



### GOVERNOR'S WORKING GROUP ON JUSTICE POLICY REFORM RECOMMENDATIONS

**Working Group Purpose and Membership.** The Governor's Working Group on Criminal Justice Policy Reform was announced in August 2015 during the Iowa Summit on Justice and Disparities hosted by the NAACP. The purpose of the working group was to research and make policy recommendations related to reforms in Iowa criminal justice practices. Members include:

- State Public Defender (Adam Gregg)
- Commissioner of Public Safety (Dr. Roxann Ryan)
- NAACP Representative (Betty Andrews)
- State Court Administrator (David Boyd)
- County Attorney Representative (Alan Ostergren)
- Iowa Attorney General's Office (Kevin McCarthy)
- Department of Corrections (Jerry Bartruff)
- Iowa Parole Board (John Hodges)

**Final Recommendations.** The final recommendations were released on November 6, 2015. The full content of the strategy proposals, as well as additional materials submitted to the working group are available at: [Justice Policy Reform](#). Recommendations include:

- **Drug Courts and Mental Health Court Recommendations.**
  - Provide dedicated statewide funding to drug courts and mental health courts.
  - Develop consistent participant criteria for statewide use in drug courts and mental health courts, and measure the effectiveness of drug courts and mental health courts against nonparticipants sharing that profile.
  - Provide annual reports regarding the effectiveness of drug courts and mental health courts to the Governor and the General Assembly.
  - Make special efforts to encourage minorities to voluntarily participate in drug courts and mental health courts.
  - Maintain at least one drug court in each Judicial District and create at least one mental health court in each Judicial District. These courts should also be appropriately funded.
- **Increasing the Diversity of Jury Pools.**
  - Adopt new jury management software that will be more likely to generate jury pools reflecting a fair cross-section of the community.
  - Study the use of additional source lists to create jury pools to ensure greater diversity.
  - Collect and maintain statistics regarding the racial composition of jury pools.
  - Update jury pool lists at least annually.
  - Study ways to improve response rates to jury summonses and evaluate juror terms of service.
  - Restore oversight and accountability to the jury selection process.
- **Confidentiality of Juvenile Delinquency Records.**
  - Adopt the presumption that juvenile delinquency records should remain confidential unless a judge specifically finds it is in the best interests of the child and the public to make the records publicly available.
  - Maintain that the confidentiality of juvenile delinquency records is a rebuttable presumption.
  - Hold the hearing as to whether the records should remain confidential at each disposition while the child still has counsel to advocate for the child's interests.
  - Provide the court with discretion to subsequently make the records public if the juvenile later reoffends.

- **Prison and Jail Phone Calls.**

- Renegotiate contracts with the Iowa Communications Network and seek bids from other vendors with the goal of reducing rates paid by prison inmates and their families.
- Transition to a per minute calculation for call costs rather than a flat fee
- Enable and encourage counties to partner with one another or the Department of Corrections to negotiate more favorable rates with phone vendors.

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