



Three-Year Criminal and Juvenile Justice Plan Update

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Context: State Agency Alignment

Pursuant to Iowa Code 216A.135, this *Annual Update to the Three-Year Plan* shall be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1, 2025.

In November of 2023, the Justice Advisory Board (JAB), with staff support from the research group of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP), submitted its *Three-Year Criminal and Juvenile Justice Plan for 2023-2026*. This report is an update on those activities.

As part of the Governor's realignment efforts, several key events have occurred since the submission of the Three-Year Plan in November 2023:

- Approximately one-half of the staff from CJJP were transferred from HHS to the Department of Management (DOM). This transfer included the research staff who drafted the November 2023 Three-Year Plan for the JAB.
- The Governor signed SF2385 which eliminated several state boards and commissions, including the Justice Advisory Board.
- HHS and DOM entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to divide the roles and responsibilities of CJJP (Iowa Code 216A), and to further reassign the responsibilities that were previously assigned to the JAB. As it relates to justice system planning efforts, including the Three-Year Plan, the IGA did the following:
 - HHS will be responsible for creating criminal and juvenile justice system development plans for the state. HHS will establish advisory committees and work groups to support and advance those plans.
 - DOM will provide data analysis, research, and analysis of justice system issues in support of plan development, system development, and reform efforts captured in those plans.
 - HHS will receive one (1) FTE position from DOM for planning and technical assistance to support adult criminal justice issues. The IGA explains the rationale for this as follows: "All staff and funding to work on adult criminal justice issues are now placed at DOM. Due to HHS being statutorily tasked with all duties previously performed by the Justice Advisory Board, Iowa HHS needs this one (1) full time employee to support adult criminal justice planning and technical assistance."

The development of this Annual Update to the Three-Year Plan began as a joint effort between CJJP staff at HHS and DOM. DOM research staff have provided documentation of their activities over the course of SFY24/25 in support of the 2023-2026 priority areas established by the JAB for inclusion in this Three-Year Plan Update.

Three-Year Criminal and Juvenile Justice Plan (2023-2026)

Historically, the JAB was responsible for identifying priorities and objectives, as well as making recommendations about actions to improve Iowa's criminal and juvenile justice systems. Before the JAB was eliminated, it identified the following five priorities for the three-year term from 2023-2026:

- 1) Racial Justice
- 2) Mental Health
- 3) Community-Based Corrections (CBC) and Alternatives to Incarceration
- 4) Sex Crimes
- 5) Equal Access to Justice

Executive Summary

In 2019, the Legislature enacted House File (HF) 634, which established the Justice Advisory Board (JAB) within the Department of Human Rights, specifically under the Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP). After CJJP transitioned from Human Rights to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), it continued to support and staff the JAB. According to Iowa Code 216A.135, the JAB was mandated to create and submit a Three-Year Criminal and Juvenile Justice Plan to the Legislature and Governor every three years, along with an Update report during the intervening years.

On December 1, 2023, the JAB, through CJJP, submitted its final Three-Year Plan, outlining priorities for 2023-2026. However, in May 2024, the Governor signed SF2385, which dissolved several state boards and commissions, including the JAB. At present, HHS is responsible for annual update reports related to the Three-Year Criminal and Juvenile Justice Plan.

The Three-Year Criminal and Juvenile Justice Plan for 2023-2026 outlined key priorities, objectives, and action items (see Appendix A for full list). The five key priorities are as follows:

- Racial Justice
- Mental Health
- Community-Based Corrections & Alternatives to Incarceration
- Sex Crimes
- Equal Access to Justice

Each priority area and related progress over the course of the last year is explored in this update to the original plan, including specific objectives and both short-term and long-term action steps. These steps will initiate with research, data collection, and analysis to identify the most effective practices and policy recommendations.

This plan updates the work being built on the previous efforts of the JAB and other stakeholders committed to enhancing public safety through a fair and equitable criminal justice system. Achieving the objectives and implementing the action steps has and will continue to necessitate cooperation across multiple disciplines and agencies. Implementing policy and practice changes will require coordinated efforts from justice entities and policymakers.

Additionally, the JAB has relied upon the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJAC) to fulfill the responsibilities mandated by §216A.137.2 related to the juvenile justice system. The JJAC primarily oversees the implementation of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and related Charles Grassley JJDP program funds in Iowa.

The JJAC prepares its own three-year plan which is required to be submitted to the Governor, Legislature and federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. It identifies key priority areas specific to the juvenile justice system. Work on the following key priority areas began for the JJAC October 1, 2024:

- Serve children at home, with their families, and in their communities.
- Enhance quality of life, services and opportunities for youth in the juvenile justice system.
- Advance healing-centered care.

(see Appendix B for full list)

JAB Priority 1: Racial Justice

There are obvious disparities between people of color and their white counterparts in the criminal justice system, ranging from police arrests to the disproportionate numbers of black youth and adults who are incarcerated. In the Sentencing Project (October 2021) study on racial and ethnic disparities in the nation's criminal justice systems, Iowa was identified as one of the states with the largest disparity in black/white incarceration. The JAB proposed the following action steps to help reduce racial disparity in Iowa's Criminal and Juvenile Justice system.

Objective 1: Identify and utilize data sources to examine and address racial profiling and racial disparities.

Objective 2: Review and report on best practices that reduce excessive use of force.

2025 Update on Actions and Activities that Support Priority 1: Racial Justice

Correctional Impact Statements

Iowa law requires correctional and racial impact statements for certain proposed bills to identify potential effects on the prison population and racial disparity.

In the 2025 legislative session, the Department of Management's Division of Policy and Information (DOM_DPI) provided data on the number of convictions, categorized by race, for relevant crime codes that could be impacted by proposed bills. Furthermore, where possible, the impact statements included a projected 5-year forecast based on changes under the proposed legislation. During this session, DOM_DPI completed 118 impact statements.

JAB Priority 2: Mental Health

The increasing number of individuals with mental health needs in the criminal justice system impose enormous financial, health, and human costs.¹ Data provided by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) indicate that about 44% of people in jails and 37% of people in state or federal prisons are diagnosed with some type of mental illness, relative to 20% of the general population.² Diverting individuals with mental health needs away from jails and prisons towards community-based mental health care presents a core component of national, state, and local strategies to provide appropriate services and decrease their criminal justice involvement. The JAB recognized that mental illness is a problem in the criminal and juvenile justice system that needs solutions.

Objective 1: Examine the effectiveness of mental health treatment courts.

Objective 2: Conduct comprehensive needs assessment to identify mental health resources available to justice-involved individuals across the state.

Objective 3: Identify and prioritize appropriate services in the criminal justice system to address mental health issues.

2025 Update on Actions and Activities that Support Priority 2: Mental Health

Evaluations and Inventory of Community Mental Health Response Models

DOM-DPI conducted program evaluations of two of Iowa's co-responder programs: Alternative Responses for Community Health (ARCH) in Ames and Marshalltown Police and Community Team (MPACT) in Marshalltown. Both programs were created to address the high volume of 911 calls that stem from mental health crises. The program evaluation activities took place between April 2024 and June 2025 and included interviews with team members and stakeholders, as well as surveys of stakeholders and clients.

The MPACT model provides crisis de-escalation and trauma mental health services when dispatched by law enforcement, as well as on-going case management services for clients. The ARCH model created an additional first responder choice for dispatchers to route emergency 911 calls and non-emergency welfare check requests. Stakeholders reported favorable responses and valued the programs. Clients also had favorable responses though the number of clients who responded to the survey was very low. However, low response rates among clients is a common challenge when evaluating co-responder models. Law enforcement stakeholders reported that they wanted co-responders available for more hours since neither program was available 24/7. Both programs collected pertinent data regularly and used that data to inform decisions.

Both programs reduced unnecessary ER use for people experiencing a mental health crisis because of the co-responders' ability and resourcefulness. Additionally, by expanding first responder services to address mental health crises, more appropriate services to community members experiencing crises were provided. Further, these programs allow police to attend to other situations in which a law enforcement response is more suitable.

¹ State of Mental Health in America. <https://www.mhanational.org/issues/mental-health-and-criminal-justice-issues#Keep%20People%20Out%20of%20The%20Juvenile%20and%20Criminal%20Justice%20Systems>

² Addressing Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System. maryville.edu

Homelessness was a root cause of many client issues in Ames and Marshalltown. Both programs reduced arrests as an outcome, although an important discussion point was that many cases where co-responders were called in were non-criminal and non-violent and would probably not result in an arrest anyway. When reviewing the criminal history of clients, only one-third of clients had any criminal history within a 10-year window. Funding and staffing challenges demanded a significant amount of administrative time.

We recently expanded this inquiry and are in the process of evaluating three additional models in Des Moines, Davenport, and Knoxville. These program evaluations will include surveys of stakeholders and clients, as well as interviews with stakeholders and team members. We will also be conducting a comprehensive review of data from the programs. Public presentations will be given in each community, and the final report will be shared with each community and the public by December 2026.

Lastly, we will assess all Iowa law enforcement agencies to develop a publicly available inventory of existing co-responder programs. (DOM staff)

JAB Priority 3: Community-Based Corrections and Alternatives to Incarceration

The United States continues to have the highest incarceration rate in the world despite decades of decreasing crime rates. In Iowa, the increasing prison population in the early 1990s sparked the development of the Prison Population Forecast by CJJP and subsequent annual releases of the report because of sustained overcrowding. The JAB supports efforts to limit the reliance on incarceration without compromising public safety. It identified community-based corrections (CBC) and alternatives to incarceration as a priority.

Objective 1: Identify and examine effective Iowa Department of Corrections policies throughout the state to reduce incarceration and develop more consistency/standardization across districts.

Objective 2: Increase the use of effective treatment courts throughout the state.

2025 Update on Actions and Activities that Support Priority 3: Community-Based Corrections (CBC) and Alternatives to Incarceration

Prison Population Forecast

DOM_DPI provides annual data and trends for the Prison Population Forecast, per Iowa Code. The FY2024 Prison Population Forecast reported Iowa's prisons were 20.0% overcapacity. There were 8,390 inmates in Iowa prison facilities on September 30, 2024. The 10-year forecast predicts the prison population will increase by 11.7% to 9,156 inmates by 2034. Reducing admissions to prison due to revocations is one avenue to reduce the prison population. The report notes that between FY 2015 to 2024 the number of parole-returns to prison decreased by 25.0%. This is attributable, in part, to policies implemented by the IDOC to rigorously review cases and consider alternatives before issuing a revocation decision. However, incarcerated individuals are spending more time in prison, thus contributing to the overpopulation. When considering FY 2015 and 2024, the average length of stay for individuals admitted to prison increased by 14.7% for new admissions and by 36.0% for returns. (DOM staff)

Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP)

The Story County Attorney's Office is continuing to implement a pre-charge diversion program for low level drug offenders. The program requires participants to attend treatment and refers them to other local resources to meet other needs (e.g., housing, healthcare, transportation, etc.). Funding was originally provided through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) through the Office of Drug Control Policy, but the grant ended in 2024. Story County has continued to use local funding to implement the program. DOM-DPI tracked the program's outcomes through September 30, 2025, and found that participants who successfully completed the program were less likely to have subsequent new charges compared to those who did not complete the program. Only 12.1% of Program Completers had any type of new charge after exiting the program compared to 61.1% of Non-Completers. (DOM staff)

Iowa Department of Corrections (DOC) Employment Programs Studies

The DOC provides opportunities for incarcerated individuals to work while in prison so they can prepare for their return to their community. Researchers completed an evaluation of incarcerated individuals who worked while in prison to understand their motivations for participation and the challenges they faced.

One study examined incarcerated individuals who were employed through Iowa Prison Industries (IPI) and institutional employment. IPI is an independent non-profit organization that offers training and certification programs for incarcerated individuals. In contrast, DOC jobs are funded through each institution's budget. Participants in these programs reported benefits such as earning money, keeping busy, and having social interactions. Challenges included low pay and too few job opportunities.

The second study examined incarcerated individuals who participated in an apprenticeship program. The most common apprenticeship programs were welding, housekeeper, and landscape management technician. Participants in an apprenticeship program reported benefits such as skill development and increased opportunity for stable income after release. The most common challenge reported by these participants was the prison conditions and circumstances. (DOM staff)

Tech2Connect

Research demonstrates that post-release outcomes are enhanced when programming is provided at the proper dosage based on risk and need. Tech2 Connect provides interventions for high-risk individuals which can include job and personal skills training, video and email connections with parole/probation officers, and therapy groups. Justice Systems Analysts are conducting an evaluation that will assess the success of re-entry among individuals who participated in the program in three judicial districts: Second, Sixth, and Seventh. It will provide information on whether a reduction in recidivism, or a reduction in severity of offenses, has been achieved. The evaluation includes interviews with district staff, prison staff, ORIJIN staff (an educational technology company that provides secure tablets to incarcerated individuals), and a client survey. It will also include data collected from ORIJIN and IDOC regarding T2C course completion and recidivism. The evaluation and report will be completed by December 2025. (DOM staff)

Second Chance Pell

The Second Chance Pell project has evolved into the Higher Education in Iowa's Prisons project for two reasons. First, the national Second Chance Pell experiment officially concluded in 2023. This provided a natural break point to summarize the program's impact on educational opportunities in Iowa's correctional facilities before the implementation of the new Pell Grant guidelines. Second, it reflects the reality that Iowa's prisons and higher education institutions have historically offered no-cost higher education to incarcerated individuals. This existing practice aligns with and predates the goal of the federal Second Chance Pell program—removing financial barriers to education.

Until now, this academic opportunity for incarcerated individuals has not been evaluated. Further, the transition period before the Pell Grant guideline changes presents a valuable opportunity to assess the college education landscape in Iowa's correctional facilities. The program evaluation has been underway since 2024 and has included interviews with staff, the correctional facilities, and the participating institutions of higher education. It also includes

data from higher education institutions, the Iowa Department of Education, and the Iowa Department of Corrections. Recidivism outcomes will be assessed between students and non-students. The final evaluation activities will be completed by December 2025, and the report will be made publicly available. (DOM staff)

Juvenile Pre-Charge Diversion (PCD) Dashboard

DOM-DPI developed a data dashboard to monitor the effectiveness of Iowa's PCD initiatives, both statewide and at the individual program level. Overall, the results are encouraging: 87% of youth who participated in one of the tracked PCD programs did not have a subsequent juvenile complaint or charge in adult court within one year of exiting the PCD program.

Note: These percentages reflect the last calendar year as updated counts are currently being validated. New statistics are anticipated to be available in the upcoming weeks. (DOM staff)

JAB Priority 4: Sex Crimes

Sex offenses are serious crimes that can have long-term effects on victims. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports nearly one in five women and one in 38 men have experienced completed or attempted rape during their lifetime.³ The JAB identified sex crimes as a priority and is committed to take actions to achieve three objectives.

Objective 1: Support survivors and victims.

Objective 2: Analyze sex offender data, including the special sentence and sex offender residency restrictions.

Objective 3: Advocate for appropriate legislation and policies.

2025 Update on Actions and Activities that Support Priority 4: Sex Crimes

Sex Offender Registry Study

DOM-DPI completed a study of the outcomes of 6,345 registered sex offenders. The study found that registered sex offenders were likely to be 18 to 29 years old, White, and Male. Their victims were predominantly Female and Under the age of 18. The counties with the highest rates of registered sex offenders per 1,000 residents were: Wapello (rate of 5.0), Fayette (4.3), and Pocahontas (4.2).

Registered sex offenders were far more likely to violate the terms of their registry than to commit a subsequent sex crime. Only 12.5% of registered sex offenders were convicted of a subsequent sex offense. However, 26.5% were convicted of a registry monitoring violation.

The following factors were found to be associated with recidivism:

- Age of the offender. The younger the offender, the more likely they were to have a subsequent sex conviction and a registry monitoring violation.
- Age of the victim. Offenders had higher rates of new sex conviction if they had both a minor and an adult victim (78.9% had subsequent sex convictions).
- Tier Level. Tier II and Tier III sex offenders had markedly higher rates of subsequent sex convictions compared to Tier I offenders. Their recidivism rates were 11.5%, 16.9%, and 0.4%, respectively.
- Residency Restriction. The likelihood of a subsequent sex conviction was more than double among those who had a residency restriction (e.g. 2,000 ft from a school) compared to those who did not have a residency restriction; 21.2% compared to 10.6%. (DOM staff)

³ Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Injury Prevention & Control. <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/features/sexual-violence/index.html>

JAB Priority 5: Equal Access to Justice

This priority area encompasses a wide range of issues that most affect disadvantaged lowans and contribute to inequalities in Iowa's justice system.

Two current issues that affect equal access to justice include the ability to make cash bail and financial access to quality legal representation. These problems disproportionately affect poor lowans and addressing them will improve outcomes for all lowans. As a new priority area, Equal Access to Justice requires investigation and research to ensure the JAB's recommendations are evidence-based.

Objective 1: Improve bail and pre-trial jail policies.

Objective 2: Improve equal access to justice in criminal court proceedings.

Objective 3: Enact JJAC's recommendations to ensure youth are tried in developmentally appropriate courts.

2025 Update on Actions and Activities that Support Priority 5: Equal Access to Justice

Gun Violence Report

DOM-DPI updated a report on the state of gun violence in Iowa for The Office of Drug Control Policy's (ODCP) State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) Board. The updated report includes data from five sources: the Justice Data Warehouse (JDW), Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Iowa Violent Death Reporting System (IAVDRS), Iowa Uniform Crime Reporting System, and the Iowa Youth Survey. This data provides a comprehensive view on the prevalence of firearm related violence, the types of offenses where firearms are used, where the offenses are occurring, who is most likely to commit firearm-related offenses, and who is most likely to be the victim of a firearm related homicide or suicide. The updated report includes a new section focused on school-based weapon violence.

Easy Access to Criminal and Juvenile Justice Data

Public access to criminal and juvenile justice data is crucial for empowering citizens to better understand the justice system. Currently, DOM-DPI maintains two public-facing sites that provide access to Adult Court Data and Juvenile Court Data. However, the current portal has some significant limitations, including only being able to look at 2 variables at a time and only in a table format. To significantly improve this access, DOM-DPI is currently developing a new series of interactive dashboards for both Adult Criminal Data and Juvenile Justice Data, anticipated to be available in early 2026. Utilizing Google Looker Studio, these dashboards will allow the public to review data more efficiently through a user-friendly interface. The dashboards will feature filtering options, including cross-filtering and a wider variety of visuals designed to improve data communication and deliver deeper insights.

Appendix A: JAB Priority Areas, Objectives and Action Items

Priority 1: Racial Justice
Objective 1: Identify and utilize data sources to examine and address racial profiling and racial disparities.
<i>Racial Profiling.</i>
Action Item 1: Examine other states/jurisdictions' racial profiling legislation.
Action Item 2: Establish connections with other state agencies and lowa communities to examine what is currently being done to address racial profiling and disparities.
Action Item 3: Enact legislation that aims to prevent racial profiling, including the addition of capturing self-reported race/ethnicity when obtaining or renewing a driver's license.
<i>Juvenile Justice System.</i>
Action Item 4: Work closely with Juvenile Justice Advisory Council to ensure strategies and goals are aligned.
Action Item 5: Create inventory about available community resources.
Action Item 6: Understand availability & effectiveness of youth programs in Iowa, including diversion programs.
Long-Term Action Item 7: Explore strategies to end the school-to-prison pipeline.
<i>Social Determinants of Health.</i>
Action Item 8: Investigate available data sources to analyze the intersection of substance abuse, mental health, housing, income, etc. with the aim to better understand racial disparities.
Action Item 9: Explore available data sources on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) to inform decision making processes and policies.
Long-Term Action Item 10: Explore available data on social determinants of health to determine prevention strategies.
Long-Term Action Item 11: Use the data sources to analyze the intersection of substance abuse, mental health, housing, income, etc. with the aim to better understand racial disparities.
Long-Term Action Item 12: Use data sources, including Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) to inform decision making processes and policies.
Objective 2: Review and report on best practices that reduce excessive use of force.
Action Item 1: Examine use of force policies and recommend changes.

Priority 2: Mental Health
Objective 1: Examine the effectiveness of mental health treatment courts.
Action Item 1: Utilize diverse data sources to determine the effectiveness of mental health treatment courts, including cost-benefit analyses.
Objective 2: Conduct comprehensive needs assessment to identify mental health resources available to justice-involved individuals across the state.
Action Item 1: Examine available resources, gaps, and needs of mental health services in all communities.
Action Item 2: Examine national evidence-based programs for best practices to provide appropriate services for those with mental health needs.
Long-Term Action Item 3: Evaluate models of law enforcement and community mental health partnerships.
Objective 3: Identify and prioritize needed appropriate services in the criminal justice system to address mental health issues.
Action Item 1: Gather information from IDOC and local authorities on the provision of mental health services for justice-involved individuals.
Action Item 2: Identify methods, resources, and policies to ensure justice-involved individuals receive the medication needed during incarceration and upon release.
Action Item 3: Examine the SAFENET Rx to understand the potential advantages and limitations.
Action Item 4: Explore data sharing opportunities to understand if justice-involved individuals who are referred for mental health services then received those mental health services.

Priority 3: Community-Based Corrections & Alternatives to Incarceration
Objective 1: Identify and examine effective Iowa Department of Corrections policies throughout the state to reduce incarceration and develop more consistency/standardization across districts.
Action Item 1: Identify ways to implement alternative methods such as transformative or restorative justice.
Action Item 2: Collect and analyze data about revocations to identify when they occur to better understand their effectiveness in preventing new crimes.
Action Item 3: Evaluate risk assessments to determine if there is racial bias and their effectiveness.
Action Item 4: Examine other states' early release from probation incentives.
Action Item 5: Incentivize corporate, government, and nonprofit entities to financially support providers of wrap-around services.
Action Item 6: Provide resources for community, faith-based organizations and residential treatment facilities across the state to provide delivery of wrap-around services.
Action Item 7: Enact legislation to enhance employment opportunities for current and former justice-involved individuals.
Action Item 8: Identify the availability and success of workforce development and educational opportunities in prisons.
Long-Term Action Item 9: Encourage academic partnerships for upscaling education opportunities.
Objective 2: Increase the use of effective treatment courts throughout the state.
Action Item 1: Study different models of treatment courts to examine effectiveness.
Long-Term Action Item 2: Examine mental health and substance abuse treatment available to justice-involved individuals across the state.

Priority Four: Sex Crimes
Objective 1: Support survivors/victims.
Action Item 1: Examine victim/perpetrator overlap.
Long-Term Action Item 2: Collaborate with the Iowa Victim Assistance Section (VAS) and other victim service organizations to study the effectiveness of services to support victims.
Objective 2: Conduct further analysis on sex offender data.
Action Item 1: Examine practical consequences of residency restrictions (including 2,000-foot rule).
Action item 2: Review existing data on recidivism of sex offenders to investigate chronic offenders and crime types.
Objective 3: Advocate for evidence-based legislation and policies regarding sex crimes.
Action Item 1: Understand the history of previous boards and committees focused on sex crimes.
Action Item 2: Connect and collaborate with current organizations working with sex crimes to learn more about their work.

Priority 5: Equal Access to Justice
Objective 1: Improve bail and pre-trial jail policies
Action Item 1: Create an inventory for pre-arrest diversion programs in Iowa and document their effectiveness.
Action Item 2: Evaluate impact of court fees, fines, bail and other costs associated with the legal process on both the State of Iowa and the individuals going through the legal system.
Action Item 3: Evaluate the effectiveness of other state's bail and pre-jail policies.
Objective 2: Improve equal access to justice in criminal court proceedings
Action Item 1: Evaluate the use of prosecutorial discretion.
Action Item 2: Ensure all Iowans have access to quality legal defense.
Action Item 3: Ensure developmentally appropriate court resources are provided to Iowans with intellectual disabilities.
Action Item 4: Ensure appropriate court resources are provided to Iowans for whom English is not a first language.

Appendix B: JJAC Priority Areas, Goals and Objectives

Priority 1: Serve children at home, with their families, and in their communities.
Goal 1: Minimize system contact for low-risk youth, especially youth of color, by developing formal, statewide diversion opportunities through implementation of structures and policies at early juvenile justice system processing.
Objective 1: Expand Pre-Charge diversion opportunities statewide.
Objective 2: Support implementation of Credible Messengers, peer to peer mentoring and navigation, by providing training to community leaders and funding allocation as needed.
Goal 2: Partner with state and local efforts to expand a full spectrum of gender and culturally responsive, and trauma informed care practices for community-based services for youth.
Objective: Offer and share evidence-based, research-based and/ or promising practices training and educational opportunities to providers.
Goal 3: Advocate for a minimum age of 14 years of age for delinquency proceedings for juvenile court, with exceptions for forcible felonies, by modifying Iowa Code 232.
Objective 1: Draft legislative proposal.
Objective 2: Utilize HHS structure to advance related legislation.
Goal 4: Eliminate delinquency petitions that are filed to protect girls and/or youth of color when community safety is not an issue.
Objective 1: Identify best practices to support alternatives that do protect girls and youth of color without increasing formal juvenile justice processing.
Objective 2: Encourage use of the guidelines for determining whether to handle a complaint formally or informally as laid out in, "Juvenile Delinquency Guidelines: Improving Court Practice in Juvenile Delinquency Cases" (NCJFCJ) or similar best practice documents.
Goal 5: Reduce detention holds that are the result of probation violations.
Objective 1: Explore becoming a Vera Institute "Ending Girls Incarceration" site.
Objective 2: Research detention usage using data broken down by race/ethnicity, gender and zip code.
Objective 3: Secure funding to research detention usage by examining case files for trends by race/ethnicity, gender and zip code.
Objective 4: Advocate for a reduction in the use of juvenile detention for probation violations by modifying Iowa Code 232.
Objective 5: Evaluate the impact of juvenile tracking.
Objective 6: Advocate for reduced Detention Screening Tool overrides for probation violations.

Priority 2: Enhance quality of life, services and opportunities for youth in the juvenile justice system.
Goal 1: The juvenile court system should be the primary court of jurisdiction for youth accused and adjudicated of delinquent behavior. It is the goal of the JJAC for Iowa to have a justice system where youth are exclusively served by the juvenile court system, with rare exceptions.
Objective 1: Eliminate direct file - allow juvenile court to have exclusive jurisdiction of all juvenile offenders, except when the juvenile court waives jurisdiction. Legislation required: Modify Iowa Code §232.8, sub-section 1, paragraph "c".
Objective 2: Juveniles may only be waived to be prosecuted as an adult for felony violent offenses. Legislation required: Amend Iowa Code §232.45, add "...that would be classified as a felony if committed by an adult".
Objective 3: Court-sealing/record-sealing expansion/procedural reform (alterations to

232.150). Explore how Iowa's system to seal and expunge juvenile court records could be more effective and efficient. It should be a system that is understandable and can be navigated by youth and families. This would require alterations to Iowa Code §232.150.
Goal 2: Champion quality of life for youth in out-of-home placements (group homes/ QRTPs, detention centers, State Training School, and shelters). "Get what you need, earn what you want".
Objective 1: Set standards for a youth Bill of Rights and grievance processes.
Objective 2: Partner with other HHS divisions to make Transition Information Packet (TIP Binder) youth friendly and practically useful.
Objective 3: Advocate for quality legal representation and developmentally appropriate court experiences for youth in the juvenile justice system.
Objective 4: Advocate that youth receive timely medical attention when in court ordered placement.
Objective 5: Advocate for clear shackling policies and consistent trauma-informed trainings.
Objective 6: Advocate youth will not be shackled during medical appointments, with the exception for documented safety concerns.
Objective 7: Advocate against shackling of youth who are 22 weeks pregnant or further along.
Objective 8: Develop principles and guidance for programs to implement policies and procedures that ensure the least invasive person searches, using the standards and requirements detailed in the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).
Goal 3: HHS requires female and culturally responsive training for all facilities serving youth involved in the juvenile justice system.
Objective 1: Advance placement and service alternatives for females (e.g. enhanced/STAR foster homes designated as female-responsive) to fill gaps for girls formally involved in the juvenile justice system.
Objective 2: Develop culturally responsive and female-responsive training and technical assistance for QRTP facilities.
Goal 4: Continue to support and evaluate the Reentry Navigator program for viability and expansion.
Objective 1: Explore additional funding for continued support and expansion of the Reentry Navigator program.
Objective 2: Support youth to get their vital documents (birth certificates, IDs, social security cards), including youth who are immigrants or refugees
Objective 3: Explore avenues to expand the population of youth who are eligible for Reentry Navigator program assistance.
Objective 4: Implement and analyze pre- and post-surveys to assess the program for fidelity.
Goal 5: Advocate for trauma-informed design principles in physical spaces where youth and family interact with the juvenile justice system.
Objective 1: Partner with the Iowa State University Department of Landscape Architecture to advance related concepts as appropriate.
Objective 2: Draft legislation to require trauma-informed court waiting room areas.

Priority 3: Advance healing-centered care
Goal 1: Support the integration of healing-centered, authentic youth and family engagement into juvenile justice policies, practices and programs.
Objective 1: Propose a shared definition of “support system” for Juvenile Court Services, QRTPs, State Training School, shelters and detention centers to use.
Objective 2: Ensure youth have free, daily access to their family while in the system by addressing barriers to transportation, restrictive policies, and mindsets of professionals working with youth.
Objective 3: Advise on an authentic engagement framework for Juvenile Court Services.
Objective 4: Support districts and providers to create local youth and family advisory councils to address juvenile justice opportunities and concerns within their community.
Objective 5: Advise on a Parent Partner model for juvenile justice.
Objective 6: Develop healing-centered authentic youth and family engagement training for youth-serving professionals.
Goal 2: Increase Juvenile Court Services usage of female-responsive and culturally responsive practices.
Objective 1: Advocate for the creation of Girls Courts in all Judicial Districts.
Objective 2: Advocate for the creation of all female specialized JCS units or caseloads in all Judicial Districts.
Objective 3: Advocate that HHS providers and juvenile court personnel are required to participate in ongoing specialized bias training and coaching around decision-making regarding youth of color. Training should be research-based, progressive, ongoing and result in an implementation plan.
Goal 3: Increase knowledge about juvenile justice issues that affect key impacted populations. <i>Key impacted population refers to population groups disproportionately affected by disparities (e.g., racial and ethnic minorities, urban vs. rural populations, individuals with disabilities, LGBTQ+ communities)</i>
Objective 1: Explore the disparities and related issues that exist for LGBTQ youth.
Objective 2: Explore issues for girls related to immigration and juvenile justice.
Objective 3: Explore issues for youth in adult court, including specialized settings.