



Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Task Force

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Agenda

- Welcome (Co-chairs)
- Review of votes on Task Force recommendations (Co-chairs)
- Adoption of Task Force report
- Reflections on our work (Task Force)
- Concluding remarks and next steps (Co-chairs)

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Summary of Recommendations Voting

- 10 recommendations received unanimous support from every voting member
- 20 recommendations received consensus support (at least two-thirds of voting members)
- 3 recommendations received support from a majority of voting members

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Unanimous Recommendations

- Reinvest in nonresidential evidence-based practices
- Expand services as alternatives to arrest and court referral
- Curb the number of out-of-home placement youth cycle through
- Develop standards governing the development and application of graduated response protocols
- Amend the Human Services Code to provide funding for indigent juvenile defense services
- Amend the Human Services Code to include both juvenile justice and child welfare funding goals
- Aggressively pursue statewide implementation of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy

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Unanimous Recommendations (continued)

- Track performance measurement data and report publicly to determine if the recommendations are working and whether further changes may be needed
- Conduct an inventory of gaps in programs and services for reducing delinquency
- Consider reassigning or repurposing skilled juvenile justice staff as the juvenile justice system shifts toward community-based services
- Provide that youth working while in court-ordered placement be paid not less than the Pennsylvania minimum wage.

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Consensus Recommendations

- Reserve out-of-home placement for the most serious cases that pose a threat to community safety
- Keep youth in out-of-home placement no longer than the timeframe supported by research
- Focus supervision conditions on criminogenic risk and needs
- Increase oversight and accountability of out-of-home placements for youth

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Consensus Recommendations (Continued)

- Prohibit written allegations in juvenile court from contempt for failure to comply in Magisterial District Court
- Raise the minimum age of juvenile court jurisdiction
- Narrow the criteria for trying youth as adults

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Consensus Recommendations (continued)

- Eliminate the use of fines and most fees/costs
- Create a standardized statewide expungement process
- Create a permanent Office of the Child Advocate
- Amend restitution policies
- Authorize the use of accreditation of residential facilities by independent accreditation agencies
- Pass legislation to prohibit harmful practices in facilities

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Consensus Recommendations (continued)

- Establish a statewide youth and family advisory group and support county-level advisory groups
- Make prevention, independent living, and other child welfare services available to youth in the juvenile justice system
- Do not send youth to out-of-state placements, except to those located to neighboring states, and return youth currently residing in out-of-state placements

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Consensus Recommendations (continued)

- Require racial impact statements and create a racial equity task force
- Ensure school stability for youth in the juvenile justice system
- Ensure youth and families know their rights and how to assert them
- Expand PCCD's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee membership and have it provide oversight of this Task Force's recommendations

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Majority Recommendations

- Expand and standardize school-based diversion
- Expand and standardize informal adjustment and other pre-petition diversion and tailor criteria for post-petition diversion
- Focus the use of pre-adjudication detention

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Reflection on Our Work

- What is one piece of your work as part of this Task Force of which you are particularly proud?

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Next Steps

- Distribution to members of final report and report executive summary
- Public release of the Task Force report and recommendations

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Contact Information

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