances, HB2277, etc.). Whether the facility would have the same level of services, to include but not exhaustive: library, 24/7 health clinic, classification and assessment, in person mental health services, school on site, kitchen making nutritious meals, video monitoring, commissary, visitation, security screening of visitors and staff, facility management, janitorial services, clothing and laundry services, establish cost to the County, etc.
Legal Counsel for Youth and Children	Overall, I support. I do not support adding locked doors to any facility created as part of the Care and Closure initiative.
Superior Court	Does not endorse this recommendation. The Superior Court is concerned that the respite and receiving center would not meet the state law requirement for detention. The Superior Court is concerned that the recommendation does not take into consideration the possibility of serious and violent cases, nor public safety for the entire community. The Superior Court is also concerned that the recommendation impacts the separation of powers between the Executive and Superior Court and judicial authority and legal responsibility of the Court to keep the community safe.

Recommendation #2: Provide short-term respite housing at the respite and receiving center for youth who cannot go home due to safety reasons. Youth would stay at the center for up to 72 hours (with the possibility of extension for youth with the highest risk and highest needs), completing priority screenings and assessment with trained staff; developing safety plans and placement plans with trained staff and community members; and participating in programming that supports their healing such as art therapy and family reunification.

The youth would stay at the center until their first appearance hearing when the Court ultimately determines the most appropriate placement for them informed by recommendations of the respite and receiving center staff. These placements will include home, kinship care, or one of the community care homes, and all of those options may include Electronic Home Monitoring for youth.

Proven Models: Short-Term Respite Housing Already Exist Other Jurisdictions: Several jurisdictions, including Multnomah County, OR, Pima County, AZ, and Utah (see Appendix G), have short-term respite housing as part of their receiving centers or as alternatives to secure youth detention. Often these respite housing models focus on youth accused of lower-level status offenses or require out-of-home placement. They often provide supportive services such as behavioral health support and screenings or assessments to inform referrals for community service providers. The Advisory Committee recognizes King County's Family Intervention and Restorative Services (FIRS) Center as a great model of short-term respite housing for youth involved in family violence or domestic violence.[83]

Advisory Committee's Questions to Inform Future Planning for the Short-Term Respite Housing

- How will the respite housing support youth who are dependent or unstably housed/homeless?
- How would youth who pose a safety risk even in a respite center be cared for?
- Is the timeline of up to 72 hours or the first appearance hearings flexible depending on the youth and their needs?
- Will the short-term housing have the same security features as those contemplated for the respite center, including fully secure options?

Advisory Committee's Guidance for Short-Term Respite Housing

- The center should have short-term respite housing space for youth who stay overnight. The residential component of the center should be homelike where youth can sleep in rooms, instead of cells, and have access to shared safe communal spaces.
- The short-term respite housing should be in a designated separate space from the rest of the respite and receiving center to maintain the privacy of the youth staying in the respite housing at the center.
- While youth stay in respite housing, they should be able to visit with their family members and community members the youth trusts such as mentors, teachers, or faith leaders. Youth in detention imagined that visitation space would have good lighting, cards or games to play, comfortable couches, tables to share a meal, and resources for their families, including on-site counseling and therapy.
- Youth should have access to programming during their stay at the respite center. The programming should reflect the interests of the youth staying at the center and be focused on healing and building relationships with staff.

[83] King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Juvenile Division. Family Intervention and Restorative Services. [LINK]

- "Above all else, [the center] needs to be comfortable so youth can feel like they can take a breath, think about the traumatic situation that they went through, and build trust [with people that want to help them.]" – Youth in detention

Advisory Committee Member Feedback for Short-Term Respite Housing

DCHS provided all Advisory Committee members the opportunity to note their support or need for clarification to support for this recommendation. Figure 7 below outlines member feedback for Recommendation #2 and highlights where Advisory Committee members believe more deliberation is needed.

Feedback included below is provided verbatim from submitted feedback.

Figure 7: Advisory Committee Member Feedback on Recommendation #2

Member	Feedback
Department of Public Defense	Supports this recommendation with the caveat that the respite housing would not have cells or locked doors.
Impacted parent	Supports this recommendation.
Juvenile Detention Guild	Does not endorse this recommendation. The Guild is concerned about the maximum timeline of 72 hours for a youth to be in the short-term respite housing. The Guild is also concerned about who would make the determination of a youth to be in the respite housing. The Guild has concerns, and does not believe the recommendation addresses the vast variety of needs for specific situations that may not be able to be properly addressed within 72 hours. An example provided is that currently youth wait in detention months for a proper placement, while the Guild believes this is not appropriate the recommendation does not address this concern.
Legal Counsel for Youth and Children	Supports this recommendation. I do not support adding locked doors to any facility created as part of the Care and Closure initiative.
Superior Court	Does not endorse this recommendation without further clarification and information about the security level of the respite housing. For the same reasons as the lack of endorsement of Recommendation 1, the respite housing may not comply with current state law, may not be adequate for community safety, and may infringe upon the judicial branch's exclusive discretion.

Recommendation #3: Provide enhanced immediate supports when youth return home to their families or are placed in kinship care with extended family members. Immediate supports would be provided by contracted community service providers. The supports should include in-home checkups with the youth and their family the next day; the development of a safety plan if the youth has not already created one at the respite and receiving center; continuation of priority screenings and assessments; and coordination of care and referrals with community-based service providers. Immediate supports may also include any basic needs for the family including rental assistance to stabilize housing; relocation assistance to move the family out of the area; behavioral health support;

and respite care for families. The enhanced immediate supports should build on existing infrastructure and programs and focus on family needs as well as individual needs that youth have expressed.[84] [85]

Proven Models: Enhanced Immediate Supports for Families Already Exist in Other Jurisdictions

Several jurisdictions, including San Francisco and Washington D.C. (Appendix G) provide supports to youth and their families to help mitigate the impacts of legal system involvement while their court cases are moving through the adjudication process. National research shows that families are highly impacted when their youth are in detention and that they face financial impacts, mental and emotional impacts, and feelings of isolation and powerlessness when their youth are in detention.[86,87] Tailored resources directed to youth and their families can help reduce underlying issues causing stress and help them hold their youth accountable for the obligations set out by the court.[88] Examples include developing release plans with youth while they are in detention, developing parent-specific supports such as parent coaches, and providing additional support for kinship caregivers.

Advisory Committee's Questions to Inform Future Planning for Enhanced Immediate Supports

- How will children in the foster care system receive these enhanced immediate supports?

Advisory Committee's Guidance for Enhanced Immediate Supports

- Youth in detention and systems partners have expressed the desire to connect youth and families to enhanced immediate supports earlier in the process to prevent youth from entering detention or returning to detention.
- While the secure youth detention center still exists, enhanced immediate supports should also be used to help youth in detention develop safety plans and release plans, like the Detention Diversion Advocacy Program in San Francisco, CA.
- Youth in detention who had previously been on EHM and youth who were on EHM expressed the need for greater support for themselves and their families while at home. They stated that they wanted more frequent check-ins with mentors and trusted community providers, behavioral health supports like therapy and SUD treatment, and more programming opportunities to focus on their goals.
- Youth in detention and youth on EHM also highlighted the need to expand family support to address underlying issues. They mentioned employment support for their parents or guardians, programming for their siblings, and financial assistance for groceries or rent to relieve the stress and anxiety that they felt at home.
- Youth also mentioned that when they were on EHM, it felt like their entire family was on house arrest too. They wanted more opportunities for their family members to take a break from being in

[84] King County's Community Supports Program, operated by Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle, currently provides support to youth who are on EHM. Contracted through King County Public Health, Urban League works with DAJD's Alternatives to Secure Detention (ASD) team to connect with youth and build trust with their families. The Community Supports team provide mentorship, connection to services, family support, and basic needs support such as groceries or rental assistance. King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention. Alternatives to secure detention for youth. Community Supports [LINK]

[85] See August 2023 Report, Appendix F for the summary of findings from interviews with youth on EHM. August 2023 Report [LINK]

[86] Justice for Families. September 2012. Families Unlocking Future: Solutions to the Crisis in Juvenile Justice. [LINK]

[87] Kids Imprisoned. August 2020. Forgotten families: Detention causes emotional, psychological, and financial burdens. [LINK]

[88] Department of Justice. OJJDP. February 2018. Literature Review: A product of the Model Programs Guide. Family Engagement in Juvenile Justice. [LINK]

the home and shared that mentors and other adults would help support a youth and give their guardians that break that they needed.

Advisory Committee Member Feedback for Enhanced Immediate Supports

DCHS provided all Advisory Committee members the opportunity to note their support or need for further clarification to support for this recommendation. Figure 8 below highlights strong support for Recommendation #3.

Feedback included below is provided verbatim from submitted feedback.

Figure 8: Advisory Committee Member Feedback on Recommendation #3

Member	Feedback
Department of Public Defense	Supports this recommendation.
Impacted parent	Supports this recommendation.
Juvenile Court Services	Supports this recommendation.
Juvenile Detention Guild	Supports this recommendation.
Legal Counsel for Youth and Children	Supports this recommendation.
Superior Court	Supports this recommendation.

Recommendation #4: Create, operate, and provide oversight for a network of community care homes where youth would stay while their court case is proceeding if they are unable to go home because of safety concerns. The community care homes would be operated by community service providers and range on a variety of factors including size, location, gender diversity, and intensity of services. The community care homes should exist on a continuum from least restrictive to most restrictive for youth and should be tiered to meet the needs of youth with different levels of needs.

Proven Models: Networks of Small Homes and Homelike Facilities Already Exist in Other Jurisdictions

Increasingly, jurisdictions are shifting from large institutional settings for youth to smaller, more homelike places for youth involved in the youth legal system.[89] Several jurisdictions have created both secure and non-secure homelike facilities for some youth to stay pre-adjudication and post-adjudication. These facilities are designed to be homelike and provide more therapeutic and healing spaces for youth. In addition, there are promising practices from the child welfare system, including the Mockingbird Home Model of a network or constellation of foster care homes, that can be helpful for imagining how these smaller homes should be coordinated and connected to best support youth and the community organizations operating the community care homes.[90] Appendix G highlights the examples from the Mockingbird Home Model network and the secure and non-secure homes in New York City, New York; the State of Missouri; and Dane County, Wisconsin.

[89] Department of Justice. OJJDP. October 2022. Highlights from the 2020 Juvenile Residential Facilities Census [LINK] The latest Juvenile Residential Facility Census found that the "proportion of small facilities has increased" over time but that "a larger proportion of youth are still held in medium-sized facilities." Data showed that in 2020, 68 percent of youth facilities had capacity sizes of less than 21 youth, an increase of 13 percentage points from 2000.

[90] Mockingbird Society. Our work: Mockingbird Family. [LINK]

Advisory Committee's Guidance for the Community Care Homes

- Community care homes should be operated by community organizations and staffed 24 hours a day 7 days a week by people who have de-escalation and crisis management skills, people who may have lived experience in the legal system or have similar lived experiences to youth and want to work with youth.
- The County should contract with community agencies to operate community care homes in locations across the county. Locations should be in both urban areas and rural areas.
- Community care homes should be embedded within neighborhoods and be homes, not institutional facilities.
- The County should organize the community care homes in a community-based network that provides respite for regular staff, standardizes care, provides training and support for the workforce, and supports for youth across the network.
- The community care homes should have regular on-site services such as behavioral health services, programming, credible messengers and mentors, and other services.
- The community care homes should have highly individualized and adaptable spaces for youth. When a youth enters a community care home, they should be able to individualize their space with decorations, home goods, and personal items.
- The community care homes should be tiered to provide different levels of supports for youth and have different levels of security and supervision for youth. Some homes should have multiple youths living there (between three and five youth) while other homes should have one youth at the home with multiple staff members, depending on the intensity of the youth's needs.
- Whenever possible, youth should be able to choose between a few options for community care homes, including whether they want to be close to their home or outside of their neighborhood. Research finds that when youth participate in decision-making regarding their well-being, they are more likely to accept those decisions and engage in problem-solving with adults when issues arise.[91] When youth participate in decision-making in a supportive environment, they are also able to build self-efficacy and strengthen their own behavioral cognitive and social competencies.[92]
- Youth should be able to meet with their families while living at the community care homes. If youth are in more restrictive settings, family members should be able to visit the space. If the youth are in less restrictive settings, they should be able to leave with their family members on passes or stay with their families over a set period of time, like the weekend. Community care home staff and relevant systems partners would determine if youth are able to safely leave with their family members or stay with their family overnight.
- Regardless of the type of community care home, community providers should provide family reunification services to help promote relationship building between the youth and family and support successful transitions to their homes. Rooted in the child welfare system, family reunification supports include family engagement such as frequent visits while a youth is in an out-of-home placement, assessment, and case planning to determine a family's needs, and supports to promote a healthy environment when a youth returns.[93]
- If a youth has behavioral health issues or safety issues that make it impossible for them to stay at one community care home, they should be placed at another community care home, including potentially a more intensively staffed home, or taken to the respite center to receive immediate

[91] Youth.Gov. Involving Youth in Positive Youth Development. [LINK]
[92] Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. August 2014. Literature Review: A Product of the Model Programs Guide. Positive Youth Development. [LINK]
[93] Child Welfare Information Gateway. June 2011. Issue Brief. Family Reunification: What the Evidence Shows. [LINK]

crisis support. However, all efforts should be made to minimize disruptions to the youth and minimize the instability of different placements.

Advisory Committee's Questions to Inform Future Planning of the Community Care Homes

- Who staffs the community care homes? What are the requirements for those staff?[94] Are they mandatory reporters?[95]
- Where are the community care homes located? How will those locations be determined? How many community care homes area needed?
- What is the process of oversight and accountability by the County for the community care homes? What agency or agencies would monitor the community care homes?
- What are the standards of care for youth at the respite center and the community care homes? (For example, how will existing standards such as the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 be met in the community-based alternatives?)[96] [97]
- What is the licensing structure for the community care homes?[98]
- What are the specific supports for young people to access education in the community care homes?
- What happens when a youth turns 18 years old in a community care home while their case is pending?
- How will youth charged in the adult court be supported in the community care homes since the complexities of their cases result in prolonged lengths of stay in detention?
- What does after-care look like with youth who live in the community care homes? How will services continue to support youth beyond their time in the court system?
- At what stage would victims of crime be notified of the youth's release, placement or other changes? What would be the mechanism for that notice?

Advisory Committee Member Feedback on Community Care Homes

DCHS provided all Advisory Committee members the opportunity to note their support or need for further clarification to support this recommendation. Figure 9 below outlines member feedback for

[94] Chapter 110-145 WAC outlines staff qualifications and requirements for staff at licensed group care facilities. Chapter 110-145 WAC. Licensing Requirements for Group Care Facilities. [LINK]

[95] Mandatory reporters are individuals who are legally required to report child abuse or neglect. Many professionals are mandatory reporters in Washington State including social service counselors, childcare providers, law enforcement officers, and medical practitioners. Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families. Report Child Abuse or Neglect. Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect. [LINK]

[96] The federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003 is intended to "further prevent and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment of people in custody at correctional agencies. PREA has provisions for the development of standards to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment. PREA applies to all public and private correctional institutions that house adults or juveniles." The Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention collects and reports on PREA annually. Reports and audits – Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) reports [LINK]

[97] Chapter 110-145 WAC outlines the licensing requirements for group care facilities in Washington State which includes standards of care for the different types of facilities, including staffing ratios, services provided, and documentation and investigations of incidences where youth are not safe. Chapter 110-145 WAC. Licensing Requirements for Group Care Facilities. [LINK]

[98] Chapter 110-145 WAC outlines the licensing requirements for group care facilities in Washington State. There are several types of facility licenses including group homes, group receiving centers, resource and assessment centers, and staffed residential homes. Chapter 110-145 WAC. Licensing Requirements for Group Care Facilities. [LINK]

Recommendation #4 and highlights where Advisory Committee members believe more deliberation is needed.

Feedback included below is provided verbatim from submitted feedback.

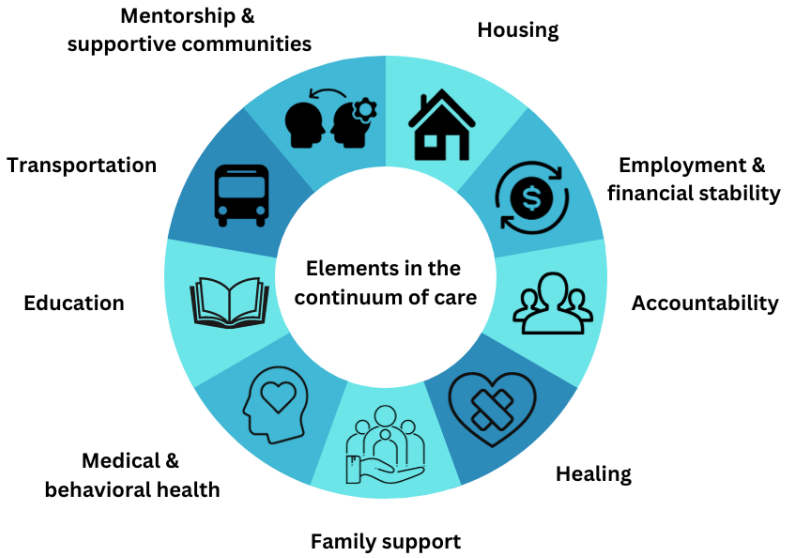
Figure 9: Advisory Committee Member Feedback on Recommendation #4

Member	Feedback
Department of Public Defense	Supports this recommendation with the caveat that the community care homes would not be secure facilities.
Impacted parent	Supports this recommendation.
Juvenile Detention Guild	Supports this recommendation with the caveat that more details are needed on the standards of care for youth in the community care homes. The Guild is concerned that there is not a clear establishment of standards of care, clear safety and security parameters in place, required supportive elements, to include in person schooling, in person mental health services, in person medical services, etc. that are currently provided by the County through the Juvenile Detention Center. Also what if the Court says no to this option while the court case proceeds? This recommendation does not address those concerns currently.
Legal Counsel for Youth and Children	Supports this recommendation. I do not support adding locked doors to any facility created as part of the Care and Closure initiative.

Recommendation #5: Strengthen community infrastructure and capacity to ensure all youth have access to culturally responsive and linguistically relevant, developmentally appropriate, and youth- and family-centered supports that address their identified needs, regardless of whether they are at home, with a relative, or at a community care home. Shown in Figure 10 below, these supports would align with the nine elements previously identified by youth and families as highlighted in the August 2023 report.[99] Research and engagement with impacted youth and families underscore the effectiveness of these tailored and individualized supports for youth involved in the legal system including increased likelihood of staying out of the legal system, positive educational and employment outcomes, and improvements in mental health and wellbeing.[100]

[99] The August 2023 report also included an initial continuum of youth- and community-identified supports that the County should leverage when designing the enhanced immediate supports for youth. August 2023 Report [LINK].
[100] Sentencing Project (2023). Effective Alternatives to Youth Incarceration. [LINK]

Figure 10: Youth and Family-identified Important Elements of Supports



Advisory Committee's Guidance to Strengthen Community Infrastructure

- Standardize screening tools, assessments, safety plans, youth development plans, and information sharing across community service providers, systems providers, and placements, especially between the respite center and the community care home network.
- Develop shared resources across community and systems providers. Create a resource database for community-based providers that is updated regularly on capacity and services, so that community and systems partners can better assess existing capacity and options for youth involved in the legal system. Require community-based providers to provide and update that information regularly through contracts.
- Create an integrated referral system and case management system across the network of community service providers to allow for more streamlined referrals between the community organizations, consistent follow ups, and monitoring of next steps for youth and families throughout the system. The case management system should include information from the screenings and assessments, youth development plans, previous and current placement, and history of program participation. Currently, community organizations have inconsistent referral systems, which when combined with the high level of turnover in those community organizations, can result in youth not getting connected to the care that they need.
- Structure funding opportunities to encourage collaboration across community service providers, especially for those service providers operating the network of community care homes, and resource sharing across community partners.
- Incentivize community providers to prioritize youth in the respite center or community care homes to accelerate the assessment, referral, and placement process for community resources.
- Provide flexible funds for community organizations and systems partners to address basic needs of youth and families and to provide opportunities for youth development and joy.
- Enhance capacity building opportunities for community providers to support and sustain their workforce, especially those staff with lived experience in the legal system, including training, certification, livable wages, burnout prevention and trauma-informed support, and professional

development opportunities. Design strategies to support, build, and sustain more Black, Indigenous and People of Color providers for youth services, especially behavioral health support.
- Develop shared measures of accountability with community service providers to determine how youth safety and success will be measured and evaluated for these recommendations.

Advisory Committee Member Feedback on Strengthening the Community Infrastructure
DCHS provided all Advisory Committee members the opportunity to note their support or lack of support for each recommendation. Figure 11 below highlights strong support for Recommendation #5.

Feedback included below is provided verbatim from submitted feedback.

Figure 11: Advisory Committee Member Feedback on Recommendation #5

Member	Feedback
Department of Public Defense	Supports this recommendation.
Impacted parent	Supports this recommendation.
Juvenile Detention Guild	Supports this recommendation.
Legal Counsel for Youth and Children	Supports this recommendation.

Recommendation #6: Continue to center the input, expertise, and ideas of the community members most directly impacted, including the youth in detention, youth with experience in detention and the youth legal system, family members of those youth, and harmed community members and their families, to inform the next phase of the work.

Advisory Committee's Guidance for Centering Impacted Community Members
- Continue to convene the Advisory Committee with impacted community members, community partners, and systems partners to provide oversight to the strategy planning and implementation process.
- Continue to provide updates and opportunities for engagement to interested community groups working with impacted youth, family members, harmed parties, and detention staff throughout the strategy planning and implementation process.

Advisory Committee Member Feedback on Centering Impacted Community Members
DCHS provided all Advisory Committee members the opportunity to note their support or lack of support for each recommendation. Figure 12 below highlights strong support for Recommendation #6.

Feedback included below is provided verbatim from submitted feedback.

Figure 12: Advisory Committee Member Feedback on Recommendation #6

Member	Feedback
Department of Public Defense	Supports this recommendation.
Impacted Parent	Supports this recommendation.
Juvenile Detention Guild	Supports this recommendation.

Legal Counsel for Youth and Children	Supports this recommendation.
Superior Court	Supports this recommendation.

Timeline: To accomplish this significant transformation to a new system, the Advisory Committee identified the necessity for the Executive to expand the timeline to close the youth detention center allow for the planning, resourcing, and implementation of these recommendations.

Advisory Committee discussed that the youth detention center can be closed only as a result of the thoughtful and deliberate implementation of these recommendations; and that it is important for the County to maintain momentum for the swift but thorough development, testing and refining, and scaling of the proposed community-based alternatives.

Advisory Committee's Considerations of the Implementation of the Recommendations

The Advisory Committee members and additional participants in the Committee's deliberation process discussed the Executive's initial target timeline to close the youth detention center by 2025. There was strong consensus during these discussions that given the intricacies of the community-based interventions recommendations, the timeline of 2025 was aspirational but not realistic. This is because implementation of recommendations would need to be resourced, developed, initiated, and refined before closure would be appropriate. Committee members emphasized recognition of the nuances and complexities of caring for youth with the highest risk and highest needs and expressed the need to accomplish this transition effectively. They also discussed the that the 2025 timeline, and timelines in general, helped catalyze action across partners and spark urgency on the issue.

The Advisory Committee members agreed that the implementation of certain recommendations, such as the creation of the network of community care homes, will take time and significant coordination with external partners. Therefore, the Advisory Committed finds that the County should prioritize and initiate the detailed planning and development of those recommendations in the strategy implementation phase that the Executive plans to begin in 2024. Advisory Committee members also identified that some recommendations could and should be moved forward quickly, such as enhanced supports for youth who return home or are placed in kinship care and strengthening the community infrastructure to ensure all youth have access to culturally and linguistically relevant, developmentally appropriate, and youth- and family-centered supports that address their identified needs.

Advisory Committee Member Feedback for the Timeline Recommendation

DCHS provided all Advisory Committee members the opportunity to note their support or need for further clarification to support this recommendation. Figure 13 below outlines member feedback for the Executive's timeline and highlights the urgency the Advisory Committee members feel for this work.

Feedback included below is provided verbatim from submitted feedback.

Figure 13: Advisory Committee Member Feedback on Timeline Recommendation

Member	Feedback
Children and Youth Advisory Board	As the CYAB representative to this committee, I want to underscore the urgency the board still feels about ending youth detention. I understand the need to get it right and understand it can require taking more time to get it right. However, a one- or two-year delay in the closure of the detention

Member	Feedback
	center is not a long wait for many of us; it is a great fraction of the life of an unadjudicated young person. We have an obligation to make every effort to do it right and do it quickly. If the timeline is expanded, can we address the experience and conditions of youth currently in detention as a part of the work of this committee?
Department of Public Defense	Would like to see the timeline stay as 2025 and explore how these supports could be implemented concurrently, with the understanding that the timeline could be extended in the future.
Impacted Parent	Recommends keeping the 2025 deadline. If there is a need to push the timeline past 2025 to ensure recommendations are properly and culturally appropriate, there should be decisions to start putting into place some of the recommendations and services as soon as possible.
Legal Counsel for Youth and Children	2025 timeline should remain. If timeline is expanded, there should be clear timeframes for implementation of each recommendation. Recommendations 3, 4, and 5, in particular, should begin implementation as soon as possible.

How the Recommendations Meet the Needs of Youth in Detention Today

Throughout the process, impacted community members and youth stated that youth in detention today need more supports and alternatives to secure youth detention that can support their healing, create opportunities for accountability, and strengthen community safety. The Washington Juvenile Justice Act Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Chapter 13.40 requires the Court to impose the "least restrictive means necessary" for youth.[101] Youth currently remain in secure youth detention, the most restrictive option available, in King County for three main reasons: 1) they are unable to go home due to safety issues and there is not an appropriate alternative placement available; 2) they were previously on electronic home monitoring but were not successful because of a lack of support or constraints on them and their family; or 3) there is probable cause according to the Court that the youth is a threat to community safety or personal safety.[102]

The recommendations outlined above address each of these main groups of youth in secure detention by A) expanding alternative placements for youth; B) providing enhanced immediate supports for youth and their families at home or in kinship care; and C) providing tailored and individualized supports layered on expanded alternative placements that are appropriate for youth with the highest needs and risk levels.

The Advisory Committee recommendations are intended to serve all youth under 18 years old, beginning with youth who are adjudicated through the juvenile court. Youth in the juvenile court system on average make up approximately three quarters of the youth in secure youth detention.[103] Ultimately, the Executive plans to develop community-based alternatives to secure youth detention for all youth under 18 years old, including those youth who are tried as adults in the adult court.[104]

[101] RCW 13.40. Juvenile Justice Act of 1977. [LINK]
[102] RCW 13.40. Juvenile Justice Act of 1977. [LINK]
[103] See the Background Section in this report on Updated Data for more information.
[104] The principles of Care and Closure support establishing community-based alternatives for youth under 18 years old declined to adult court. Eliminating secure detention for youth declined to adult court involves an entirely

Key Differences Between Advisory Committee Recommendations and Current System
When implemented, the Advisory Committee recommendations outlined above would be a significant shift in the County's approach to responding to youth needs in the youth legal system. As shown in Figure 14 below, there are some key differences between the Advisory Committee recommendations and current system of secure youth detention. These differences provide for important benefits for youth, their families, and overall communities.

Figure 14: Distinctions of the Recommendations versus Secure Youth Detention

Recommendations	Secure youth detention
Tailored approach	General approach
Homelike setting	Institutional setting
Enhancement of community and family connections	Disrupted and unreliable community and family connections
Creation of opportunities to adjust the "intensity" of interventions across the continuum to the current level of need	Limited intervention options
Needs-driven	Offense-driven

Tailored approach: Many of the youth held in secure youth detention today have complex and intersecting needs and unique strengths that require highly individualized approaches and enhanced support for themselves and their families.[105,106,107] Secure youth detention provides general services to be as effective as possible for the largest number of youth. It is not designed to meet the specific needs of every youth it cannot provide the intensive level of individualized care necessary for the youth in detention today.

Implementing the Advisory Committee recommendations would provide tailored approaches to each youth centered on their specific needs and unique strengths by placing the youth into smaller community care homes where services can be customized and layered to be most effective. The network of community care homes would offer a variety of options addressing factors such as but not limited to age, gender, level of restrictiveness, and geographic location that would best suit the needs of each individual youth. In addition, community service providers would apply their particular expertise to help meet a youth's specific needs, including providing culturally responsive or linguistically relevant

separate legal structure and requirements than the juvenile court. Making changes for youth declined to adult court will require additional planning, and involvement from additional divisions from Superior Court, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Department of Defense, and DAJD. (Staff focused on the youth legal system from these departments have already been involved in the planning process to date.)

[105] National studies find that approximately 70 percent of youth in the youth legal system have a diagnosable behavioral health problem. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. July 2017. Literature Review: A Product of the Model Programs Guide. Intersection between Mental Health and the Juvenile Justice System. [LINK] Additional research finds that youth in the legal system have higher rates of adverse childhood experiences and trauma than the general youth population. The researchers note that the prevalence of this trauma is "disturbingly high" among this youth population. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Journal of Juvenile Justice. The Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences in the Lives of Juvenile Offenders [LINK]

[106] The Sentencing Project (2023). Effective Alternatives to Youth Incarceration [LINK]

[107] See Appendix L for an updated summary of findings from the listening sessions with youth in detention.

services in a community care home or at their own home, rather than delivering general care that attempts to meet the varied needs of all youth in secure youth detention today.

Homelike setting: The respite and receiving center and community care homes would be designed to be homelike. They would look, feel, and operate much differently from the current secure youth detention center. Youth in detention stated that they believe they would make more progress if they were in a more physically supportive environment. They want more spaces where they feel cared for, can process their emotions alone or with a supportive staff member, and can get exercise. If youth are not able to go to their own home, they would still be able to get the safe, healing, and comforting benefits of a homelike environment first at the respite and receiving center and then at a community care home.

Enhanced community and family connections: The recommended community-based alternatives would maximize community and family connections for youth, rather than disrupting them as placing youth in the current secure youth detention center does. Beginning with their interaction in the respite and receiving center, youth would be able to meet with their families in therapeutic and comfortable spaces. Youth in detention have shared that not seeing their families can be the worst part of detention and can make them feel like they are alone in navigating the youth legal system. Many youth in detention expressed the desire to see their family members more frequently, while also acknowledging that some youth may not have supportive families.

As noted above, community care homes would further enhance and prioritize family and community connections. Youth in community care homes could have regular visits with their family that could help strengthen relationships and help transition them back to their regular home. Youth would also be able to maintain important educational and employment connections that help stabilize them and support their goals. Youth placed at community care homes may be able to go to school in person and participate in afterschool activities such as sports or music classes. These activities can keep a young person busy and motivated to stay on track with their personal goals.

Opportunities to adjust interventions to youths as needed: The Committee recommendations would allow the County and its community partners to adjust interventions as needed to support youth, ultimately helping prepare youth to be back with families or move to more independent settings. The current model of secure youth detention has three levels of placements that youth can move between: 1) secure youth detention; 2) electronic home monitoring in their own home or with an extended family member; and 3) the FIRS Center where youth stay in short-term respite care while working with staff and their families to address family violence and domestic violence issues.[108]

The recommendations, in contrast, would expand the number and range of options for alternatives that can be tailored to meet the needs of specific youth. There would be more options to move youth to less restrictive placements as their underlying needs are being met and stabilized, which would support a step-down model that youth in detention and impacted community members support.[109]

Needs-driven: The recommended approach focuses on identifying and meeting the youth's needs instead of solely responding based on their alleged offense. By having all arrested youth come to the

[108] King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Juvenile Division. Family Intervention and Restorative Services. [LINK]

[109] See Section C below for more information on the feedback from community engagement including the incentive-based and step-down models.

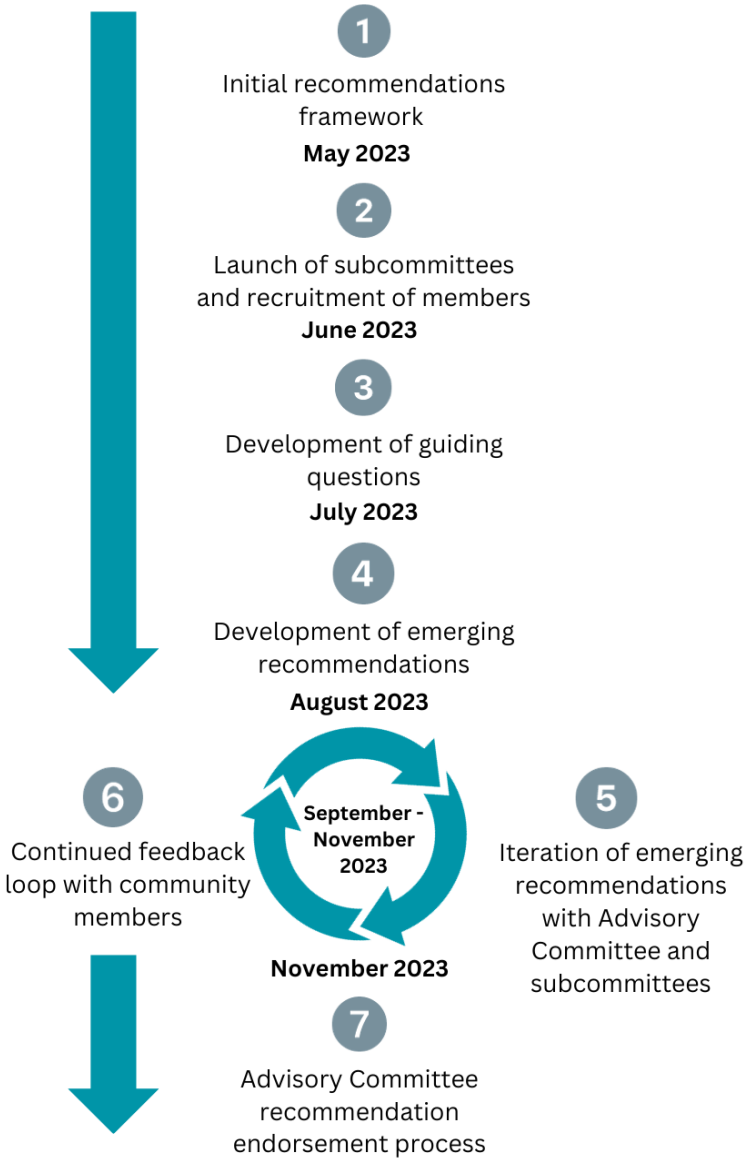
respite and receiving center first regardless of their alleged offense, the recommendations focus first on needs of the youth. The screenings and assessments that all youth would receive in the respite and receiving center would inform their placements and prioritize their connections to community service providers who can begin to address their needs. The recommendations respond to the desire that both impacted youth and harmed community members expressed to understand and address the underlying issues related to the harm and not just focus on the alleged offense. While the alleged offense will continue to drive the youth's pending court case and adjudication process, the youth's needs can better inform their placements and the level of support that they receive, ultimately impacting their future outcomes.

B. A summary of how the project advisory committee's recommendations were developed;

The King County Executive called for a robust community-centered process, led by DCHS, to inform and develop the Advisory Committee's recommendations outlined above in Section A. The result of this process is a set of recommendations that build on the recommendations framework outlined in the August 2023 report, incorporates the perspectives of hundreds of impacted community members and systems partners, and leverages existing models in other jurisdictions across the country.

This section outlines the development process of the Advisory Committee's recommendations. As shown in Figure 15 graphic below, the Advisory Committee's recommendation development process consisted of seven distinct steps. These steps are described further in this section.

Figure 15: Visual of the Advisory Committee's recommendation development process



1) Development of the Committee's initial recommendations framework, including the guiding principles

The initial recommendations framework was an important element for the development of the recommendations. The August 2023 report highlighted the initial recommendations framework of the Advisory Committee's recommendations. The Committee's initial recommendations framework consisted of 1) shared values; 2) initial guiding principles; and 3) a draft holistic continuum of care.[110] The initial guiding principles are included in the callout box.

Initial Advisory Committee Guiding Principles

- Prioritize meeting the needs for all youth, harmed parties, and community members;
- Keep youth in their communities;
- Prioritize racial equity and anti-racism;
- Focus on radical healing and accountability, not punishment;
- Holistically support and center impacted youth, harmed parties, and communities in the development and implementation of alternatives to secure youth detention; and
- Be transparent with how the alternatives are being developed and implemented.

2) Launch of subcommittees and recruitment of subcommittee members

Between June 2023 and November 2023, the Advisory Committee launched and convened three subcommittees. The purpose of these subcommittees was to deepen the recommendations development and expand the number of community partners and perspectives informing the Committee's recommendations. There were three subcommittees: 1) Identifying alternatives to secure youth detention; 2) Strengthening community infrastructure; and 3) Engaging impacted communities. The subcommittees regularly met every other week. Not all Advisory Committee members chose to participate in the subcommittees, although they had the opportunity to participate throughout the launch, establishment, and meetings of the subcommittees as noted below.[111]

The Advisory Committee and the Executive recruited subcommittee members in several ways:

- Highlighted the opportunity for Advisory Committee members in meetings and emails;
- Shared out information with community partners, including those who led community engagement activities with impacted community members in early 2023;
- Posted information on the website and social media;
- Shared the opportunity when presenting at community meetings and community tabling events; and
- Encouraged community members who attended the Advisory Committee meetings as guests to participate.

Everyone who expressed interest in being a subcommittee member was invited to participate in the subcommittees. DCHS designed the subcommittees to have as few barriers as possible to ensure that community members and systems partners could easily participate. DCHS hosted orientations for

[110] August 2023 Report where shared values and draft holistic continuum of care are discussed. [LINK]

[111] DCHS staff provided support for each subcommittee, including facilitation and notetaking support.

subcommittee members to provide context on the purpose and goals of the subcommittees and had a short commitment form for members. DCHS also provided hourly stipends for community members who were interested in compensation for their time.

3) Development of the guiding questions for the subcommittees

Once launched, the subcommittees developed guiding questions to help inform the structure of their respective conversations during the subcommittee meetings.[112] The guiding questions focused on the key areas the subcommittees were responsible for with developing recommendations. The guiding questions also helped note the distinctions between the three subcommittees and their topic areas.

4) Development of emerging recommendations

After launch, the subcommittees began to discuss the guiding questions and explored potential answers to those questions. The guiding questions sparked additional questions and topics within the subcommittees which led to further conversations.[113] Each Advisory Committee meeting agenda included the guiding questions from subcommittee discussion and research of models from other jurisdictions around the country.[114] Each meeting, the subcommittees reviewed the draft emerging recommendations and continued to discuss important specifics of the guiding questions.

Additional research on existing models in other jurisdictions to inform the subcommittees' development of recommendations was conducted by DCHS. The research was compiled and shared with the subcommittees and made it available to the Advisory Committee.[115] Research included existing models in youth legal systems, child welfare systems and foster care systems, and diversion programs.

5) Iteration of emerging recommendations with the Advisory Committee and subcommittees

In the August 2023 Advisory Committee meeting, the Advisory Committee began discussing the emerging recommendations from the subcommittees. Subcommittee members and DCHS shared the latest emerging recommendations from the subcommittees and then the Advisory Committee met in small groups to discuss the recommendations.[116] The small groups then reconvened into the large group and reported out the themes from the discussion, including questions and concerns.

Feedback and questions raised with the subcommittees by DCHS, and the subcommittees discussed the questions raised in the Advisory Committee meeting. This feedback loop and refinement of recommendations continued in the September and October meetings. In the October meeting, the Advisory Committee members and guests discussed their remaining questions and concerns with the

[112] The guiding questions for each of the subcommittees can be found in Appendix I.

[113] When a topic was not directly related to the Care and Closure scope, the subcommittees were encouraged to "table" the topic. In one instance with the Identifying Alternatives to Secure Youth Detention subcommittee, a small group of subcommittee members met separately to discuss non-law enforcement responses. See Appendix J for the discussion and recommendations of this subcommittee group.

[114] The subcommittee notes can be found in the Care and Closure Resource Library. Care and Closure Resource Library. Subcommittee Notes. [LINK]

[115] The Care and Closure Resource Library hosts subcommittee meeting notes, promising practice research and evaluations, previous King County and Washington State recommendations, data on youth in detention, and research on the landscape of community supports for youth and families in King County. [LINK]

[116] The small group discussions in the Advisory Committee meetings were structured around four key questions: what are your ideas to build on these emerging recommendations? What are the opportunities you see with these recommendations? What are the questions you have about the recommendations? What are the potential challenges you see with these emerging recommendations?

emerging recommendations and discussed the feasibility and prioritization of the components for the next phase of strategy planning and implementation.[117]

6) Continued feedback loops with impacted community members

At the same time as the subcommittees were meeting, DCHS continued its work to support the Advisory Committee. It:

- Partnered with and funded community organizations to lead feedback sessions with impacted youth, family members, and harmed parties to share feedback on the emerging recommendations;[118]
- Continued to meet with youth in detention to share the emerging recommendations and hear their ideas of how the emerging recommendations, including the respite and receiving center and community care homes, would support them as impacted youth;[119]
- Hosted five feedback sessions in community with community members who had previously participated in listening sessions and surveys earlier in the process;[120]
- Shared the findings from the feedback sessions in the subcommittee meetings and with the Advisory Committee.

See Section C below and Appendices L through P for more information on this additional community engagement and the findings.

7) Endorsement of recommendations with Advisory Committee

In the November 2023 Advisory Committee meeting, the Advisory Committee discussed its final proposed recommendations developed through the subcommittee process and the information gathered from the additional engagement with impacted community members. A deliberative draft of the proposed recommendations to the Advisory Committee members to review in advance of the meeting was distributed by DCHS. Advisory Committee members who were not able to attend the meeting were encouraged to submit written feedback on the draft recommendations to be read during the meeting. Two members provided written feedback in advance of the meeting.[121]

DCHS facilitated the final meeting with support from the Executive Office. After a short overview of the meeting agenda, DCHS hosted public comment for non-Advisory Committee members to share their thoughts or support for the proposed recommendations. There were six people who provided public comment, nearly all of whom were subcommittee members who had participated in the development of the recommendations. Their public comments are recorded in the meeting notes.[122]

DCHS then asked for any final questions that the Advisory Committee members wanted to include as part of the future work for the recommendations. One member present at the meeting asked a

[117] See notes from the Advisory Committee's August, September, and October meetings for additional information on the discussions and responses to the emerging recommendations. King County Care and Closure. Advisory Committee. [LINK]

[118] DCHS partnered with Cocreative Culture and Progress Pushers, in collaboration with Win Regardless, to host these listening sessions and feedback sessions. See Section C for more information on those next steps.

[119] See Appendix L for the summary of the listening sessions with youth in detention.

[120] See the August 2023 response to see the full list of community-led community engagement activities with impacted community members. August 2023 Report [LINK]

[121] See Section A and Appendix J for written feedback from the Advisory Committee members.

[122] See the project website for the Advisory Committee meeting notes. November 20, 2023 Meeting Notes [LINK].

question, and two members who were not present but submitted written feedback in advance of the meeting asked several questions. One member who was not present at the meeting submitted written questions after the meeting. As outlined in Section A, each recommendation section includes questions to guide future work.

DCHS then guided the conversation to a discussion of the proposed recommendations. For each recommendation, DCHS asked if any Advisory Committee members wanted to express support or lack of support. If an Advisory Committee member did not support a proposed recommendation, DCHS asked them to state their reasoning.

After the meeting, DCHS provided each member a summary of their support or lack of support and asked that they confirm or edit their response. Every member who attended the meeting confirmed their responses and provided clarifications. DCHS also offered the opportunity to Advisory Committee members who did not attend the meeting to provide written feedback on the recommendations with their support or lack of support and their reasoning. Two members who did not attend the meeting provided written feedback. As outlined in Section A, feedback of support or lack of support was noted for each Advisory Committee member who provided feedback. See Appendix J for compiled feedback and questions from Advisory Committee members on the recommendations.

Recommendation Development

The Advisory Committee recommendations outlined in this report reflect the County's deep and intentional approach to design solutions and alternatives with impacted youth, family members, and community members and organizations. The recommendation development process incorporated several opportunities for continued feedback from directly impacted community members, expanded the number and perspectives of interested parties through the subcommittee process, and leveraged small and large discussions to solicit input from systems and community partners. The result of this process are community-centered recommendations informed by input from diverse groups of people, and a path forward that allows for continued refinement of these recommendations and focused action to drive transformation.

C. An overview of community engagement conducted throughout the project including key findings.

King County and community partners gathered input and feedback from nearly 1,800 impacted community members since July 2022 to inform and create the community-centered recommendations outlined in Section A above. The King County Executive employed a multi-faceted community-centered engagement strategy to center the perspectives and input of community members who are most affected by the youth legal system, including youth, family members, harmed community members, and community partners.[123] The August 2023 report provided a detailed overview of the findings from community engagement conducted between June 2022 and June 2023 and the feedback from nearly 1,200 impacted community members.[124]

King County engaged an additional 600 impacted community members since reported in August 2023, as shown in Figure 16 below. This section highlights findings from additional engagement with impacted community members between June 2023 and November 2023. This additional engagement continued to be centered on impacted community members and in partnership with community organizations working with youth and families with experience in the youth legal system and harmed community members. In addition, this section highlights the continued engagement of detention staff at the secure youth detention center.

Figure 16: Summary of Additional Impacted Community Engagement and Activities, June-November 2023

Impacted Community	Engagement Strategy and Lead	Number of Individuals Between June 2023 and November 2023
Youth in secure detention	Listening sessions and feedback sessions led by DCHS in partnership with DAJD[125]	45 impacted youth
Community members in impacted communities	Activities while tabling at community resource events led by DCHS[126]	100 community members who provided input

[123] The community-centered engagement strategy outlined in the June 2022 report included centering the perspectives and input of impacted young people in detention and on Electronic Home Monitoring (EHM) and community-led engagement with youth, families, and harmed parties in the community. The strategy also included the feedback from community organizations working with young people involved in the youth legal system and continued engagement with youth detention center staff. The June 2022 response includes additional details about the multi-faceted engagement strategy, and the August 2023 response highlighted the findings from this community engagement. June 2022 Response [LINK]. August 2023 Report [LINK].

[124] August 2023 Report [LINK].

[125] Beginning in November 2022, DCHS has partnered with DAJD to regularly convene listening sessions with young people in detention. DCHS met with youth in each of the living halls and engaged over X youth across X one-hour sessions. In September 2023, DCHS shifted the listening sessions to feedback session to solicit input from youth in detention on the emerging recommendations being developed in the subcommittees. More details on the listening sessions with youth in detention and specific findings can be found in Appendix L. Previous findings from the listening sessions with youth were included in the August 2023 Report, Appendix E. August 2023 Report [LINK].

[126] DCHS continued to promote awareness of the project at nine community events serving young people and families in King County between June 2023 and October 2023. The project team shared flyers highlighting the goals of the project, answered questions from community members, and solicited input from community members on

Impacted Community	Engagement Strategy and Lead	Number of Individuals Between June 2023 and November 2023
		In addition, 500 community members received information about the project and interacted with the DCHS project team during tabling events
Youth, family members, and harmed community members	Listening sessions and feedback sessions led by trusted community organizations in partnership with DCHS[127]	260 impacted youth, family members, and community members, including those who identified as have been harmed
	Feedback sessions with previously engaged community led by DCHS[128]	45 impacted youth, family members, and community members

Summary of Additional Key Findings from Impacted Community Engagement
In addition to the key findings shared in the August 2023 report in the box below, engagement with impacted community members yielded several additional insights from. [129]

1) **Collective excitement around the potential of transforming the current system of secure youth detention:** When impacted youth, family members, and community members provided feedback on the proposed recommendations, they spoke about hope for the future. They stated that they especially appreciated the expanded programmatic supports for youth and families, including mentors with lived experience, behavioral health supports, and family-centered supports. They highlighted the need for different approaches to address the trauma that many youth of color and youth from families of low income face. They also shared that they were hopeful to see concrete components outlined that incorporate their perspectives and the needs of their community members. Many participants shared feedback that the current system is inadequate to addressing youth and family needs and that new approaches are needed to positively impact community safety.

this question: "What should happen when a young person causes serious harm in their communities?" More details on the compiled findings from community awareness building activities can be found in Appendix P.
[127] DCHS partnered with and funded additional organizations to hold listening sessions and feedback sessions with impacted community members. DCHS partnered with Cocreative Culture to host listening sessions in October 2023 centered on harmed community members, including impacted youth, family members, and community members. DCHS also partnered with Progress Pushers to host feedback sessions in October 2023 with youth who had been in detention or on EHM and their families. See Appendix M for the specific findings from the engagement led by Cocreative Culture and Appendix N for findings from Progress Pushers.
[128] DCHS hosted four additional feedback sessions in late October and early November 2023 with impacted youth, family members, and community members who had previously participated in the community-led engagement activities earlier in 2023. These feedback sessions allowed community members who had previously provided input to see how their perspectives were incorporated into the emerging recommendations. There were two virtual feedback sessions and three in-person feedback sessions held in Federal Way and Seattle. See Appendix O for the findings from the feedback sessions.
[129] See the August 2023 Report, Section B for more information on the findings of the community-centered strategic planning process.

2) **Continued focus on accountability:** Impacted youth and community members feedback continued to underscore the importance of accountability in the recommended system. Some members, including youth, shared concerns about youth perceiving a lack of consequences with the recommendations. Young people specifically asked how the recommendations would keep youth accountable instead of encouraging them to commit crimes if they were cared for instead of punished. They expressed concerns that youth who have been alleged of serious crimes would not stay at the respite center or the community care homes if they did not include a level of safety and security. They expressed a need for safe places with physical features that do not permit freedom for youth to leave whenever they wanted.

3) **Enhanced family support:** Impacted youth and families alike highlighted the need to better support the entire family, instead of just the youth, and they emphasized the goal of family reunification. While this sentiment was shared by community members throughout the planning process, there was a specific call from impacted family members and parents to be more involved in the youth legal system. Many participants discussed the concept that success and care for youth start at the home, and many parents and guardians need additional support to create a caring and supportive home for their youth. Impacted parents and guardians highlighted the role of peer parents or mentors who could help them navigate the youth legal system and get connected to resources.

4) **Positive incentives and step-down models:** Impacted youth and family members who participated in the feedback sessions and youth in detention stated that they wanted the community-based placements to reflect the seriousness of a youth's alleged offense and their needs. They highlighted that they wanted continuous screenings and assessments to see if changes are needed. They emphasized that the type of placements should match how violent or serious the harm was, and they agreed that young people with more needs and charged with more serious offenses should be placed in a single-youth occupancy environment.

   Impacted youth specifically highlighted the need for more positive incentive structures to reward youth when they achieve their goals or participate in activities. Youth in detention shared that they wanted to be recognized when they make progress and achieve their goals, and they shared that punitive measures do not work to deter youth from specific behaviors. They highlighted that youth are more likely to stay in a facility or more likely to engage in activities if they are interested in the programming and if they trust and have a connection with the staff. Youth in detention also expressed that youth should be able to move from more restrictive environments to less restrictive environments or gain more privileges, such as watch television or have a cellphone, with positive behaviors.[130]

5) **Greater engagement and leadership opportunities to inform changes to the youth legal system:** Impacted community members, especially youth, stated they wanted more opportunities to speak about the impacts of the youth legal system on their lives and continue to provide input on ongoing transformation in the youth legal system. Youth shared that they were excited about the opportunity to share their experiences and have adults listen to what

[130] The use and effectiveness of positive incentives for youth is well documented by research. King County Superior Court. Juvenile Court. Our therapeutic model [LINK]

they shared. Community organizations also highlighted that their youth wanted more opportunities to influence policy and programs in King County.

Findings from Impacted Community Engagement Highlighted in August 2023 Report Response

1. Many impacted youth, families, and community members believe that secure youth detention is not an effective solution for most or all youth and should not be relied on to make communities better and safer.
2. Impacted youth, families, and harmed community members want more resources focused on supporting youth healing, accountability, and community safety. These resources include more spaces other than detention to reflect on mistakes made; stability and structure; supportive mentors with similar lived experiences; resources to transform and stabilize their home environments; and greater support for their families.
3. Impacted youth, families, and harmed community members want King County to have expanded responses that center understanding why harm occurred, prevent harm from occurring, create real community safety, and foster collaborative and community-centered care.

DAJD Detention Staff Engagement

Detention staff, who are also affected by closure of the detention center, have been engaged throughout this effort. DAJD, in partnership with the Executive Office and DCHS, has continued to engage with and support staff during the Care and Closure initiative to inform recommendations. The Juvenile Detention Guild, representing personnel who work at the detention center, participated on the Advisory Committee, and detention staff also participated in the subcommittee process. The recommendations incorporated feedback from staff members, including that supports need to be provided to youth, such as educational, nutritional, and medical supports at the Respite and Receiving Center and Community Care Homes.

DAJD and the Executive Office have continued to provide regular project updates, through such means as newsletters with Care and Closure content, comment boxes placed throughout the facility, and presentations at new employee orientations. The Executive has continued to communicate and bolster support for detention staff throughout this process. In August 2023, the Executive announced a commitment to provide all detention staff at least 12 months advance notice before closing the youth detention center.[131] Following that announcement, King County's Executive Office members and DAJD's Human Resources (HR) team met with detention staff to hear more about the support detention staff want throughout the process. Detention staff highlighted the desire for more employee appreciation activities, increased professional development opportunities, and concern about their future employment. The Executive and his team also met with a group of detention staff and restorative justice coordinators during a visit to the CCFJC.

In addition, since September 2023, DAJD HR staff have offered weekly opportunities to meet one-on-one with staff to discuss their ideas about employee engagement and their professional interests. In 2023, DAJD HR staff met with 23 detention staff members, ranging from Juvenile Detention Officers to Administrative Specialists. The DAJD team intends to meet with every staff member by the end of 2024

[131] King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention. Bi-monthly update on the Care and Closure project to detention staff. Sent on August 15, 2023.

to provide that individualized support. Examples of support that the DAJD team has provided thus far include helping a staff member renew their certification as a Substance Use Disorder Professional and connecting another staff member with a mentor in a related field they are interested in exploring. In addition to the individual staff members that they directly support, DAJD HR staff plans to develop division-wide support during the transition to closure of the secure youth detention center.

VI. Next Phase: Strategy Planning and Implementation

For more than a year, the Advisory Committee and Executive staff engaged with community, researched practices in other jurisdictions, examined existing practices in King County. The Advisory Committee then identified elements and practices of a community-based system to secure youth detention that:

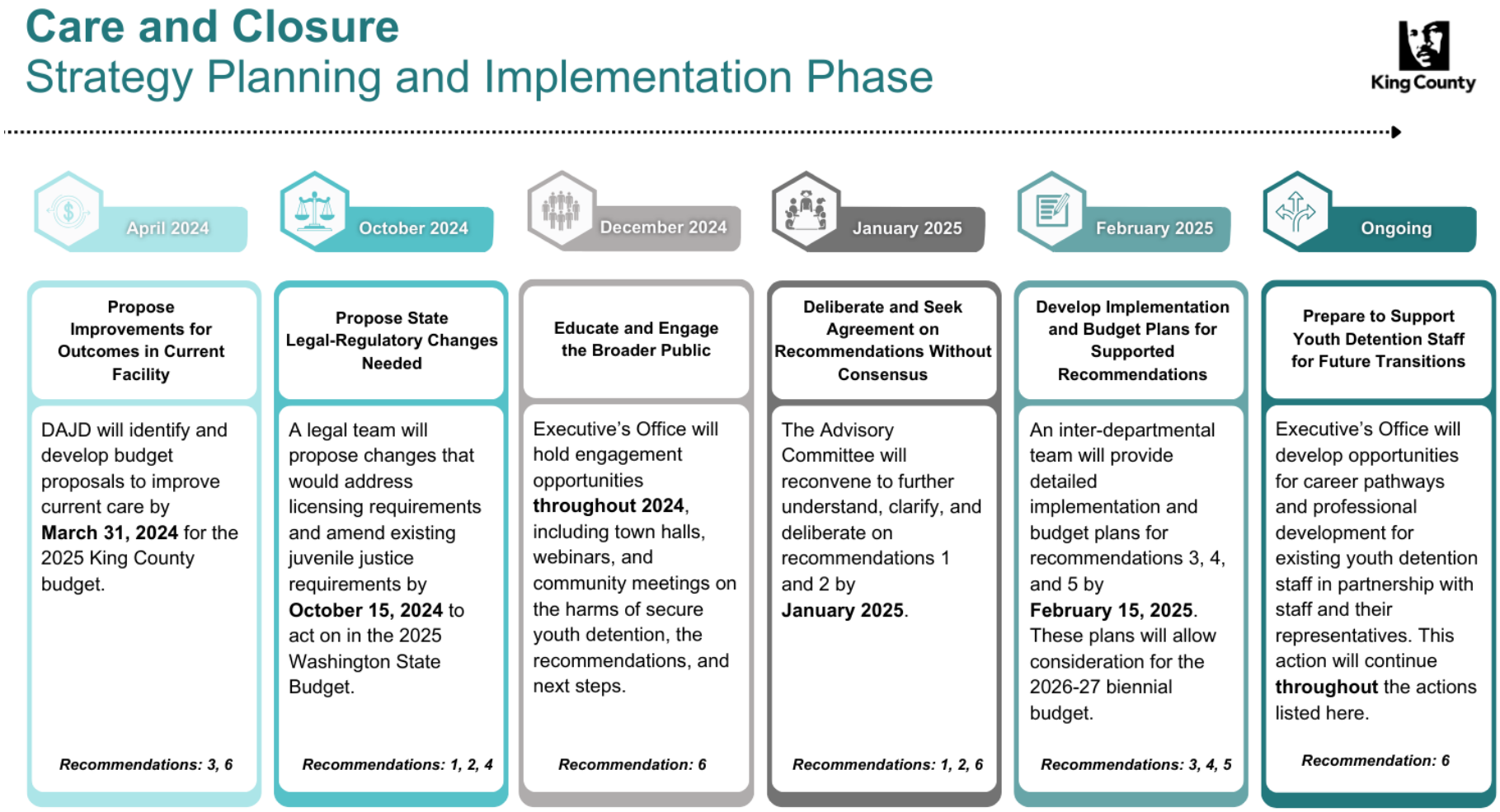
- Consists of a respite and receiving center with very short-term respite housing, enhanced supports for youth at home, and a network of community care homes;
- Strengthens community infrastructure and capacity to ensure all youth have access to culturally relevant, developmentally appropriate, and youth- and family-centered supports; and
- Continues to engage those community members most impacted by the youth legal system.

Extensive community input and research for this work has reinforced the importance of ending youth detention. Simultaneously, it recognized the complexity of creating a new system and the new system must be in place before closure of the facility. This section describes specific next actions, timelines, and organizational structure that the Executive is putting into place to make closure of youth detention at the CCFJC possible. Importantly, fully realizing the end of youth detention and implementing a new system requires participation, deliberation, agreement, and support from the King County Council and King County Superior Court. Legal and/or regulatory changes may also be necessary as well. The actions described in this section chart a path that will likely take until at least 2028 for the first components of the new system to be funded, implemented, and begin operating.

Six Next Actions Necessary to Advance Care and Closure

Beginning early 2024, the Executive will undertake six actions to advance the Care and Closure work. These actions will continue the County's progress in reducing the use of detention for youth, and present feasible plans that, when funded and adopted, will begin operation of the new system envisioned by the Advisory Committee's recommendations. See the next actions outlined in Figure 17 below.

Figure 17: Strategy Planning and Implementation Phase Actions



Next Actions for Recommendations 3, 4, and 5: Implementation Planning and Budget Proposals for Consideration in the 2026/2027 Biennial Budget

An inter-departmental team overseen by the Executive Office will produce detailed implementation, staffing, and budget plans to fulfill Advisory Committee recommendations 3, 4, and 5 no later than February 15, 2025. Recommendations 3, 4, and 5 each received strong or general support from the Advisory Committee. These plans will incorporate the approach that the Advisory Committee strongly supported in recommendation 6, which is to continue to center the input, expertise, and ideas of the community members most directly impacted. The implementation and budget plans will:

- Address Advisory Committee questions and guidance listed in the detailed descriptions of each recommendation in the *Guidance on the Advisory Committee's Recommendations subsection* of this report's Section V;
- Include a description of the operational components necessary to begin implementing the recommendation;
- Address any necessary legal-regulatory changes identified by the legal planning team, including an engagement and communications plan;
- Describe how to appropriately collect data, measure performance, and report on performance when the recommendation is implemented;
- Describe any capital, operational, staffing, information technology, performance measurement and reporting, and other resources necessary to execute the implementation plan; and
- Address opportunities to seek and incorporate federal, state, municipal, or philanthropic funds that could supplement County investments.

The purpose and timing of this activity is to enable the Executive and the Council to consider detailed policy and budget proposals as soon as the 2026-2027 biennial budget, which will be proposed, considered, and acted on in 2025.

Next Actions to Propose Legal-Regulatory Changes in time for the 2025 State Legislative Session

No later than October 15, 2024, and in advance of the 2025 State Legislative session, a legal team advising the Executive will identify changes that the County should pursue to address licensing requirements and amend existing juvenile justice requirements to implement Advisory Committee recommendations. This team's analysis will build on the state law requirements identified and outlined in the August 2023 report and expand that analysis to the specific recommendations outlined in this report.

The legal team will address in its analysis and advice any legal and regulatory issues that it determines are relevant to making feasible the Advisory Committee's recommendations, including:

- Continue to analysis of the feasibility of the recommendations, including the respite center and continuum of community care homes, in the context of the existing local and state legislative requirements for secure youth detention;[132] And update, if needed, the analysis

[132] RCW 13.04.135. Establishment of house or room of detention [LINK]. RCW 13.16.030. Mandatory function of counties [LINK]

included the August 2023 report on the state legislative requirements for secure youth detention.[133]

- Identify and develop a legislative strategy to meet or potentially amend the existing state statute for secure youth detention to ensure the recommendations are feasible.[134]
- Identify and develop a legislative strategy to meet or address the federal and state statutes for secure youth detention related to the federal Interstate Compact Act.[135] As noted in the August 2023 report, the Compact requires Washington State to work with the Interstate Commission for Juveniles to ensure the safe interstate movement of juveniles subject to the compact, to include the safe return of juveniles who may have run away from their home state. [136] [137]

The legal team will also include within its analysis the following questions posed by the Advisory Committee:

- Will the County need to amend or change RCW 13.04.135, the legislative mandate to provide “a detention room or house of detention" given the proposed community-based alternatives?
- How will the County address state statutes that currently require the confinement of youth under 18 years old?

The analysis will also identify where King County does not have the authority to make necessary changes to law or regulation and would therefore require action by the Legislature to be able to implement King County Care and Closure Advisory Committee recommendations. The Executive intends to work with the King County Council, state legislators, and the public, and to propose and adopt state legislative priorities to make needed changes to existing state statutes and partner with state legislators and the Governor to achieve those legislative priorities.

Next Actions to Deliberate and Seek Agreement on Recommendations 1 and 2 so they are ready to advance to Implementation and Budget Planning in 2025

The Executive Office will reconvene the Advisory Committee through January 2025 to further understand, clarify, and deliberate on recommendations 1 and 2. The Advisory Committee will begin by answering the questions members outlined for each of the two recommendations, exploring the reasons why some members of the advisory committee did not support the recommendations, seeking consensus and updating the recommendations, and outlining the necessary components to ensure the proposed respite and receiving center and very short-term respite housing will keep youth, staff, and community safe. The purpose of this activity is to achieve the inter-agency, inter-departmental, and community consensus that will be necessary to advance to detailed implementation planning and budgeting for those specific

[133] August 2023 Report. Appendix M[LINK]

[134] The Executive has previously identified the existing state legislative requirements for secure youth detention. See Appendix M in the August 2023 Report. August 2023 Report. Appendix M [LINK]

[135] The Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ) is the only legal means to transfer a juvenile’s supervision from one state to another and to return youth who have voluntarily left their residence without permission of their legal guardian. A Commissioner in each member state administers the Compact and collectively forms the Interstate Commission for Juveniles. Interstate Commission for Juveniles. Compact Statute [LINK]

[136] RCW 13.24.011. Execution of compact [LINK]

[137] RCW 13.24.060. Responsibilities of state departments, agencies, and officers [LINK]

recommendations during 2025, which would in-turn enable proposal of those implementation and budget plans for Council consideration in 2026.

Next Actions to Identify and Implement Improvements for Outcomes and Conditions in the Current Facility that can begin in 2024

By March 31, 2024, DAJD will identify to the Executive 1) all existing activities and any new activities that improve outcomes for youth currently detained in the CCFJC and 2) address opportunities for community-based and CCFJC-based improvements and advance the Committee's recommendation 3 on safety and release planning and support for youth on electric home monitoring. The information provided to the Executive must include identification of programs and services that could be implemented within six months of receiving funding. These proposals may build on and enhance recently awarded and soon-to-be administered contracts from the Juvenile Division for community organizations to provide services in the youth detention center. Budget proposals are required for any new improvements identified.

Next Actions to Engage and Educate the Broader Public

The Executive Office will identify several opportunities to engage the public on the recommendations and the next phase of implementation. As outlined in this report, King County conducted intentional outreach with impacted communities during the recommendation development process. Throughout 2024, the Executive's Office will conduct engagement opportunities, which may include but not be limited to town halls, webinars, focus groups, and community meetings to educate the public on the harms of secure youth detention, the recommendations, next actions, and the County's commitment to transparency and accountability throughout the Care and Closure process. The Executive Office will leverage existing internal and external platforms to continue to provide updates to members of the Advisory Committee, King County staff, and the public, including the existing project website, project listserv, and regular updates to DAJD Juvenile Division staff. The Executive's Office will convene participating organizations, community organizations, along with subcommittee and Advisory Committee members, to continue momentum, build awareness, strengthen capacity, and continue to center those impacted as outlined in recommendations 5 and 6.

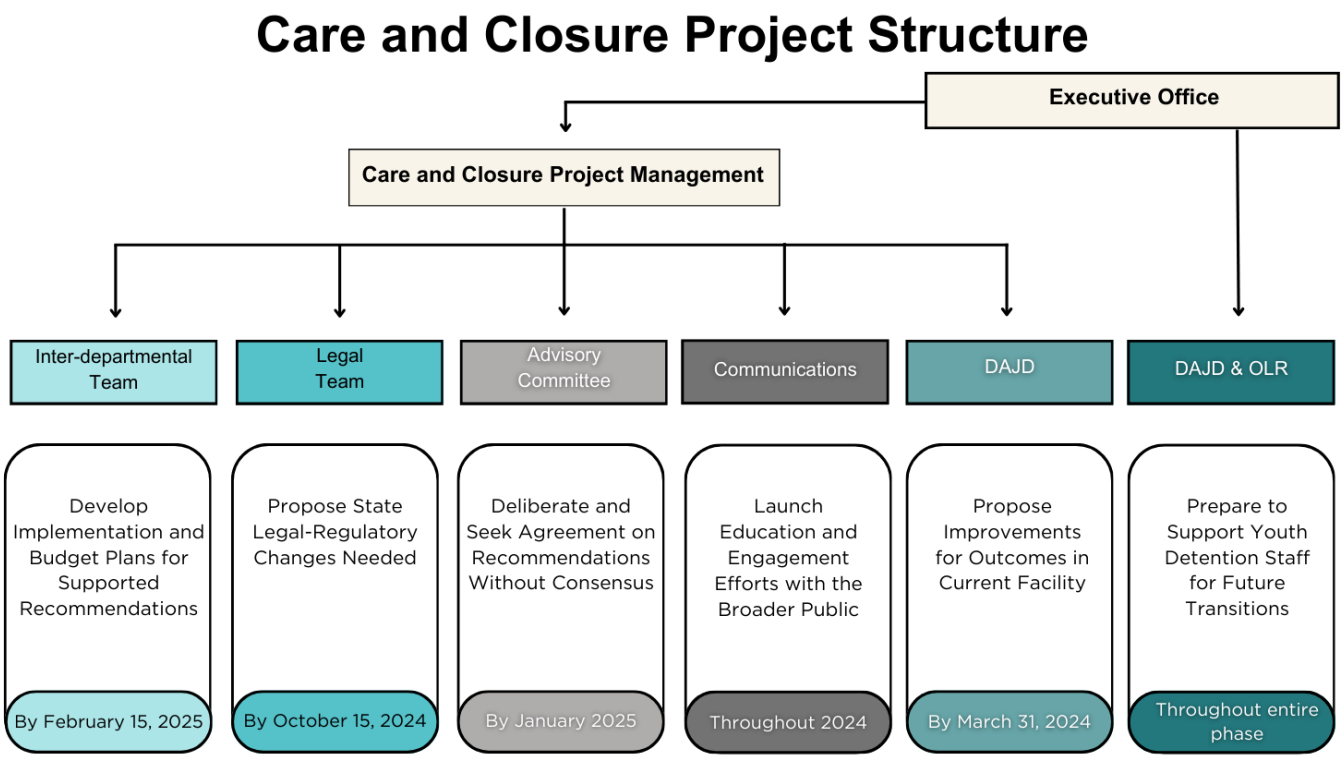
Prepare to Support Employees of the CCFJC for Future Transitions

The Executive and DAJD will partner with DAJD staff and their labor representatives to develop opportunities for career pathways and professional development for youth detention staff. This ongoing partnership will occur in direct parallel to progress developing and presenting the five other next actions identified in this section of the report. It is projected that the earliest this plan's next actions could yield an impact on the number of youth detained at the CCFJC is 2026, after implementation of funded proposals laid out in the 2026-27 budget begin. Under the plan and timeline included within this report, the Executive anticipates operations and continuous improvement activities at the CCFJC will continue without substantial Care and Closure-related reduction until at least 2028.

County Organizational Structure

The Executive will utilize the organizational structure depicted in Figure 18 to accomplish next steps outlined in the strategy planning and implementation phase described above. The project governance of the Care and Closure initiative will shift from DCHS to the Executive Office beginning in February 2024.

Figure 18: Project Structure in the Strategy Planning and Implementation Phase



VII. Conclusion

The Executive remains committed to ending the use of jail for children and youth. Care and Closure's extensive community engagement process and discussions within the Advisory Committee confirm consensus and important common ground. King County residents want:

- to be and feel safe.
- youth to be accountable and learn from their actions.
- legal interventions that improve a youth's long-term prospects by connecting them to mentorship, healthcare, education, and community supports.
- concrete and urgent action to eliminate the racial and ethnic disproportionality that has worsened even as fewer youth are being detained now than before.

No participant in the Care and Closure process asserted that the County's current system of youth detention should remain exactly how it is. The research and community engagement feedback presented in this report and previous reports are clear: youth who spend time in detention are more likely to be arrested and punished for future delinquent behavior; detention and incarceration negatively impact educational attainment, future employment, and physical and mental health; and other jurisdictions with diverse geographic and political conditions have implemented parts of the system that the Advisory Committee recommendations envision. It remains true that the racial and ethnic populations who are incarcerated at the highest rates as youth, locally and nationally, are the same racial and ethnic communities who experience the highest rates of homelessness, reduced lifespan, poverty, and incarceration as adults.

The question of Care and Closure is not *whether* to do better for community safety and youth healing and accountability, it is *how* to do better. Specifically, would have to happen for government to provide opportunities for the youth to become healthier, more accountable, more connected to community supports, and therefore more likely to thrive as adults? The Advisory Committee through its diligent work offered a recommendations to answer this question: a new system that could do better for youth and families.

While emphasizing the urgency and importance of ending the use of jail for children and youth, the Care and Closure process has surfaced the significant complexity and necessity of replacing the current system with something better. The Advisory Committee recommendations envision a serious and transformative new system that will take time to implement. Implementing the recommended new network of facilities and institutional practices must come first before the existing facility can fully close.

The focus on *closing* the existing facility sparked urgency and awareness to begin the Care and Closure initiative. Delivering on the initiative's promise now requires diligent work to *open* a system of youth healing and accountability and community safety that allows every King County resident to thrive. King County will continue to expand its knowledge and best practices from across the country, knowing that an undertaking this bold and comprehensive is nation-leading work.

VIII. Appendices

Appendix A: King County Departments Involved in Care and Closure
Appendix B: September 2021 Proviso Report Executive Summary
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King County Departments Involved in Care and Closure

Department of Community and Human Services

The Department of Community and Human Services' (DCHS) mission is to provide equitable opportunities for people to be healthy, happy, and connected to community.[1] Its wide array of programs and expertise, ranging from behavioral health to children, youth, and young adult services to affordable housing to supports for individuals with developmental disabilities, align with the goal of addressing the complex needs and risks of young people involved in the legal system through community-based alternatives.

DCHS' Children, Youth, and Young Adult Division (CYYAD) is working toward a vision for this region where all young people have equitable opportunities to be happy, healthy, safe, and thriving members of their communities. The division delivers re-engagement, education, and employment services for youth and young adults.[2] CYYAD plays an important role in youth legal system transformation. This DCHS division administers the community-led, County-supported Restorative Community Pathways (RCP) program; manages the Best Starts for Kids' Stopping the School to Prison Pipeline investments; and staffs the Children and Youth Advisory Board and its Youth Justice Subcommittee.[3] [4] [5]

DCHS leads the community-centered strategic planning process of the Care and Closure initiative featured in this proviso response. DCHS convenes the Care and Closure Advisory Committee and staffs the subcommittees.

Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention

The Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD) operates three detention facilities and various community supervision programs for pre- and post-trial defendants throughout King County. DAJD is responsible for the care, custody, and support of youth who are detained in the juvenile detention facility at the CCFJC. It operates King County's Alternatives to Secure Detention (ASD) program, providing community supervision to youth assigned to electronic home monitoring (EHM). The Executive operates the juvenile detention facility on behalf of the separately elected Superior Court.[6]

DAJD is involved as staff support for the Care and Closure Advisory Committee and represented on all subcommittees.

King County Superior Court

King County Superior Court is King County's general jurisdiction trial court. Superior Court is part of the judicial branch of government. Superior Court judges are elected, and the Court is led by the Superior Court Presiding Judge. Among other responsibilities under the Washington Constitution and state statutes, Superior Court has responsibility for juvenile offender cases which are adjudicated in the Juvenile Court and cases for youth tried as adults. Juvenile Court Judges use a range of legal options to meet both the safety needs of the community and the service needs of the youth and their families. The

[1] Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) [LINK]
[2] DCHS Children, Youth and Young Adults Division [LINK]
[3] Restorative Community Pathways [LINK]
[4] DCHS Best Starts for Kids [LINK]
[5] Best Starts for Kids. Children and Youth Advisory Board [LINK]
[6] Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention [LINK]

primary goals of Juvenile Court are to promote public safety, help youth build skills, address treatment needs, support families, and successfully restore youth to the community.[7]

The Superior Court, Juvenile Court, and Juvenile Court Services are all represented on the Care and Closure Advisory Committee and the Engaging Impacted Communities subcommittee.

Department of Public Defense

The Department of Public Defense (DPD) provides legal representation to adults and juveniles who have been charged with a crime and cannot afford an attorney, as well as people facing civil commitment, parents who could lose their children in a dependency action, and people seeking to vacate a past felony or misdemeanor conviction. DPD is part of the executive branch and operates as an independent voice that promotes justice and equity for its clients and advocates for their objectives and interests.[8]
DPD's Juvenile Defense practice area partners closely with its young clients, supports them through the complexities of the criminal legal system and helps them obtain their stated objectives.[9]

DPD is represented on the Care and Closure Advisory Committee and on the Identifying Alternatives to Secure Youth Detention subcommittee.

Prosecuting Attorney's Office

The King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO) employs more than 500 people, including more than 260 attorneys. The King County Prosecutor, who is a separately elected official, leads the PAO. The PAO Criminal Division represents the State and the County in criminal matters in the King County District and Superior Courts, the state and federal courts of appeal, and the Washington and U.S. Supreme Courts. The Criminal Division is responsible for prosecuting all felonies in King County and all misdemeanors in unincorporated areas of King County. The PAO has a Juvenile Division which handles juvenile cases. The Juvenile Division carries out the duties of the prosecutor in a manner consistent with the purposes of the Juvenile Justice Act which include providing a) for punishment commensurate with the age, Crime, and criminal history of the juvenile offender; b) for the rehabilitation and reintegration of juvenile offenders; and c) for the handling of juvenile offenders by the communities whenever consistent with community safety.[10]

The PAO Juvenile Division is represented on the Care and Closure Advisory Committee.

[7] King County Juvenile Court [LINK]
[8] Department of Public Defense [LINK]
[9] Department of Public Defense Juvenile Defense [LINK]
[10] Prosecuting Attorney's Office Juvenile Division [LINK]

Proviso Response:
Children and Family Justice Center – Strategic Planning Project: 2022-2025

King County

September 30, 2021

III. Executive Summary

The King County Executive oversees the secure detention facility located within the Patricia H. Clark Children and Family Justice Center (PHCCFJC) at the request of Superior Court, which has statutory authority for juvenile detention under state law.[1] Under the county executive, the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention's (DAJD) Juvenile Division is responsible for the care and custody of all youth in detention. The DAJD Juvenile Division is committed to providing quality, innovative, and comprehensive services to youth, families, and their communities.[2]

Between the years of 2010 and 2020, the average number of youth in secure detention per day declined by 70 percent, from a daily population of 89 to 27 youth. A variety of initiatives have collectively contributed to this reduction, including legal system reform efforts by community members and system stakeholders. While King County now has one of the lowest detention rates in the State of Washington,[3] youth of color continue to be overrepresented in secure detention.

In June 2020, the King County Executive committed to converting youth detention units at the Children and Family Justice Center to other uses no later than 2025, stating, "Phasing out centralized youth detention is no longer a goal in the far distance. We have made extraordinary progress and we have evolved to believe that even more can be done."

As called for by Ordinance 19210, and Ordinance 19307, this report outlines the process and timeline that will be utilized by the Executive to select the external consultants to help guide this historic initiative, in partnership with community. Consultants must bring exceptional skills and expertise to this work, particularly expert knowledge of juvenile legal system reform and experience assisting jurisdictions to challenge traditional and longstanding juvenile detention practices. Demonstrable experience working with community stakeholders, particularly those from historically marginalized communities and those who have experienced the juvenile legal system, are essential. They must also understand and reflect King County's commitment to becoming an anti-racist, pro-equity organization. Ultimately, community and system stakeholders will play a key role in shaping the final selection criteria for the team of external consultants.

To set the stage for gathering critical input from community stakeholders about the strategic planning process and selection of consultants, initial outreach has started by DAJD. Since fall of 2020, collaborative conversations have been held with community-based service providers, advocates who work with youth referred to the legal system, elected officials, legal system representatives, and youth currently detained in King County. One of the critical next steps in the strategic planning process is to establish an advisory board that will provide an authentic path for community to be involved in each step of the process, including in the selection of the external consultants. The advisory committee will provide oversight and guidance throughout the duration of the strategic planning process and implementation.

The scope of work for the selected consultants will include the development of a clear path to close the juvenile detention facility located within the PHCCFJC by 2025, including how to serve those youth who would otherwise be referred to secure detention. It will also identify recommendations for the

[1] RCW 13.20.010 (LINK)
[2] About King County Juvenile Detention (LINK)
[3] Washington State 2019 Juvenile Detention Annual Report (LINK)

repurposing and reuse of the juvenile detention facility to meet community-identified needs. Required written deliverables will include a detailed project plan to achieve these objectives.

This report also includes a project plan with key milestones that lead toward the Executive's goal of closing the juvenile detention facility within the PHCCFJC by 2025 and reinvesting in community programs, services, and interventions that serve the needs of youth who would otherwise be at risk of juvenile detention. The following table outlines the projected timeline to achieve key milestones during the four phases of the project.

PHCCFJC Strategic Planning Key Project Milestones: Phase 1 *Information and dates subject to change*	**Projected Timeline** *Dates shown are estimated completion dates*
Hire and on board project manager	October 31
Develop public facing communication approach (website) and initial content about the process and timeline	November 30
Identify PHCCFJC Strategic Planning Advisory Committee	December 31
Convene first meeting of the PHCCFJC Strategic Planning Advisory Committee; determine meeting cadence	January 30, 2022
Develop materials for competitive process with Committee	March 1
Open competitive process for consultant	March 30
Consultant selection process	April 1-30
Consultant Advisory Committee work sessions	
Consultant conducts initial key stakeholder interviews	May 1-31
Review consultant project plan, communication plan, outreach plan with Advisory Committee; revise as needed	
Develop and submit Proviso response to the Council	June 30
Conduct first phase of community engagement	July 2022– January 2023
Key Project Milestones: Phase 2	January – May 2023
Review and synthesize community input with Advisory Committee and community	
Develop options	
Conduct second phase of community engagement	
Review options with community	
Revise options with Advisory Committee	
Key Project Milestones: Phase 3	May – September 2023
Develop final report & recommendations	
Conduct third phase of community engagement	
Finalize report & recommendations	
Submit final report to community and stakeholders	
Key Project Milestones: Phase 4	2024
Implementation of recommendations & actions (subject to labor negotiations)	

The PHCCFJC Strategic Planning Project and its focus on closing the juvenile detention facility reflect the commitment of King County to break the cycle of disenfranchisement, suffering, and reliance on incarceration, while reinvesting in community-based alternatives that are therapeutic, trauma-informed, youth and family centered.

Proviso Response:
Children and Family Justice Center – Strategic Planning Project: 2022-2025

June 30, 2022

III. Executive Summary

The King County Executive oversees the secure detention facility located within the Patricia H. Clark Children and Family Justice Center at the request of Superior Court, which has statutory authority for juvenile detention under state law.[1] Under the County Executive, the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention's (DAJD) Juvenile Division is responsible for the care and custody of all youth in detention. The DAJD Juvenile Division is committed to providing quality, innovative, and comprehensive services to youth, families, and their communities.[2]

In July 2020, the King County Executive committed to converting youth detention units at the Children and Family Justice Center to other uses no later than 2025, stating, "phasing out centralized youth detention is no longer a goal in the far distance. We have made extraordinary progress and we have evolved to believe that even more can be done."

Between the years of 2010 and 2021, the average number of youth in secure detention per day declined by 75 percent, from a daily population of 89 to 22 youth.[3] A variety of initiatives have collectively contributed to this reduction, including legal system reform efforts by community members and systems partners. Youth of color continue to be overrepresented in secure detention despite the reduction in the overall daily population.[4]

As called for by Ordinance 19210 and Ordinance 19307, this report is the second Proviso response submitted to the King County Council on the strategic planning effort to close the youth detention facility at the Judge Patricia H. Clark Children and Family Justice Center (CFJC) by 2025 and repurpose it for other community-identified uses. The Executive submitted the first Proviso report on September 30, 2021.

The September 2021 report included an overview of key historical context relative to the strategic planning work and documented previous and ongoing efforts to reduce the number of young people in detention over the past two decades.[5] The September 2021 report identified previous engagement with interested parties and outlined an approach for soliciting project consultants for this effort.

Key Changes Since September 2021

The strategic planning approach has progressed and evolved since the September 2021 report. It is clear that closing the County's youth detention facility requires a holistic continuum of community-based alternatives to address the complex needs of young people who would otherwise be in detention. Based on feedback from community and input from interdepartmental staff, management of this strategic planning project is planned to shift to the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) to enable a holistic continuum of community-based alternatives and services for youth and their families. DCHS will lead the strategic planning effort and DAJD will remain a closely involved partner, continuing to bring its expertise and knowledge to the strategic planning work.

[1] RCW 13.20.010 [LINK].
[2] King County Juvenile Detention [LINK].
[3] King County DAJD Detention and Alternatives Statistical Reports [LINK].
[4] Zero Youth Detention Data Dashboard [LINK].
[5] These efforts include the Road Map to Zero Youth Detention [LINK], Restorative Community Pathways [LINK], and the efforts led by Zero Youth Detention to curb gun violence in the region. These include Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Plan [LINK], Regional Peacekeepers King County [LINK], and Beloved King County [LINK].

In addition, the project phases are modified to reflect additional planning since the September 2021 report, delineating between the necessary components of the plan, and clearly communicating the phases to interested parties. A fifth phase, "transition to closure," was added to reflect the need for transition planning and implementation in phase 4 before successful closure can occur. The modifications to the phases have not impacted the sequence or composition of project milestones.

Utilizing a sole-source waiver, the County has contracted with the W. Haywood Burns Institute (Burns Institute) as the initial project consultant.[6] Extensive research, conversations with national experts, and planning efforts led the project staff to identify the Burns Institute as the only organization with the experience, expertise, and capacity to execute the strategic planning project in a jurisdiction of this size. It is expected that further consulting resources will be necessary, particularly consultants with specific local knowledge and experience.

The project's Advisory Committee, comprised of 14 community representatives, impacted young people and families, and systems partners, guides and shapes the project.[7] The first Advisory Committee meeting occurred in March 2022; the committee continues to meet every other week.[8] Ultimately, the Advisory Committee will create the recommendations to successfully close the youth detention facility and repurpose the space, which will be informed by significant community engagement with impacted young people and families.

As called for by the King County Council, this report outlines the proposed community engagement process for centering young people and their families who have lived experience in the youth legal system. Project staff, the Burns Institute, and the Advisory Committee are designing a multifaceted community engagement approach with several avenues for impacted young people, families, and communities to participate in and inform the strategic planning project. Subcommittees will be established to focus on specific topics. Because these subcommittees will be comprised of more individuals than the Advisory Committee alone, it is another avenue for community participation. It is expected that the subcommittees and will expand the number and diversity of organizations and community members who can directly inform the plan.

Another critical avenue for engagement will be community engagement activities intentionally designed to connect with impacted young people and their families. These engagement activities will include listening circles, focus groups, and interviews, among other approaches, to hear from community and interested parties, planned to take place in phase 2, starting in July 2022 to December 2022. Project staff will work with the Burns Institute and the Advisory Committee to design and host engagement activities. The County will fund local community organizations working with impacted young people and families to lead engagement activities. Project staff will synthesize and share the findings from the engagement activities with the participants of those activities, the Advisory Committee, and members of the public via the project website.

[6] The Burns Institute is a Black-led, national nonprofit with a diverse team working to transform the administration of justice.
[7] Out of the current 14 members, seven members represent community perspectives and impacted communities, including three representatives under 25 years old and one parent. Recruitment is underway for additional community members including impacted young people and family members.
[8] The Advisory Committee's meeting agendas, slides, and notes are posted to the project website [LINK].

Findings from the community-centered engagement process will inform the Advisory Committee's recommendations. Beginning in early 2023, the community engagement activities will shift to solicit input on engagement findings and proposed strategies. Project staff, the Burns Institute, and local community organizations will plan community town halls to share findings from the community engagement activities from phase 2 and solicit input from community members on the Advisory Committee's draft recommendations. The community town halls will facilitate broader engagement from members of the public in addition to impacted populations, and will be planned throughout the region to ensure adequate geographic engagement. Additional engagement activities, such as strategy development workshops and online surveys, may be implemented to solicit further collaboration with impacted populations and members of the public.

With support from project staff and the Burns Institute, the Advisory Committee will then finalize the recommendations and options. The Executive will review the final report developed by the project staff and the Burns Institute and move forward on actions needed to implement the recommendations in partnership with the King County Council. Transition planning and implementation will take place in phase 4. A fifth phase has been added to the milestones since transmittal of the September 2021 report. The added Phase 5 includes transition to closure by 2025.

This report also includes a project plan with key milestones that contribute to the Executive's goal of closing the youth detention facility and reinvesting in a continuum of community-based alternatives needed to support youth who would otherwise be in detention. The following table outlines the projected timeline to achieve important milestones during the five phases of the project.

Key Milestones ***Information and dates subject to change***	***Estimated completion dates***
Phase 1: Project Roll-Out (January – June 2022)	
Establish composition of Advisory Committee and recruit members	Feb. 2022
Procure strategic project support and facilitation support for the Advisory Committee	Feb. 2022
Convene Advisory Committee	March 2022
Complete community mapping	June 2022
Submit Proviso response to Council	June 2022
Phase 2: Community Listening and Learning (July – December 2022)	
Launch engagement activities for impacted young people and families	July 1, 2022
Launch funding opportunity for local community organizations to design and host engagement activities.	July 31, 2022
Launch subcommittees	July 31, 2022
Synthesize findings and report on community engagement activities in July, August, and September 2022. Adjust activities as needed.	Sept. 30, 2022
Design, plan, and identify dates for community townhalls for early 2023.	Dec. 15, 2022
Complete Phase 2 community engagement activities.	Dec. 15, 2022
Synthesize findings and report on community engagement activities in October, November, and December 2022.	Dec. 31, 2022
Phase 3: Community Strategy Development (January – September 2023)	
Review synthesized community input from engagement findings with the **Advisory Committee and subcommittees.**	Jan. 31, 2023
Develop draft recommendations framework with the Advisory Committee.	March 1, 2023
Host community engagement to get feedback on draft recommendations framework.	April 30, 2023
Synthesize and review feedback from community engagement with the Advisory Committee.	May 15, 2023

Incorporate community feedback into draft recommendations framework and develop detailed recommendations with the Advisory Committee.	June 30, 2023
Finalize recommendations and review final report with Advisory Committee.	July 31, 2023
Review final recommendations and final report internally.	Aug. 31, 2023
Submit final report to the Executive, community, and interested parties.	Sept. 30, 2023
Phase 4: Transition Planning and Preparation (October 2023 to 2024)	
Convene transition teams and create transition plans for the recommendations.	Dec. 31, 2023
Identify and formulate additional budget requests for 25-26 budget in transition plans	Jan. 30, 2024
Implementation of transition plans. Continued engagement with impacted communities to get feedback on the implementation. Create modifications as needed to adjust to needs.	Dec. 2024
NEW - Phase 5: Transition to Closure (2025)	
Continued implementation of transition plans.	Dec. 2025

Finally, the County's 2020 adopted budget included a Proviso directing the King County Facilities and Management Division (FMD), in coordination with the Office of Equity and Social Justice (OESJ) to develop and propose uses and ownership structures of the County-owned land at 12th Avenue and East Alder Street (Alder Complex). This land is adjacent to the CFJC where the detention facility is located. The Proviso requires FMD to conduct a community-driven process to propose uses and ownership of the undeveloped parcels of land at the Alder Complex, centering adults and youth impacted by the criminal legal system in the process; and submit a report detailing the community engagement process and outcomes of the process to the Council.[9] The project team is coordinating outreach and community engagement across both projects in partnership with FMD. This coordination enables the County to leverage engagement findings and ensure that land-use and repurposing recommendations and options are aligned and informed by one another.

[9] Ordinance 19210 [LINK].

Appendix D

Care and Closure: Progress Report on the Strategic Planning Process for the Future of Secure Juvenile Detention

August 2023

King County

III. Executive Summary

The King County Executive oversees the secure detention facility located within the Patricia H. Clark Children and Family Justice Center (CCFJC) at the request of Superior Court, which has statutory authority for juvenile detention under state law.[2] Under the County Executive, the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention's (DAJD) Juvenile Division is responsible for the care and custody of all youth in detention.[3]

In July 2020, the King County Executive committed to converting youth detention units at the Children and Family Justice Center to other uses no later than 2025, stating, "phasing out centralized youth detention is no longer a goal in the far distance. We have made extraordinary progress and we have evolved to believe that even more can be done."[4]

As called for by Ordinance 19546, this report is the third report submitted to the King County Council on the strategic planning effort to close the youth detention center at the Judge Patricia H. Clark Children and Family Justice Center (CCFJC) by 2025 and repurpose it for other community-identified uses.[5] The Executive submitted the first proviso report on September 30, 2021 and submitted the second proviso report on June 30, 2022.

The September 2021 report included an overview of key historical context relative to the strategic planning work and documented previous and ongoing efforts to reduce the number of young people in detention over the past two decades. The September 2021 report identified previous engagement with interested parties, outlined next actions, and included an estimated timeline for the process. [6]

The June 2022 report built on the September 2021 report by detailing the proposed approach for the community-centered engagement process and outlining the project's structure, including the Advisory Committee, subcommittees, and collaborations with system and community partners. The report also highlighted a shift in leadership for the project from DAJD to the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) and updated the timeline of the project's implementation. [7]

[2] King County Code 2.16.175. Juvenile Court Services-Detention Facilities-Administration by the County Executive [LINK]. See also RCW 13.20.060. Transfer of administration of juvenile court services to county executive—Authorized—Advisory board—Procedure. [LINK]
[3] King County Code (KCC) 2.16.175. Title 2 Administration – Administrative Offices and Executive Departments. [LINK]
[4] King County Executive Office. Executive State of the County (2020). [LINK]
[5] King County Ordinance 19546. [LINK]
[6] The September 2021 proviso report was required in Ordinance 19210, Section 50, P3, as amended by Ordinance 19307, Section 31, Proviso P3. September 2021 Proviso Report [LINK]
[7] The June 2022 proviso report required in Ordinance 19210, Section 50, P3, as amended by Ordinance 19307, Section 31, Proviso P3. June 2022 Proviso Report [LINK]

King County's effort to transform its response to youth in crisis and end youth detention is supported by research. Research shows that youth detention and incarceration fail to produce the desired outcomes of rehabilitation and accountability for young people.[8] It also has immediate and long-term collateral consequences for young people, such as financial penalties; restrictions in public benefit programs; housing restrictions with public housing programs; disruptions and barriers to education and employment; and trauma and continued stigma.[9] Evidence further highlights that crime survivors, or harmed community members, are twice as likely to prefer investing in crime prevention, crisis assistance, and strong communities over increasing arrests, strict punishment, and incarceration.[10] [11] Further research highlights that community-based alternatives to detention and incarceration are more effective in producing better public safety outcomes for youth who have caused serious harm in their communities, especially when interventions are multi-faceted and tailored to blend specific supports for youth.[12] [13] These types of interventions are supported by diverse national partners, including associations for juvenile and family court judges and administrators of youth and correctional facilities.[14]

In early 2023, the Executive Office branded this initiative *Care and Closure: a plan for youth healing, accountability, and community safety*. This name clarifies the Executive's commitments to 1) expand the community-based continuum of resources, accountability, and care for young people and harmed community members to better meet their needs and support their healing; and 2) close the youth detention center. It also reflects three essential components in this work: centering youth and their healing, ensuring accountability for harm caused, and bolstering community safety by resourcing communities and creating more effective responses to harm.

As called for by the King County Council, this report responds to six requirements related to: progress since the June 2022 proviso, engagement findings with impacted communities, a draft recommendations framework (referred to in the report as a draft framework), state requirements for

[8] The Sentencing Project (2022). Why Youth Incarceration Fails: An Updated Review of the Evidence [LINK]
[9] National Governors Association (2023). State Strategies to Address the Needs of Justice-Involved Youth Impacted by Collateral Consequences [LINK]
[10] Alliance for Safety and Justice (2022). Crime Survivors Speak: National Survey of Victims' Views on Safety and Justice. [LINK]
[11] Harmed community members and/or harmed parties, also commonly known as victims, are individuals who have been directly or indirectly affected by crime. This report uses "harmed parties" to reference community members who have been directly or indirectly harmed by youth crime.
[12] The research measures effectiveness of these programs in several ways, including recidivism or the likelihood of the youth reoffending or committing another offense within a certain period of time. Research also looks at program impacts on youth wellbeing, such as developing new skills, developing a sense of belonging, and contributing to their communities.
[13] Sentencing Project (2023). Effective Alternatives to Youth Incarceration [LINK]
[14] National Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judges (2022). Judicial Leadership for Community-Based Alternatives to Juvenile Secure Confinement [LINK]. Youth Correctional Leaders for Justice (2020). Statement on Ending Youth Prisons [LINK].

youth detention, labor considerations for supporting detention staff through the transition, and Council's role in the continued process and implementation of the recommendations.[15]

Progress Since June 2022

King County has made significant progress in the Care and Closure effort and is on track for the major milestones outlined in the June 2022 proviso report.

The Executive Office, DAJD, and DCHS successfully transitioned project leadership from DAJD to DCHS, and DCHS is now leading Care and Closure in partnership with DAJD and the Executive Office to identify community-based alternatives to youth detention. DCHS continues to convene the Advisory Committee, a group of community partners, system partners, and impacted community members, as a key component of the community-centered process.[16] The Advisory Committee guides the project and will ultimately co-create recommendations informed by community input. The Advisory Committee recently launched three subcommittees to deepen the project's recommendations development and expand the community partners and perspectives informing the recommendations. King County convenes the Advisory Committee with support from the Burns Institute, a national nonprofit with expertise in youth legal system transformation. DCHS has also deepened partnerships with community organizations and engagement with impacted community members in this planning process, as further outlined below.

Engagement with Impacted Communities

Since June 2022, King County and community partners have been gathering input and feedback from nearly 1,200 impacted community members, including impacted youth, family members, harmed community members, and community partners.[17] DCHS and its partners convened listening sessions, conducted interviews and surveys, and met with hundreds of impacted community members in detention, virtually, and in communities throughout King County.[18]

This engagement with hundreds of young people, families, and community members who are impacted by the youth legal system and organizations working with young people showed that the County needs expanded community-based responses to intervene when youth cause serious harm in their communities.

[15] King County Ordinance 19546 [LINK]

[16] The Advisory Committee is comprised of community representatives, impacted young people and families, and systems partners. Of the current 14 members on the Advisory Committee, seven represent community perspectives and impacted communities, including three representatives under 25 years old and one parent. See Appendix C for the composition of the Advisory Committee.

[17] The term "impacted youth" in this planning process refers to young people between the ages of 12 and 24 years old who have been involved in the youth legal system, been confined in detention or participated in electronic home monitoring, participated in a diversion program, or harmed by other youth.

[18] See Appendices E through J for more information about findings from the community-led engagement, listening sessions with youth in detention, interviews with youth on electronic home monitoring, and input from community organizations.

The engagement with impacted communities highlighted three key findings:

1. Many impacted youth, families, and community members believe that secure youth detention is not an effective solution for most or all youth and should not be relied on to make communities better and safer.
2. Impacted youth, families, and harmed community members want more resources focused on supporting youth healing, accountability, and community safety. These resources include more spaces other than detention to reflect on mistakes made; stability and structure; supportive mentors with similar lived experiences; resources to transform and stabilize their home environments; and greater support for their families.
3. Impacted youth, families, and harmed community members want King County to have expanded responses that center understanding as to why harm occurred, prevent harm from occurring, create real community safety, and foster collaborative and community-centered care.

Draft Framework

The initial draft framework in this report integrates components developed by the Advisory Committee with DCHS' support and signals the anticipated approach of the final recommendations. This report does not include the full range of those recommendations, because the Advisory Committee and subcommittees were developing them as of the writing of this report. However, the draft framework highlights the work done by the Advisory Committee to understand the values, principles, and needs members intend to consider when identifying the community-based alternatives necessary to close the youth detention center, support impacted youth, and promote greater community safety.

The Advisory Committee has identified 12 shared values to help ensure value-based, not fear-based, decision-making for its development of recommendations to end the use of secure youth detention: centering impacted young people and families; honesty; transparency; integrity; accountability and commitment; empathy; listening to each other; restorative; respect; diversity; allowing others to speak their truth; and healing.[19]

The Advisory Committee has also identified six initial guiding principles to help inform the group's recommendations for alternatives to secure youth detention:

1. Prioritize meeting the needs for all youth, harmed parties, and community members;
2. Keep youth in their communities;
3. Prioritize racial equity and anti-racism;
4. Focus on radical healing and accountability, not punishment;
5. Holistically support and center impacted youth, harmed parties, and communities in the development and implementation of alternatives to secure youth detention; and
6. Be transparent with how the alternatives are being developed and implemented.[20]

[19] The Advisory Committee created these shared values in May 2022. The list of shared values is included in the meeting agendas and notes and highlighted at the beginning of each Advisory Committee meeting. King County Care and Closure (2023) [LINK]

[20] See the project website for meeting notes, agendas, and slides from the Advisory Committee meetings. King County Care and Closure (2023). Advisory Committee [LINK]

A draft holistic continuum of care informed by the initial guiding principles and community engagement graphically depicts the range of community-based supports identified by impacted youth, family members, and harmed parties needed to meet the needs of these groups. Included as Figure 6 in the report, this tool underscores that while many supports already exist in King County, the County and its partners may need to tailor and expand those resources and develop new ones to meet the complex needs of youth in detention and harmed parties. These critical supports are categorized into nine elements: mentorship and supportive communities, education, transportation, employment and financial stability, medical and behavioral health, family support, housing, accountability, and healing.

The Advisory Committee and subcommittees are using and refining the initial draft framework to inform recommendations on the community-based alternatives necessary for youth healing, accountability, and community safety and to close the youth detention center.

State Law Requirements for Youth Detention

While King County is building toward a future without a youth detention center, Washington State law requires King County to operate a youth detention center and use detention to detain youth for certain offenses.[21] Therefore, unless alternative facilities can comply with statutory requirements, those statutes will need to be repealed or amended so that King County is not obligated to have a youth detention center or detain young people in a youth detention center. To inform a state legislative strategy, King County will need to further examine the potential impacts of different legislative changes on other counties in the state and the ability to use expanded community-based alternatives as suitable placements for young people with specific offenses.

The Executive intends to work with state legislators, the public, and the King County Council to propose and adopt state legislative priorities to make needed changes to existing state statutes. The Executive plans to partner with state legislators and the Governor to achieve those legislative priorities.

Labor Laws and Supporting Detention Staff

The County's transition to close the youth detention center at the CCFJC will be a major organizational change for Juvenile Division staff.[22] The Executive is committed to supporting staff and respecting their needs, rights, and concerns throughout the Care and Closure process and implementation of the recommendations to close youth detention. The Public Employees' Collective Bargaining Act, Chapter 41.56 Revised Code of Washington (RCW), requires the County to negotiate with labor representatives

[21] See Appendix M for a list of all identified state requirements for secure youth detention in Washington State. Two state statutes, RCW 13.04.135 and RCW 13.16.030, require the maintenance and operation of a physically secure facility where juveniles may be confined for 24 hours a day and where staff is present to maintain such confinement. RCW 13.04.135. Establishment of house or room of detention. [LINK] RCW 13.16.030. Mandatory function of counties. [LINK]

[22] There are five represented bargaining units at the DAJD Juvenile Division with a total of 142 represented employees that may be directly impacted by the closure of the detention center. See Appendix N for a more information on the bargaining units within DAJD's Juvenile Division.

regarding changes to mandatory subjects of bargaining, such as changes to employee wages, hours, and working conditions.[23] In addition to following the labor laws and processes detailed in this full report, the Executive is committed to preparing detention staff for the transition to a variety of career pathways, including at the adult jails, in different departments supporting youth and family members, or ~~in other careers within or outside of the County.~~

Council Involvement

The King County Council is engaged in the Care and Closure initiative in multiple ways, including through briefings, input into recommended community organizations for the County to engage in the planning process, and staff attendance at Advisory Committee meetings. The Council will have several opportunities to continue to be involved in project planning and support project implementation at the local and state level. The Executive welcomes further collaboration with Council, outreach during public education activities, and engagement activities such as town halls.

The Council's legislative and fiscal policymaking is important for the implementation of the recommendations from this initiative. Council action will be necessary to support state legal changes and related investments as county legislative priorities. Council action will also be required to implement most state legislative changes and invest local dollars in existing and needed local youth-centered services outlined in the recommendations from this process.

Next Actions

Working with community, labor, and systems partners, the Executive is continuing to transform the County's response to youth in crisis, including eliminating secure detention for youth. Expanding the range of community-based alternatives to support young people and their healing, accountability, and community safety and closing the youth detention center advances King County's commitment to becoming an anti-racist, pro-equity government. Ultimately, the County needs to transform its youth legal system to better meet the needs of impacted youth, families, and harmed community members.

The Executive intends to proceed with closure of the youth detention center only when sufficient resources and support are in place to expand the community-based alternatives to secure youth detention.

Consistent with Ordinance 19546, the Executive expects to provide the Advisory Committee's recommendations for the future of secure youth detention in late 2023. These recommendations are expected to include a pathway to transition sustainably toward community-based alternatives that reflect the framework in this report and achieve racial equity, improve outcomes for youth, and support safer communities in King County.

[23] RCW 41.56. Public Employees' Collective Bargaining [LINK]

Appendix E

Care and Closure Advisory Committee

Position	Representative	Organization
Community partner	Benjamin Danielson	Allies for Healthier Systems for Health and Abundance in Youth (AHSHAY)
Community partner	Gloria Hoxsie / Jasmine Lee Fry	Children and Youth Advisory Board
Systems partner	Jason Smith	Juvenile Detention Guild
Systems partner	Jimmy Hung	Prosecuting Attorney's Office
Systems partner	Katherine Hurley	Department of Public Defense
Systems partner	Melinda Young	Juvenile Court
Community partner	Noah Collier	Student and young person impacted by the youth legal system
Community partner	Paulette Makela	Parent impacted by the youth legal system
Systems partner	Paul Daniels	Juvenile Court Services
Systems partner	Patrick Oishi	Superior Court
Community partner	Roman Nova	Artist and young person impacted by the youth legal system
Community partner	Tahonishi Bell	Multi-Service Center
Community partner	Rhea Yo	Legal Counsel for Youth and Children
Systems partner	Wendell Shirley	King County Sheriff and Police Chiefs Association

Care and Closure

Subcommittee Composition

Subcommittee: Identifying Alternatives to Secure Youth Detention

Alex Silva	Odessa Brown Clinic; harmed family member
Bekmay Kayembe	African Young Dreamers Empowerment Program International
Bitaniya Giday	Community Member
Catherine Pickard	Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention
Cristina Mitchell	Progress Pushers
Delcine Hackley	CHOOSE 180
Eugene Youngblood	Freedom Project; IF Project
Greg Anderson	Urban League
Izzy Eads	CHOOSE 180
Jason Smith*	Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention
Jeremy Winzer	Progress Pushers
Katie Hurley*	Department of Public Defense
Marcus Stubblefield	King County Executive Office
Margaret Soukup	Department of Community and Human Services
Paulette Makela*	Impacted Parent
Noah Collier	Community member
Rhea Yo*	Legal Counsel for Youth and Children
Shundra King	For the Culture Counseling Services
Tahonishi Bell	Multi Service Center
Teirenney Fincher	Urban League
Tiffany Attrill	Community member
William Hairston	Center for Children and Youth Justice

Subcommittee: Strengthening Community Infrastructure

Allen Nance	Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention
Chan Saelee	Department of Community and Human Services
Ashley Stephens	African Young Dreamers Empowerment Program International
Delbert Richardson	Community member
Derek Anderson	Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention
Fiona Okech	African Young Dreamers Empowerment Program International
Iwona Nawratil	Behavioral health professional
Julissa Sanchez	CHOOSE 180

Lupe Vidaurri	Collective Justice
Rich Reed	Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention
Sareya Milton	Progress Pushers
Sheala Anderson	Housing Stability for Youth in Courts (HSYNC)
Thomas Smith	Progress Pushers
Zac Davis	Department of Community and Human Services

Subcommittee: Engaging Impacted Communities

Beau Besaw	Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention
Gloria Hoxsie	Renton Public Schools
Jaden Anzetaka	Youth
James Dassa	Harmed family member
JW Ward	Urban League
Melinda Young*	Juvenile Court
Meryn Johnson	Somali Safety Family Task Force
Neaners Garcia	Hope for Homies
Patrice Thomas	Harmed family member
Trina Kinney	Change Foundation

Staff support for the subcommittees

Emily Johnson	Department of Community and Human Services
Jawara McDuffie	Department of Community and Human Services

* Indicates Advisory Committee member
Note that these lists of subcommittee members reflect members who attended at least one subcommittee meeting.

Proven Models in Other Jurisdictions

Juvenile Assessment and Receiving Center

Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) & Care Management Organization Network, Wayne County, MI
The Wayne County Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) is a 24/7 single point of entry for all youth into the County's youth legal system. Law enforcement officers bring all youth directly to the JAC, regardless of the alleged offense. Youth are assessed with standardized and comprehensive tools. Youth are assigned to a service provider and/or Care Management Organization (CMO) within 24 hours of review of the assessment. [1] The JAC focuses on service planning and placement for youth with three principles: least restrictive placement; family preservation; accountability and public protection.

The County's Juvenile and Youth Services Department contracts with five CMOs to provide culturally responsive services to youth and their families. Youth and families are assigned to CMOs based on their family's zip code. When there is no family zip code, youth are assigned to CMOs on a rotating basis. Each CMO develops, implements, and monitors a care plan for each youth. [2] Each CMO is responsible for developing and coordinating a local network of culturally competent, person-centered, and strength-based services and resources for youth and their families. They can deliver direct services or contract with other providers to ensure sufficient and diverse resources for the youth and their family.[3]
CMOs provide a wide variety of services including case management services; assessment; service coordination; community linkage; crisis intervention services; monitoring service; court attendance; treatment; and team coordination. CMOs must provide and contract for in-home treatment, facilitation of actual out-of-home residential and non-institutional placements; community-based treatment; and independent living. [4]

Community Assessment and Referral Center (CARC), San Francisco, CA
Located in San Francisco, CA, the Community Assessment and Referral Center (CARC) is a single point of entry for services for arrested youth. The CARC is currently operated by a community provider, Huckleberry Youth Programs, and is open from 9 am to 12 am Monday through Friday.[5] Law enforcement officers bring youth between 11 years old and 17 years old to the CARC, and upon arrival, youth meet with a probation officer for intake, a licensed behavioral health provider for screenings, and a case manager for a voluntary assessment.[6] The CARC serves youth arrested for both felony and misdemeanor offenses. Eligible offenses include all misdemeanors and some felonies, including battery, assault, possession and sales of drugs, theft, trespassing, and stolen vehicle.[7] [8] The CARC is unique in

[1] Charter County of Wayne Michigan. Juvenile Youth Services. [LINK]
[2] Black Family Development. Programs and Services. Juvenile Justice Services. [LINK]
[3] Wayne County Department of Health, Veterans, and Community Wellness. Wayne Juvenile. Juvenile Justice Service Handbook. [LINK]
[4] Wayne County Department of Health, Veterans, and Community Wellness. Wayne Juvenile. Juvenile Justice Service Handbook. [LINK]
[5] Huckleberry Youth Programs. Huckleberry Community Assessment and Resource Center (CARC). [LINK]
[6] Huckleberry Youth Programs. Huckleberry Community Assessment and Resource Center (CARC). [LINK]
[7] San Francisco Juvenile Probation Commission. June 2022. "Community-Based Juvenile Justice in San Francisco: Huckleberry Youth Programs' Community Assessment and Resource Center (CARC)" [LINK].
[8] As of 2021, the non-eligible offenses included assaults inflicting serious injury, homicide, felony arson, forcible rape, and warrants. When youth are arrested for those alleged offenses, law enforcement takes the youth directly to the Juvenile Hall. San Francisco Juvenile Probation Commission. June 2022. "Community-Based Juvenile Justice in San Francisco: Huckleberry Youth Programs' Community Assessment and Resource Center (CARC)" [LINK].

that it was one of the first assessment centers located in community rather than instead of a juvenile hall or police station.[9]

The CARC has operated for more than 20 years and has reduced the reliance on secure youth detention in San Francisco. The CARC diverts about one-third of arrested youth in San Francisco from secure youth detention and formal probation.[10] A majority (83 percent) of youth remain arrest-free within a year following their completion of CARC programming compared to 30 percent for incarcerated youth.[11] Services that youth receive include legal advocacy and system diversion to support youth in "completing the legal consequences of arrest"; social emotional development create "individualized support plans for each youth and referrals"; and academic and vocational support to connect "youth with positive educational and vocational opportunities."[12]

Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC), Douglas County, NE

The Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) in Omaha, NE assesses all youth referred for law violations through the Douglas County Attorney's Office and connects them to services.[13] JAC staff use standardized screenings and assessments to determine the needs of youth and their families and recommend levels of intervention and supervision for youth.[14] The Prosecuting Attorney's Office reviews and provides final approval for the recommended intervention and supervision levels for all youth.[15] All diversion programming is administered by the JAC in partnership with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

An evaluation of the JAC found it saves "between $1.4 million and $4.5 million annually" and that less than a quarter (23 percent) of youth served at the assessment center become involved in the legal system again.[16] With its success over the last 20 years, the center expanded in 2025 to include more staff and additional satellite locations to connect youth with service providers.[17]

Support for Building the Respite and Receiving Center: National Assessment Center Association

There are currently nearly 90 assessment centers across the country, and they vary widely in their structure, eligibility for youth arrested, and their involvement with the legal system. There are no current assessment centers in Washington State.

The National Assessment Center Association (NAC) provides support for assessment centers across the country to share best practices and ensure youth and families are served effectively. The NAC provides

[9] Juvenile Justice Information Exchange. November 23, 2016. "Community Partnership, Hard Work Can Create True Reforms." [LINK]

[10] San Francisco Juvenile Probation Commission. June 2022. "Community-Based Juvenile Justice in San Francisco: Huckleberry Youth Programs' Community Assessment and Resource Center (CARC)" [LINK].

[11] Huckleberry Youth Programs. 2019. "Huckleberry's Community Assessment and Resource Center (CARC)." [LINK]. San Francisco Juvenile Probation Commission. June 2022. "Community-Based Juvenile Justice in San Francisco: Huckleberry Youth Programs' Community Assessment and Resource Center (CARC)" [LINK].

[12] San Francisco Juvenile Probation Commission. June 2022. "Community-Based Juvenile Justice in San Francisco: Huckleberry Youth Programs' Community Assessment and Resource Center (CARC)" [LINK].

[13] National Assessment Center. Douglas County, NE. [LINK]

[14] Douglas County. Juvenile Assessment Center. DC Juvenile Justice Reform [LINK]

[15] Douglas County. Juvenile Assessment Center. JAC Approach. [LINK]

[16] Nebraska Examiner. October 3, 2023. "Douglas County expanding center with 20-year history of redirecting troubled youths away from court, prison." [LINK]

[17] Nebraska Examiner. October 3, 2023. "Douglas County expanding center with 20-year history of redirecting troubled youths away from court, prison." [LINK]

networking, technical assistance, information and training, standards, speaking engagement, and advocacy on behalf of local and state assessment centers. [18]
In 2021, the NAC developed an Assessment Center Framework that highlights several core components, including the best practice standards, criteria, and outputs, of effective assessment centers including:[19]

- Single Point of Contact
- Screening and Assessment
- Case Management
- Staff Development and Support
- Accountability

The NAC also has developed a robust Self-Assessment Tool to help jurisdictions plan for and assess their capacity for meeting the best practice standards across all the core components outlined in the list above.[20] The County could leverage this resource and other resources from the NAC to support the development and operationalization of the proposed respite and receiving center.

Very Short-Term Respite Housing

Family Intervention and Restorative Services Center, King County, WA

King County already has a proven model of success for short-term residential respite care in its Family Intervention and Restorative Services (FIRS) Center. Operated by the Juvenile Court in partnership with Pioneer Human Services, the FIRS Center provides short-term respite care for youth arrested for family violence incidences.[21] The FIRS Center is a 24/7 non-secure space located outside of the youth detention center at the Judge Patricia H. Clark Children and Family Justice Center (CCJFC).[22] In addition to respite beds, the FIRS Center and staff offer in-family counseling, mental services, drug and alcohol services, and Step-Up Program, a skills based and restorative practice intervention, to address youth violence and promote positive family relationships.[23] Youth have their own rooms, common spaces to meet with staff, and create safety plans with their families.

Assessment and Evaluation (A&E), Multnomah County, OR

The Multnomah County's Department of Community Justice operates the Assessment and Evaluation (A&E) program located next to its detention facility. The program is intended to serve high risk youth who would otherwise be in detention. The goal is to be "a safe place where youth and their families can be connected to community resources or use their existing ones to create youth-specific, sustainable plans."[24] The program serves youth ages 13 years old to 17 years old, and youth can stay enrolled at the center for up to 90 days. [25] There are 12 beds available for youth, and the beds are allocated to youth from the Department of Human Services who are also involved in the legal system, youth who are involved in probation, and youth who are involved in the County's juvenile justice program. [26] Each youth receives an assessment and develops a service plan in partnership with behavioral health experts and their parents or guardian. The program also includes culturally responsive individual and group

[18] National Assessment Center Association [LINK].
[19] National Assessment Center Association. February 2021. Assessment Center Framework [LINK].
[20] National Assessment Center Association. "Self-Assessment Tool." [LINK]
[21] King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Juvenile Division. Family Intervention and Restorative Services. [LINK]
[22] King County Superior Court. Family Intervention and Restorative Services (FIRS). [LINK]
[23] King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Juvenile Division. Family Intervention and Restorative Services. [LINK]
[24] Multnomah County. Program #50063 Juvenile Behavioral Rehabilitation (BRS) Assessment and Evaluation. [LINK]
[25] Multnomah County. Program #50063 Juvenile Behavioral Rehabilitation (BRS) Assessment and Evaluation. [LINK]
[26] Multnomah County. Program #50063 Juvenile Behavioral Rehabilitation (BRS) Assessment and Evaluation. [LINK]

counseling.[27] The program cost approximately $2.67 million in 2023 including staff, contractual services, materials and supplies, and internal services. [28]

Alternative Community Engagement Services (ACES) Center, Pima County, AZ
Pima County's Superior Court operates the Alternative Community Engagement Services (ACES) Center to serve youth as an alternative to secure youth detention. The ACES Center is open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, including holidays and open to youth ages 8 years old to 18 years old.[29] The program provides respite care up to 23 hours. The ACES Center serves youth alleged of domestic violence or status offense; youth who need a safe place to stay; youth who need community services and interventions to prevent entering future into the legal system; and youth whose families need additional supports. The services provided at the Center include: "crisis intervention, safety planning, success planning, case management, transportation, screenings, referrals to community services, activities to engage youth, and respite services."[30] Staffing for the center includes Probation Officers and Juvenile Detention Specialists and also includes behavioral health professionals. [31] The number of referrals to the ACES Center has continued to reflect a high number of youth involved in domestic violence incidences. In 2020, there were 502 youth referred to the ACES Center out of 607 total referrals, accounting for 83 percent of the total referrals.[32]

Juvenile Receiving Centers, Utah
Utah operates a network of eleven Juvenile Receiving Centers across the state for youth ages 10 years old to 17 years old who are determined by law enforcement to be arrested, delinquent, ungovernable, or runaway youth who do not meet detention admission guidelines. Operated in partnership between the state's Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services, Division of Child and Family Services, law enforcement, and local jurisdictions, these Juvenile Receiving Centers support immediate assessments and supports for youth.[33] The development of the network of Juvenile Receiving Centers came from 2017 legislation that focused on diversions for youth involved in the legal system and home placements instead of juvenile detention centers.[34]
In addition to providing immediate support for law enforcement and assessments for youth, several of the Juvenile Receiving Centers provide short-term respite housing for youth. For example, in Salt Lake County, there are two Juvenile Receiving Centers offering short-term placement for youth over the age of 10 years old.[35] Non-eligible youth include those with active psychosis or suicidal issues, those who are assaultive or sexually violent towards peers, or under the influence of substances.[36]

<u>Enhanced Immediate Supports</u>
Detention Diversion Advocacy Program (DDAP), San Francisco, CA

[27] Multnomah County. Multnomah Assessment and Evaluation (A and E). [LINK]
[28] Multnomah County. Program #50063 Juvenile Behavioral Rehabilitation (BRS) Assessment and Evaluation. [LINK]
[29] KGUN Tucson. January 4, 2022. "Aces aims to limit the number of juveniles who end up behind bars." [LINK]
[30] Pima County Juvenile Court. Probation. Alternative Community Engagement Services. [LINK]
[31] Pima County Juvenile Court. Probation. Alternative Community Engagement Services. [LINK]
[32] Pima County Juvenile Court Center. Alternative Community Services. [LINK]
[33] Utah Department of Health and Human Services. Juvenile Justice and Youth Services. Juvenile Receiving Centers. [LINK]
[34] Utah Government. House Bill 239 FAQs. [LINK]
[35] Salt Lake County. Youth Services. Juvenile Receiving Center. [LINK]
[36] Utah Department of Health and Human Services. Juvenile Justice and Youth Services. Office of Youth Services. Juvenile Receiving Centers [LINK]

Developed in the 1990s by the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJCJ) in San Francisco, CA, the Detention Diversion Advocacy Program (DDAP) diverts the highest risk youth from the juvenile justice system.[37] DDAP intentionally works with youth who have repeat convictions, are at high-risk to reoffend, have serious violent alleged offenses or have specialized needs such as substance abuse, educational difficulties or gang involvement.[38] [39] DDAP is funded through San Francisco's Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF); because DCYF is separate from probation, DDAP staff can make independent recommendations to the Court that differ from recommendations from probation.[40]

DDAP is focused on meeting the youth and family's needs. Detained youth are referred to CJCJ by defense attorneys, community partners, courts, and parents. When a detained youth is referred to CJCJ, staff meet with them and conduct an initial screening process to determine if they are eligible for the program. Staff work with the youth to develop and present release plans to the Court that outline the specific conditions youth will follow during their release.[41] Approximately three-quarters of the youth are released to DDAP.[42] [43] Youth are released to CJCJ's custody, and staff then work to implement the conditions included in the release plans, including regular in-person meetings with staff, connection to community-based services, and mentorship programs.[44] The release plans reflect the client's needs and strengths and can include a wide range of services including mental health, family support, and educational supports.[45] The average length of case management with DDAP is 16 weeks.[46]

Research highlighted by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has found DDAP to be a highly effective program. In a comparison study of youth between 2017 and 2020, DDAP youth were 30 percent less likely to recidivate than non-DDAP youth (51.3 percent compared to 73.7 percent) and more half as likely to recidivate with a felony offense than non-DDAP youth (23.7 percent compared to 53.9 percent). DDAP youth were 2.3 times less likely to receive subsequent felony referrals than youth who did not participate in the program.[47]

Peer Parent Coaches in Washington, DC

The District of Columbia's Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services provides support to families whose youth are involved in the youth legal system through its Credible Messenger Initiative. Often Credible Messenger programs focus on providing a trained mentor with relevant lived experience,

[37] The DDAP program began in San Francisco, CA and has been replicated in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, DC, and Oakland. Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. Detention Diversion Advocacy Program. [LINK]
[38] Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. Detention Diversion Advocacy Program. [LINK]
[39] Serious and violent felony offenses in the Philadelphia, PA DDAP program included aggravated assault, rape, sexual assault, robbery, burglary, and arson. George Washington University: Center for Excellence in Municipal Management. August 7, 2022. Evaluation Findings: The Detention Diversion Advocacy Program Philadelphia, PA. [LINK]
[40] DeNike, Moira. 2021. Detention Diversion Advocacy Program (DDAP) Evaluation [LINK]
[41] Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. Detention Diversion Advocacy Program. [LINK]
[42] DeNike, Moira. 2021. Detention Diversion Advocacy Program (DDAP) Evaluation [LINK]
[43] If the Court does not release a youth to DDAP, DDAP staff will continue to work with the defense attorney to refine the release plan to prepare for when the youth is eventually released. DeNike, Moira. 2021. Detention Diversion Advocacy Program (DDAP) Evaluation [LINK]
[44] Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. Detention Diversion Advocacy Program. [LINK]
[45] Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. Detention Diversion Advocacy Program. [LINK]
[46] The Crime Report. August 2, 2021. "Youth Recidivism Halved by San Francisco Program. [LINK]
[47] DeNike, Moira. 2021. Detention Diversion Advocacy Program (DDAP) Evaluation [LINK]

usually in the criminal legal system, for the youth involved in the legal system.[48] However, the District of Columbia's program is distinct because it also includes a Parent Peer Coach for each family that helps the family navigate the legal system and get connected to stabilizing resources.[49] The city provides this support to families with youth in secure youth detention and also youth who remain at home in an alternative to incarceration program.[50] While the program not yet been rigorously evaluated, parents and family members have found the credible messengers valuable for both their children and families.[51]

Expanding Kinship Support for Impacted Youth

Youth experience better outcomes when they are placed with extended family members instead of out-of-home placements. Recent research in Washington State found that youth in kinship care are less likely than youth in non-relative foster homes to report feeling hopeless, feeling unsafe going to or from school, or experiencing harassment because of race or perceived sexual orientation. They are also more likely to do better emotionally and behaviorally within the first six months with kinship care than non-relative foster care.[52] Kinship care can also help preserve a youth's cultural identity and community connections which can be critical for youth of color and the development of their racial identity.[53]

Sustaining kinship care, however, can be challenging without robust supports, especially for youth with complex behavioral needs and involvement in the youth legal system. Research on kinship caregivers in Washington State found that most caregivers are grandparents, predominantly women, and low-income families, which means that kinship caregivers may be operating on a limited household income. A 2020 survey with these caregivers found that they needed greater financial support, emotional and behavioral health for youth in their care, and enhanced connection to community resources.[54]

Federal and state initiatives can help expand resources, information, referrals, and education for kinship caregivers for youth involved in the legal system. In September 2023, the US Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families announced simpler licensing requirements for kinship caregivers to become foster parents and receive the same level of financial assistance that other foster care providers receive.[55] Washington State's Department of Social and Health Services hosts Kinship Navigator Services, compiles resources for kinship families, and recently launched the Legal Advice and Referral for Kinship Care program to provide free legal advice to caregivers about children in their

[48] Credible Messenger Justice Center. The Approach: A Whole Justice Approach. [LINK]
[49] District of Columbia Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services. Credible Messenger Initiative. [LINK]
[50] Sentencing Project (2023). Effective Alternatives to Youth Incarceration. [LINK]
[51] Sentencing Project (2023). Effective Alternatives to Youth Incarceration. [LINK]
[52] Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families. January 2022. Research Brief: Child Outcomes in Kinship Care in Washington State. [LINK]
[53] Casey Family Programs. April 2011. "Does Kingship Care Work Well for Children? A Summary of the Research." [LINK]
[54] Partners for Our Children. September 2020. Kinship Care in Washington State: A Historical Comparison. [LINK]
[55] US Department of Health and Human Services. September 27, 2023. "HHS Announces Historic Child Welfare Package to Expand Support and Equity in Child Welfare System." [LINK]

care.[56] [57] [58] Catholic Community Services also hosts the King County Kinship Collaborative to support kinship caregivers with comprehensive and coordinated services, advocacy, and community education.[59] The recommendation to provide enhance immediate supports to youth who return home with their guardians or a kinship care placement with extended family would support caregivers and make it more likely that those placements can be sustained. Coordination with the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families will be important to ensure existing federal and state resources support kinship care placements for youth involved in the legal system who cannot go home.

Proven Models: Network of Small Homes to Support Youth

Mockingbird Family Model – Hub Homes

The concept of a network of community care homes is inspired by the Mockingbird Family Model (MFM) used to support foster care families. The MFM consists of a "hub home" with experienced foster parents that supports multiple satellite foster homes and kinship homes with shared community resources, peer mentoring and coaching, and planned and emergency respite care. The result is a "constellation" or network of homes that function to support both the foster youth and the foster parents. [60] The model originated in Washington State in 2004 and has since been replicated by local jurisdictions around the country and the world. In 2019, Washington State supported the development of a hub home network in Kent as part of a community-wide effort, Keep Our Kids in Kent with Mockingbird Family.

With nearly 20 years of data and several evaluations, the MFM has shown to effective at retaining foster care families; creating higher rates of placement stability for youth; and developing higher levels of well-being and strong social networks amongst youth and families. [61] The application of the network model to King County's proposed network of community care homes highlights the promise of more effectively supporting and sustaining community service providers and their workforce and creating more positive outcomes for youth and their families.

Non-Secure and Secure Detention in New York City, NY

New York City's Administration for Children's Services (ACS) operates a network of non-secure and secure homelike care facilities for youth who must be detained. The Courts determine which placement is most appropriate for the youth's care. The secure detention facilities house youth with serious alleged offenses and have the most restrictive security features. The non-secure facilities house low-risk juvenile offenders in houses with up to 12 youth at each site. The city manages the network across three boroughs and contracts with community organizations.[62] The community organizations monitor the youth and their movement in and out of the facilities.

[56] Washington State Department of Social and Health Services. Kinship Care [LINK].

[57] There are several community service providers in King County that offer kinship care support for caregivers. These providers include Catholic Community Services, Child Haven, Encompass NW, Neighborhood House, Sound Mental Health, Center for Human Services, and Atlantic Street Family Resource Center.

[58] Hosted by the King County Bar Association, the LAARK program provides free legal advice to caregivers about children and youth in their care including child custody, minor guardianship, education, housing, and public benefits. Washington State Department of Social and Health Services. Kinship Care. New Legal Assistance for Kinship Caregivers [LINK]

[59] Catholic Community Services. Kinship Services. King County Kinship Collaboration. [LINK]

[60] Mockingbird Society. Our work: Mockingbird Family. [LINK]

[61] These results come from various evaluations on the Mockingbird Family Model. Mockingbird Society. Mockingbird Family Reports and Evaluations. [LINK]

[62] New York City Administration for Children's Services. Juvenile Justice. Non-Secure Detention. [LINK]

Placements into the non-secure facilities are determined by the youth's needs and family location.[63] There are two intake non-secure facilities that process youth as they await their specific placement, and youth participate in an orientation at the intake facilities. When youth are placed at their specific non-secure home, they receive a variety of medical and mental health screenings, assessments, and care. They also participate at in-person school through the Passages Academy and can participate in a variety of community programming including field trips, sports, and music programs.[64] Activities in the home are designed to promote learning and include books and magazines. There are currently five contracted community organizations that operate seven non-secure detention homes in the city.[65] As of October 2023, there were 72 beds available at the non-secure detention facilities, and there were 48 youth at the seven homes.[66]

ACS has iterated on the non-secure detention home model to address emerging safety, community, and tracking concerns. ACS formed a partnership with the NYPD to track youth who escaped the non-secure homes and safely return them. The contracted community partners have developed behavior management systems in their homes, and the city has adjusted assessments to determine site placements to minimize and prevent conflict among youth.[67] The current ratio of staff to youth in the non-secure home is 1:6. It is important to note that the ACS operates over juvenile justice issues and child welfare. The New York Office of Children and Family Services hosts an updated online dashboard with secure detention and non-secure facility bed capacity.[68]

Missouri Model of Homelike Facilities

The State of Missouri became nationally known in the late 2000s for its approach to caring for adjudicated youth in their state facilities. Led by the Missouri Division of Youth Services, the State built smaller and homelike facilities close to the youth's families where youth would be supervised in small groups with supportive staff. These facilities exist in a continuum with community placements, group homes, moderately secure facilities, and secure care facilities. [69]

The Missouri model can help inform King County's planning for a network of community care homes. All facilities are designed and furnished in a non-correctional style where youth stay in dorms with dressers and closet space for the youth. [70] The facilities are designed to resemble homes with "comfortable dayrooms, shared, open sleeping dorms, and walls adorned with artwork" and treatment rooms where youth and staff meet every day as a group to discuss progress and their goals.[71] Most facilities have live plants, pets, and outdoor recreation areas. Youth are allowed to wear their own clothes in all the facilities and can keep personal mementos in their rooms. Even the most secure facilities do not have

[63] New York City Administration for Children's Services. Juvenile Justice. Non-Secure Detention. [LINK]
[64] Passages Academy [LINK]
[65] New York City Administration for Children's Services. Juvenile Justice. Non-Secure Detention. [LINK]
[66] New York Office of Children and Family Services. Bureau of Detention Services. Juvenile Detention Facilities – Non-Secure Census [LINK] Accessed on October 26, 2023.
[67] National Institute of Criminal Justice Reform. 2023. Interview with Yumari Martinez, founder of Catalyze Justice.
[68] New York Office of Children and Family Services. Bureau of Detention Services. Juvenile Detention Facilities – Non-Secure Census [LINK]
[69] Annie E Casey Foundation. 2010. The Missouri Model: Reinventing the Practice of Rehabilitating Youthful Offenders. [LINK]
[70] Annie E Casey Foundation. 2010. The Missouri Model: Reinventing the Practice of Rehabilitating Youthful Offenders. [LINK]
[71] Missouri Youth Services Institute (MYSI). The MYSI Approach for Positive Juvenile Justice System Outcomes. [LINK]

iron bars or cells for youth, although the most secure facilities are surrounded by security fences. The most secure facilities only use a metal detector at the front door, video cameras linked to monitors in the central office, and constant staff supervision of youth. The State credits three key components to maintaining safety and security in those environments without traditional security infrastructure: high-caliber staff trained as youth specialists; active around-the-clock supervision; and minimizing fear, maximizing trust, and fostering respect. [72]

Evaluations of the Missouri model find that just under three-quarters of youth remain out of the legal system after three years. This rate has held steady for the past ten years. In addition to traditional measures of recidivism, youth in Missouri's facilities have high rates of productive involvement, defined as educational involvement and involvement in employment opportunities. Most of the youth (84 percent) of youth discharged in 2022 were productively involved in employment or educational activities.[73]

Figure X: Missouri Approach: Contrast between Correctional versus Rehabilitative and Therapeutic Approaches [74]

Correctional	Rehabilitative & Therapeutic
• External controls • Lock-up • Positional power, autocratic, no relationship • Correctional Officers, Security Workers • Family/community as problem • Regiment, rules • Custodian supervision • Behavioral compliance	• Safety First and Rehabilitation • Continuum of services • Healthy hierarchy, boundaries, relationships • Youth care workers, service coordinators, counselors • Family/ community as partners • Structure, order • Engaged interaction • Internalized Change

Shelter Home in Dane County, WI

Dane County operates Shelter Home, a non-secure (unlocked) residential facility for youth with pending court proceedings who cannot go home but for whom secure detention is not appropriate. Shelter Home houses up to 16 youth (8 male youth and 8 female youth) between the ages of 10-17 years old.[75] Youth can stay up at the facility up to 60 days or can stay up to 20 days between placements. Families can visit the youth at the facility, and youth may be eligible to go home with their families overnight with permissions from their case manager and social worker. Youth earn privileges with good behavior and can also earn a small weekly allowance for normal chores. If youth run away from the Shelter Home, they are taken to the Juvenile Reception Center when found.[76] Staff are on duty 24 hours a day with at least one male staff and one female staff on duty at a time. The homes have on-site case managers to support the youth and family.[77]

Youth earn different privileges based on their behavior through a point system. Youth can leave the Shelter Home by themselves up to four hours when they earn enough points. All youth have their own

[72] Annie E Casey Foundation. 2010. The Missouri Model: Reinventing the Practice of Rehabilitating Youthful Offenders. [LINK]
[73] Missouri Division of Youth Services. 2022. Annual Report Fiscal Year 2022. [LINK]
[74] Missouri Approach. About the Missouri Approach. [LINK]
[75] County of Dane Wisconsin. Juvenile Court Program. Shelter Home. FAQs. [LINK]
[76] County of Dane Wisconsin. Juvenile Court Program. Shelter Home. FAQs. [LINK]
[77] County of Dane Wisconsin. Juvenile Court Program. Shelter Home. FAQs. Shelter Home Handbook [LINK]

rooms at the Shelter Home with doors that they can lock. Each youth is responsible for keeping their room clean, and youth are not able to gather in rooms or hallways but can congregate in the living room and common areas. Youth are expected to follow a standardized schedule, go to school, keep their room clean, and participate in other household jobs. Youth have bus passes to get to school, and staff will transport youth to court and community supports like therapy.[78]

[78] County of Dane Wisconsin. Juvenile Court Program. Shelter Home. FAQs. Shelter Home Handbook [LINK]

Appendix H

November 2023

Compiled Feedback from the Care and Closure Advisory Committee on the Recommendations

This appendix compiles the feedback from the Care and Closure Advisory Committee members on the recommendations and remaining questions. Each Advisory Committee member had several opportunities to provide feedback on the recommendations and highlight remaining questions, including before, during, and after the November 20 Advisory Committee meeting. Members who provided feedback before or during the meeting were also given the opportunity to review and confirm their feedback. Feedback was due to the Department of Community and Human Services staff by November 30, 2023. DCHS then included the feedback and incorporated the questions in the final report to the Executive.

Feedback on Recommendations

Recommendation #1: Create, operate, and maintain a 24/7 respite and receiving center where law enforcement will take all youth under 18 years old upon arrest unless they can be released upon entering the center.

Member	Feedback
Department of Public Defense	Supports with the caveat that youth would not be locked in cells while at the respite and receiving center.
Impacted Parent	Supports this recommendation.
Juvenile Detention Guild	Does not endorse this recommendation. The Guild is concerned that if the respite and receiving center is secure, the current detention center should be improved, not replaced. In addition the Guild is concerned that the safety of staff, youth, and the community will be at risk without a regulated secure facility. The Guild feels that the recommendation does not address the security of a new facility, whether staff are appropriately vetted and trained, whether the facility complies with standards (PREA, JDAI, best practices, state mandated laws, KCC Ordinances, HB2277, etc.). Whether the facility would have the same level of services, to include but not exhaustive: library, 24/7 health clinic, classification and assessment, in person mental health services, school on site, kitchen making nutritious meals, video monitoring, commissary, visitation, security screening of visitors and staff, facility management, janitorial services, clothing and laundry services, establish cost to the County, etc.
Legal Counsel for Youth and Children	Overall, I support. I do not support adding locked doors to any facility created as part of the Care and Closure initiative.
Superior Court	Does not endorse this recommendation. The Superior Court is concerned that the respite and receiving center would not meet the state law requirement for detention. The Superior Court is concerned that the recommendation does not take into consideration the possibility of serious and violent cases, nor public safety for the entire community. The Superior Court is also concerned that the recommendation impacts the separation of powers between the Executive and Superior Court and judicial authority and legal responsibility of the Court to keep the community safe.

Recommendation #2: Provide short-term respite housing at the respite and receiving center for youth who cannot go home due to safety reasons.

Member	Feedback
Department of Public Defense	Supports this recommendation with the caveat that the respite housing would not have cells or locked doors.
Impacted parent	Supports this recommendation.
Juvenile Detention Guild	Does not endorse this recommendation. The Guild is concerned about the maximum timeline of 72 hours for a youth to be in the short-term respite housing. The Guild is also concerned about who would make the determination of a youth to be in the respite housing. The Guild has concerns, and does not believe the recommendation addresses the vast variety of needs for specific situations that may not be able to be properly addressed within 72 hours. An example provided is that currently youth wait in detention months for a proper placement, while the Guild believes this is not appropriate the recommendation does not address this concern.
Legal Counsel for Youth and Children	Supports this recommendation. I do not support adding locked doors to any facility created as part of the Care and Closure initiative.
Superior Court	Does not endorse this recommendation without further clarification and information about the security level of the respite housing. For the same reasons as the lack of endorsement of Recommendation 1, the respite housing may not comply with current state law, may not be adequate for community safety, and may infringe upon the judicial branch's exclusive discretion.

Recommendation #3: Provide enhanced immediate supports when youth return home to their families or are placed in kinship care with extended family members.

Member	Feedback
Department of Public Defense	Supports this recommendation.
Impacted parent	Supports this recommendation.
Juvenile Court Services	Supports this recommendation.
Juvenile Detention Guild	Supports this recommendation.
Legal Counsel for Youth and Children	Supports this recommendation.
Superior Court	Supports this recommendation.

Recommendation #4: Create, operate, and provide oversight for a network of community care homes where youth would stay while their court case is proceeding if they are unable to go home because of safety concerns.

Member	Feedback
Department of Public Defense	Supports this recommendation with the caveat that the community care homes would not be secure facilities.
Impacted parent	Supports this recommendation.

Juvenile Detention Guild	Supports this recommendation with the caveat that more details are needed on the standards of care for youth in the community care homes. The Guild is concerned that there is not a clear establishment of standards of care, clear safety and security parameters in place, required supportive elements, to include in person schooling, in person mental health services, in person medical services, etc. that are currently provided by the County through the Juvenile Detention Center. Also what if the Court says no to this option while the court case proceeds? This recommendation does not address those concerns currently.
Legal Counsel for Youth and Children	Supports this recommendation. I do not support adding locked doors to any facility created as part of the Care and Closure initiative.

Recommendation #5: Strengthen community infrastructure and capacity to ensure all youth have access to culturally responsive and linguistically relevant, developmentally appropriate, and youth- and family-centered supports that address their identified needs, regardless of whether they are at home, with a relative, or at a community care home.

Member	Feedback
Department of Public Defense	Supports this recommendation.
Impacted parent	Supports this recommendation.
Juvenile Detention Guild	Supports this recommendation.
Legal Counsel for Youth and Children	Supports this recommendation.

Recommendation #6: Continue to center the input, expertise, and ideas of the community members most directly impacted, including the youth in detention, youth with experience in detention and the youth legal system, family members of those youth, and harmed community members and their families, to inform the next phase of the work.

Member	Feedback
Department of Public Defense	Supports this recommendation.
Impacted Parent	Supports this recommendation.
Juvenile Detention Guild	Supports this recommendation.
Legal Counsel for Youth and Children	Supports this recommendation.
Superior Court	Supports this recommendation.

Committing to Real and Intentional Action

In order to accomplish this significant transformation, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Executive expand the timeline to close the youth detention center long enough to allow for the finalization, resourcing, and implementation of these recommendations. The Advisory Committee emphasized that it will be important for the County to maintain momentum for the swift but thorough development, testing and refining, and scaling up of the proposed community-based alternatives.

Member	Feedback
Children and Youth Advisory Board	As the CYAB representative to this committee, I want to underscore the urgency the board still feels about ending youth detention. I understand the need to get it right, and understand it can require taking more time to get it right. However, a one- or two-year delay in the closure of the detention center is not a long wait for many of us; it is a great fraction of the life of an unadjudicated young person. We have an obligation to make every effort to do it right and do it quickly.
Department of Public Defense	Would like to see the timeline stay as 2025 and explore how these supports could be implemented concurrently, with the understanding that the timeline could be extended in the future.
Impacted Parent	Recommends keeping the 2025 deadline. If there is a need to push the timeline past 2025 to ensure recommendations are properly and culturally appropriate, there should be decisions to start putting into place some of the recommendations and services as soon as possible.
Legal Counsel for Youth and Children	2025 timeline should remain. If timeline is expanded, there should be clear timeframes for implementation of each recommendation. Recommendations 3, 4, and 5, in particular, should begin implementation as soon as possible.

Additional Questions from Advisory Committee Members

- Juvenile Detention Guild
    - What would occur if a youth under 18 years is being held as an adult and needs a longer-term placement?
- Children and Youth Advisory Board
    - If the timeline is expanded, can we address the experience and conditions of youth currently in detention as a part of the work of this committee?
    - In the supports detailed in recommendations #3 and #4, can we be more specific about supports for young people to access education?
- Impacted youth
    - Who will provide the immediate support to youth and families and who will staff the respite center and community care homes? It is important that impacted youth in this proposed system are supported by people who share lived experiences with the youth, including credible messengers with lived experience in the system and people with shared cultural identities.
    - How will the recommendations include medical care for youth? The respite center and community care homes should have experts to provide medical care including mental health experts, substance use disorder treatment experts, and people trained in de-escalation tactics and first aid. Impacted youth often do not have access to these important services. They often need people who can provide that consistent care for them and their needs and people who can help make a bridge between what they need and where they want to go.
    - How can we support impacted youth beyond their time going through the court system, and what does support look like after a youth leaves the community-based system? Long-term services for youth, such as mentors and programming and basic needs, should be provided well beyond their time in the court system because many youth often need that consistent and continued support to make progress on their goals. If we want youth to be successful in the long-term, we need to help provide the incentives and support to keep youth on the right path.

    - How can we ensure that these recommendations move forward to reality? It's great to have a vision and a set of recommendations, but we need our leaders to actual resource and implement these recommendations to make a difference.
- Prosecuting Attorney's Office
    - How will the respite housing support youth who are dependent or unstably housed/homeless?
    - How would youth who pose a safety risk even in a respite center be cared for?
    - For the short-term respite housing: Where do these timeframes come from and why limit to 72 hours?
    - Will the short-term housing have the same security features as those contemplated for the respite center, including fully secure options?
    - How will children in the foster care system receive these enhanced immediate supports?
    - What about youth who would pose a safety risk even in a respite center?
    - At what stage would victims of crime be notified of release/placement/etc. and what would be the mechanism for that notice?

Subcommittees Guiding Questions

Identifying alternatives to secure youth detention

- What does the immediate response look like for youth who are arrested by law enforcement? (First 48-72 hours)
    - Who should be part of that immediate response in addition to or in lieu of law enforcement?
    - Where does the youth immediately go upon arrest?
    - What services and assessments are provided immediately for the youth who is arrested, recognizing that the youth has likely experienced serious trauma and have complex needs?
- What does the intermediate response look like for youth who cannot safely return home?
    - What support services are provided in the intermediate period for the youth who is arrested, based on those assessments included in the intermediate response?
    - Who should provide those services to the youth?
- What does the long-term response look like for youth who cannot safely return home and/or are adjudicated? (Determine period)
    - What support services are provided in the long-term period for the youth who is arrested?
    - Who should provide those services to the youth?
- What are the policies, practices, and protocols that need to be addressed to ensure these alternatives can be in place?
    - What state policies need to be addressed?
    - What local policies need to be addressed?
- What alternatives to secure youth detention are currently being used locally and in other jurisdictions that we should explore expanding and/or adapting?

Strengthening community infrastructure

- What are the unmet needs of youth in secure detention today that keep them from getting out of detention?
- What is the current capacity to support youth with complex needs who are involved in the legal system – including programs, services, how youth access programs, infrastructure, budget, etc.?
    - How accessible are the existing programs for youth, including language access and culturally relevant practices?
    - Are those existing programs and services sufficient to meet the needs of youth who would otherwise be in detention and have the highest needs?
- What specific supports are needed to ensure community capacity and a full system of care to support youth with complex needs who are involved in the legal system?
- What are the existing gaps and opportunities to strengthen community/system referrals for youth to address these specific needs?
    - What existing pieces of community infrastructure are working in King County, and how can we explore and/or expand those elements?
    - What available and potential funding exists for those services, and how can we better leverage that funding to meet the needs of youth?

Engaging impacted communities

- What are other practical ways impacted community members can be involved in this process and share their solutions, challenges, and ideas to inform recommendations?
- What are additional strategies to ensure the most impacted populations participate in the development and support these recommendations?
- How do we ensure that the voices of those who have been harmed are centered in this work?
- How should impacted communities be engaged in the process moving forward?

Alternative Responses to Law Enforcement Discussion Notes

The notes below reflect discussions of a subset of Identifying Alternatives to Secure Youth Detention Subcommittee members who met in September 2023. This group met to discuss alternatives to law enforcement responses for youth in crisis and highlight existing alternative models across the county.

- Attendees: Jeremy Winzer (Progress Pushers), Cristina Milton (Progress Pushers), Izzy Eads (Choose 180), Bekmay Kayembe (AYDEPI)
- Staff support: Marcus Stubblefield (King County Policy, Strategy and Budget)

Program Name	Alternative intervention	Population/approach	Impact	Other
Crisis Assistance Helping Out on the Streets (CAHOOTS)	Calls come to Eugene's 911 system or police non-emergency number dispatch routes to CAHOOTS. A mobile crisis intervention program staffed by White Bird Clinic personnel using City of Eugene vehicles. A two-person team that consists of a medic (nurse, paramedic, or EMT) and a crisis worker with substantial training in the BH field.	Respond to mental health related crisis, conflict resolution, welfare checks, substance abuse, suicide threats and more. Responding with trauma informed care and de-escalation and harm reduction techniques. Assess situation and provide immediate stabilization in case of urgent medical need or psychological crisis, assessment, information, referral, advocacy, and, when warranted, transportation to the next step in the treatment.	More appropriate response leading to better connection to supports Avoiding costly ambulance transport, emergency room treatment and accidental harm 40% reduction in police responses (estimated 8.5 million dollar saving)	Funded through the police dept by the city $785k Provide consultation to other jurisdictions trying to replicate
Interrupting Criminalization (IC)	Defund the police effort by funding a tool called the "The Guide to Alternative Mental Health Response" - linked to the left	The guide highlights considerations for real, meaningful shifts away from law enforcement and towards autonomous, self-determined community-based resources and responses to unmet mental health needs.	There is no one size fits all solution, no single model that can be scaled up around the country. You have to create something that works for your jurisdiction and that meets the needs of the people without unintended consequences.	Outlines the difference between mental health crisis responses controlled by law enforcement vs driven by community Co-response is not an alternative to police response

		Taking into account a range of knowledge and expertise among the intended audience: community members, advocates, organizers, activists, mental health professionals, policymakers, and other change agents working toward the selection of a mental health crisis response		Co-response often involves a police only response Co-response also prioritizes the central role for law enforcement in mental health response

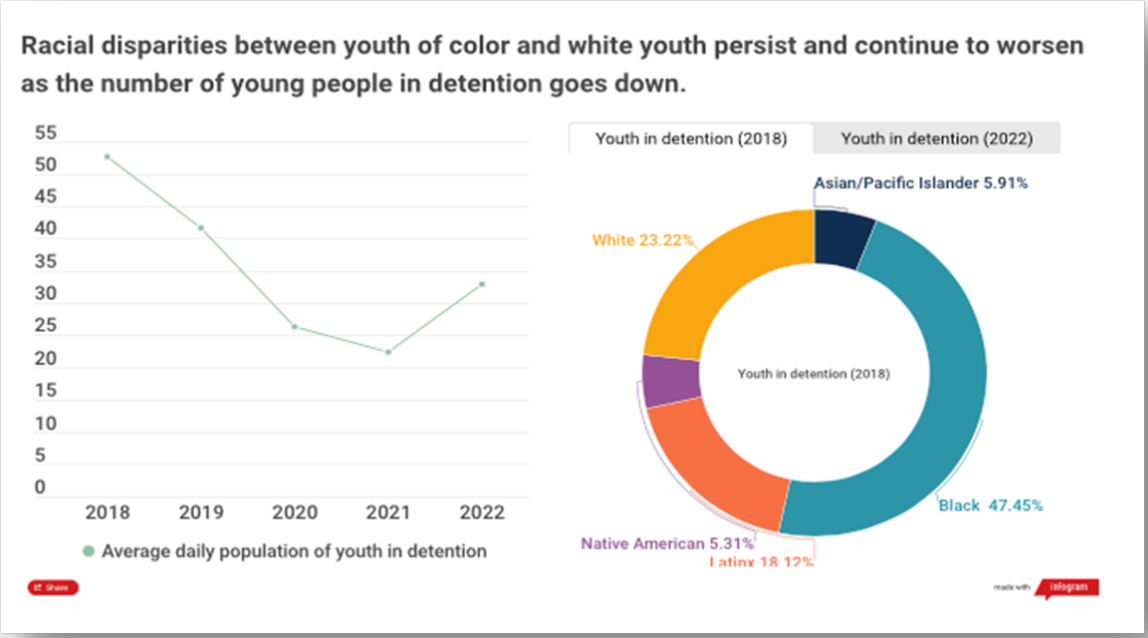
Other models discussed included: Support Team Assisted Response (STAR) in Denver and Mental Health First Sacramento and Oakland.

HAYWOOD BURNS INSTITUTE
JUSTICE. FAIRNESS. EQUITY.

Care and Closure Recommendations

The Burns Institute (BI) presents the following recommendations and strategies as part of our contract to support King County's strategic planning process to close the youth detention facility at the Judge Patricia H. Clark Children and Family Justice Center (CFJC). This report focuses on themes of centering community as well as those emerging from site visits and recommendations and strategies for the Care and Closure committee.

On a national scale, the failure of reformative measures has system stakeholders grappling with the contradiction of the disparities of youth under probation supervision, the overwhelming evidence that the current system harms youth well-being, and the high financial costs of incarceration and probation supervision. Reflecting these national trends, King County (the County) also has seen a decrease in the overall number of youths jailed. Yet non-white youth are jailed at a persistently higher rate in the County's multi-million-dollar facility—one whose construction the community opposed and worked to halt.
[Disparity Table below from King County's Care & Closure website]



For decades, community leaders have continually pushed the County to center the well-being of youth involved in the youth legal system; and over the last decade, their advocacy opposing the construction of the new youth detention facility has been instrumental in the County's

decision to close it by 2025. During the initial stages of the Care and Closure work, BI observed unresolved tension and distrust between system and community stakeholders that would hamper the work of closing the facility in a way that centered community and shared power. This tension and distrust flows from the collateral consequences of white supremacy and structural racism dating back hundreds of years, albeit a new iteration meted out disparately to non-white youth in a youth criminal legal system. Within this context, BI aimed to understand how to help connect, develop, and build trust with community stakeholders, a challenge given that system stakeholders did not center community at the outset. Because of our contractual ties with the County, the community members were understandably and notably reluctant to dialogue with BI. It took months for the BI team to be able to connect with community stakeholders who have been in the forefront of opposing the new youth detention facility. However, the team, led by directly impacted people, wanted to center the community in an intentional way.

BI met with community and system stakeholders during two site visits (April 24-26, 2023, and May 30-June 2, 2023). Diverse community stakeholders, including those providing programming and services supporting self-sufficiency, preventative care, as well as those centering healing, restoration and working to transform the punitive youth justice paradigm, expressed the following:

- As noted, many felt uncomfortable meeting with BI in a formal capacity due to our contractual relationship with the County, which to them signaled a pattern of seeking expertise outside of the County. Eventually, however, some met with us "to know each other to build trust and mutual respect."
- Most community members felt that the process of the Care and Closure Advisory Committee was not genuine, lacking transparency and accountability for the County's decisions to build the new jail without intentional community engagement and power-sharing.
- "[We] hope system stakeholders were serious about closing the detention center and not wasting the community's time."
- There was skepticism that, as an advisory committee, Care and Closure's ideas would only materialize into potential "recommendations" that may or may not be implemented.
- The request of Allen Nance (director the County's Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention) to the Washington State Supreme Court in April to rescind a rule barring local courts from issuing warrants against and jailing young people who violate court orders or fail to appear in court, unless the child poses a "serious threat to public safety," was counterproductive to the efforts of closing the detention facility.
- One stakeholder, who regularly attends the monthly Care and Closure Advisory Committee meetings, also expressed a desire for the County to have hard deadlines and clear progress reports.
- Several stakeholders, who also attend the monthly Care and Closure Advisory Committee meetings, expressed that law enforcement should not be included on the Care and Closure Advisory Committee.

BI met with a handful of system stakeholders and were left with the following impressions:

- The myriad legal issues to close the detention facility, which should have been addressed at the beginning of the process and could take "potentially years to change," had not begun, and everyone involved needs to know these issues. It is possible that the County has yet to draft legislation to change state laws that allow for youth incarceration and for the existence and maintenance of the current juvenile facility.
- There are cities within the County that are not at the table and are politically divided regarding the closure, which may ultimately undermine unity to close the detention facility and invest in alternatives. For example, mayors in Auburn, Kent and Federal Way have seen a spike in shootings and have publicly opposed diversion programs.
- A small group of system stakeholders' position of upholding detention-centered punishment was noted and shared, "The courts' obligation is to ensure that everyone feels safe by their decisions, some which may be unpopular."
- There has been a theme of a political window closing as conservative elements in the County may undermine efforts to close the detention facility and system stakeholders being unable to guarantee closure with a change of administration.
- There are endeavors (to discuss closure of the detention facility and alternatives to detention) occurring outside of and unknown to the Care and Closure process and the broader community.

The aforementioned findings have exacerbated the mistrust from many community stakeholders, which has ramifications for BI's work. Theoretically, for the first time, directly impacted community members could counter the prevailing punitive and retributive approach with a justice healing-centered perspective. Unfortunately, from its inception, the Care and Closure process failed to employ methodologies and strategies that meaningfully support centering community. The County has not addressed the tension and the harm and, instead of moving at the speed of trust, have been rushing to prioritize action, a characteristic of white supremacy culture at the expense of community buy-in. Moving forward, the County should ensure full transparency regarding the youth legal system and how those harmed can be directly centered in outcomes. Key to this is prioritizing community-led recommendations (versus reproducing system implementation models) and ensuring the political will to follow through. The County's commitment to closure remains unclear, as the lack of political will and buy-in across various local leaders for the Care and Closure process recommendations, has led many community stakeholders to believe that recommendations would not be implemented should the political tide shift. Additionally, the County's support of legislation to widen the net for youth further undermined trust.

Recommendations

BI believes that the County needs to embrace the community-led efforts, committed to reimagining a youth justice system that is fair, equitable and sustainable for all its youth, their relatives, and the community at-large. The County must restructure its approach to engaging the community on the path toward radically reimagining youth justice anchored in well-being and restoration, embarking upon an authentic approach fully recognizing community harms. The County should move forward to share power and delve into the practice of participatory budgeting to develop supports to center the structural well-being of youth. This will require experts on participatory budgeting and capacity-building to engage community. Centering impacted communities in the process of closing the system, through transparency and shared accountability, leads to sustainable safer communities for all. It will be imperative that there is intentionality to center youth and family's needs over the "deed" and desire to punish. It is noteworthy to mention that the BI team came to understand that all the necessary components to build a comprehensive set of alternatives and eliminate the use for detention currently exists in the County's community-based organizations (CBOs). With deep appreciation and understanding of the local context and history of these efforts, we offer the following recommendations:

- The County must cultivate a learning and healing-centered culture that acknowledges the harms caused by youth incarceration and by the building of the new facility, embrace the unique insights of directly impacted people, i.e., those with carceral experience, other survivors of harm, and those committed to healing, and foster and center healing to reimagine youth justice. There must be a shared understanding of the County's history of how their system was built and the multi-generational harms it has inflicted upon families and nonwhite communities impacted by the decision making to the present day.
- The County must learn to authentically nurture and center community stakeholders, particularly those with direct system experience and other survivors of harm who have been in the forefront of reimagining youth justice to achieve system transformation centered in healing and restoration. The County should have directly impacted people at all collaborative decision-making tables that discuss the youth legal system, whether in or out of the Care and Closure meetings.
- The County must prioritize removing the obstacles and legalities in closing the detention facility, including advocating for, and passing legislation at the State and County levels that will allow for the closure of the facility. This should include transparency regarding the process and timeline, including additional updates if it concurs with the 2025 Care and Closure Timeline.
- As the County moves towards closing the detention center and also begins working towards emptying the youth jail, it must set up a group of community and system stakeholders dedicated to understanding how to dismantle current policies and practices that are feeders into the existing punitive system and develop policies and practices that begin to place youth in the community based alternatives to detention to

be developed by the Care and Closure process, that will be able to address youths needs in order to end the incarceration of youth.

- A project of this scale requires a budget in the tens of millions of dollars annually to support a thorough community engagement process that equitably resources local stakeholders. The County must center healing by amply investing in resources in restorative policies and community-based practices.
- The County should continue to work to shrink the population of youth currently in custody and on probation and release them to the community-based alternatives to detention that currently exist.
- The County should consider hiring community consultants outside of the County's Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention, who are deeply rooted in community and experienced in the County, to coordinate and support the Care and Closure process. By outside, the BI means a department external to law enforcement, e.g., the Department of Community and Human Services.

Conclusion

The County faces a difficult task of closing its new youth facility, which many argue, should never have been built in the first place. Despite these challenges, including the looming $100 million shortfall, the County does in fact have the capacity to confront the structural racism that results in racial disparities in its administration of justice. The County has the opportunity to move away from policies, practices, codes, and laws that use youth incarceration and towards one that centers healing and restoration. With the support of CBOs, as well as County stakeholders in positions of power who want to commit to reimagining justice but need others to join them in taking a more bold, visionary, and sustainable approach, the County can radically imagine its punitive youth criminal legal paradigm. We intend the recommendations to support youth, their families, and the overall community in a truly transformative move toward healing, well-being, and improved life outcomes.

Appendix L

November 2023

Summary of Care & Closure Listening Sessions with Youth in Detention

Overview

Between May 2023 and November 2023, King County convened listening sessions with young people in secure youth detention to capture critical feedback to inform the Care and Closure initiative. These ongoing conversations with youth focused on emerging recommendations of the community-based alternatives needed to promote youth healing, accountability, and community safety and close the youth detention center.

The Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) hosted 16 one-hour listening sessions and interviews with 45 youth in detention. Youth in each living hall participated for two weeks at a time and received snacks and a $50 VISA cash-value gift card in their personal belongings as a thank you for participating.

This is the second summary of listening sessions with youth in detention. The Care & Closure project website hosts the first summary. See the previous summary for additional information on the methodology of the listening sessions.

Themes

Support for Robust Community-Based Alternatives to Secure Youth Detention

Youth in detention envisioned a robust set of alternatives to secure youth detention, and many youth believed that the emerging recommendations would be effective in bringing change to them and their circumstances. As noted in the first summary, youth shared that secure youth detention does not provide the support they need to improve their lives and broader environments. Many youth emphasized they face significant challenges in their communities, ranging from community violence to poverty to mental health issues, and that they need support to overcome those challenges. Youth shared that secure youth detention does not support change either with the youth or their circumstances and is just a temporary place for them before they return to their same situations without tools, resources, or care from supportive adults. They also said that often, they are forced to face difficult circumstances with limited support from families, teachers, or community members, and that constant self-reliance can make it difficult to build trust with others.

They emphasized the importance of having supportive and safe places in community where caring adults and experts help address the needs that youth have and build on their strengths. Youth emphasized the importance of constant check-ins with caring adults who have lived experiences in the legal system or the communities where the youth come from; tailored and individualized resources for them and their families; and positive incentives and the ability to move forward to achieve their goals. They wanted more opportunities to demonstrate progress, address their previous actions and repair relationships with people they have harmed, and get back on track.

"The longer you sit in jail, the bigger impact it has... You just ruminate in the violence… Let's get it [secure youth detention] closed." – Youth in detention

Youth in detention provided feedback and support on the emerging recommendations, which was incorporated back into the subcommittee discussions. Many youth believed that the recommendations, including the Respite and Receiving Center and the Community Care Homes, would help support their healing, take responsibility for their actions, and create safer communities. Some youth wanted to test the different alternatives and suggested that the County pilot different programs.

"I want them [the court] to believe kids when they say they need help and create more options besides jail." – Youth in detention

Despite significant challenges they often face, youth in detention also shared expansive views and hopes for their future. They spoke thoughtfully about what they wanted to accomplish in their lives – whether that was becoming an artist or lawyer or youth advocate, owning a home, starting a business, or supporting their family. They reflected carefully on how previous attempts to get connected to resources failed them, and they spoke with determination about plans to improve their futures. They shared visions of mentoring younger kids and providing the support they needed to prevent those kids from coming into the legal system. They also spoke about being leaders in their communities and helping build safer communities for themselves and their families.

Supports Needed to Address Underlying Needs and Prevent Future Legal System Involvement

As previously documented in the first summary, youth in detention had many ideas about what resources they need to not return to detention. The youth highlighted having support systems of caring adults; getting jobs and participating in workforce development; creating opportunities for youth who are under the legal age to make money and build skills such as paid internships or training programs; and staying busy with programming. They highlighted the need for reconnecting with their family or getting support if they have strained relationships with family members; having safe and affordable transportation to get to services within the community; and creating more relevant educational experiences, such as getting a high school diploma in a non-traditional setting like online school or an alternative school. They also underscored the need to receive behavioral health support, including access to counselors that relate to them and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment that acknowledges how difficult it can be to stay sober.

"You need things and support to take care of your own space. You gotta take care of yourself, and you have to know when it is getting hot. You need to be able to slow down and take of yourself when that happens, but you need support to know when that is happening and what to do after." – Youth in detention

Youth in detention shared that a major component of staying out of the youth legal system is being ready to change and getting in the mindset where they can be accountable for their actions and decisions. Youth also spoke about the importance of being in a safe environment where they can prepare for needed change. As highlighted in the quote to the left, one youth emphasized young people need for both individual decision-making and support from

community to become accountable for their own decisions. Many youth mentioned a variety of different homelike environments, such as group homes and halfway homes, where youth can get their needs met in a smaller and community-based environment. When those external needs are met, the youth believed that a young person is more likely to change their individual mindset to internalize the messages of support that they are hearing from caring adults. Youth reflected that they had to take responsibility for individual actions or harm they may have caused. However, they noted that many of issues – including systemic oppression, poverty, over policing – are not individual failures but rather systemic ones that require policy and societal changes.

Feedback on the Respite and Receiving Center

Youth in detention had many ideas about the proposed Respite and Receiving Center. They highlighted physical components such as visitation space for their family members to come see them. The youth wanted that space to have good lighting, cards to play, comfortable couches, and resources for their family including on-site counseling and therapy. Some youth shared that they would want to have a gym there where they could get their anger out and self-regulate. Other youth highlighted that they would want to have a comfortable bed to stay in if they could not go home, more outdoor space, and a nice café where they could choose healthy food. Above all else, youth believed that the Respite and Receiving Center needs to be comfortable so youth can feel like they can take a breath, think about the traumatic situation that they went through, and build trust with people who want to help them.

"Life is very short when you are kid. A small amount is actually a large fraction of time [for us]. But it's temporary. We need to remember that." – Youth in detention

Youth in detention also had ideas about ways to improve their experience of the assessments and screenings used at the Respite and Receiving Center. One group of youth shared their frustration when they are asked so many questions when they are first arrested and brought to detention. They shared that they want to be able to build a relationship with someone before they jump into serious questions about the trauma that they may have experienced. They wanted the screenings and assessment to be more like a conversation than a long list of questions. They thought that the questions should be streamlined more so that the screenings took less time and instead focused on key questions that mattered in the moment including whether they needed immediate help, why an event took place, and whether they feel safe.

Feedback on Community Care Homes

Youth in detention shared many ideas about the network of Community Care Homes, including the types of staff, activities, physical layout and components, and locations they desired. The youth wanted many activities and resources at or near the Community Care Homes. They specifically highlighted therapy; online or in-person school; transportation for youth to and from school and other activities; sports and physical activities to get out energy and anger; behavioral health classes such as anger management; gardening and outdoor activities; life skills classes such as budgeting and cooking classes; training for jobs such as resume writing; and field trips to places like museums and sporting events.

"You will want fewer people to be in your ear while you are trying to do all these other things and better yourself." – Youth in detention

The youth wanted the Community Care Homes to be safe, comfortable, and home-like. They wanted rooms of their own with spaces they could personalize and decorate. Many youth shared that they are artists and wanted to display their art in their rooms. They wanted the Community Care Homes to have outdoor spaces both for recreation and for mental health reasons. They wanted spaces within the homes or near the homes where family members could visit and spend time with them, and they also wanted to be able to leave the community care homes with their family for short periods of time.

Youth also wanted the Community Care Homes to be smaller than other traditional community-based alternatives like group homes or shelters. They liked the idea of having fewer young people in a home because it reduced the chance they would have a conflict. Most youth were confident they would be able to live in a Community Care Home with other youth if there was a shared understanding and agreement that the Community Care Home was a safe and neutral space. They suggested youth could sign a contract or agreement that they would adhere to specific rules of the Community Care Homes. If they break the rules, then they would face consequences, such as moving to a more restrictive Community Care Home. This idea of adjusting the environment to a youth's progress is further explored below in the section on incentive-based and step-down models.

"Even if you are in a new place but if you are in the same hood, it's not going to be helpful. You should be in a place that is different from your current environment. For me, you need a place to sleep, eat, make money, and get a job. If you are in a bad area or the same environment, you might want to come back into the life." – Youth in detention

The youth had many different thoughts about the potential location of the Community Care Homes. Many felt that the homes should be located outside of the youth's community because that distance would allow them to get away from their current environment and pressures from family or peers. Some youth shared that they would want to move to another city while other youth shared they would want to be relocated to a different county or a different state. Most youth agreed with the idea that there should be a range of different Community Care Homes located in different types of environments including more rural environments. Some, but fewer, youth liked the idea that they could be close to their families if the Community Care Home was in an urban environment and would get to visit with them on weekends. Most youth agreed that the most appropriate location of a Community Care Home would depend on the specific youth and what they need.

"We need people who invest in our future and not our failures." – Youth in detention

The youth also wanted staff at the Community Care Homes to be caring and have similar lived experiences. They talked about staff at the community care homes as acting like foster parents and being more like caregivers than juvenile detention officers. Many youth liked the idea of having a few staff members who were always there, so they could build strong relationships with them. They thought it was important that staff wanted to be there and wanted to work with these young people. The youth also highlighted the importance of constantly training and supporting the staff so they could address whatever the youth needed like first aid or crisis support.

When asked if they believed it was possible all youth, regardless of their alleged offense, could be in a Community Care Home, most youth in detention said it was possible. They highlighted the importance of creating spaces where youth charged with serious and violent crimes can be isolated from other youth and get the help that they need. Youth shared that the youth's needs and alleged offense should determine the level of security or restriction of their placement. For example, when asked what should happen if a youth has allegedly shot another person, one group of youth suggested that the youth should be the only youth in the Community Care Home and constantly surrounded by staff. If that youth had underlying behavioral health problems, they thought that the youth should go to a more restrictive placement such as an inpatient treatment facility. They also agreed that some youth may need to be on Electronic Home Monitoring (EHM) while living in a Community Care Home so there is additional supervision for them.

Youth had different ideas on how the Community Care Homes should be safe. Some youth spoke about having many staff there, using metal detectors to make sure youth could not bring in weapons, and having secure doors and windows so youth could not be able to leave the home without staff permission. They also emphasized the idea that youth should be able to move to different Community Care Homes and get more privileges if they make progress.

Incentive-Based and Step-Down Models

"Kids don't mean to come back here [in detention]. It's like they are dumbstruck when they get out and have freedom. Kids are more prone to coming back when they don't have a time to ease back in." – Youth in detention

Youth in detention highlighted need for more positive incentive structures to reward youth when they achieve their goals or participate in activities. Youth in detention shared that they wanted to be recognized when they make progress and achieve their goals, and they shared that punitive measures do not work to deter youth from specific behaviors. They highlighted that youth are more likely to stay in an environment, whether the Respite and Receiving Center or the Community Care Homes, if they are interested in the programming and if they trust and have a connection with the staff. Youth in detention felt strongly that youth would participate in programming and stay in the respite and receiving center or the community care homes if the programs and environments were tailored to meet their needs and support their

strengths. They suggested that youth would stay engaged if the programs matched their interests. They also thought each youth should create a specific plan that outlines their goals while at the community-based alternatives, in addition to any Court-imposed conditions. Youth thought youth-centered plans would support more individualized care and tailored supports that address their needs.

Youth in detention also spoke about their interests in creating more step-down models of care that allow for changes as youth progress on their goals. They felt youth should be able to move from more restrictive environments to less restrictive environments and gain more privileges, such as television privileges, with positive behaviors. Some youth outlined a path towards more progressive privileges starting with the community care homes, moving to house arrest, and then leading to their eventual release, all with demonstrating positive behaviors and making progress on their personal goals. If a youth makes a mistake or engages in negative behaviors, those privileges would be restricted, and the youth would need to earn those privileges back with positive behavior. Ultimately, the youth felt that the movement or step-down between placements would allow youth to be more prepared for their eventual transition back to their families or communities. One youth wanted to make sure that their family, the judges and probation officer, and their alleged victim were notified if they moved to a different Community Care Home. They shared that this notification is important especially if the move was because they were making progress on their goals and making positive decisions.

Youth in detention also believed that more restrictive placements should be used for youth who have more intensive needs or are determined by the screenings and assessments to have greater safety risks to themselves or the community. Several youth believed that secure youth detention might be the most appropriate placement for a youth who has caused significant harm such as murder. However, many youth felt strongly that once a youth is stabilized with support in a more restrictive environment and makes progress, they should be able to move to a less restrictive environment and gain additional privileges.

Increased Supports for Youth and their Families While Home on EHM

Many youth in detention had previous experience on house arrest and wanted to increase supports for youth on house arrest. Several youth shared that when they were on house arrest, they felt isolated and did not feel supported. Many of them shared that they were depressed while on EHM because they just felt stuck at home without anything to do. Several youth even disclosed that they were coping with the isolation and loneliness of EHM with drugs or alcohol which exacerbated their reliance on those substances. In one extreme incident, a youth shared that while they were on EHM, they overdosed on fentanyl and thankfully survived because their mother found them. Youth in detention emphasized the importance of making sure that all youth could get opportunities to leave their homes, known as passes, with their parents or a trusted adult like a mentor. Many youth shared that house arrest works best when you are able to continue activities like go to school and be busy with a mentor or different programming. Many youth thought that a youth should get off of house arrest with good behavior and slowly earn more privileges to ease back into regular life without the constant monitoring of EHM.

Appendix M

Cocreative Culture
Nothing for young people without young people

Cocreative Care & Closure Listening Sessions

October 7, 2023

Prepared for [KC-Department of Community and Human Services]

Created by [Cocreative Culture]

Cocreative Culture

Mission: Cocreative Culture exists to eradicate the current school to prison pipeline system in the US by improving social, economic and environmental conditions for young people from historically marginalized backgrounds through our holistic approaches.

Our vision is to help create a world where young people feel empowered to create their best futures.

At Cocreative Culture, we are dedicated to embodying: A culture of shared humanity - realizing that the well-being of our humanity is interdependent. We are dedicated to embodying the Ubuntu Spirit. What benefits me benefits you, and what harms you harms me. We believe in embracing diversity and encouraging inclusion to ensure that everyone is appreciated, respected, and heard. We provide solutions and program planning directed by young people. We believe in collaboration across sectors and generations. We believe in young people as experts capable of designing, planning, and implementing programs and services that benefit them. We are committed to fostering good change and empowering young people to become change agents in their communities by providing a secure and inclusive environment.

Our Programs:

Ubuntu Diversion Program:
Our Ubuntu program promotes community development, empowerment, and restorative justice. Through our holistic techniques, we offer harmed & harm parties a safe space to experience healing, recovery, and advocacy.

Outdoor & Recreation:
Our outdoor and recreation program allows our young people to experience healing via sports and other outside experiences.

Impact:
Our impact program focuses on transformative relationships to promote positive family connection between youth and their parents or adults in their lives.

Refugees & Immigrant Assistance Program:
In order to overcome the housing, language, cultural, spiritual, and educational challenges to a successful transition to the USA, our RIAP program with over 15 languages offers wraparound services to young refugees and immigrants.

Introduction

The objective of this report is to summarize the findings from the three listening sessions held to inform the King County Care & Closure effort. The listening sessions took place on October 7th, 2023 at Highline College with the objective of involving individuals from the youth, young adult, and parent/community demographics who have been affected by the youth legal system. More specifically, the sessions targeted those who have experienced harm caused by young individuals within the community and are interested in advocating for alternative approaches to the youth detention center, with the intention of informing the county about these alternatives.

Overview of the Activities Conducted

Cocreative Culture took a comprehensive outreach initiative, including various methods such as word of mouth, home visits, and distribution of flyers, to engage marginalized community people who had been adversely affected by the youth legal system and were difficult to reach. The primary objective of the listening sessions was to provide them with a platform to express their perspectives and to apprise the county authorities of potential alternative options to secure the juvenile detention center. We collaborated with a total of 15 individuals from the local community, primarily consisting of young individuals, to support the listening sessions. These community members provided assistance in various aspects, including planning, translation, interpretation, facilitation, note-taking, food services, and cleaning. In general, the team provided assistance in effectively carrying out our listening sessions for youth, young adults, and parents.

On the designated day, a substantial number of individuals 150+ joined us at Highline College with the intention of expressing their opinions on this urgent matter. A total of 159 persons were accommodated, consisting of 60 individuals under the age of 24, 34 parents, and 65 young adults and adults over 24 years old. Ninety percent of the individuals from the community who participated in the event self-identified as individuals who have experienced harm.

The event commenced with an Ubuntu circle grounding exercise, fostering a sense of connection and unity among participants. All participants were exposed to the traditional practice of drumming, facilitated by Anthony Davis, the President of the Cocreative Board. Additionally, they were engaged in vocal chanting rooted in the Bantu culture, led by Providence Kamana, the Founder and CEO of Cocreative Culture. The chant expresses Cocreative's concept that the interconnectedness of individuals is fundamental, since the well-being of one person has repercussions for the whole. The Ubuntu circle provided an inclusive and secure environment for community members to experience a sense of belonging, stability, and freely communicate and articulate their worries and concepts on care and closure.

Following the grounding and Ubuntu Circle, we divided the large group into three primary sections: youth session, young adult session, and parent session. Interpreters and translators were available to accommodate all participants in our sessions who did not have English as their primary language. Interpretations were offered in French, Swahili, Lingala, and Portuguese. Upon the conclusion of the event, participants were provided with gift cards valued at $50 and had the opportunity to savor Bantu's authentic cuisine.

Listening Session Questions

Our sessions revolved around a set of five primary questions.

1. What does accountability look like to you? How would you want someone to be held responsible for their actions/harm they caused?
2. What concerns or excitements do you have regarding the expanding of alternatives to secure youth incarceration and closing the youth detention center?
3. When you were harmed, do you think you would have been interested in restorative justice practices or repairing the relationship with the person who harmed you?
4. What are other alternatives to secure youth detention that you would feel comfortable with to address harm caused by youth?
5. What additional information would you like individuals involved in this process to be aware of regarding your experience?

We received a substantial amount of feedback from all three groups, surpassing the mere scope of questions posed. It is evident that regular sessions of this nature are important in order to facilitate the development of our community and enable community members to actively engage in the formulation of solutions that hold significance for them.

Summary from youth:

- The youth group shared that accountability entails the recognition of personal responsibility and the acceptance of associated repercussions, without resorting to justifications or attributing blame to external parties for one's own shortcomings. The group thought that accountability needs to begin at an early stage in an individual's life, mostly through the guidance and instruction provided by parents or guardians. One member shared an illustration to demonstrate the importance of parents involving toddlers in the process of cleaning up after they purposely create a mess, rather than only taking on the responsibility themselves. Additionally, another scenario was presented whereby parents were observed to be making justifications for their children's mistakes instead of guiding them to take responsibility for their actions. There was a consensus among the youth group that it is generally more feasible to address and modify behavior during early stages of development as opposed to later stages, underscoring the significant role parents and guardians play in this process.

- The youth group felt that the measures implemented to establish accountability should be contingent upon several factors, including the severity of the transgression, the victim's inclination towards reconciliation, the offender's display of remorse, and the consideration of any underlying circumstances that may have influenced the offender's actions, such as mental illness, abuse, or anxiety disorders. It was collectively acknowledged that the establishment of all aforementioned criteria is important in order to attain a state of justice. Several strategies for promoting accountability were proposed, including engaging in community work and providing restitution in cases of theft. Broadly speaking, the group believed that it was important to get the harming party to a place where they acknowledge and derive lessons from their transgressions, get the mental help support needed while simultaneously ensuring reparation for the victim.

Summary from young adults & parents:

- The administration of punishment must be tailored to account for the distinctions between kids and adults, while also taking into consideration cultural variations.
- Detention develops fear for youth to incarceration. In contemporary society, it is argued that the current generation has different understanding when it comes to dignity, exhibits a diminished awareness of fear, and struggles to cultivate a genuine understanding of love. Furthermore, individuals within this generation tend to develop programs and initiatives that align with their personal preferences and inclinations.
- It is imperative to not solely focus on the punitive measures imposed on individuals, but rather to acknowledge and address the collective responsibility of society.
- Identify the legislative measures that exert influence and give rise to fundamental challenges pertaining to individuals' subject matter. The topic under consideration is the legalization of marijuana and its potential impact on the usage and possession of the substance among young individuals.
- Promote community education
- Identify legislation that fosters the promotion of individual liberties while simultaneously generating adverse consequences.
- The establishment of additional nonprofit organizations aimed at implementing various programs.
- Parents have a crucial role in imparting knowledge to the younger generation regarding their obligations and guiding them in distinguishing between morally acceptable and unacceptable behaviors.
- At some point, parents should assume responsibility rather than shifting it onto the government. It is imperative that we educate ourselves and acknowledge our duty to actively engage with our children by spending quality time with them.
- Facilitate the establishment of effective lines of communication between diverse governing bodies and local people, while promoting cultural sensitivity.
- It is imperative to acknowledge the influence of cultural origins on immigrants and the potential for overwhelming experiences.

The following are insights and responses obtained from the youth group:

Question 1: What does accountability look like to you? How would you want someone to be held responsible for their actions/harm they caused?

- One should refrain from assigning blame to others or making excuses for one's own actions.
- Harming them back is sort of an eye for an eye mentality. If not they will repeat their actions.
- The individual should acknowledge their error and assume responsibility for their actions. "saying I made a mistake and I am taking accountability"
- The perpetuation of reciprocal acts of violence should be deemed unacceptable.
- The potential outcomes of accountability should not inflict physical or psychological harm.
- Acknowledging one's errors and taking steps to rectify them
- The determination of an individual's accountability is contingent upon various factors. The basic circumstances under which parents are raised.
- There are further alternatives for ensuring accountability:
    - The topic of interest is therapy.
    - The level of parental involvement should be increased.
    - The instruction of children in assuming responsibility within the household is vital, while acquiring such skills in external environments is deemed unfavorable.
    - Gaining comprehension of the conditions that led to the action. Incorporating culturally suitable resources to assist these folks.

Question 2: What concerns or excitements do you have regarding the expanding of alternatives to secure youth incarceration and closing the youth detention center?

- If the absence of a correctional facility exists, individuals may think that there are no repercussions for their behaviors. Individuals will begin to engage in actions according to their own desires and preferences.
- If the decision is made to send children back to their homes, there is a possibility that they may be exposed to yet another hazardous situation or unsafe environments. Instead, the youth thought that they should be directed to alternative groups. Parental support is crucial in ensuring the well-being and development of children.
- Furthermore, the youth highlighted how the children acquire knowledge from their parents. High schools often organize monthly events where parents are invited to meet and interact with other students and parents. These gatherings aim to foster connections among individuals from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds.

Question 3: When you were harmed, do you think you would have been interested in restorative justice practices or repairing the relationship with the person who harmed you?

- A participant brought up a case involving a young individual who was admitted to a hospital and engaged in a disagreement with a nurse. Subsequently, the youth was apprehended due to displaying aggressive behavior. It is worth noting that the aforementioned kid was diagnosed with a mental disorder. This prompts consideration of the roles we play in cultivating empathy and preventing the escalation of conflicts, even prior to the implementation of restorative justice measures. Are there any conflict resolution procedures available? Is it conceivable that these young individuals could perhaps mitigate harm or even prevent harm altogether if they were subjected to compassionate and empathetic treatment instead of incarceration?
- The significance of community understanding regarding conflict resolution is underscored, as it enables individuals to acquire the necessary skills to effectively deescalate potential violence and mitigate or halt injury. Restorative justice may be deemed essential depending on the nature of the infraction. However, it is imperative

that all parties involved, including tutors, parents, and law enforcement personnel, prioritize the enhancement of productivity and development in young individuals over punitive measures. The attention should be directed on the youth, with due consideration given to their prior experiences. What are their preferences and interests, and is there potential for the development and cultivation of their abilities? In instances where a crime of significant significance has occurred, are there initiatives in place to aid the processes of healing and reintegration into society? Furthermore, is the victim also included in these efforts? The combined endeavors outlined above will not only facilitate the process of healing, but also serve to mitigate instances of harm and provide assistance to young individuals.

- In certain instances, the efficacy of pursuing reconciliation to repair interpersonal relationships may vary depending on the severity of harm or crime. While certain individuals readily provide forgiveness, others can harbor resentment and want to witness the wrongdoer experience commensurate suffering. In this particular scenario, it is imperative to grant both the perpetrator and the victim, with a particular emphasis on the victim, the chance to determine the course of action to be taken in order to secure the attainment of equity and justice, as well as the establishment of accountability.

Q4: What are other alternatives to secure youth detention that you would feel comfortable with to address harm caused by youth?

- Community service or voluntary activities undertaken by individuals or groups within a community, typically with the aim of benefiting others or improving the community as a whole.
- Among those experiencing mental health difficulties, in order to respect the individuals involved, it is advisable for law enforcement officials to exercise patience and proceed with caution.
- Sending young individuals to correctional facilities exacerbates the existing issues. Individuals exhibit an increased level of anger and hostility towards both the system and the other party involved.
- Visiting a location that is equipped with religious leaders and abundant resources. In this particular setting, adults exhibit affection and concern towards the younger individuals.
- The presence of community resources can significantly enhance the productivity of youth inside the community.
- In the aftermath of a conflict, what would be the desired outcome for the other party involved: "I would prefer that individual to be subjected to legal consequences, such as imprisonment and detention." I recommend that they get professional assistance from a licensed therapist. Delving into the underlying causes or origins of a phenomenon.
- If young individuals are incarcerated, they may not acquire the necessary knowledge or understanding from the experience.
- The act of surrounding oneself with individuals who possess positive qualities
- As individuals, we are all prone to committing errors. The experience of incarceration has the potential to adversely impact an individual's mental and physical well-being. Increasing the availability of mentors and community services. Crimes that may be subject to forgiveness
- The provision of education and communication is essential for facilitating interaction and collaboration between the two parties involved. One adolescent engaged in altercations within the educational setting. The individual informed his parents, who then conveyed to him that he is the source of the issue. In an attempt to instill discipline, they resorted to sending him to a detention facility and providing an explanation. Speculating on the potential circumstances of his existence. Subsequently, a transfer to a different educational institution was made.
- When examining our communities, it is essential to explore the factors that elicit certain responses or reactions, commonly referred to as triggers. Commencing at foundational levels to cultivate comprehension, followed by the subsequent creation of resources based on an informed grasp of the community's need.

Question 5: What additional information would you like individuals involved in this process to be aware of regarding your experience?

- Not enough time was available to address this question in the youth group.

<u>The following are a collection of insights and responses obtained from the young adults group:</u>

Question 1: What does accountability look like to you? How would you want someone to be held responsible for their actions/harm they caused?

- The ability to comprehend and analyze one's actions, feelings, and emotions, as well as the underlying reasons behind them, and effectively articulate the origins of their behavior and comprehension. Furthermore, expressing remorse for their behavior.
- Assuming ownership and demonstrating responsibility by acknowledging and fulfilling one's obligations.
- Implementing an appropriate consequence that facilitates comprehension of gravity and serves as a preventive measure, acting as a deterrent and eliciting empathetic responses.
- The objective is to comprehend the negative consequences, foster avenues for growth, and provide inclusive access, with a focus on empowering individuals to recognize their own capabilities rather than adopting punitive measures. Focusing on a comprehensive strategy that encompasses the entire family rather than solely on individuals.
- Love can serve as a catalyst for accountability.

Question 2: What concerns or excitements do you have regarding the expanding of alternatives to secure youth incarceration and closing the youth detention center?

- It is important to note that when we intervene in the lives of young individuals and facilitate their development (in a preventive manner), a potential issue arises in the form of a lack of accountability. This lack of accountability may create an environment where these individuals are able to persist in their behaviors without facing consequences.
- Excitement around fostering community engagement, raising awareness about available resources, facilitating connections between community members and mentors, providing access to various activities, promoting positive impact, and empowering youth to actively participate in community affairs. Positive role models play a crucial role in educating and establishing youth councils that facilitate the transition and support of their peers. A platform for individuals to exchange and discuss their personal experiences. Provides an opportunity for young individuals to develop an understanding of various nonprofit organizations.
- The objective is to foster awareness among individuals, particularly the adolescents and their peers, by providing them with opportunities to acquire valuable skills and contribute to society.
- The exploration of spirituality and the seeking of direction.
- The concept of cultural relevance is of significant importance in academic discourse. The concept of a "white mentality" and its relationship to racial disparities. Parents often seek the intervention of probation officers or law enforcement authorities when their children exhibit disruptive behavior. The distinction between ethnic and non-ethnic categories. The organization aims to represent youngsters from many racial and ethnic backgrounds.
- I am enthusiastic about the implementation of mentorship programs that are focused on career development within educational institutions. The promotion of racial inclusivity and economic inclusivity, regardless of ethnic background or involvement in gang activities. The monitoring and evaluation of program processes and the assessment of outcomes pertaining to program implementation and youth engagement.
- The excitement and concerns are geared toward the involvement and the responsibilities placed on parents, the extended family and community members.
- The involvement of fathers is crucial, as the absence of a father figure can significantly impact the youth's ability to seek direction and engage in meaningful conversations.

- The individual resided in the United States for a duration of six years subsequent to their relocation from Africa. During this period, they encountered a sense of detachment resulting from their inability to adequately nurture and engage in linguistic and child-rearing activities due to work commitments and other related factors. It is imperative for parents to revert to their ability to cultivate compassionate individuals by being actively engaged in their children's lives. The younger generation craves and benefits from parental attention. Social media and electronic devices have a significant impact on individuals and are subject to external influences.
- There is a concern regarding the current adjustments being implemented, as there is a possibility that these changes may not be deemed feasible in the future. This could result in a reversal of the changes or the implementation of alternative modifications. Progress is achieved, albeit not instantaneously.
- One of the concerns that arises when teaching a class of more than 20 children is the situation where one child engages in physically harming other children or damaging windows. In such instances, it becomes necessary to consider the appropriate course of action for the child in question. Additionally, it is important to contemplate the potential consequences for the overall well-being of the other students and the issue of accountability in relation to the youngster involved.
- What would be the impact on a parent if they made a request for their child to be incarcerated or reported them to the authorities? The primary focus should be on parental accountability and providing aid to parents. The Influence of Society on Children and Parents, and the Impact of Qualifications on System Requirements. The assessments of children may not accurately depict their genuine conduct due to the phenomenon of children adopting a facade when separated from their parents and placed in diverse social environments.
- The present situation is characterized by the existence of a discrepancy, resulting from previous transgressions committed by a former partner. The credibility of messengers is contingent upon charges and background investigations. Addressing the gaps in order to facilitate the engagement of individuals who are required to fulfill employment obligations with the task of working alongside young individuals.

Question 3: When you were harmed, do you think you would have been interested in restorative justice practices or repairing the relationship with the person who harmed you?

- The implementation of counseling programs should be expanded to include diverse groups of individuals who can provide guidance and support to young adults. These programs should focus on imparting knowledge and understanding about various aspects of life, hence enhancing the overall well-being of this demographic.
- We are witnessing the emergence of a cohort capable of legally purchasing cannabis at the age of 18, alongside the proliferation of further non-profit entities. It is imperative to proactively anticipate forthcoming developments in King County. These facilities catering to minor individuals are known to present numerous challenges due to the excessive autonomy they afford, enabling the purchase of substances such as marijuana and alcohol.
- It is imperative to provide education about the law and legal rights to our communities.

Q4: What are other alternatives to secure youth detention that you would feel comfortable with to address harm caused by youth?

- In light of the various ethnic, cultural, and religious diversities present within a given community, it is advisable to establish mentors who possess widespread recognition and acceptance among these diverse groups. These mentors would serve as mediators and offer valuable guidance to the youth in instances of minor offenses. Additionally, the mentors could advocate for restorative measures and collaborate with the offender to facilitate their acknowledgment of responsibility and subsequent efforts towards making amends.
- In order to enhance the rehabilitative nature of detention centers, it is suggested that a rebranding and renaming of these facilities be undertaken. Specifically, the proposal entails transforming these centers into technical institutions that prioritize the provision of individual and family therapy. Additionally, these institutions

should actively promote engagement with nature, talent exploration, enrollment in educational courses, and the pursuit of personal goals and aspirations among the youth in their care.

- It is imperative that all individuals employed inside these organizations have a strong affiliation with and originate from the community they serve. Individuals who possess conflict resolution training should ideally demonstrate empathy and sensitivity towards the ultimate objective of repairing, healing, and fostering productivity among young people, rather than focusing solely on punitive measures. This measure guarantees that upon their release, individuals will possess the ability to assimilate into society and minimize the likelihood of engaging in further criminal behavior.
- Integrating peer education courses into the school curriculum has the potential to serve multiple purposes. Firstly, it can serve as a continuous reminder and source of encouragement for juvenile offenders to maintain positive behavior. Additionally, such courses can contribute to a reduction in the number of new offenders, as they would effectively inform young individuals about the adverse consequences of engaging in misconduct. These classes would encompass a comprehensive approach, encompassing referrals and support services as necessary, while also fostering a sense of healing among the participants.
- In the case that it is determined that the juvenile offender has engaged in delinquent behavior as a result of experiencing abuse, adverse living situations, or other challenges, it would be desirable to witness not only the kid receiving intervention services, but also their facilitators or individuals who have contributed to their delinquency. There exists a quotation that posits the notion that "repeating the same actions while anticipating dissimilar outcomes is an exercise in futility." Consequently, reintegrating juvenile offenders into their previous social milieu devoid of a comprehensive support structure would invariably lead to recidivism.

Question 5: What additional information would you like individuals involved in this process to be aware of regarding your experience?

- It is imperative that our voices are acknowledged, our perspectives are heard, and our needs are supported. Many individuals within our community have experienced significant trauma resulting from cultural displacement, family separation, domestic violence, political and tribal conflicts, abuse, racism, and colonialism. Moreover, our community members may have been raised with distinct sets of morals and values, wherein actions deemed inappropriate in one context may be perceived differently in another.
- As we collectively strive to identify effective resolutions, it is crucial to take into account our diverse backgrounds and experiences. We implore you to approach this matter with empathy, love, compassion, patience, and understanding, as we all work towards the shared objective of peaceful coexistence and the reduction of crime, while simultaneously fostering the growth and productivity of our youth.

The following are a collection of insights and responses obtained from the parents focus group.

In order to facilitate our parent group's activities, we divided ourselves into three subgroups: Lingala, Swahili, and English.

Below are the English sub group responses:

Question 1: What does accountability look like to you? How would you want someone to be held responsible for their actions/harm they caused?

- Demonstrating comprehension of individuals' behaviors, empathizing with their emotions, and expressing remorse for their actions; assuming personal responsibility for one's actions; acquiring knowledge regarding the appropriate areas of responsibility; implementing appropriate consequences to grasp the seriousness of the matter; comprehending the negative impact without resorting to punitive measures; fostering accountability through a compassionate approach.

Question 2: What concerns or excitements do you have regarding the expanding of alternatives to secure youth incarceration and closing the youth detention center?

- It is important to acknowledge that when engaging in preventive measures, there are concerns regarding the absence of accountability and persistent destructive behaviors.
- It is crucial to foster community awareness and establish connections with available resources, while actively participating in the community. This can be achieved through the provision of positive role models and the establishment of a youth council that facilitates their integration within the community. By doing so, young individuals are provided with an opportunity to comprehend various resources and non-profit organizations, while also acquiring essential skills, guidance, and spiritual support.
- It is imperative to ensure cultural relevance and inclusivity for individuals from diverse backgrounds, considering concerns related to racial disparities. Additionally, it is necessary to offer increased support for parents, address disparities in policing, and promote the representation of organizations that advocate for children of color.
- The implementation of mentorship programs is also crucial in addressing concerns surrounding gang relations and related issues. This discussion revolves around the issue of family accountability, specifically focusing on the importance of fathers' involvement in homes and the consequences of their absence.
- It also highlights the significance of parents actively participating in their children's life and the impact of media on their offspring.
- There are existing apprehensions regarding the current changes being implemented, as well as questions regarding the optimal measures for establishing a sound structure. Additionally, there are concerns pertaining to the level of transparency being maintained.
- The present inquiry examines the various roles that restorative justice plays in influencing children, both in positive and bad ways. The implementation of mentorship initiatives across various programs, coupled with the inclusion of mentors who possess respectable credentials and have undergone thorough background checks, serves as a means of ensuring the efficacy and integrity of such programs.

Question 3: When you were harmed, do you think you would have been interested in restorative justice practices or repairing the relationship with the person who harmed you?

- A family member expressed support for embracing restorative justice, especially in cases involving severe harm resulting from acts of violence and gun violence that have led to loss of life. It is imperative to acknowledge that those who inflict harm upon others often have experienced suffering themselves. Consequently, it is crucial to refrain from immediate emotional responses of anger and blame, and instead adopt a more constructive approach that emphasizes the reparation of harm, education, counseling, and proactive measures to ensure accountability for the responsible party. The act of engaging in forgiveness in response to damage as a means to disrupt the perpetuation of a cycle.
- In instances of harm, it is imperative to establish accountability across various levels, including law enforcement, the collective group, and the individual responsible for causing injury.
- The individual in question resides in a recovery facility, attends court hearings, undergoes mental health evaluations, participates in regular meetings, counseling sessions, and drug tests. They demonstrate regret for their actions and are provided with the opportunity to engage in personal growth and rehabilitation.
- The initial step in the process involves conducting evaluations and stress tests, which are designed to assess the performance and resilience of a system. It is imperative to establish a dedicated framework or program that can effectively address and mitigate any potential stressors that may arise throughout the evaluation process. Restorative programs are implemented with the aim of showcasing and instructing individuals on the acquisition of self-control abilities, as well as imparting knowledge on appropriate responses to various roles and situations, emphasizing non-violent approaches.

- There are programs available that facilitate the identification of underlying causes for behaviors and activities, as well as the development of initiatives aimed at teaching young individuals the skills necessary for self-regulation and upkeep.
- Programs catering to culturally aware youth, namely those who are recent immigrants and possess distinct requirements, are designed to be specialized and tailored to their specific circumstances. Advocacy for progression.
- There is a concern over the implementation of restorative justice practices in schools, specifically in cases involving a single individual. In such instances, it is seen that the aggressor is required to provide an account of the incident while the victim is also expected to offer an apology. This approach raises questions about the fairness of the process. The occurrence of bullying results in a phenomenon when the individuals who are subjected to mistreatment refrain from expressing their grievances due to apprehension over potential reprisals.
- Explain the observed behavior and provide an analysis of the parental dynamics. The inclusion and involvement of parents at all levels.
- Addressing and Disrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline Phenomenon, starting with elementary school.
- It is important to recognize that certain challenges originate within the household prior to considering the engagement of state or city entities. While it is commendable that assistance may be accessible, parents require additional resources, and it is not appropriate to place sole responsibility on instructors. Identify the locations where trauma is being inflicted, such as educational institutions and domestic environments.

Below are the Lingala sub group responses:

Question 1: What does accountability look like to you? How would you want someone to be held responsible for their actions/harm they caused?

- It is imperative for individuals to assume responsibility for their own actions. In the event of commendable conduct, they ought to be rewarded accordingly. Conversely, in the case of misconduct, individuals should be held accountable. This approach facilitates a comprehensive understanding among all parties involved.
- Factors to consider include the individual's historical and contextual background, such as their personal history and the socio-cultural environment in which they were raised. It is important to understand the circumstances and challenges faced by the community in order to comprehensively assess the situation.
- The concept of offense and the subsequent actions to be done should be regarded as a strategic plan of action. The manner in which young individuals are disciplined differs between adults and children.
- In many African cultures, parents may resort to physical means such as pinching to correct their children's behavior. However, in our contemporary society, such actions might lead to legal consequences, since authorities may be notified. Consequently, we are witnessing the emergence of a generation that lacks an understanding of the dread associated with disciplinary measures.

Question 2: What concerns or excitements do you have regarding the expanding of alternatives to secure youth incarceration and closing the youth detention center?

- The closing of juvenile detention facilities does not necessarily imply the implementation of an alternative type of punishment. It is important to acknowledge that there are individuals who lack an understanding of fear and love, and that the conditions within these facilities often fail to foster a sense of dignity among incarcerated individuals.
- In terms of the extent of harm caused, it is important to consider the punitive measures that may be implemented to promote education throughout society as a whole. This entails holding each individual within the community accountable, particularly in cases when an individual possesses a firearm. It is imperative that we adopt a collective approach to ensure more accountability.

Question 3: When you were harmed, do you think you would have been interested in restorative justice practices or repairing the relationship with the person who harmed you?

- Violent offenders and angry issues with recovery residence; when they go to court and drug issues or mental health difficulties, address the issue and give advice.
- Assess the efficacy of stress tests in determining an individual's aptitude for participation in a specific program, with a particular focus on instructing them on non-violent response strategies. Identify the fundamental behavioral processes and establish protocols for self-regulation and upkeep.
- It is imperative to engage parents throughout the entire process, effectively communicating to them the activities and events their child will be participating in, and ensuring their active involvement.
- Certain conflicts originate within the household and it is incumbent upon parents to address and resolve them. The provision of resources for parents is essential. Educational institutions and educators should acknowledge the origins of trauma.

Below are the Swahili sub group responses:

Question 1: What does accountability look like to you? How would you want someone to be held responsible for their actions/harm they caused?

- The foundation of everything is rooted in the family unit, as it serves as the fundamental basis for individuals' actions and behaviors. Families are accountable for their actions and must strive to maintain a sense of righteousness and fairness in their interactions with one another.

Question 2: What concerns or excitements do you have regarding the expanding of alternatives to secure youth incarceration and closing the youth detention center?

- The role of parental responsibility is paramount, as parents are the primary individuals accountable for their children. It is imperative that we, as parents, introspect and acknowledge our duty towards our children.
- We often find ourselves lacking in time for our children, resulting in their engagement in outdoor activities. Thus, it is crucial for parents to assume responsibility, alongside the educational system and the rights of parents, particularly considering our unique backgrounds.

Question 3: When you were harmed, do you think you would have been interested in restorative justice practices or repairing the relationship with the person who harmed you?

- The appropriate measure to be taken regarding a juvenile offender depends on several factors, including the likelihood of reoffending, the severity of the offense, and the goal behind it. This issue pertains to the field of adolescent delinquency, specifically concerning individuals between the ages of 10 and 18. It is concerning to note that there have been instances of property damage and violence resulting in the loss of life perpetrated by young individuals, which warrants attention and action.

Q4: What are other alternatives to secure youth detention that you would feel comfortable with to address harm caused by youth?

- The establishment of community spaces where youth can be referred to, meet community members with lived and diverse experiences that they can engage and work with.

Question 5: What additional information would you like individuals involved in this process to be aware of regarding your experience?

- The presence of diverse cultures necessitates a consideration of the rights afforded to children, as these rights may impose excessive burdens on them. The task of caring for a child is inherently challenging, requiring an understanding of appropriate behavior and conduct in public settings. Is it possible to observe individuals engaging in illicit behavior? If I fail to adhere to appropriate role models, there are several prospects available.

This is due to their autonomy. I supervise five male individuals in my workplace. How is it that the authority of a parent cannot be undermined inside the legal system?

Cocreative Culture Community Listening Sessions Recommendations

America's justice system has long been debated in terms of its efficacy, especially when it comes to youth offenders. Historically, punitive measures have been the go-to response, a system that seeks retribution more than rehabilitation. However, as our understanding of juvenile psychology and societal dynamics has evolved, so too should our approach to justice. One such approach that has garnered attention and traction is restorative justice.

As our society continues to develop, our understanding of accountability has matured beyond the superficial. Various community members, in their shared wisdom, painted a picture of accountability as not just admitting mistakes but truly understanding their implications. It's a journey that begins with recognizing one's missteps, but its essence lies in the depth of introspection it demands. True accountability calls for a person to reflect on their actions, understand the impact they've had on others, and take genuine steps to make amends. It's a blend of remorse, responsibility, and tangible restitution.

Restorative justice offers an alternative approach to addressing crime, emphasizing the repair of harm over punitive measures. It views crimes as violations against individuals and relationships rather than just rule breaches. The main goal is to understand the harm caused by the crime and find ways to mend it while ensuring the offender takes responsibility for their actions. This system prioritizes the needs of victims and survivors, involving them actively in the justice process, and empowers them to have a greater role than in traditional systems. The community also plays a crucial role in restorative justice, setting behavioral standards, holding the offender accountable, and supporting both the victim and offender towards healing and reconciliation. The success of restorative justice is gauged by the repair of harm rather than the severity of punishment.

Transform the Juvenile Justice Landscape

The paradigm shift from purely punitive measures towards rehabilitative solutions for youth offenders is met with a palpable mix of anticipation and concern within the community. While the trajectory of youth can undoubtedly be redirected from recurring offenses to positive societal contributions, the path to get there requires clarity and commitment. A move away from secure youth detention centers signals progressive change. However, the community underscores that such decisions should be matched with high-quality, accessible alternatives. The transition should not be abrupt but thoughtfully phased, ensuring that the integrity and efficacy of the rehabilitative process are uncompromised.

Implement Restorative Justice Practices: Beyond Just Making Amends

The potency of restorative justice practices lies in their ability to heal, both the victim and the perpetrator. While the raw aftermath of harm often clouds judgment and fosters resentment, time and understanding can offer a different perspective. Restorative justice, facilitated through open dialogues, mutual commitment, and respect, offers an avenue for deep-seated healing. For such practices to be effective, it's imperative to ensure that all parties involved are emotionally ready and that the process is voluntary. A forced or rushed attempt at reconciliation might be counterproductive.

Take A Comprehensive Approach to Youth Rehabilitation

The vision for youth rehabilitation, as echoed by community voices, is overwhelmingly holistic. From restorative justice circles that promote dialogue to mentorship programs that provide role models, the strategies are varied but interconnected. There's an emphasis on equipping youth with life skills, be it through vocational training or therapeutic sessions. The community is vocal about the importance of understanding the individual backgrounds of each youth, ensuring interventions are tailored and effective. In this discourse, the role of educational institutions is pivotal. Schools have the potential to be more than just centers for academic learning; they can mold character, foster inclusivity, and be

sanctuaries of safety and trust.

Embrace Cultural Diversity in Rehabilitation

The cultural fabric of our community is rich and diverse. As such, youth rehabilitation programs must be culturally sensitive and adaptive. With the glaring racial disparities evident in the juvenile justice system, there's a unanimous call for systemic introspection and reform. Programs, ideally co-created with community leaders and cultural experts, can ensure that interventions resonate with the youth they aim to assist. Feedback mechanisms, encompassing the diverse voices of youth, their families, and the community at large, can provide valuable insights, ensuring programs remain dynamic and responsive.

Our societal progression demands a fresh perspective on justice, one that leans towards understanding, empathy, and rehabilitation. A collective vision, underpinned by community involvement and robust programs, can forge a path where youth offenders are not just penalized but are given opportunities to rediscover purpose, contribute positively, and fulfill their potential.

Prioritize Restorative Justice Instead of Punishment

Rehabilitation Over Retribution: Youth offenders, by virtue of their age, are still developing. Their understanding of consequences, empathy, and the broader societal impact of their actions is not yet fully formed. Punitive measures can further alienate and harden them, pushing them deeper into a life of crime. Restorative justice, on the other hand, seeks to make the offender understand the impact of their actions and encourages them to make amends, fostering growth and maturity.

Reduction in Recidivism: Studies have shown that youth who go through restorative justice programs are less likely to reoffend. This can be attributed to the fact that they gain a deeper understanding of the harm they've caused and are given tools to integrate back into society in a positive way.

Building Community Ties: Restorative justice involves the community in the justice process. This community involvement can help bridge the gap between offenders and the society they wronged, fostering understanding and empathy on both sides.

Societal Benefits of Restorative Justice

Cost-Effective: Maintaining punitive systems, like juvenile detention centers, is expensive. Restorative justice programs, in comparison, are more cost-effective in the long run as they address the root causes of crime and reduce the likelihood of repeat offenses.

Promotes a Healthier Society: A society that focuses on healing and understanding, rather than punishing, is healthier. Restorative justice fosters empathy, understanding, and communication. It moves us away from a culture of retribution and towards one of mutual respect and growth.

Empowerment of Victims: In traditional justice systems, victims often feel sidelined. Restorative justice places them at the center, giving them a voice, and allowing them to be active participants in the healing process.

How Restorative Justice Works

Facilitated Dialogue: A neutral facilitator guides a dialogue between the offender, the victim, and sometimes community members. This dialogue allows both parties to express their feelings, ask questions, and seek understanding.

Making Amends: The offender is given an opportunity to make amends, be it through community service, direct

reparations, or other agreed-upon actions that would benefit the victim and the community.

Ongoing Support: Both the victim and the offender receive support, ensuring that the process is healing for all involved and that the offender has the resources needed to reintegrate into society.

For King County to move forward and address youth crime in a meaningful way, it is essential to shift our focus from mere punishment to understanding, rehabilitation, and community-building. Restorative justice provides a framework for such a change. By centering the needs of victims, providing offenders with an opportunity for redemption, and engaging the community in the process, restorative justice presents a holistic approach that is not only fairer but also more effective and sustainable in the long run which will eventually lead to successful care and closure. It's time King County fully embraces this evolved form of justice for its youth.

Appendix:

Overview

On October 7th, 2023 a total of 159 persons were accommodated at Highline College, consisting of 60 individuals under the age of 24, 34 parents, and 65 young adults and adults over 24 years old. Ninety percent of the individuals from the community who participated in the event self-identified as individuals who have experienced harm.

Questions:
English

1. What does accountability look like to you? How would you want someone to be held responsible for their actions/harm they caused?
2. What concerns or excitements do you have about the expanding of alternatives to secure youth detention and closing the youth detention center
3. When you were harmed, do you think you would have been interested in restorative justice practices or repairing the relationship with the person who harmed you?
4. What are other alternatives to secure youth detention that you would feel comfortable with to address harm caused by youth?
5. What else do you want people in this process to know about your experience?

Swahili

1. Je, uwajibikaji unaonekanaje kwako? Je, ungependa mtu awajibike vipi kwa matendo/madhara aliyosababisha?
2. Je, una wasiwasi gani au msisimko gani kuhusu upanuzi wa njia mbadala za kupata kizuizini cha vijana na kufunga kituo cha kuwazuilia vijana
3. Ulipodhurika, unafikiri ungependezwa na mazoea ya urejeshaji wa haki au kurekebisha uhusiano na mtu aliyekudhuru?
4. Je, ni njia gani nyingine mbadala za kupata kizuizini kwa vijana ambazo ungejisikia huru nazo kushughulikia madhara yanayosababishwa na vijana?
5. Ni nini kingine ungependa watu katika mchakato huu wajue kuhusu uzoefu wako?

Lingala:

1. Kopesa biyano ezali ndenge nini mpo na yo? Ndenge nini okolinga ete moto azwa mokumba ya misala/mabe oyo asali?
2. Mitungisi to bisengo nini ozali na yango mpo na kopanzana ya banzela mosusu mpo na kobatela bokangami ya bilenge mpe kokanga esika ya bokangami ya bilenge
3. Ntango basalaki yo mabe, okanisi ete olingaki kosepela na misala ya bosembo ya kozongisa makambo to kobongisa boyokani na moto oyo asalaki yo mabe?
4. Nini ezali mayele mosusu oyo okoki kosala mpo na kobatela bilenge na bolɔkɔ oyo okoyoka malamu mpo na kosilisa mbeba oyo bilenge bazali kobimisa?
5. Nini lisusu olingi bato oyo bazali na processus oyo bayeba na ntina ya expérience na yo?

French:

1. À quoi ressemble pour vous la responsabilité ? Comment voudriez-vous qu'une personne soit tenue responsable de ses actes/du préjudice qu'elle a causé ?
2. Quelles inquiétudes ou enthousiasmes avez-vous concernant l'élargissement des alternatives pour sécuriser la détention des jeunes et la fermeture du centre de détention pour jeunes ?
3. Lorsque vous avez subi un préjudice, pensez-vous que vous auriez été intéressé par des pratiques de justice réparatrice ou par la réparation de la relation avec la personne qui vous a fait du tort ?
4. Quelles sont les autres alternatives de détention sécurisée pour les jeunes avec lesquelles vous vous sentiriez à l'aise pour remédier aux préjudices causés par les jeunes ?
5. Que voulez-vous que les personnes participant à ce processus sachent d'autres sur votre expérience ?

Portuguese:

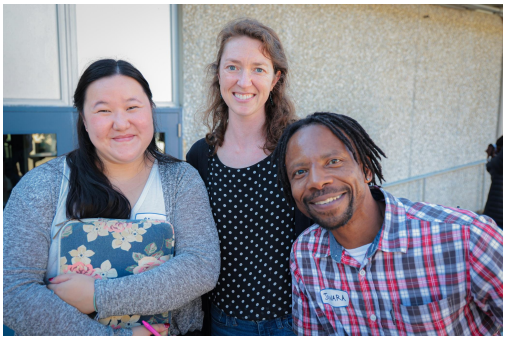
1. Como é a responsabilidade para você? Como você gostaria que alguém fosse responsabilizado pelas ações/danos que causou?
2. Que preocupações ou entusiasmo você tem sobre a expansão de alternativas para garantir a detenção de jovens e o fechamento do centro de detenção juvenil?
3. Quando você foi prejudicado, você acha que estaria interessado em práticas de justiça restaurativa ou em reparar o relacionamento com a pessoa que o feriu?
4. Quais são outras alternativas para garantir a detenção de jovens com as quais você se sentiria confortável para lidar com os danos causados pelos jovens?
5. O que mais você deseja que as pessoas neste processo saibam sobre sua experiência?

Cocreative Culture listening sessions photos:

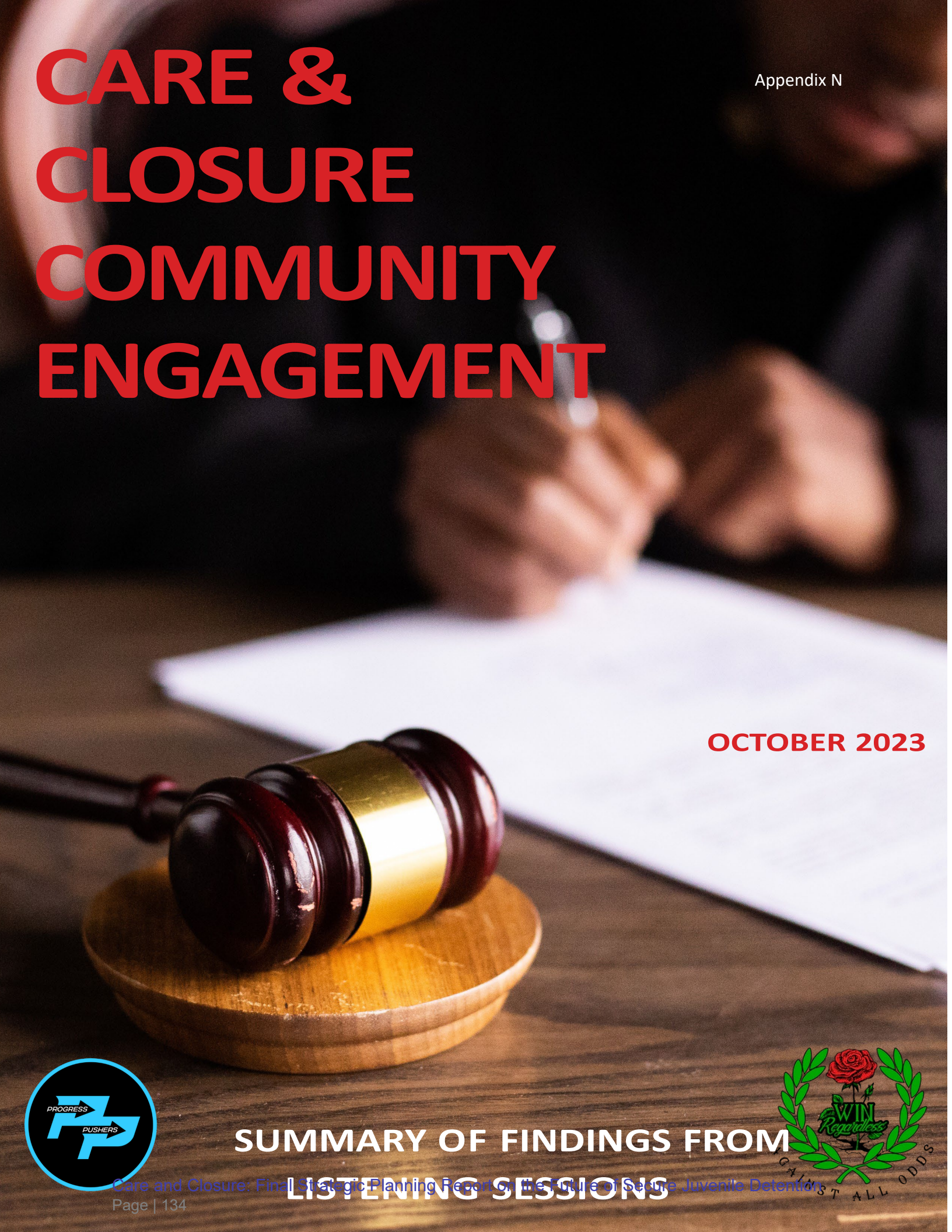






CARE & CLOSURE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



OCTOBER 2023

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FROM LISTENING SESSIONS

Overview

In October 2023, Progress Pushers and Win Regardless collaborated with King County Department of Community and Human Services to organize three in-person listening sessions and two surveys with youth, young adults, and their families impacted by the youth legal system to inform the Care and Closure initiative.

Progress Pushers is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Renton, WA, and is dedicated to empowering youth aged 12-24. Our Mission is to guide, educate, and empower youth that are most impacted by societal systems. We believe that by connecting them to mentors, needed skills and opportunities this population can thrive in their own image of greatness. Our Vision is to see young people in leadership positions with diverse career opportunities. We believe in allowing youth to be innovative in creating solutions to societal issues. This will empower the youth not only to identify what their own greatness looks like, but also to want to continuously live the best version of themselves.

Win Regardless LLC was created and founded by Jeremy Winzer. His mission is to train, motivate and inspire, by providing underserved youth and families with the education, tools, and support needed to execute their Win, regardless of any circumstance.

Progress Pushers and Win Regardless hosted the listening sessions and surveys between the dates of October 9 – October 27 and engaged a hundred individuals between the ages of 10 – 50 years old who have been systematically impacted, family members of those who have been impacted or community members with lived experience.

In the first in-person listening session held on October 9th, individuals were given five questions to answer. Youth and adults were split up and following individual responses, the groups collectively reviewed and discussed their answers. During the second session, participants completed a 50-question survey concerning community-based alternatives, community needs and holistic approaches. The third session took place at the Woodinville Community Facility, a juvenile rehabilitation center for young men, where they also completed the 25-question survey and discussed their thoughts on realistic alternatives to the detention center. In the fourth and final session lead facilitator Jermey Winzer spoke with participants about the emerging recommendations from the Care and Closure process, including the Respite Center, and Community Care Homes. During these sessions the youth, community members and leaders spoke about their experiences and gave their honest thoughts on closing the detention center.

Event Information & Demographics

Over a hundred participants were engaged in the listening sessions. Over three-quarters of those participants were youth and young adults between the ages of 10 to 24 years old. Adults in the listening sessions included parents, guardians, and siblings of impacted youth and other community members. Nearly every participant in the listening sessions had experience with or was directly impacted by the criminal legal system.

All listening sessions, except for the Woodinville Session, took place in the evenings, running from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. The Woodinville Session occurred during regular business hours from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Each participant received a $50 visa stipend and meal at each session and were encouraged to give their honest feedback and thoughts on the detention center and its alternatives.

Date	**Location**	**Number of Participants Youth & Young Adults 10-24 / Adults 25+**
October 9, 2023	Renton Office	16 Youth / 7 Adults
October 16, 2023	Renton Office	27 Youth / 10 Adults
October 25, 2023	Woodinville Community Facility - Survey & Listening session	7 Youth /1 Adults
October 27, 2023	Renton Office	28 Youth / 5 Adults
	Total:	**78 Youth / 23 Adults**

Our outreach efforts encompassed various channels, utilizing both social media platforms and traditional word-of-mouth strategies. In addition to casting a wide net through various online channels, we fostered connections with the participants of Progress Pushers and their families to increase awareness about the upcoming events. We aimed to create an inclusive outreach campaign, ensuring that diverse communities were informed and engaged in the events.

Key Findings

A positive impact – Guiding and Mentoring

Participants emphasized the need for more organizations like Progress Pushers with mentors who have firsthand experience with incarceration and possess the tools to help them navigate through challenges. The impact of having someone in their lives who invested time in building a relationship, consistently shows up, and offers support, can alter their responses to situations that would typically lead to unfavorable circumstances.

Mentors provide emotional support, motivation, resources and beyond. Continuing the empowerment, funding and support of community organizations ensures our youth can find individuals who are willing and able to help them.

"Be around youth that do better, and you will do better." – Participant in the Listening Sessions

Support for Community-Based Alternatives and Collaboration

Nearly every participant we engaged with has had experience with the criminal legal system. It became abundantly clear from the discussions with these community members that youth incarceration is not beneficial in most circumstances, emphasizing the need for a holistic approach in handling young individuals who have undergone traumatic experiences.

It is important to empower community leaders to be the initial responders, in addition to law enforcement, when addressing issues with young adults to allow a more focused examination of the root causes behind their involvement in criminal activities. Participants believe prioritizing an understanding of the underlying reasons and mental state of young individuals is essential before embarking on a path to find effective solutions.

***"When supporting and dealing with youth, those in charge should consider if this was their family member and how you want them treated regardless of what they did."* - Participant in the Listening Sessions**

While participants believed it is crucial to hold young adults accountable when they break the law, they also shared that it is essential to acknowledge that many grow up in communities where violence is unfortunately normalized. With this foundational understanding, participants want approaches to delve into the "why" behind their actions. We need to explore the root causes and determine effective strategies to prevent the perpetuation of such behavior. However, most participants believed that the expansion of alternatives should continue to include the youth legal system.

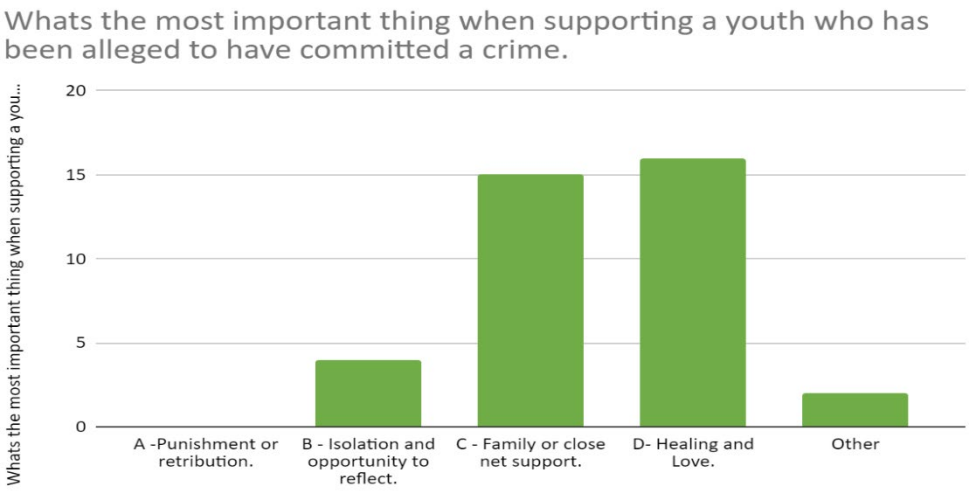
To uphold community safety and accountability, our key findings show that it is still necessary to have a place for youth to go when they are alleged to have caused serious harm in the community. As discussed further below, this center should be designed to be safe for youth and the community, allow youth to get the resources that they need without the competing challenges of their current environments, and managed with an elevated level of supervision and care.

"It's a good thing to not treat youth as animals; however, if there is no punishment, they may not feel the consequences." - Participant in the Listening Sessions

The Need for Holistic Approaches to Support Youth and Families

In our conversations and survey analyses, it became evident that there is a crucial demand for increased assistance for both our young adults and their families. Participants recognize that numerous challenges originate within the home, so our focus is on connecting youth to resources that extend support not just to young adults but also to their families for complete wrap-around services.

Participants believed it is essential to address the fundamental needs like mental health, substance abuse, education, and skill development. Addressing these needs are critical, because they serve as fundamental elements to creating a fulfilled and successful life. Additionally, participants thought that creating a stable support system would play a pivotal role in aiding our young adults. They emphasized that we must recognize the interconnectedness between mental, emotional, and physical well-being. As shown in the graph below, participants thought that healing and love and family or close net support would be the most important supports to provide when a youth has been alleged of committing a crime.



"There needs to be more pressure placed on our government officials to redirect the funding to youth programs, education and restorative justice." - Participant in the Listening Sessions

Recommendations on Community-Based Alternatives

Progress Pushers and Win Regardless structured the listening sessions to get critical feedback and input on the emerging recommendations coming out of the Care and Closure process, including specifically on the proposed respite center and network of community care homes.

Safe Place for Youth to Be Evaluated - Respite Center

Participants think that the Respite Center should be secured and the place where young adults are assessed. Assessments of the youth's needs and the circumstances of the alleged crime would determine whether the youth could go home or be sent to a community care home. Participants emphasized that young people "have to know there are consequences for their actions" for there to be any change.

If we collaborate with community organizations and law enforcement to establish a holistic, community-centered environment and strategy for evaluating youth and young adults, we maintain a secure environment for everyone involved and give our young adults the best chance at stopping this vicious cycle of school to prison pipeline. Following the determination of the severity of the crime, we can then place the young adult in the most suitable and appropriate environment.

Security extends beyond physical confinement. Considering the mental well-being of our young adults, we envision the Respite center as a haven of safety. Regardless of the alleged crime, prioritizing basic needs becomes paramount. Are they hungry? Have they slept? Have they showered? Attending to their physiological needs before addressing their behavior establishes a foundation for the young person to enter a more positive mental state.

Ensuring the facilities are staffed with a diverse team of professionals, including mental health experts, legal professionals, and social workers, guarantees a thorough assessment customized to meet the unique needs of each individual.

Community Care Homes

Participants were supportive and excited about the opportunity for the network of community care homes. They believed that they should be placed across the county and should range in gender diversity, age and the intensity of the services needed. These homes would feature dedicated on-site support and care teams exclusively catering to the needs of young individuals. Participants believed the community care home should be operated by community organizations and should have a range of essential services including mental health support, life skills training, professional development courses, as well as family and housing assistance programs. The effort between these entities should aim to provide comprehensive care and support to foster the holistic development of the individuals residing in these homes.

The recurring theme in the youth's vision of ideal homes is "Facilities that resemble a home." Some young people have never slept in their own beds, cooked their own meals or been in a healthy environment. Providing a sense of stability for our youth is important to starting the healing process.

Participants also expressed a desire to have individuals who share their background, comprehend their challenges, and possess the skills to navigate diverse situations to oversee the homes. This enables the youth to establish a connection with the leaders running the homes, fostering a sense of belonging and understanding.

"The main thing to know is that the person who is guiding you has been there done that and has gotten through it." – Participant in the Listening Sessions

The participants in the listening sessions were remarkably candid about concerns of youths' potential actions in scenarios without consequences. They reinforced the importance of maintaining measures to ensure safety and accountability for everyone involved. But despite this need for structure, participants clearly recognized the detrimental impact that detention centers can have on the well-being of our black and brown youth and young adults.

Participants shared that it has become imperative to explore alternative approaches to detention when a young person is facing challenges. A crucial element in this pursuit should be the implementation of wrap-around services that not only address the individual's struggles but also incorporate their families into the support plan. Understanding that many issues originate from the home environment, and we cannot emphasize enough, the need for holistic and family-centered solutions.

Appendix

Date	**Location**	**Number of Participants Youth & Young Adults 10-24 / Adults 25+**
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Progress Pushers and Win Regardless have compiled the questions, notes, and responses from the listening sessions and surveys. You can find that compiled information at **this link.**

Appendix O

November 2023

Findings from Feedback Sessions on Care and Closure Recommendations

Overview

In late October and November 2023, DCHS convened feedback sessions on the proposed Care and Closure recommendations. The goals of these sessions were to 1) reengage individuals who had previously provided input on what alternatives are needed to support youth healing, accountability, and community safety; 2) gather feedback from impacted community members on the recommendations; and 3) share information about the next steps of the project. DCHS created this summary to highlight the themes and questions discussed in the feedback sessions.

Summary

DCHS convened five feedback sessions (two virtual and three in-person) and met separately one-on-one with community members who could not attend the feedback sessions. DCHS engaged a total of 45 people across those events, and 35 of those community members were youth under 18 years old. In addition, DCHS partnered with and funded Progress Pushers and Win Regardless to host feedback sessions with youth, family members, and community members.

DCHS staff began the feedback sessions with an overview of the proposed recommendations and then asked the participants several general questions:

1) What excites you about these recommendations?
2) What questions do you have about the recommendations?
3) What potential challenges do you see with these recommendations?

Themes from the Discussion

Participants shared collective excitement around the potential of transforming the current system of secure youth detention. They spoke about hope for the future when these recommendations would be implemented. They especially appreciated the expanded programmatic supports for youth and families, including mentors with lived experience, behavioral health supports, and family-centered supports. They highlighted the need for different approaches to address the trauma that many youth of color and youth from low-income families face. They also shared that they were hopeful to see concrete components

> *"We are doing something different. I like the fact that we are moving towards something that is moving forward and allows our youth to be healthy and safe." – Adult participant*

outlined that incorporate their perspectives and the needs of their community members. Many shared feedback that the current system is inadequate to addressing youth and family needs and that new approaches are needed to positively impact community safety.

Participants who had previously been engaged by community partners also shared that the findings and the recommendations reflected their input. Both youth and adult participants shared that they felt that their previous feedback was thoughtfully considered and incorporated into the proposed recommendations. They appreciated the compiled overview of the findings from the previous engagements and asked about the input from other participants, especially from youth in detention.

Participants appreciated the focus on individualized care and tailored support for youth, beginning with the Respite and Receiving Center and continuing with the Community Care Homes. They echoed that too often, the youth have specific needs that are not being met in youth detention. The lack of support for those youth in detention makes it harder for them to move forward from their involvement in the youth legal system.

> *"I am excited because that foundation will have shown the youth that we care about you. We have people in the mindset that we have to punish kids to make their futures brighter. It is hard for them to see the positive message. Having that good foundation of support is essential – it doesn't matter what you have in your background, you can turn your life around." – Adult participant*

Participants continued to echo the need for strong community supports for these youth across a variety of elements and strength-based programming. They brought up the need for stronger mentors with shared lived experience, job opportunities and paid internship opportunities, transportation to and from programs, support for families and younger siblings, housing support including relocation from their immediate community, and surrounding the youth with positive role models. They echoed the need for care and compassion for these youth, but also the importance of accountability. They emphasized the importance of structure and stability, supportive programs, and keeping youth busy. They also highlighted the need for education access and supports throughout the proposed

> *"I like that all the youth need to be assessed. I like that this is not a one-sized fits all approach. It needs to be set up with immediate supports, not supports that come later in 3 months. Because parents need support right away. They need someone to connect with in here and the resources. If not, they [give up] and then come right back into trouble and detention." – Adult participant*

recommendations. Youth participants were mindful that an impacted youth may need to be at an alternative school or online school while at a Community Care Home to minimize potential stigma or safety concerns at school. In addition, they highlighted the importance of jobs and internships for youth to make money, more community-based programming with extended hours including youth sports programs that are affordable and accessible, transportation and driver's education programs, and behavioral supports for youth and families.

> *"The juvenile system is all about the negatives. You sit there and marinate about past hurts and traumas, and you don't get the support to address that. You should instead try to think about the present and be supported to think about the future." – Youth participant*

Participants highlighted that programs should be built around youth's interests and their goals for the future. They mentioned the importance of mentors equipping youth with the tools that they need to navigate difficult situations, repair relationships with important people in their lives like family members, and getting connected to resources for their basic needs.

Participants underscored the importance of accountability in the recommended system. Some members, including youth, shared concerns about youth perceiving a lack of consequences with the recommendations. Young people especially asked how the recommendations would keep youth accountable instead of encouraging them to commit crimes if they were cared for instead of punished. They expressed concerns that youth who have been arrested of serious crimes would not stay if the Respite and Receiving Center was not secure. They expressed a need for secure places with physical features that do not permit freedom for youth to leave whenever they wanted.

When DCHS staff explained that a youth would still go through the court process while they moved through the recommended system, most participants said that their concerns were addressed. While the discussions continued, many youth began to envision places that were safe, not because of physical restraints or cells, but rather because of trusting, compassionate, and caring relationships between youth and staff. However, some youth participants remained skeptical. They said that some youth might need constant supervision from staff and spaces that were secure. A few of these youth still maintained that some level of security would be necessary particularly for youth who have cause some major harm, who pose a serious threat to the community, or who would test the boundaries of the program.

"They need the right space to prepare for opportunities. If you can't make the right decision, they should be shown how to make the right decision. They should be shown the opportunities with people who look like them and showing them that other ways are possible." – Youth participant

Participants highlighted that in addition to this proposed community-based system of healing, accountability, and community safety, young people need more prevention from coming into the legal system in the first place. Young people especially shared that the proposed system would be helpful for youth who have already caused alleged harm in community, but that they wanted more opportunities to make sure youth do not get involved in the system in the first place. They highlighted the need for more funding for existing programs, especially for youth of color and youth from immigrant and refugee communities, and expanding supports earlier, beginning with youth who are 8-10 years old.

Youth and adult participants wanted the Respite and Receiving Center to be safe, comfortable, and focused on screening and assessments for youth. Many community members shared their appreciation for the immediate and intensive screenings and assessments to identify youth needs up front. Some youth thought a welcoming environment could help youth who may not have previously received that type of support and care elsewhere. They thought that access to a hot shower, clean clothes, a comfortable bed, and a good meal would be essential. They also thought family and community members should be able to visit to help maintain relationships and build on positive community connections.

Some youth mentioned that 72 hours at the Respite and Receiving Center may not be long enough to adequately assess a youth's needs and the most appropriate care. Other youth expressed the importance of an adequate assessment in this beginning phase of the process that will focus on the youth needs, and the building of a team of support staff who will immediately begin addressing those needs. A few youth thought the Respite and Receiving Center should not be comfortable so that youth would not want to take advantage of the system.

"There wouldn't be any point in the officers arresting them if they will be allowed to just leave [the Respite and Receiving Center]" – Youth participant

Youth also mentioned that sometimes a young person is not ready to change their mindset and accept help. They shared that youth may lie on assessments or screenings because they do not believe the system is trying to help them. Youth mentioned that it would be important for those youth to meet with people with lived experiences that allow them to see beyond their direct circumstances and set future goals for themselves. They also mentioned that there should be regular check ins with youth and community providers and routine assessments to ensure that the youth is staying on track with their goals and progress.

Youth and adult participants emphasized the importance of the Community Care Homes as homes and small home-like facilities. Youth shared that Community Care Homes should have rooms instead of cells, with comfortable beds, and decorations. They should have outdoor spaces where youth can get fresh air, sunlight, and exercise. Youth should also be able to work (either at the home or in community) to earn real wages, and family members and community members should be allowed to visit them.

> *"These homes represent love: kids just want love and support. Yes, we still need to figure out the details of what that looks like, but we are talking about love and care." – Adult participant*

Youth and community members echoed the need to keep the community care homes with few youth to be successful. They thought that fewer youth would mean more individualized support and resources for the youth.

Youth especially discussed the importance and significance of adequate staff who care about providing the best support to youth. They emphasized the need to have staff who have lived experience and are able to relate to the experiences of legal system involved youth. They believed those staff should be trained to manage conflict, provide mental health support, and connect youth to resources that they need. Some youth thought that impacted youth should be involved in the interviewing process for new staff to help determine if they would be a good fit for the environment.

> *"We need to make sure that those hired are genuine like the staff here… we can tell if they actually care" – Youth participant*

Participants shared that the type of Community Care Home that youth are placed in should reflect the seriousness of their alleged offense and that there should be constant iterations of the screenings and assessments to see if changes are needed. They emphasized that the type of placements should match how violent or serious the harm was, and they agreed that young people with more needs and the more serious alleged offenses should be the only youth in an environment. Some youth expressed that the community care homes should range from home-like to "army-like" or the most extreme level of supervision and structure. Some youth felt that the homes may need to be designed to be tough on the kid.

> *"They have to want to change. They act like they want to but then turn around when it gets hard… You have to know that you are not alone in this system. You are going to need someone you are comfortable with who can check up on you constantly – you need to have an advocate." – Youth participant*

Youth and community members also mentioned the importance of keeping a youth who is gang involved safe from retaliation and the need to potentially have the location of some homes secret from public knowledge.

"There should be different categories for the homes -- this program might be good for one kid but not the other. This other kid might not be used to something or has a different way of how he thinks and how he feels. For the different situations, they have different needs, and they should have different programs." – Youth participant

Participants expressed the need for youth to earn privileges in the community care homes such as television, video games, and community outings. Some youth expressed that youth should start with no privileges and earn privileges through positive behavior and progress on their personal goals. Other youth shared that if a youth demonstrates progress and seriousness about changing, they would want the Court to consider how the youth could complete their time or their sentence at the Community Care Home instead of at the state Juvenile Rehabilitation facility.

Adult participants asked questions around funding and how the proposed community-based system would be adequately funded to meet the needs of youth and community organizations supporting the work. They highlighted that the type of individualized and tailored care proposed in the recommendations is costly. They asked how the Community Care Homes would be funded and how staffing would work within those environments. They liked the idea of community members operating the homes but also asked how the County would fund and oversee the network of Community Care Homes to make sure that those community organizations were supporting the youth.

Participants expressed that implementing the proposed recommendations will be challenging and that change will be difficult but possible. Many of them highlighted the concerns around community safety and ongoing gun violence among young people, and they shared that the County will need to work with trusted community leaders within specific communities to help the public understand how the community-based system would support safer communities. Youth mentioned that it may take some time for youth to believe that the new system is designed to meet their needs instead of punishing them. It may take a while for youth to open to trusted community providers and be honest about their needs.

"When youth get in trouble, they should get help. They shouldn't be thrown away. Home might not be the safest place for them. Each youth should get the same treatment. I was glad [my son] got the chance to come home, but I know not everyone is given that chance. We need more support." – Adult participant

Compiled Questions from Participants

- How are the Community Care Homes being funded?
- How would staffing work at the Respite and Receiving Center?
- How would this proposed community-based system relate to the court process?
- How will the County fund and staff the Community Care Homes? Where does this money come from if the youth detention center will not close until those alternatives are stood up?
- What happens if the screenings and assessments do not identify an important need for the youth? Can they move to a different placement if needed?
- How would this proposed community-based system reinforce consequences for young people? How can we make sure that youth are not encouraged to commit crimes if they are treated well when they are arrested?
- What happens when youth are arrested again for another alleged offense? Will they move through the same system? How will they learn their lesson without detention?
- How would the County support families who want to relocate out of their community?

Appendix P

November 2023

Summary of Care and Closure Community Tabling Efforts

Between June 2023 and October 2023, the DCHS project team tabled at nine different community events to share updates and information to community partners and members.

Event	Date	Location
Empowering Resourceful Communities Health and Resource Fair	July 29, 2023	Tukwila
Reconnect to Opportunity Back-to-School Resource Fair	August 17, 2023	Tukwila
Backpacks + Back to School Resource Fair	August 26, 2023	Renton
Alianza Abloom Health Resources Fair	September 9, 2023	Seattle
Community Connect Summit*	September 15, 2023	Burien
Nurturing Resourceful Communities Resource Fair	September 16, 2023	Seattle
LINC Conference*	September 29, 2023	Des Moines
Auburn Library Resource Fair	October 8, 2023	Auburn
Multi-Faith and Resource Fair	October 8, 2023	West Seattle

* Community-based organization networking events

Across the community tabling events, the project team handed out over 500 project two-page flyers and spoke with over 500 people about the project goals. DCHS handed out nearly 200 recruitment flyers to encourage impacted community members to get involved.

The project team also conducted raffles for people to respond to the prompt: **King County has committed to ending secure detention for young people. What do you think should happen when a young person causes serious harm in their community?**

Nearly 100 people responded to this question across the tabling activities. The overwhelming majority of the responses expressed supports that youth should receive instead of being placed in secure youth detention, including:

- Behavioral health resources
- Strength-based Interventions
- Community Service
- Mentorship programs
- Education
- Employment opportunities
- Culturally appropriate care
- Prevention programming
- Family support programming

Some responses, albeit very few, expressed that youth should still be detained but receive enhanced supports in detention. One response stated:

> "I believe they should be accountable for their action but while in detention they should do a program one of many offered like [Alcoholics Anonymous], mental health, job training, emotional wellness and complete it."

A majority of responses, however, focused on understanding the needs of youth, identifying the reason why a youth caused alleged harm in the first place, and addressing those needs. Some of those responses included:

> "Community accountability would be a great response to start with how the family/community failed the youth. Then helping to get their needs met. A transition place like a co-op for youth would be great so they have safe housing and wraparound support to meet their needs."

> "Community support where more young people and community members come together and address the problem. Community-based solutions and needs assessments."

> "A big community hug around that young person, [and] community to question what needs were not being met and start meeting them."

> "Accountability, time to reflect, and immediately start working on healing."

> "Love, Listen, [and] space for healing, ...learning the impact of loss to others...vision for hope and emotional literacy, resources, [and] support network... action plan with smart goals. [More ways for youth] to be seen and respected as a whole spiritual vibrational being."