

Minnesota Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC)

Members, Advisors, Staff & Subcommittees

Updated 1/15/2026

JJAC MEMBERS

Description: Governor-appointed for a four-year term, full voting ability, eligible to chair and serve on JJAC subcommittees

Brian Andrews

Brainerd, MN
*Executive Director,
Lakes Area
Restorative Justice Project*

Mira Berndt

Saint Paul, MN
College Student

Essence Blakemore

Minneapolis, MN
*Student, Metropolitan State
University and Youth
Participatory Action Research
Coordinator, Youthprise*

Gary Charwood

Squaw Lake, MN
*Cultural Coordinator,
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Health Division*

Phillip Drobnick

Woodbury, MN
*National Team Director and
Head Olympic Coach,
USA Curling*

Elijah Daniel

Eagan, MN
*Student,
Eagan High School*

Jason Everson

Tracy, MN
*Title IX Investigator, South
Dakota State University*

Dora Facundo

West St. Paul, MN
*Student, Southwest
Minnesota State University*

Patrick Faber

Fridley, MN
*Deputy Director - Police
Division, Fridley Department
of Public Safety*

Sheila Kiscaden

Rochester, MN
*Community and Policy
Advocacy Volunteer*

Sterling Knox

Bemidji, MN
*Recidivism Reduction Initiative
Coordinator, Red Lake Nation*

Miki Lewis-Frost

Saint Paul, MN
*Director,
8218 Truce Center*

Aaliyah Lussier

Red Lake, MN
Student, Red Lake High School

Michael Mayer

Eagan, MN
*Judge, MN First
Judicial District*

Jerald Moore

Eagan, MN
*Division Manager for
Juvenile Probation,
Hennepin County Department of
Community Corrections and
Rehabilitation (DOCCR)*

Julian Nyene

Minneapolis, MN
*Youth Advocate and Delivery
Technician, Warners' Stellan*

Trahern Pollard

(Chair)
Brooklyn Center, MN
*Founder and Chief Executive
Officer, We Push for Peace*

Kathryn (Kate) Richtman

(Vice Chair)
Saint Paul, MN
*Professor,
University of St. Thomas
School of Law*

Zoraba Ross

Plymouth, MN
*Principal,
The FAIR School - Crystal*

Amanda Sieling

Hanley Falls, MN
*Assistant Professor of Justice
Administration,
Southwest Minnesota State
University*

Richard Smith

Plymouth, MN
*Community Liaison,
Tribal Training and
Certification Partnership –
University of Minnesota,
Duluth*

JJAC EX-OFFICIOS

Description: Selected by the Chair, ineligible for voting, eligible to chair subcommittees, and eligible to serve on subcommittees

Matthew Bauer

MN Juvenile Detention Association (MN JDA)

Nicole Kern

MN Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (MACCAC)

Emilio Lamba

Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC)

Beatriz Menanteau/Caroline Palmer

MN Department of Health (MDH), Safe Harbor & Sexual Violence Prevention

Jane Schmid

MN Corrections Association (MCA)

James Schneider

MN Association of County Probation Officers (MACPO)

Shon Thieren

MN Department of Corrections (DOC),
Minnesota Correctional Facility – Red Wing

Kay Tracy

MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), Office of Youth Development

JJAC ADVISORS

Description: Selected by the Chair for their subject-matter expertise, ineligible for voting, eligible to serve on subcommittees

Elliot Butay

MN National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

Julie Atella

Wilder Foundation

Moi Boudoir

Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)

Joel Brott

Sherburne County Sherriff's Department

Paul Coughlin

Carlton County Sherriff's Department

Lolita Davis-Carter

Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage

Thomas Delaney & Rachel Wannarka

Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)

Michael Diedrich

Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)

Lisa Deputie

Family Wise Services

MN DOC's Inspection & Enforcement Unit

John Eshun

Minnesota Department of Health

Scott Hable

Renville County Sherriff's Department

Safia Kahn

Minnesota Department of Corrections

Katie Peck

MDH, Child and Teen Checkups (C&TC) Team

Amanda Larson

Sherburne County Health & Human Services

Julie Matonich

Children of Incarcerated Caregivers

Michele Rudnik

Dodge Fillmore Olmsted Community Corrections

Rebecca Schlafer

University of Minnesota, Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Health

John Soghigian

Caregiver

Stephanie Upton

Carlton County Sherriff's Department

Tierre Webster

Damascus Way

JJAC STAFF SUPPORT

Description: Employees of Youth Services Office, MN Dept. of Children, and Families; responsible for serving JJAC and its subcommittees

Melissa Dau – Health and Resiliency Coordinator, Youth Services Office

Qiana Edwards-Mazique - Ethnic and Racial Disparities (ERD) Coordinator, Youth Services Office

Callie Hargett - Director, Youth Services Office and Minnesota Juvenile Justice Specialist

Precious Lowery - Compliance Coordinator (Title II Grant Manager and JJDA Compliance Monitor), Youth Services Office

JJAC SUBCOMMITTEES

Description: Subcommittee Chairs/Co-Chairs selected by JJAC Chair, most of JJAC's work takes place on the subcommittee level, meetings occur at a frequency determined by the subcommittee Chair/Vice-Chairs

ETHNIC AND RACIAL DISPARITIES (ERD) SUBCOMMITTEE

Chair: Jerald Moore

Members:

John Eshun
Dora Facundo
Sterling Knox
Miki Lewis
Jane Schmid
Amanda Sieling

YSO Staff Support:

Qiana Edwards-Mazique

Subcommittee

Mission Statement:

"To eliminate or greatly reduce Ethnic and Racial Disparities in Minnesota's juvenile justice system."

Subcommittee Vision Statement:

"To greatly prevent and reduce out of home placements per capita, per populations of color through consistent statewide data, up-to-date information, culturally responsive services, creative approaches, and education."

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE

Chair: Essence Blakemore

Members:

Brian Andrews Caroline Palmer
Dora Faundo Zoraba Ross

YSO Staff Support: Precious Lowery

Subcommittee Mission Statement:

"To center youth voice and ensure youth are our moral compass in all that we do."

Subcommittee Vision Statement:

"To center youth voice, we will include youth in our membership and our decision-making processes as we work to dismantle systemic racism in juvenile justice."

COMPLIANCE MONITORING SUBCOMMITTEE

Chair: Michael Mayer

Members:

Lolita Davis-Carter Jane Schmid
Kathryn Richtman

YSO Staff Support: Precious Lowery

Subcommittee Mission Statement:

"To assist JJAC in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities for the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDA) compliance monitoring process, the system of internal controls, the federal audit process, and the process for providing technical assistance as needed to facilities, providers, and other stakeholders."

CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS SUBCOMMITTEE

Chair: Sheila Kiscaden &
Zoraba Ross

Members:

Julie Atella Kathryn Richtman
Paige Berg Karla Severson
Karla Bigham Rebecca Shlafer
Kania Johnson John Soghigian
Suwana Kirkland Rachel Weber
Julie Matonich Tierre Webster

YSO Staff Support: Melissa Dau

Subcommittee Mission Statement:

"The Children of Incarcerated Parents Subcommittee exists to support resiliency, foster healing and mitigate ACES among families facing parental/caregiver incarceration."

POLICY AND PARTNERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE

Co-Chairs: Kathryn Richtman &
James Schneider

Members:

Brian Andrews Sterling Knox
Phillip Drobnick Amanda Sieling
Nicole Kern Andrea Marboe

YSO Staff Support: Callie Hargett

Subcommittee Mission Statement:

"To identify and pursue policies that promote ethnic, racial, and gender equity; support other JJAC subcommittees by promoting agreed upon public policies that advance the priorities of the subcommittees and JJAC as a whole; and identify and promote funding priorities that support JJAC's public policy platform."

MENTAL HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE

Chair: Matthew Bauer

Members:

Elliot Butay Kathryn Richtman Amanda Sieling
John Eshun James Schneider Shon Thieren
Trahern Pollard

YSO Staff Support: Melissa Dau

Subcommittee Mission Statement:

"To work collaboratively with community partners to continually assess and improve the mental health system of care, ensuring it is inclusive and effective for all youth in the juvenile justice system, including the many ethnic and racial populations overrepresented in our system."