

**Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council  
Program Review and Development Subcommittee  
MINUTES**

**December 8, 2025**

**NEXT MEETING:**

January 12, 2026

3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

**JJCC Subcommittee Members Present:** Chris Modica, Michael Rodriguez, Dr. Kristen Roye, Veronica Martinez, Noe Villa

**JJCC Subcommittee Members Absent:** Maureen Byrne

**Other meeting attendees:** Sylvia Rodriguez, Curtis Heath, Pat Kennealy, Jennifer Lopardo, Deirdre Smith

Discussion/Conclusions	Recommendations/ Actions	Responsible
<p><b>1. Call to Order</b> Chris Modica called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.</p>		
<p><b>2. Announcements</b> None.</p>		
<p><b>3. Public Comments for Items on the agenda</b> None heard. None received telephonically or via email.</p>		
<p><b>4. Presentation from JJCCPA funded programs on the efficacy of their program/service.</b> Interface Youth Advocates: Deirdre Smith, Director, Justice Services Department, presented an overview of the Interface Children &amp; Family Services Youth Advocate program and objectives, along with Associate Director Jennifer Lopardo. During FY24-25, Youth Advocates were able to connect with and actively program over 86% of probation referrals. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 26 youth taking part in group &amp; individual pro-social activities</li> <li>• 29 youth participating in evidence-based journaling program</li> <li>• A total of 1,070 interactions with 46 youth for mentoring, case management, help completing volunteer hours, educational/ vocational assistance, and transportation.</li> </ul> <p>Looking ahead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly reports and dashboards for consistent data tracking and transparency; enhancing data-sharing metrics for shared outcomes to track program impact more effectively</li> <li>• Strengthening probation collaboration, and educational and vocational partnerships.</li> <li>• Expanding group-based mentorship and skill-building opportunities.</li> </ul> <p>Current contract amount - NTE \$173,000/annually.</p> <p>Comments from the panel: <u>Veronica</u> complimented using evidence-based practices (EBP), strengths-focused, relationship-based practices with the youth. Discussion ensued about data points for reports. <u>Michael</u> noted that truancy is often due to special education needs not being met and asked how Youth Advocates are assisting youth with school enrollment and/or identifying special education needs. Response: The Educational Advocate works with the Youth Advocates, who also attend Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings, and have conversations about what kind of school environment would be most appropriate. <u>Noe</u> asked about collaboration with others in the state to see what's working or not. Response: Interface follows the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) for state-wide information, attends conferences, such as the National Conference on Juvenile Justice. Jennifer Lopardo is a Commissioner on the Juvenile Justice &amp; Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJDP). Discussion ensued about involving non-professionals to continue</p>		

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<p>supporting youth after case closes and the paid professional network is no longer available. Chris noted a Partnership of Care referral is available to support the youth and family.</p> <p><u>Pat Kennealy</u>, VCPA Research and Evaluation Manager, asked about the assessment tools used to indicate if the home environment has risk factors or protective factors. If identified, appropriate referrals are made to decrease risk and increase protective factors.</p> <p>Chris Modica left the meeting at 3:34, turning the meeting over to co-chair Michael Rodriguez.</p>		
<p><b>5. Approval of the October 13, 2025, meeting minutes</b>  Veronica moved to approve the October 13, 2025, meeting minutes.  Dr. Roye seconded the motion. All in favor; minutes approved.</p> <p><b>Approval of the November 3, 2025, special meeting minutes</b>  Dr. Roye moved to approve the November 3, 2025, special meeting minutes.  Noe seconded the motion. All in favor; minutes approved.</p>		
<p><b>6. Roundtable</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noe – Child and Family Services (CFS), in the current political climate, is seeing an increase in youth staying out of sight, not showing up for appointments, school, etc.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>7. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.</b></p>		