

Supreme Court Action on JJTF Recommendations

August 7, 2023

<u>Rec #</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Status</u>
<u>Prevention</u>		
1	The child welfare and juvenile justice systems should advance the statewide implementation of the Woodbury County model for dual system youth.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services <u>to begin implementation.</u></p> <p><i>JCS has contracted with the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI) for technical assistance to develop a pilot project that will be used to advance the model statewide. JCS is currently collecting and evaluating data to determine which counties or districts would be most appropriate as pilot sites.</i></p>
2	Juvenile Court Services (JCS) should coordinate with the Coalition of Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP), and the Mental Health and Disability (MH/DS) Regions to develop a coordinated, statewide strategy and fiscal investment plan that ensures evidence-based, culturally competent mental health and substance use programs are available and accessible to all justice-involved youth in Iowa.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services to <u>develop plans</u> for consideration by the supreme court during its administrative term.</p> <p><i>JCS has recently developed a process that requires all Chief JCOs to complete a service plan that outlines a strategy for providing services each fiscal year. This plan identifies the target audience, goals, and financial details for all services being provided in the district.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, JCS has developed a Title IV-E Reinvestment Advisory Council (TRAC). TRAC is created as a standing Council for the purpose of establishing a transparent decision-making process that is inclusive of specialized information and perspectives from the community and stakeholders. The Advisory Council's insight and advice will be utilized by Juvenile Court Services (JCS) to guide its decisions regarding Title IVE discretionary expenditures.</i></p>

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3	JCS should create a coordinated cross-system response with the Iowa Department of Education, HHS, MH/DS Regions, and the Youth Justice Counsel (YJC) to identify and fulfill the needs of the children within the state before those needs and behaviors result in juvenile court involvement.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services to <u>develop plans</u> for consideration by the supreme court during its administrative term.</p> <p><i>Planning has not yet begun.</i></p>
Treatment		
4	JCS should continuously revalidate the Iowa Delinquency Assessment (IDA) and the Detention Screening Tool (DST) for gender and bias to better assess and serve the needs of youth that come into contact with the juvenile justice system.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services <u>to begin implementation.</u></p> <p><i>The IDA was revalidated in 2018 by Dr. Hamilton. Since that revalidation, Dr. Hamilton has worked with JCS staff to develop new IDA questions and answers and update the scoring. In discussions with Dr. Hamilton, it was discovered the IDA was also in need of an update using the latest assessment information known in juvenile justice. Dr. Hamilton is a prominent authority on risk assessments and specifically assessments for youth in juvenile justice. So, the decision was made to not only make the 2018 recommendations but to move to the latest assessment format to date. That involves aligning the IDA to a new format using only 6 domains but also incorporating the "needs" of a youth when scoring the IDA. This new system will assist the JCO and take away some of the guesswork on which areas to focus in on for case plan development. The IDA work group is currently working to modify the</i></p>

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		<p><i>IDA manual, so that it will be ready for roll out when the new case management becomes available in July 2024.</i></p> <p><i>The DST was revalidated in 2014, at which time it was determined the tool was racially neutral. Although female rates of re-offense were slightly higher, the validation indicated only the need for periodic reviews to ensure the instrument is not providing an erroneous low score for girls who pose a threat to public safety. Since then, work on the DST has been focused on automating and enhancing the tool, to increase accuracy, allow easier access, and improve data collection. However, due to JBIT constraints, these enhancements have taken over a year, and are not expected to be completed until Spring 2024. Upon completion of the enhancements, a new manual will be created and all DST users will participate in an updated training. Following the release of the enhanced DST, data collection will begin in preparation for a revalidation. However, a minimum of a year's worth of data is required for validation, so it is likely this will not occur spring of 2025, depending upon how long is required for JBIT to complete the enhancements.</i></p>
5	JCS and treatment providers should develop a definition and framework for family engagement that allows for more adults and role models in the youth's life to provide support both during and after juvenile justice system involvement, e.g., through actions such as phone calls and visits while in out-of-home placements.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services to <u>develop plans</u> for consideration by the supreme court during its administrative term.</p> <p><i>JCS is in the process of finalizing a contract to employ a full-time Youth and Family Engagement specialist that will work collaboratively with JCS and providers in developing and implementing a research-based statewide strategy for family engagement.</i></p> <p><i>JCS is also hosting its 3rd Annual Youth and Family Engagement Summit in September. This event will further the collective pursuit to integrate authentic engagement into all levels of child welfare and juvenile justice practice, policy, and research.</i></p>

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6	Judges, juvenile court officers (JCOs), and lawyers should support and encourage family engagement for youth attending the State Training School (STS), as well as earlier family engagement in the youth's juvenile court involvement. This engagement is especially encouraged for family members with meaningful connections and cultural relevance to the youth.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services <u>to begin implementation.</u></p> <p><i>JCS is in the process of finalizing a contract to employ a full-time Youth and Family Engagement specialist that will work collaboratively with JCS and providers in developing and implementing a research-based statewide strategy for family engagement.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, JCS has implemented the YCPM process statewide. This process utilizes a youth and family centered approach to transition planning and assists in identifying youth and family supports and bringing those supports together as a collaborative team.</i></p> <p><i>JCS is also hosting its 3rd Annual Youth and Family Engagement Summit in September. This event will further the collective pursuit to integrate authentic engagement into all levels of child welfare and juvenile justice practice, policy, and research.</i></p>
7	Professionals working with the youth on their treatment should encourage visits and communication between separated siblings when possible.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services <u>to begin implementation.</u></p> <p><i>JCS will be addressing this goal through its work on youth and family engagement and case work standards.</i></p>
8	Treatment providers and out-of-home placements should ensure that youth have adequate time and the products needed for their personal hygiene,	<p>The supreme court submits to relevant decision makers.</p> <p><i>JCS plans to meet with detention directors and group care providers to discuss this and begin initial planning.</i></p>

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	including menstrual, hair, and skin care products.	
9	Judges and lawyers should use age-appropriate and easily understood language to explain the legal process to youth and their family members, and lawyers should provide timely updates to the youth and their family members about the youth's progress and well-being. Professionals working with youth in the juvenile justice system should use the term "youth" instead of "child," especially during direct interactions with the youth.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services <u>to begin implementation.</u></p> <p><i>JCS has no decision-making authority for judges and lawyers. However, JCS is in the process of reviewing and modifying its policies and protocols to ensure age-appropriate terminology is utilized. In addition, JCS is in the process of developing a youth and parent/guardian brochure that will provide youth and families with an explanation of the juvenile justice system and how it works. Youth and parents will be asked to review the final document and provide feedback, so that JCS can ensure the brochure contains easily understood language that is age-appropriate.</i></p>
10	To the extent possible, staff in detention centers and treatment facilities should strive to provide the youth with privacy during visits with family and allow physical contact that promotes family bonding	The supreme court submits to relevant decision makers.

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	during these visits, including hugs, handholding, holding their child(ren), and shaking hands.	
11	Prior to a youth being court ordered to the State Training School (STS), JCOs should staff youth who might be referred to STS with the STS Review Committee to either help prepare for the youth's admission to STS or divert the youth from STS if the Committee has suggestions about alternative placements and supports.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services <u>to begin implementation.</u></p> <p><i>JCS currently staffs all youth with the STS Review Committee prior to a youth's placement there.</i></p> <p><i>This topic was discussed with judges during their spring training, when the Director of JCS provided an overview of the Committee and why it was important.</i></p>
12	JCS and STS should consider reopening the STS 30-day assessment program, as it could be helpful in assessing youth who are eligible for STS placement and providing recommendations about alternatives to placement.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services to <u>develop plans</u> for consideration by the supreme court during its administrative term.</p> <p><i>A memo outlining the 30-day diagnostic and evaluation unit at STS has been signed by Director Garcia. Dr. Hess plans to confer with the Director of JCS and the Chiefs to determine what will be sent to the Supreme Court to consider during their administrative session this summer.</i></p>

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		<i>Work has also begun on the preparatory steps for the program, including steps to begin hiring the staff that is needed to support the psychiatric evaluation unit.</i>
13	HHS should explore necessary changes in federal and state policies to ensure youth in detention and STS are eligible for publicly - funded health insurance.	The supreme court submits to relevant decision makers.
14	There needs to be smaller, targeted, and more focused programming, such as the specialized delinquency beds, for low risk/high need youth that is focused on separating populations such as delinquent/child welfare youth and PSB-youth, as well as single gender placements when appropriate.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services to <u>develop plans</u> for consideration by the supreme court during its administrative term.</p> <p><i>A new Crisis Intervention Stabilization and Reunification (CISR) contract began July 1, 2023. Under this new contract there is more separation of JCS and HHS youth, which should reduce peer contagion and allow for more specialized intensive treatment. In addition, Problematic Sexualized Behavior (PSB) beds were increased by 20 and a specialized delinquency bed program for females was opened that can serve 9 girls. There were also 8 general female beds added.</i></p> <p><i>JCS continues to work on this aspect of treatment and has begun working in collaboration with providers to identify areas that can be expanded and/or improved upon. One area of success has been the development and implementation of a No Eject Reject protocol that utilizes a Delinquency Placement Review Team (DPRT) comprised of providers and JCS staff to review cases that may be rejected by a facility or ejected. However, there are still significant gaps in the treatment continuum, in particular for females, especially those deep-end females. Because JCS does not receive the appropriation for group care and is not</i></p>

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		<i>the contract holder, JCS has limited decision making authority, which limits its ability to make the required improvements.</i>
15	There need to be additional coordinated efforts to formulate specialized treatment strategies for intellectually disabled youth, youth whose behaviors are driven by mental disabilities, females that need a “training school” level of care, and highly aggressive male youth that are disruptive to all youth being treated at the STS.	The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services to <u>develop plans</u> for consideration by the supreme court during its administrative term.
16	Youth at the STS should have increased opportunities to participate in community service activities for both rehabilitation purposes and the payment of restitution, which supports rehabilitation of the youth and making the victim whole.	<p>The supreme court submits to relevant decision makers.</p> <p><i>The STS Review committee is currently working on reviewing the JJTF recommendations. The group’s intent is to come up with the top 3 priorities and continue to address them thru the STS review committee as they work thru the recommendations.</i></p>

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17	HHS and JCS should partner with the Youth Justice Council and the Coalition for Family and Children’s Services to create guidance on best practices for youth in the juvenile justice system.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Chad to <u>develop plans</u> for consideration by the supreme court during its administrative term.</p> <p><i>JCS currently has a Case Standards work group who is in the process of evaluating, improving, and standardizing the juvenile probation process from start to end. Throughout the evaluation, the work group is relying on best practice research, evidence-based practices, and data to guide its decision making in adopting and implementing needed improvements.</i></p> <p><i>JCS has also implemented the Youth Centered Planning (YCPM) meetings and is developing a strategy for youth and family engagement. Both of these are considered best practice approaches.</i></p>
Reentry		
18	JCS should implement a statewide transition to reentry program/provider.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services to <u>develop plans</u> for consideration by the supreme court during its administrative term.</p> <p><i>JCS is currently in the process of identifying a reentry program in each of the districts. As of August 1, districts 1, 2, and 5 are utilizing the Boy’s Town program, On the Way Home (OTWH). Districts 7 & 8 are in the process of issuing an RFP for OTWH. This contract would serve both those districts. Districts 3 and 6 have full-time transition specialists on staff. In addition, JCS has hired a statewide Reentry Coordinator. This individual is responsible for statewide oversight of transition and reentry issues.</i></p>
19	Treatment providers should implement a statewide checklist to ensure the youth, the youth’s family, JCS, and community-based providers receive all of	<p>The supreme court submits to relevant decision makers.</p> <p><i>JCS has no decision-making authority. However, as part of the YCPM process JCS has developed a checklist of these documents.</i></p>

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	the youth’s necessary documents as part of the discharge process, ideally several weeks prior to release.	
20	The youth’s treatment team should develop and disseminate educational materials for the supportive adults in the youth’s life, helping them to understand how to best support their education plan after release.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services to <u>develop plans</u> for consideration by the supreme court during its administrative term.</p> <p><i>JCS has no decision-making authority. However, JCS has developed an Educational Options pamphlet that can be given to the youth’s support team that provides an overview of the different educational pathways that may be available to youth exiting care.</i></p>
21	JCS should work with HHS to develop a statewide program that models “Parent Partners,” supporting parents in connecting with one another for peer-to-peer support and advocacy.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services to <u>develop plans</u> for consideration by the supreme court during its administrative term.</p> <p><i>District 7 is in the process of piloting a program, similar to Parent Partners. The Family Engagement Services RFP was posted on 6/25 and a solicitation webinar was completed on 7/12. Provider proposals are due on 8/31 with the intent to award being issued on 9/18 and anticipated start of contract on 10/1. Following implementation of the program, it will be evaluated and expanded to other districts if it shows promising outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>It should also be noted, a team from JCS will be attending the Credible Messengers Immersion experience in the fall in New York.</i></p>
22	Prior to discharge, every youth should have a plan to ensure safe and	The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services to <u>develop plans</u> for consideration by the supreme court during its administrative term.

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	<p>stable housing before discharge and referrals to community organizations for any appropriate follow up care with the appointment scheduled within 10 days following discharge.</p>	<p><i>JCS has begun implementing the Youth Centered Planning Meeting (YCPM) process statewide. This process will ensure that every youth in a Q RTP setting will receive, at minimum, a discharge meeting. During this discharge meeting, planning in all areas of fostering connections is completed, including education, employment, health, housing, supportive relationships, civic engagement, self-sufficiency, and interpersonal skills and behaviors.</i></p> <p><i>JCS also just trained JCOs in state and federal transition laws and the YCPM process. This training stressed the importance ensuring youth have access to safe/affordable housing, education, and employment opportunities.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, JCS has implemented a Length of Stay Review that reviews cases to ensure appropriate transition planning has occurred and there is a plan in place for the youth to discharge to safe and stable housing.</i></p> <p><i>Several districts have also contracted with Aftercare providers, such as On the Way Home or Transition Specialists to ensure youth have a plan for reentry that includes a safe and stable home to transition to.</i></p>
23	<p>Local school boards should adopt student conduct policies and procedures that allow for individualized school discipline determinations rather than offense-based practices , thereby helping to minimize the steps youth must take</p>	<p>The supreme court submits to relevant decision makers.</p>

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	to re-engage in school and school activities	
24	Case workers/supervisors should collaborate with the youth and their families in the course of identifying and selecting community-based providers so that the youth/family understand the treatment needs, are satisfied with the selection, and are able to reasonably access the services.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services to <u>develop plans</u> for consideration by the supreme court during its administrative term.</p> <p><i>JCOs have received training in Identifying, Matching, Monitoring, and Evaluating services. In addition to this training, JCOs received training in Case Planning. The JCS case planning process requires active youth and family participation in goal setting and the identification of services and supports. The final case plan is reviewed with the youth and family, who must sign the plan to acknowledge they participated in its development and are in agreement with the goals and services identified.</i></p> <p><i>Chief Juvenile Court Officers will also be completing a yearly service plan that will identify the community services each district will provide, as well as the target audience and goals for each service.</i></p>
25	The STS should work to restore vocational programming to pre-pandemic levels and investigate ways to expand vocational education to provide youth with the skills they need to succeed in the future.	The supreme court submits to relevant decision makers.
26	JCS should ensure that each judicial district offers Youth Centered Planning Meetings for	The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services <u>to begin implementation.</u>

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	discharge planning purposes	<i>JCS has begun implementing the Youth Centered Planning Meeting (YCPM) process statewide. Facilitators have been trained for each district and a Transition and Reentry web application has been designed and is in the testing phase. This web application significantly improves the communication between the facilitator and JCO and allows for more reliable and accurate data collection on transition and reentry outcomes.</i>
27	Beyond the recommendations contained herein, the STS and JCS should collaborate on an agreed upon set of discharge planning practices that are consistent with best practices and informed by the recommendations from the Juvenile Reentry System Task Force(JReS) work over the last several years.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services to <u>develop plans</u> for consideration by the supreme court during its administrative term.</p> <p><i>The STS Review committee is currently working on reviewing the JJTF recommendations. The group’s intent is to come up with the top 3 priorities and continue to address them thru the STS review committee as they work thru the recommendations.</i></p> <p><i>JCS is in the process of reviewing current research on discharge planning practices. This information will be combined with the JReS work as a platform for discussion with STS.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, with the assistance of CJJP, a full-time Navigator has been assigned to STS to assist youth with transition planning. Work completed by the Navigator will be used to inform the development of the discharge planning practices.</i></p>
Data		
28	HHS should conduct a state-wide audit of community based mental health, substance use, and other services for youth in the juvenile justice system, to collect more robust data on the	The supreme court submits to relevant decision makers.

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	current location, availability, and accessibility of these services.	
29	CJJP should develop standardized measures for tracking family engagement for youth in treatment facilities or participating in other juvenile court services.	<p>The supreme court submits to relevant decision makers.</p> <p><i>JCS is currently working with CJJP on a contract to employ a Youth and Family Engagement Specialist. As part of this contract, measurable family engagement outcomes have been identified.</i></p>
30	JCS should develop and implement a plan for post-discharge data collection to help assess effectiveness of discharge planning.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services to <u>develop plans</u> for consideration by the supreme court during its administrative term.</p> <p><i>JCS is currently in the testing phase for a Transition and Reentry web application. This application will allow JCS to collect data related to both transition and reentry. As part of the development of this application, JCS has developed a list of questions pertaining to reentry it wants to answer, as well as the necessary outcomes/data elements needed to answer those questions. These questions and data elements will be expanded upon, as JCS expands the web application.</i></p> <p><i>In addition to the T&R web application, JCS is currently collecting and reporting data to DHHS related to performance outcomes/incentives associated with the CISR contract. These outcome measures are directly related to post-discharge recidivism data. In addition, JCS has established a data collection and analysis process for data specific to the Specialized Delinquency Bed programs. This data includes referral information, placement outcomes, and discharge outcomes.</i></p>
Technology		

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31	<p>The Judicial Branch should use Zirous, the state-contracted IT provider, to rebuild the JCS portion of the case management system in a manner that would improve JCS's ability to make data driven decisions.</p>	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services <u>to begin implementation.</u></p> <p><i>JCS has contracted with Zirous, who with the assistance of the JCS Case Management System work group, is developing a new case management application specific to Juvenile Justice. The new system is a subset of the main application screens from the primary District Case Management System. Database and application changes are being made throughout development to support statewide system functionality. Functionality and menu items specific to the juvenile court proceedings process and juvenile cases are also being implemented. Other areas of future expansion will include: restitution/financial information, user role-based functionality permissions, reports, case plans, case closing validation, updated IDA assessment, and system authentication. At the conclusion of development, both user testing and training will be required and performed to ensure a successful implementation. The current implementation date for Phase 1 is expected to take place sometime in July or August of 2024.</i></p>
32	<p>The Judicial Branch should provide JCS with the technological capability to immediately implement the IDA and DST after they are updated for race and gender bias and re-validated.</p>	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services <u>to begin implementation.</u></p> <p><i>The Detention Screening Tool is being used on all 99 counties across Iowa. The DST was recently reviewed by the Statewide CQI team to assess how the tool was being administered across the State. The statewide team participated in breakout sessions around the following topics: Personnel Completing the DST and Ensuring Accuracy; Overrides and Sharing DST scores; Data Reporting and Scoring; and Required Documentation and Training. The feedback was presented in an overview during the meeting, but will be followed up with specific recommendations to the DST SME group. One of the recommendations that was presented to the DST group was to expand the group to encompass additional detention center stakeholders. Efforts are</i></p>

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		<p><i>currently underway to expand the group to include a representative from each of the detention centers.</i></p> <p><i>The DST SME group has been working on updating the district-specific agreements with each of the detention centers, updating the policy to better reflect changes that have occurred in the last three years and to establish a method of sharing out detention data with stakeholders and JCS as a whole. Efforts are also underway to create new training links that will engage a variety of stakeholders (law enforcement, Judges, attorneys, detention center) to better understand the DST and use of detention in Iowa, but also provide additional training for our end users. There are weekly meetings with Judicial Branch Information Technology to work through the programming challenges in getting the necessary technology enhancements integrated into the DST 3.0.</i></p>
33	JCS should implement uniform, standard procedures to address (1) when and who conducts the IDA and Detention Screening Tool (DST), and (2) how and when overrides to the system are implemented.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services <u>to begin implementation.</u></p> <p><i>See narrative for #32</i></p>
34	JCS should set a limited timeline for how long prior complaints remain for trend analysis.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services to <u>develop plans</u> for consideration by the supreme court during its administrative term.</p> <p><i>Planning has not yet begun.</i></p>

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Training		
35	JCS, judicial officers, and detention staff should receive pre-service and in-service statewide training to ensure fidelity to the directions for completing the IDA and DST.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services <u>to begin implementation.</u></p> <p><i>The JCS Training and Governance work group is in the process of working with the Education Department and a consultant to develop a comprehensive training program for both new JCS staff and experienced staff. This comprehensive program is based on best practices and will incorporate ongoing continuing education units to ensure JCS staff are implementing the IDA and DST with fidelity. In addition, CQI efforts have recently begun to evaluate fidelity and the areas that require training.</i></p>
36	The Department of Education should provide pre-service and in-service training of JCS and treatment providers on the educational requirements of youth in the juvenile justice system.	<p>The supreme court submits to relevant decision makers.</p> <p><i>JCS has developed a training that provides an overview of the basic educational requirements for youth who are system involved. This training could be utilized for both JCS staff and providers.</i></p>
37	JCOs and STS staff should collaborate to provide pre-service and in-service cross-training on the assessments that they each use.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services to <u>develop plans</u> for consideration by the supreme court during its administrative term.</p> <p><i>The STS Review committee is currently working on reviewing the JJTF recommendations. The group's intent is to come up with the top 3 priorities and continue to address them thru the STS review committee as they work our way thru the recommendations.</i></p>
Race and Gender		
38	CJJP should collaborate with the STS and JCS to	The supreme court submits to relevant decision makers.

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	<p>collect data comparing the number of youths entering the STS under each admission category and note any trends and racial and ethnic disparities in each admission category. This effort should capture the youth's age at admission, number of prior placements, and how many of the youth were also adjudicated a Child In Need of Assistance (CINA).</p>	
39	<p>JCS should research and implement services specific to the cultural, socio-economic, and gender needs of youth of color and their families.</p>	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services to <u>develop plans</u> for consideration by the supreme court during its administrative term.</p> <p><i>JCS has recently developed a process that requires all Chief JCOs to complete a service plan that outlines a strategy for providing services each fiscal year. This plan identifies the target audience, goals, and financial details for all services being provided in the district. A focus of this plan is to ensure services that are specific to the cultural, socio-economic, and gender needs of youth of color and their families.</i></p> <p><i>Additional research into programming specific for gender, cultural, and socio-economic diversity is also being conducted. This includes research into EBPs supported by the Title IV-E Prevention Services and California Clearinghouses.</i></p>

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		<p><i>JCS has also worked to create the Female Specialized Delinquency Bed program. This program, which is gender responsive, was developed using research and female responsive programming experts.</i></p> <p><i>Another program that has been developed to be gender responsive is the Girls Court: Too Good to Lose (TGTL) in District 5. Discussions on how to expand and strengthen this program are ongoing.</i></p>
40	JCS should use the updated IDA to help assess the need for congregate care, which uses more objective criteria and would therefore remove bias from the recommendation and decision-making process.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services to <u>develop plans</u> for consideration by the supreme court during its administrative term.</p> <p><i>JCS is currently working with an expert in the field of risk assessment to determine if the IDA can be used for predictive assessment outside of risk.</i></p>
41	JCOs should include the IDA results in their predisposition reports that they submit to the court so that diversion programs can be utilized more at the “front end” of the juvenile justice system following referral to reduce the number of youth eligible for congregate care.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services to <u>develop plans</u> for consideration by the supreme court during its administrative term.</p> <p><i>See narrative for #47.</i></p>
42	The State should establish a “placement	The supreme court submits to relevant decision makers.

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	of last resort” for juvenile female offenders, as well as a specialized setting for higher risk females involved in the juvenile justice system based on the service recommendations outlined in the “Serious, Violent and Chronic Juvenile Female Offenders: Service and System Recommendations for Iowa” report.	
43	CJJP should expand the analysis and review of facility discharge and other youth outcome data by race and gender.	The supreme court submits to relevant decision makers.
Governance		
44	The General Assembly should amend Chapter 602 to transfer the administrative authority of JCS within the Judicial Branch from the chief judges of each judicial district to SCA and the Director of JCS	At this time, the supreme court does not support this recommendation. <i>An MOU was signed between the Chief Judges, the Director of JCS and the State Court Administrator in 2023 to provide more centralized authority over funding for JCS.</i>

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	under a “Division of Juvenile Justice.”	
45	The General Assembly should create a separate appropriation within the Judicial Branch budget for juvenile court services that would include funding for graduated sanctions, court ordered services, and group foster care.	The supreme court does not support the transfer of group care funding to the judicial branch.
46	The General Assembly should increase funding for community-based services, graduated sanctions, court ordered services, and JReS’s Navigator program.	The supreme court submits to relevant decision makers.
47	The Supreme Court should ensure the availability of statewide evidence-based diversion programs, implemented using equitable eligibility and programming criteria. In doing so, the Supreme Court should direct the Chief JCOs to make post-charge diversion	<p>The supreme court supports the availability of statewide, evidenced-based diversion programs.</p> <p><i>JCS has no decision-making authority. However, JCS implemented a statewide Diversion program on June 5, 2023. The intent of the diversion program is to promote opportunities for low level juvenile offenders and their parents/custodians to remediate negative behaviors and become productive members of society, in a self-sufficient manner, without the barriers the juvenile justice system may create.</i></p>

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	equitably available to all youth in every judicial district and appoint a Diversion Task Force to assist in this implementation effort.	<i>As part of the implementation plan, JCS also developed a method to collect pertinent data that can be used to evaluate the efficacy of the program and assess its impact on racial disparities in the system.</i>
48	The General Assembly should create a legislative committee to focus on juvenile justice issues that would conduct its work in a cross-sector/agency manner.	The supreme court submits to relevant decision makers.
49	The General Assembly should amend Chapter 232 to create a legal structure for diversion	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services to <u>develop plans</u> for consideration by the supreme court during its administrative term.</p> <p><i>JCS has no decision-making authority. However, JCS implemented a statewide Diversion program on June 5, 2023. The intent of the diversion program is to promote opportunities for low level juvenile offenders and their parents/custodians to remediate negative behaviors and become productive members of society, in a self-sufficient manner, without the barriers the juvenile justice system may create.</i></p> <p><i>As part of the implementation plan, JCS also developed a method to collect pertinent data that can be used to evaluate the efficacy of the program and assess its impact on racial disparities in the system.</i></p>
50	The Governor and Executive Branch should publicly support	The supreme court submits to relevant decision makers.

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	the goal of statewide diversion by providing any necessary additional resources to assist the Diversion Task Force and supporting legislation that furthers this goal.	
51	The General Assembly should define “dual system youth” in the Iowa Code as “Juveniles who come into contact with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.”	The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services to <u>develop plans</u> for consideration by the supreme court during its administrative term.
52	The Supreme Court should establish a task force to address the growing population of youth involved in the child welfare and/or juvenile justice system that have mental health issues, intellectual and developmental disabilities.	The supreme court intends to revisit this recommendation in 1 year.
53	The Department of Education should adopt administrative rules establishing a plan or policy to ensure that	The supreme court submits to relevant decision makers.

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	youth receive credit for schooling completed in out-of-home placement and establish reentry procedures for re-enrollment.	
54	HHS should amend administrative rules to ensure youth can access supervised apartment living and independent living without an adjudication placing the youth in foster care.	The supreme court submits to relevant decision makers.
55	All stakeholders need to establish methods to regularly communicate with legislative leadership on better aligning the administrative structure of JCS and identifying operational and programmatic effectiveness, with the broader goal to better inform the General Assembly on all juvenile justice matters.	<p>The supreme court directs chief judges, chief JCOs and Director of Juvenile Court Services to expand JCS' communications with stakeholders.</p> <p><i>JCS has developed a Title IV-E Reinvestment Advisory Council (TRAC). TRAC is created as a standing Council for the purpose of establishing a transparent decision-making process that is inclusive of specialized information and perspectives from the community and stakeholders. The Advisory Council's insight and advice will be utilized by Juvenile Court Services (JCS) to guide its decisions regarding Title IVE discretionary expenditures. Currently, there are four legislators that serve on TRAC and provide input.</i></p>