

## Justice-Involved Youth Subcommittee Meeting

08/04/2025 10:00am-11:00am

**Attendees:** Ashley Neuendorf, Dennis Schilling, Laura Hidlebaugh, Brian Foster, Vickie Pralle, Raji Sljivo

### Meeting Notes:

Updates on Job Corps were provided by Erika Lippmann, who noted that services would resume as staff return to the office following a suspension period. She emphasized the importance of keeping the subcommittee informed about any developments related to Job Corps. Ashley presented findings from the Talking Wall project, which collected 3,401 ideas from 480 youth in various facilities, aiming to capture the perspectives of those involved in the justice system. neue09 raised questions about necessary improvements in Iowa's foster care and juvenile justice systems, highlighting themes such as long-term support after aging out and better communication regarding available resources.

Erika requested results from Ashley to present to the board and encouraged discussion on the needs of the youth population. Raji expressed confusion over restrictions on educational pathways for youth, particularly regarding online HiSET testing. Vickie explained that a specific educational level must be achieved before taking the HiSET online, while neue09 suggested that juvenile court services may not have the authority to dictate educational choices. This discussion underscored the ongoing challenges in providing adequate support and resources for justice-involved youth.

Raji shared a success story about a youth in the detention system who benefited from a summer internship program, which helped him graduate and provided a sense of hope. Plans are in place for him to enroll in YouthBuild to complete his high school diploma. Erika acknowledged the positive impact of connecting youth in detention with resources and announced that Ashley would be the new chair of the subcommittee. She suggested additional training for board members to better understand various programs and encouraged the committee to identify topics for further exploration.

Brian Foster discussed the need for collaboration among educators to address the behavioral needs of justice-involved youth and highlighted the importance of scaling support. Erika introduced Raji as the new director for the Waterloo and Mason City office and provided updates on a grant application aimed at supporting justice-involved youth. The group discussed the upcoming youth summit, emphasizing the importance of youth voices and the talking wall initiative.

Erika proposed creating a resource handout for youth transitioning from detention and mentioned a grant received for work task kits. Overall, the discussions reflected a commitment to enhancing support and engagement for justice-involved youth.