



King County

1200 King County
Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Meeting Agenda Law and Justice Committee

Councilmembers:
Rhonda Lewis, Chair;
Rod Dembowski, Vice-Chair;
Claudia Balducci, Jorge L. Barón, Teresa Mosqueda

Lead Staff: Leah Krekel-Zoppi (206-477-0892)
Co-Lead: Erica Newman (206-477-7543)
Committee Clerk: Gabbi Williams (206-477-7470)

9:30 AM

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

Hybrid Meeting

Hybrid Meetings: Attend King County Council committee meetings in person in Council Chambers (Room 1001), 516 3rd Avenue in Seattle, or through remote access. Details on how to attend and/or provide comment remotely are listed below.

Pursuant to K.C.C. 1.24.035 A. and F., this meeting is also noticed as a meeting of the Metropolitan King County Council, whose agenda is limited to the committee business. In this meeting only the rules and procedures applicable to committees apply and not those applicable to full council meetings.

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT: The Law and Justice Committee values community input and looks forward to hearing from you on agenda items.

There are three ways to provide public comment:

1. In person: You may attend the meeting and provide comment in the Council Chambers.
2. By email: You may comment in writing on current agenda items by submitting your email comments to committees@kingcounty.gov. If your email is received before 8:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting, your email comments will be distributed to the committee members and appropriate staff prior to the meeting.
3. Remote attendance at the meeting by phone or computer: You may provide oral comment on current agenda items during the meeting's public comment period by connecting to the meeting via phone or computer using the ZOOM application at <https://zoom.us/join> and entering the Webinar ID number below.



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- 1) Stream online via this link www.kingcounty.gov/kctv or input the link web address into your web browser.
- 2) Watch King County TV on Comcast Channel 22 and 322(HD) and Astound Broadband Channels 22 and 711(HD).
- 3) Listen to the meeting by telephone see "Connecting to the Webinar" above.

To help us manage the meeting, if you do not wish to be called upon for public comment, please use the Livestream or King County TV options listed above, if possible, to watch or listen to the meeting.

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Roll Call**

To show a PDF of the written materials for an agenda item, click on the agenda item below.

3. **Approval of Minutes** p. 4

May 6, 2026 meeting minutes

4. **Public Comment**



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Discussion and Possible Action

5. [Proposed Motion No. 2026-0084](#) p. 7

A MOTION approving the King County youth diversion and intervention program report required by 2026-2027 Biennial Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 20023, Section 108, Proviso P1, related to employment and education resources.

Sponsors: Lewis

Miranda Leskinen, Council staff

6. [Proposed Motion No. 2026-0089](#) p. 36

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Brian Flaherty, who resides in council district nine, to the public defense advisory board, representing the Washington Defender Association.

Sponsors: Dunn

Brandi Paribello, Council staff

7. [Proposed Ordinance No. 2026-0067](#) p. 42

AN ORDINANCE related to notification requirements for booking restrictions at King County adult detention facilities; and adding a new chapter to K.C.C. Title 2.

Sponsors: Dembowski

Leah Krekel-Zoppi, Council staff

Other Business

Adjournment



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Meeting Minutes Law and Justice Committee

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Lead Staff: Leah Krekel-Zoppi (206-477-0892)
Co-Lead Erica Newman (206-477-7543)
Committee Clerk: Gabbi Williams (206-477-7470)

9:30 AM

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Hybrid Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Present: 4 - Barón, Dembowski, Lewis and Mosqueda

Excused: 1 - Balducci

3. **Approval of Minutes**

*Councilmember Barón moved approval of the minutes of the April 1, 2026 meeting.
Seeing no objections, the minutes were approved.*

4. **Public Comment**

There were no individuals present to provide public comment.

Briefing

5. [Briefing No. 2026-B0035](#)

Audit report on 911 Communications Center

Kymer Waltmunson, King County Auditor, Luc Poon, Principal Management Auditor, King County Auditor's Office, and Peter Heineccius, Senior Principal Management Auditor, King County Auditor's Office, briefed the committee via a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the members. Ian Huri, Chief, Support Services, King County Sheriff's Office, also addressed the committee and answered questions from the members.

This matter was Presented

6. [Briefing No. 2026-B0065](#)

Update on Jail Health Services Expansion

Danotra McBride, Director, Jail Health Services Division, Public Health of Seattle and King County (PHSKC), and Megan Murphy, Jail Health Services Reentry Demonstration Project Manager, PHSKC, briefed the committee via PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the members.

This matter was Presented

Discussion and Possible Action

7. [Proposed Ordinance No. 2026-0040](#)

AN ORDINANCE relating to the department of public defense standards for indigent defense; amending Ordinance 17588, Section 4, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.60.026 and adding a new section to K.C.C. chapter 2.60.

Leah Krekel-Zoppi, Council Staff, briefed the committee and answered questions from the members. Kapena Pflum, Budget and Business Planning Manager, King County Executive's Office, addressed the committee via a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the members. Matthew Pang, Deputy Director, Department of Public Defense, also addressed the committee and answered questions from the members.

Councilmember Dembowski asked to be added as a sponsor.

Amendment 1 was not offered.

Amendment 2 was not offered.

Amendment 3 was not offered.

Amendment 4 was not offered.

Title Amendment T1 was not offered.

A motion was made by Councilmember Barón that this Ordinance be Recommended Do Pass. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Barón, Dembowski, Lewis and Mosqueda

Excused: 1 - Balducci

Other Business

There was no other business to come before the committee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m

Approved this _____ day of _____.

Clerk's Signature



Metropolitan King County Council Staff Report

Committee:	Law and Justice		
Agenda Item:	5	Analyst:	Miranda Leskinen
Proposed No.:	2026-0084	Meeting Date:	July 1, 2026

OVERVIEW

TOPIC: A Motion approving the King County Youth Diversion and Intervention (KCYDI) Program Report.

LEGISLATION SUMMARY

The adopted 2026-2027 biennial budget included a proviso on the Employment and Education Resources appropriation unit (Ordinance 20023, Section 108, Proviso P1) requesting a King County Youth Diversion and Intervention (KCYDI) Program Report, restricting \$1 million of spending authority from being expended or encumbered until the Council passes a motion approving the report (Proposed Motion 2026-0084).

The transmitted report, as required by the budget proviso, includes information on:

- KCYDI program guiding principles and outcome goals;
- The framework/model for program implementation, evaluation, and reporting;
- How the KCYDI program was informed by stakeholder input and prior experience with the Restorative Community Pathways (RCP) program;
- KCYDI program implementation status; and
- A cost estimate for broadening program eligibility to provide felony diversion to youth.

Of note, the request for proposals (RFP) for program community service providers was released on April 29, 2026, with contracting and program transition currently projected to be finalized during 2026 Q3-Q4. Program operations are currently anticipated to formally launch in January 2027.

KEY ISSUES FROM THE ANALYSIS

Staff have not identified any key issues - the report appears to be responsive to the proviso requirements. Approval of the motion would satisfy the proviso requirements and release \$1 million in Employment and Education Resources budget to be expended or encumbered.

Restorative Community Pathways (RCP). Restorative Community Pathways (RCP) program has been the County's community-led response to youth diversion¹ and was funded as part of the 2020-2021 biennial County budget (program referrals began in November 2021). Program goals centered on diverting youth away from the juvenile legal system to a restorative justice process and providing community members who experienced harm an opportunity for support services and restitution moneys.

The program has operated via a consortium model, whereby consortium members hire, train, and support community navigators who work with referred youth and their families as well as people who have experienced harm.

Since the program launched in 2021, RCP has enrolled and served over 1,200 youth and over 250 community members who have experienced harm.²

The Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) has administered RCP service contracts for the County. The RCP has served youth under age 18 and harmed parties referred by the Prosecuting Attorney's Office³ and community to the RCP Referral Administrator, who would then refer them to a contracted community navigator for program services.

2026-2027 Biennial Budget and Transition to the King County Youth Diversion and Intervention Program. The 2026-2027 adopted biennial County budget (Ordinance 20023) includes resources to implement the King County Youth Diversion and Intervention (KCYDI) to provide diversion services for youth referred by the Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO) for an alleged misdemeanor offense, their families, and community members who have experienced harm associated with those incidents, replacing and revising the County's Restorative Community Pathways (RCP) program.

As discussed during the budget process, adjusting the Restorative Community Pathways program implementation model was responsive to stakeholder feedback and program evaluation. Budgeted KCYDI program for the 2026-2027 biennium is approximately \$8.7 million to be covered through a mix of County General Fund (\$7.9 million) and Best Starts for Kids Levy moneys (\$0.8 million).

KCYDI Program Report Proviso. The adopted 2026-2027 biennial budget contains a proviso on the Employment and Education Resources appropriation unit (Ordinance 20023,

¹ Referral for diversion of misdemeanors for youth with no prior criminal history is consistent with state law (RCW 13.40.070).

² 2025-RPT0119 - Restorative Community Pathways Letter. October 2025.

³ The RCP Program referrals have primarily included individuals with misdemeanor charges, and some first-time felony charges. Of note, the PAO no longer (since July 2025) refers youth with alleged felonies and associated harmed parties.

Section 108, Proviso P1) requesting the Executive to provide a KCYDI Program Report to the Council by March 9, 2026, restricting \$1 million of spending authority from being expended or encumbered until the Council passes a motion approving the report⁴ (Proposed Motion 2026-0084).

The proviso calls for the report to include the following information:

- A description of KCYDI program guiding principles and outcome goals;
- A description of the framework/model for program implementation, evaluation, and reporting;
- A description of how the program was informed by stakeholder input and prior experience with the Restorative Community Pathways program;
- A status update on KCYDI program implementation; and
- A cost estimate for broadening program eligibility to provide felony diversion to youth.

ANALYSIS

[↑ BACK TO TOP](#)

Proposed Motion 2026-0084 would approve the King County Youth Diversion and Intervention (KCYDI) Program Report. The report was provided by the Executive to the Council in response to a 2026-2027 budget proviso.

Approval of the motion would satisfy the proviso requirements and release \$1 million in Employment and Education Resources budget to be expended or encumbered. The report appears to be responsive to the proviso requirements.

KCYDI Program Guiding Principles and Outcome Goals. The transmitted report identifies that the King County Youth Diversion and Intervention program (KCYDI) guiding principles, *“focus on needs, repairing harm, providing for active accountability, centering relationships and community, ensuring volunteer participation in restorative justice mediation⁵, and centering youth well-being and agency.”* Program outcome goals for participants include meeting basic needs,⁶ education, and career goals, youth engagement in meaningful accountability for harm they have caused without additional exposure to the juvenile legal system, and for community members who experience harm to have a voice in their healing process and access to restitution funds.

⁴ Per Ordinance 20023, no moneys restricted by this proviso shall be expended on any services provider contract for the King County youth diversion and intervention program until the Council passes the motion required by this proviso.

⁵ Restorative justice refers to the promotion of conflict resolution, restoration and accountability through dialogue and reparation, and includes a focus on addressing the needs that led to the behavior that caused the harm.

⁶ The report identifies examples of basic needs including housing and rent support, bill payments, groceries, clothing, and mental and physical health services.

KCYDI Framework - Program⁷ Implementation. The Prosecuting Attorney’s Office (PAO) would refer cases to the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), whose Referral Manager would reach out to referred youth and harmed parties to engage them in KCYDI program services.⁸ Specifically, when the youth and/or harmed parties have agreed to accept services, they would be referred by the DCHS Referral Manager to a program community navigator. A more detailed description of this process flow is provided in Appendix A of the transmitted report.

RCP Similarities. The transmitted report indicates that the KCYDI program model includes effective model elements from the Restorative Community Pathways program, such as working with a consortium of community-based organizations to provide culturally responsive wraparound services through KCYDI community navigators, flexible service lengths to respond to the needs of program participants, and including services and restitution funds for community members who have experienced harm.

Changes for the KCYDI. Changes for the KCYDI implementation model include having DCHS staff the program Referral Manager role, enhanced data collection and reporting on school and education engagement, increased services to support youth to re-engage in school, and youth voice that informs program improvements rather than serve as primary decision-makers. Of note, KCYDI implementation will also include a new School Liaison role (beginning as a pilot TLT position in 2027) to work with community navigators, and schools to refine the opportunities for program participants to engage or re-engage in education.

Program capacity. Overall annual capacity is anticipated to be around 400 program participants (accounts for navigator vacancies/leave, variable participation needs, and engagement time prior to program enrollment). Based on historical acceptance rates for the RCP program, DCHS expects roughly 300 PAO referrals to participate in programming.

KCYDI Framework – Evaluation and Reporting. The Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) will collect selected measures quarterly and use those measures to summarize program implementation and related outcomes, according to the transmitted report. The report indicates that DCHS will finalize performance measures with contracted partners in the evaluation plans that are created at the time of contracting.

⁷ KCYDI, like RCP, would be a pre-filing diversion program.

⁸ The KCYDI RFP indicates that if funded providers identify youth who were also involved in the incident that led to PAO referrals, they may offer services to these youth, provided there is available capacity. These individuals would be considered “community referrals.” If Community Navigators approach maximum capacity, services for PAO-referrals would be prioritized.

Performance measures will align with the Results-Based Accountability framework (RBA)⁹, which is the same framework used for Best Starts for Kids.

Additionally, the report notes that DCHS will work with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO) on system level outcome measures such as recidivism and decreased involvement in the juvenile legal system.

All funded organizations will be expected to collect and report on data related to community grants. DCHS intends to share quarterly program reports with community partners, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO), Department of Public Defense (DPD), Superior Court (KCSC), and on its public-facing website.

A more detailed description of outcomes and data collection for the KCYDI program is provided in Appendix C to the transmitted report.

Stakeholder Input and Lessons Learned from the RCP Program. The KCYDI program was designed with input from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Superior Court, Restorative Community Pathways (RCP) program partner feedback and learned experience from four years' experience with RCP programming, as well as an external RCP program evaluation, according to the transmitted report.

KCYDI Program Implementation Status. The request for proposals (RFP) for program community service providers was released on April 29, 2026,¹⁰ with contracting and program transition currently projected to be finalized during 2026 Q3-Q4. Program operations are currently anticipated to formally launch in January 2027. A detailed anticipated implementation timeline, including RCP to KCYDI transition activities and timing, is provided in the transmitted report. The report indicates that all providers not selected for continued funding would receive three months of close-out time to ensure that currently enrolled youth can successfully complete the program or, if necessary, transfer to other providers starting in 2027.

Cost Estimate for Broadening Program Eligibility to Include Felony Diversion.

Expanding program eligibility to include felony referrals for youth could amount to an estimated 120 additional program participants served annually. DCHS estimates that total

⁹ The RBA framework groups performance measures into three categories: How much was done (i.e., service quantity); How well was it done (i.e., service quality); and Is anyone better off (i.e., participant outcomes).

¹⁰ King County Request for Proposals (RFP), King County Youth Diversion and Intervention Program. URL: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:a435d0d7-0ad2-4af5-bd47-e671ded64c30>. Last accessed on May 13, 2026. As required by Ordinance 20023, Section 108, Proviso P2, councilmembers were provided with a preview copy of the RFP before its release.

cost could be approximately \$1-\$1.2 million annually. There is a caveat, though, that since annual program capacity is currently higher than the number of anticipated diversion program participant referrals for 2026, that the actual costs of expanding program eligibility could be lower.

INVITED

- **Jen Tanaka**, Acting Director of the Children, Youth, and Young Adult Division (CYYAD), Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS)
- **Jennifer Hill**, Acting Deputy Director of the CYYAD, DCHS

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Motion 2026-0084 (and its attachment)
2. Transmittal Letter



KING COUNTY
Signature Report

ATTACHMENT 1
1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Motion

Proposed No. 2026-0084.1

Sponsors Lewis

1 A MOTION approving the King County youth diversion
2 and intervention program report required by 2026-2027
3 Biennial Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 20023, Section 108,
4 Proviso P1, related to employment and education resources.

5 WHEREAS, the 2026-2027 Biennial Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 20023,
6 Section 108, Proviso P1, related to employment and education resources, requires the
7 executive to transmit a King County youth diversion and intervention program report,
8 and

9 WHEREAS, the proviso further requires the executive to submit a motion that
10 approves the report;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

12 The King County youth diversion and intervention program report, which is
13 Attachment A to this motion, in compliance with 2026-2027 Biennial Budget Ordinance,

- 14 Ordinance 20023, Section 108, Proviso P1, related to employment and education
15 resources, is hereby approved.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Sarah Perry, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, ____.

Girmay Zahilay, County Executive

Attachments: A. King County Youth Diversion and Intervention Program Report

King County Youth Diversion and Intervention Program Report

April 2026



King County

I. Summary

The King County Youth Diversion and Intervention (KCYDI) program builds off of the Restorative Community Pathways (RCP) pre-filing community-based diversion for young people who have been referred by law enforcement to the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO) for an alleged misdemeanor offense, their families, and for community members who have experienced harm associated with those incidents.

KCYDI guiding principles focus on needs, repairing harm, providing for active accountability, centering relationships and community, ensuring volunteer participation in restorative justice, and centering youth well-being and agency. The KCYDI outcome goals for both youth and the community members who have experienced harm are to meet basic needs, education, and career goals. Outcomes for youth include increased social connection and engagement in meaningful accountability for harm they have caused without exposure to the juvenile legal system. Outcomes for community members who experienced harm include having a voice in their healing process and access to restitution funds.

The KCYDI program implementation model begins when the Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO) refers a case to the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS). DCHS then works with a consortium of contracted community-based organizations to provide wraparound services to referred youth and community members who experienced harm. The KCYDI program includes effective model elements from RCP, such as working with a consortium of community based organizations to provide culturally responsive wraparound services through KCYDI community navigators, flexible service lengths to respond to the needs of participants, and including services and restitution funds for community members who have experienced harm.¹ Through an RFP that DCHS plans to release in April 2026, DCHS intends to introduce changes to KCYDI that include DCHS staffing the referral manager role, enhanced data collection and reporting on school and education engagement, increased services to support youth to re-engage in school, and youth voice that informs program improvements rather than serving as primary decision-makers.

DCHS will collect selected measures quarterly and use them to summarize program implementation and related outcomes. Evaluation plans will align with the key program outcomes and data elements for KCYDI that are summarized in Appendix C of this report. DCHS expects all funded organizations to collect and report on data related to community grants. DCHS intends to share quarterly KCYDI reports with KCYDI community partners, PAO, King County Department of Public Defense (DPD), Superior Court (KCSC), and on its public-facing website.²

The proposed KCYDI program was designed with input from RCP community partners, PAO, KCSC, four years' experience with the RCP programming, and an external RCP evaluation.³

KCYDI plans to launch the Request for Proposals (RFP) for KCYDI community providers in April 2026, and to finalize contracting and transition from RCP to KCYDI in the third and fourth quarters of 2026. DCHS and community partners intend to launch KCYDI operations on January 1, 2027.

The KCYDI program brings community and county system partners together to provide a collective response to youth under 18 who have had an encounter with law enforcement. In partnership with

PAO and KCYDI community providers, Executive Girmay Zahilay looks forward to continuing this important work, supporting the health and well-being of King County youth and their communities.

II. Background

The King County Youth Diversion and Intervention (KCYDI) program builds off of the Restorative Community Pathways (RCP) pre-filing community-based diversion for youth and community members who have experienced harm.⁴ In 2020, community-based organizations supporting youth and families impacted by the juvenile legal system, in partnership with King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO) and King County Department of Public Defense (DPD), proposed RCP as a community-led accountability and restoration process.⁵ The RCP proposal included all misdemeanors and felonies eligible under the newly expanded state diversion statute. The proposal was included in Executive Dow Constantine's 2021-22 biennial budget proposal as one of several strategies to prevent youth legal system involvement, reduce the number of youth in detention, and invest in community-based services. King County Council approved this funding in the County's adopted 2021-22 biennial budget, using the County's general funds.⁶

The PAO began to refer youth and community members who have experienced harm to the RCP program on November 1, 2021. From 2021 through 2025, over 2,200 King County residents were referred by the PAO to community-based agencies for services and 1,420 participants were served.

The Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) will manage the County's investments in KCYDI, including the transition from RCP to KCYDI.

III. Report Requirements

This section is organized to align with Ordinance 20023, Section 108, Proviso P1.

A. A description of the proposed King County Youth Diversion and Intervention program guiding principles and outcome goals;

The KCYDI program partners with community-based organizations to provide programming to young people who have been referred by law enforcement to the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO) for an alleged misdemeanor offense, their families, and for community members who have experienced harm associated with those incidents. KCYDI guiding principles are grounded in healing-centered tenets of restorative justice, which contributed to positive outcomes of youth participating in KCYDI's predecessor RCP.⁷ Restorative justice promotes conflict resolution, restoration and accountability through dialogue and reparation, and includes a focus on addressing the needs that led to the behavior that caused the harm. Research shows that these practices often result in reduced recidivism and greater satisfaction among those harmed.⁸ Traditional punitive responses (such as suspension, detention, and incarceration) fail to address the root causes of adolescent behavior. These approaches escalate emotional dysregulation in the moment and reinforce negative cycles over time.^{9, 10} Instead of teaching skills, punishment deepens trauma and alienation, especially for youth already facing systemic inequities.^{11, 12}

KCYDI principles also align with the proposed 2025 King County Youth Action Plan's (YAP) overarching principles of striving for optimal well-being, healing, and joy.¹³ According to the

proposed YAP, the well-being of children should always be a governmental priority, rather than just preventing negative outcomes. Additionally, KCYDI aligns with the proposed 2025 YAP's principle that child and youth policy development, services, and programming should intentionally include the people impacted by the policies and services in authentic and meaningful ways.

KCYDI guiding principles include:

- **Focus on needs:** seek to understand and address the needs that led to the behavior that caused the harm.
- **Repair harm:** understand the harm caused and identify and meet the resulting needs for impacted individuals and communities.
- **Active accountability:** create opportunities for meaningful and active accountability where the person responsible can be directly accountable to those harmed.
- **Center relationships and community:** build, maintain, and repair relationships, and account for the interconnected nature of communities.
- **Voluntary participation in restorative justice mediation:** individuals most directly impacted and responsible for the harm choose to participate in restorative mediation and facilitation.
- **Center youth well-being and agency:** focus on youth well-being and ensure that youth exercise agency in their own well-being.¹⁴

KCYDI outcome goals include:

- **Youth and the community members who have experienced harm have needs met** (for example, social emotional skills and regulation, behavioral health services, clothing, or wraparound services or service referrals).
- Youth and community members who have experienced harm **meet their education and career goals**, including school re-engagement and access to needed in-school services when relevant.
- Youth **increase social connection**, a key mitigation factor in reducing the likelihood of future legal system involvement.¹⁵
- Community members who experienced harm have **a voice in their healing process and access to restitution funds**.
- Youth engage in **meaningful accountability** for harm they have caused without additional exposure to the juvenile legal system.

B. A description of the framework or model to be utilized for program implementation, evaluation, and reporting;

1. KCYDI Program Implementation Model

The KCYDI program implementation model begins with the PAO referring cases to DCHS, who in turn works with a consortium of contracted community-based organizations to provide wraparound services to referred youth and community members who experienced harm.

KCYDI program implementation includes effective model elements from RCP, as well as several significant changes to implement improvements and new emphases. Continuing elements include working with a consortium of community based organizations to provide culturally responsive wraparound services through KCYDI community navigators, ensuring that service lengths are flexible to respond to the needs of participants, and including services and restitution funds for

community members who have experienced harm.¹⁶ Through the KCYDI RFP that DCHS plans to release in April 2026, the department intends to introduce important changes. These include DCHS staffing the referral manager role; enhanced data collection and reporting on school and education engagement; increased services to support youth to re-engage in school; and a clearer role for youth voice, informing program improvements rather than serving as primary decision-makers. KCYDI implementation will also include a new school liaison role to work with community navigators, youth, and schools to refine the opportunities for youth and community members who have experienced harm to engage or re-engage in education. This role will be piloted as a TLT in 2027.

KCYDI programming for both referred youth and community members who have experienced harm operate using similar processes, which are detailed further in Appendix A. PAO will refer the individuals to DCHS' referral administrator who will contact the individuals and refer to the KCYDI community-based navigator who is best suited, culturally and geographically, to provide guidance and programming. For 2026 and 2027, PAO has requested capacity to refer 525 individuals, which includes both youth and harmed parties. Based on historical acceptance rates for RCP, DCHS expects roughly 300 PAO referrals to participate in programming.

KCYDI community navigators will have an average caseload size of 15 to 20 participants at any one time. Overall annual capacity is anticipated to be around 400 participants which accounts for navigator vacancies and leave, variable participant needs, and time to engage participants prior to enrollment. They will provide or facilitate the provision of the following areas of service as part of program implementation:

- **Basic Needs:** Navigators will support youth, their family members, and community members who have experienced harm in accessing basic needs such as housing and rent support, bill payments, groceries, clothing, and mental and physical health services.
- **Education and Employment Pathways:** Navigators will provide or connect participants to academic and workforce development programs when relevant, including school reengagement, GED completion, vocational training, job readiness, and employment placement. These services will help youth build skills, pursue personal goals, and work toward financial independence, all of which are critical steps in supporting long-term success. The new school liaison will develop and maintain partnerships with King County school districts and staff at middle schools and high schools. Depending on the youth's needs, they may also work with schools, youth, and families to change schools and gain access to the services needed for youth to thrive in education settings. The school liaison will work with the referral manager to support referrals to re-engagement sites and programs, including those operated by DCHS' Children, Youth, and Young Adult Division. Lastly, the school liaison will provide technical assistance to community navigators related to issues regarding education.
- **Access to Behavioral Health Services:** When appropriate, navigators will connect participants to behavioral health services such as counseling, trauma recovery, mental health care, and substance use treatment. These supports will help to address the root causes of system involvement and are essential for holistic healing. Navigators will play a key role in ensuring participants are connected to culturally responsive care that meets both immediate and long-term needs.
- **Healing-Centered Activities and Accountability:** Navigators will connect participants to prosocial, interest-based activities that advance social and emotional skills, including

creative, youth-centered activities such as art, music, sports, and local community events. Community agencies will provide healing circles and opportunities for accountability through dialogue, reflection, and connection with peers.

- **Restitution funds for community members who experienced harm:** While formal prosecution rarely results in the reimbursement of material losses, the KCYDI model will offer some immediate compensation and acknowledgment of harm. Community members who have experienced harm will be paid from restitution funds.

The KCYDI model is also based on research that articulates the disproportionate impact the juvenile legal system has on communities of color, the traumatic impacts juvenile legal system involvement has on youth, and the benefits of restorative justice approaches. See Appendix B for details.

2. Program Evaluation Framework

DCHS values evaluation and performance measurement activities as an opportunity for learning, reflection, and continuous improvement. Evaluation activities will inform ongoing work and adaptations, provide an understanding of program effectiveness and support shared responsibility for program success. KCYDI will have a dedicated performance, measurement, and evaluation position in DCHS who will coordinate data collection and reporting plans.

Contracted community providers, in partnership with DCHS and PAO, will contribute to the collection of data elements and outcomes consistent with program priorities. DCHS anticipates finalizing the set of performance measures at the start of KCYDI implementation, with data collection methodology transparent and consistent across providers. DCHS intends to collect selected measures quarterly and use them to summarize program implementation and related outcomes. DCHS will align these performance measures with the *Results-Based Accountability (RBA) framework*, a plain-language framework used across DCHS programs that groups performance measures into three categories:¹⁷

- How much was done? What quantity of services were provided?
- How well was it done? What was the quality of the services?
- Is anyone better off? What were the outcomes for participants?¹⁸

KCYDI Data Collection and Performance Measures

Data collection methods will be determined as part of the performance measurement and evaluation planning process with funded partners, and may also involve the PAO. Collection methodology will be clearly documented and consistent across providers. Information collected is expected to include individual-level data, aggregate-level data, and qualitative data. All funded partners will collect demographic data for participants, such as age, gender identity, race, and ZIP code.

DCHS will finalize performance measures with contracted partners in the evaluation plans that are created at time of contracting. Evaluation plans will align with the key program outcomes and data elements for KCYDI that are summarized in Appendix C.

Along with quantitative data, qualitative evaluation methods will be used to incorporate feedback on KCYDI services from referred youth, their families, and community members who have experienced harm, and to gain a deeper understanding of impacts and results.

DCHS will work with PAO on system level outcome measures such as recidivism and decreased involvement in the juvenile legal system.

3. Reporting

DCHS expects all funded organizations to collect and report on data related to community grants. DCHS data products do not include identifying or sensitive information, such as individuals' names. DCHS expects that contracted partners will:

- collect and internally maintain standard individual-level information about each service participant, the services they receive, and the outcomes they experience;
- report individual-level information about service participants and performance measures to King County DCHS on a quarterly basis;
- report progress toward achieving contract milestones on a quarterly basis; and
- submit quarterly narrative reports to share information about operations, participant stories, system change efforts, and other information, in a template provided by DCHS.

DCHS intends to share quarterly KCYDI reports with KCYDI community partners, PAO, DPD, Superior Court, and on its public-facing website.

C. A description of how the proposed program was informed by input from stakeholders including the prosecuting attorney's office, the superior court, and community partners, as well as prior experience with the restorative community pathways program;

DCHS designed the planned KCYDI program with input from RCP community partners, PAO, King County Superior Court (KCSC), taking into account four years' experience with the RCP programming, and the external RCP evaluation of RCP conducted by Impact Justice.¹⁹

King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

Representatives of DCHS and the Prosecuting Attorney's Office have been meeting approximately monthly since the start of RCP in 2021 to discuss progress, challenges, and potential implementation refinements. In 2025, PAO provided input on changes to RCP, and the agreed-upon changes were included in Executive Shannon Braddock's letter transmitted to Council in October 2025, as directed by Ordinance 19861, Section 107, Proviso P1.²⁰ Based on prior experience with RCP, the proposed improvements include:

- Changing the name from Restorative Community Pathways to King County Youth Diversion Intervention Program.
- Moving the roles of referral administration and consortium coordination from a community organization into DCHS' Children, Youth and Young Adult Division.
- Launching a new Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure community-based services.
- Enhancing data collection and reporting, especially around school and education engagement.
- Strengthening connections between KCYDI service providers and DCHS services.
- Adding a School Liaison position to support getting youth back into school and helping them stay in school and succeed at school.

- Shifting the role of the Youth Steering Committee to informing continuous quality improvement rather than holding decision-making authority.

The Executive and PAO also agreed that KCYDI should keep the following program elements:

- Provision of services to community members who have experienced harm, including access to restitution funds.
- Access to youth and families funds to help meet basic needs. The Impact Justice evaluation found that meeting basic needs is strongly linked to positive outcomes, such as completing a goal or reporting increases in skills or knowledge.²¹
- DCHS and partners will provide a community and human services approach which includes promotion, prevention, and early intervention strategies for youth with alleged misdemeanors.²²
- PAO would continue to pause felony referrals to KCYDI community-based diversion, and refer youth who have reoffended and youth alleged to have committed felonies to court diversion and court supervision through Juvenile Probation Counselors.

Additionally, PAO requested, and DCHS has planned for up to 300 to 325 misdemeanor case referrals and up to 200 referrals for community members who have experienced harm annually. Based on historical RCP acceptance rates, DCHS expects roughly 300 of these referrals to accept services.

King County Superior Court

During the design phase of RCP, King County Superior Court (KCSC) engaged stakeholders in conversations around supporting best practice models for youth diversion. This included offering resources for technical assistance, sharing ideas for model design, and providing input on successful youth engagement strategies. When RCP faced capacity challenges, KCSC directly served youth, as well as locating and reconnecting them back to RCP services, when appropriate. This ensured continuity of care and reinforced the strength of system-community partnership. Additionally, KCSC provided input regarding data tracking and information-sharing processes. KCSC engaged with the referral coordinator to enhance transparency, accountability, and timely service delivery. While communication and partnership was challenging at times, KCSC remained committed to the primary goal of improving service to youth and families through collaboration.

DCHS and KCSC share a commitment to a balanced approach that prioritizes both community and system collaboration in responding to youth needs. KCSC supports community diversion whenever an alleged harm caused by a young person can be effectively addressed through community-based agencies, ensuring restorative and supportive interventions. KCSC-administered programs include community-based programming and services. At the same time, KCSC recognizes the importance of a coordinated system response for more serious offenses or repeat behaviors, where accountability and public safety require structured involvement. Like DCHS, KCSC is dedicated to ensuring that teams have the resources and capacity to serve all PAO-referred youth. KCSC aims to connect young people to essential services such as housing, behavioral health, education, employment, mentorship, and a variety of pro-social activities through strong partnerships between the court, community providers, and county systems. This collaborative approach ensures that every youth receives the right level of support at the right time, fostering positive outcomes and reducing future harm.

Community Partners

Over the last four years, DCHS has routinely sought feedback from RCP community partners on improvements and enhancements to the program model, including feedback on changes planned to occur through KCYDI. DCHS staff hold regular monthly check-in meetings with contracted partners, in addition to ad hoc meetings to respond to time sensitive issues. Feedback from RCP community partners included support for maintaining community navigation, the four core areas of services (basic needs, behavioral health, education and employment, healing-centered activities and accountability), adding the school liaison position, and maintaining the restitution fund and youth and families funds which provides basic needs support, such as rental and food assistance, to households served by KCYDI who are struggling to cover such necessities.

RCP community partners shared with DCHS that they did not agree with the name change, as they had done significant work to build name recognition in the community. The name recognition and understanding of what the program had to offer youth and community members who experienced harm has been important for improving the number of youth accepting services. RCP community partners also shared that they disagree with the PAO's decision to no longer send low-level felonies to community-based diversion. RCP organizations believe that youth with low-level felonies would benefit the most from community-based restorative justice services. Community partners also shared that they would like a community-based consortium coordinator, referral administrator, and additional capacity for data and evaluation.

4. A status update regarding the program's implementation timeline;

DCHS is finalizing the Request for Proposals for KCYDI community providers to launch in April 2026. DCHS and current community partners will ensure that youth and community members have an opportunity to complete services under way, and that providers can plan for changes such as ending RCP services, hiring staff under KCYDI, or transitioning from RCP services to KCYDI services. Over the course of 2026, DCHS will end RCP and replace it with KCYDI.

The timeline for DCHS to manage KCYDI implementation includes:

First Quarter 2026

- Meetings with community and County partners to gather input on KCYDI
- Draft, review, and finalize KCYDI RFP
- Draft, review, and finalize KCYDI Proviso Report
- Hire DCHS referral administrator and begin making referrals

Second Quarter 2026

- Launch KCYDI Request for Proposals
- Applicants work on and submit proposals
- Review proposals and make funding recommendations for KCYDI provider selection

Third Quarter 2026

- Review proposals and make funding recommendations for KCYDI provider selection
- Notify Council and applicants of RFP decisions
- Contract Negotiations

Fourth Quarter 2026

- Transition RCP to KCYDI
 - Extend contracts of RCP contractors not selected to provide services in KCYDI to end of 2026 to close out services

- Extend contracts of RCP contractors selected to provide services in KCYDI to end of 2026 and engage in planning for service continuity
- Execute all contracts for selected KCYDI providers
- Gather input from current and new providers and coordinate continuity of services to referred youth and community members for the transition of RCP services to KCYDI

First Quarter 2027

- Finalize KCYDI performance, measurement, and evaluation plans
- Launch KCYDI program implementation with selected community partners

Based on the plan described above, all providers not selected for continued funding would receive three months of close-out time to ensure that currently enrolled youth can successfully complete the program, or if necessary, transfer to other providers starting in 2027.

5. A cost estimate for broadening program eligibility to provide felony diversion to youth.

If PAO began referring felony cases to KCYDI at similar rates as early 2025, approximately 120 additional participants would be served annually. With no other program changes, KCYDI would need to hire five to six additional navigators. DCHS estimates the total cost, including staff wages and benefits, operating costs for the agency, supervision, youth and families funds, and restitution funds would be \$1 million to \$1.2 million annually.

This cost estimate assumes currently-funded caseload levels and similar resources per participant, and assumes community-referred youth would continue to be served.

Anticipated capacity (400 annual participants) is higher than the number of anticipated PAO-referred participants for 2026 (roughly 300), so depending on actual participation and policy choices regarding community-referrals and caseloads, actual costs to serve felony referrals could be lower.

IV. Next Actions

The KCYDI program brings community and county system partners together to provide a collective response to youth under 18 who have an encounter with law enforcement. KCYDI builds off the County's previous pre-filing, community-based diversion program that included restitution for community members who experienced harm. Through input from community and County partners KCYDI introduces enhanced data collection and reporting capacity, increased focus on how to support youth to succeed in school, and County administration of referral operations. DCHS plans to continue to measure its community diversion work and provide regular reports regarding effectiveness. KCYDI program elements include approaches that help prevent future legal system involvement, address underlying causes, and provide for meaningful accountability of referred youth and were informed by PAO, KCSC and community partner input. Community members who experienced harm will also have access to support services and restitution funds. In partnership with PAO and KCYDI community providers, the Executive looks forward to continuing this important work supporting the health and well-being of King County youth and their communities.

V. Appendices

Appendix A

Process flow for youth and community members who experienced harm referred by PAO to KCYDI

Process for PAO-referred youth to KCYDI community navigator

The King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO) will refer eligible youth to a KCYDI referral manager at DCHS, rather than filing charges and referring the youth to the court system.^{23, 24} The DCHS referral manager will then contact the youth or their family member (parent or guardian) to explain the KCYDI program and services available to them. Once the youth has agreed to participate in KCYDI, the referral manager will assign the youth to a community navigator based on geographic location, race or ethnicity, spoken language, and navigator capacity.²⁵ DCHS will work with contracted providers to ensure that community navigators are a diverse group of individuals in terms of geographic location, race or ethnicity, gender, and languages spoken. As much as feasible, navigators hired by KCYDI contracted organizations will be people representative of populations disproportionately impacted by the criminal legal system and with experience working with youth and communities disproportionately impacted by the criminal legal system. According to the Council of State Governments Justice Center, programs that incorporate credible messengers, individuals with lived experience, and culturally affirming practices build trust and strengthen youth engagement in programming, schools, and community.²⁶ Accessibility also plays a critical role; locating services within youth communities removes logistical barriers such as transportation and increases sustained participation.²⁷

The community navigator will contact the referred youth and family to begin building relationships, and to assess the needs of the youth and family. The community navigator will then co-create a plan with the referred youth and their support system, based on their strengths, goals, and needs. The referred youth's plan will identify ways to address gaps in basic needs, create space for healing, accountability, and restoration, connect them to resources, and build community around them. The community navigator will remain in contact with the referred youth as needed, and at least weekly, as they fulfill their plan.

Community navigators may connect referred youth to a variety of different services. Among these are counseling and other mental health services, assistance with immigration issues, mentorship, social-emotional skills building, case management, internships, employment services, peer-to-peer learning, and education support like high school credit recovery, tutoring, or enrollment in GED classes. While selected KCYDI contracted partners are expected to have knowledge of many community services available, DCHS will also provide contracted partners with information on existing education, employment, behavioral health, and housing services operated by King County or the County's community partners.

Process for PAO-referred community members who have experienced harm to KCYDI community navigator

Upon referral by PAO, the DCHS referral manager will reach out to community members who have experienced harm to understand the harm that occurred; discuss the possibility for restitution funds, and assess whether there are gaps in basic needs and other services that could be addressed. When relevant and desired, the referral manager will refer community members who have experienced harm to a KCYDI community navigator. DCHS expects that services for community members who experience harm will be like those of referred youth. This may include mental health services, assistance with immigration issues, mentorship, case management, internship and employment opportunities, and education support, such as high school credit recovery, tutoring, and enrollment in a GED class.

Details on how KCYDI is Informed by Research

KCYDI program elements include prevention and early intervention approaches that can help prevent legal system involvement. For example, systemic challenges like housing instability, food insecurity, caregiver incarceration, and fragmented education systems often result in youth becoming disconnected from school, community, and opportunity.²⁸ These factors, compounded by racial bias, punitive school climates, and unmet basic needs, disproportionately affect marginalized youth and can lead to involvement in the legal system.²⁹

Youth and families of color are at higher risk of becoming involved in the juvenile legal system due in large part to the cumulative disadvantages they experience resulting from systemic racism and bias.³⁰ With a diverse set of providers, KCYDI will be culturally responsive. Research shows that culturally responsive diversion offers a meaningful alternative that can address underlying causes, promote healing, and help youth reconnect with education and community.³¹ When programming centers youth well-being and identity, it fosters resilience, connection, and future orientation, which promote positive academic and life outcomes.³²

KCYDI community navigators work closely with referred youth and serve as trusted adults that strengthen youth accountability by offering care, lived experience, and healing-centered strategies.³³ Individualized wraparound services (e.g., basic needs, housing, mental health services) stabilize youth, reduce recidivism, and increase engagement in school and employment.³⁴

The normal process of adolescent brain development is to make risky choices for a period before reaching adulthood.³⁵ Research shows that punitive legal responses exacerbate trauma and inequality without reducing youth behavioral challenges. In contrast, culturally responsive diversion programs addressing basic needs not only foster healing and success but can improve public safety outcomes with less cost.³⁶ Expanding and supporting positive youth development services to youth and families in their communities holds the most promise to keep youth from encountering the legal system.³⁷

Outcomes and Data Collection for the KCYDI Program

KCYDI will provide the opportunity for the community to support youth to meet their goals and avoid further involvement in the juvenile legal system by providing early intervention. As measured through data elements summarized below, KCYDI will:

- Meet the individualized needs of participants (e.g., reconnection to education or employment, social emotional skills and regulation, behavioral health, or wraparound services or service referrals, etc.) and support them to meet their education, employment and career goals;
- Foster long-lasting relationships and support for participants as social connection is a key mitigation factor in reducing the likelihood of future legal system involvement;
- Center the voice of participants in their healing process and offer youth an opportunity to engage in meaningful accountability for the harm they have caused without formal involvement in the juvenile legal system; and
- Recognize the intrinsic need to provide healing and care for youth, and provide youth with the basic needs, tools, resources, and community building necessary to engage in their own healing.

DCHS, in partnership with the PAO, will collect and analyze data elements, including the following. Contractors will be expected to collect and report on these elements and/or support the County's efforts to collect these elements.

- **Services Delivered:** Number of youth served in the program, caseload for each navigator, age at referral, grade level/school status (enrolled, expelled, not attending), race, ethnicity, gender identity, zip code, primary language spoken, Special Education status (if available and appropriate), and foster care or child welfare involvement (yes/no).
- **Completion Outcomes:** Completion status (completed, partially completed, withdrawn, or terminated), date of completion, reason for non-completion if applicable, restitution to harmed party and date the restitution was provided.
- **Program Participation and Engagement:** Services received (such as but not limited to conflict resolution, restoration and accountability activities, mentoring, education, and/or employment), and goals met in participant action plan. Referrals to behavioral health treatment or services and services received. Referrals to housing resources and information, and youth participation in school-based supports and educational resources.
- **Participant Voice:** Youth satisfaction, caregiver satisfaction, harmed party satisfaction.

- **Program Outcomes:** Lower rates of new referrals or arrests, improved school engagement (attendance, progress towards graduation), more equitable outcomes across race, gender, and geography.
- **Long-Term Outcomes:** Reduced juvenile legal system involvement, improved youth stability and well-being, continued educational involvement, housing security, reduced racial and ethnic disparities, lower system costs compared to prosecution and detention.

VI. Endnotes

¹ Culturally responsive diversion offers a meaningful alternative to the juvenile legal systems; it can address underlying causes, promote healing, and help youth reconnect with education and community. Beardslee et al. (2019). Under the radar or under arrest: How is adolescent boys' first contact with the juvenile justice system related to future offending and arrests? <https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2019-36669-002>; Seacrest, L. (2023). Data-driven deflection: A systems approach to reducing juvenile arrests. https://www.rstreet.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/FINAL_r-street-policy-study-no-290.pdf

² Measuring DCHS' impact. <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dchs/about-king-county/about-dchs/data-reports>

³ See Evaluation of King County Restorative Community Pathways. <https://impactjustice.org/innovation/research-action-center/building-community-led-alternatives-to-youth-prosecution/>

⁴ See the Restorative Community Pathways Updated Implementation Plan transmitted in 2022, as called for by Ordinance 19210, Section 18, Proviso P2, as amended by Ordinance 19307, Section 7, and Ordinance 19364, Section 14, for additional background and context on programs leading up to RCP and KCYDI.

⁵ Proposed Motion 2021-0319 – Appendix B. A MOTION acknowledging receipt of the implementation plan on Restorative Community Pathways required by the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 19210, Section 18, Proviso P2, as amended by Ordinance 19307, Section 7.

<https://mkcclegisearch.kingcounty.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5086139&GUID=C66A43AA-1791-458A-9FF8-323158F90921>

⁶ Proposed Motion 2022-0321 – Appendix B. A MOTION acknowledging receipt of the updated implementation plan on restorative community pathways required by the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 19210, Section 18, Proviso P2, as amended by Ordinance 19307, Section 7, and Ordinance 19364, Section 14, related to the office of performance, strategy and budget.

<https://mkcclegisearch.kingcounty.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5747172&GUID=188BC47C-67FA-4177-BD43-65DD083D8FEF>

⁷ KCYDI's predecessor RCP was developed through a partnership with community organizations working with legal system-involved youth, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office and Department of Public Defense.

⁸ Council of State Governments Justice Center. <https://csgjusticecenter.org/publications/restorative-justice-practices-and-credible-messengers-promising-innovative-approaches-for-improving-outcomes-for-youth-in-the-juvenile-justice-system/>

⁹ Jackson et al. (2012). An overview of prevention of multiple risk behaviour in adolescence and young adulthood <https://doi.org/10.1093/pubmed/fdr113>

¹⁰ Toews et al. (2024). Effective strategies and interventions for engaging at-risk youth: a rapid systematic review of the literature <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s44202-024-00147-0>

¹¹ MacArthur et al. (2018). Individual-, family-, and school-level interventions targeting multiple risk behaviours in young people

<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD009927.pub2/full>

¹² Toews et al. (2024). Effective strategies and interventions for engaging at-risk youth: a rapid systematic review of the literature <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s44202-024-00147-0>

¹³ Proposed Motion 2025-0366. A MOTION adopting the 2025 King County Youth Action Plan.

<https://mkcclegisearch.kingcounty.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=7760680&GUID=69D1C7DC-BC39-4093-BC56-3B473E58E1B7>

¹⁴ When programming centers youth well-being and identity, it fosters resilience, connection, and future orientation, which promote positive academic and life outcomes. Mendel, R. (2024). Protect and redirect: Best practices for juvenile diversion-- the Sentencing Project. <https://www.sentencingproject.org/policy-brief/protect-and-redirect-best-practices-for-juvenile-diversion/>; Annie E. Casey Foundation (2018). Transforming Juvenile Probation: A Vision for Getting It Right. <https://www.aecf.org/resources/transforming-juvenile-probation-executive-summary>; Bhargav, M., & Swords, L. (2024). Two sides of the coin: The roles of

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¹⁵ Social isolation significantly increases risk for depression, anxiety, and poor physical health outcomes. Mann et al. (2022). <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00127-022-02261-7>; Murthy. (2023). <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-social-connection-advisory.pdf>. The severity of this challenge has prompted the U.S. Surgeon General to issue a 2023 Advisory on youth isolation and the Washington State Department of Health to prioritize building social connections across the lifespan as a high-priority public health matter; Murthy. (2023). <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-social-connection-advisory.pdf>; WA DOH. (2024). <https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/420-387-SocialConnectionReport.pdf>. While schools are important settings for fostering youth connection, they can also be environments where bias-based exclusion and discrimination negatively impact students, Cooley et al. (2016). <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/chapter/bookseries/abs/pii/S0065240716300180?via%3Dihub>; Rueger et al. (2016). <https://psycnet.apa.org/doiLanding?doi=10.1037%2Fbul0000058>; Russell et al. (2012). <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/full/10.2105/AJPH.2011.300430>. Ensuring continuous social support, therefore, requires engagement across all institutions and contexts.

¹⁶ Culturally responsive diversion offers a meaningful alternative to the juvenile legal systems; it can address underlying causes, promote healing, and help youth reconnect with education and community. Beardslee et al. (2019). Under the radar or under arrest: How is adolescent boys' first contact with the juvenile justice system related to future offending and arrests? <https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2019-36669-002>; Seacrest, L. (2023). Data-driven deflection: A systems approach to reducing juvenile arrests. https://www.rstreet.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/FINAL_r-street-policy-study-no-290.pdf.

¹⁷ Results Based Accountability. <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dchs/about-king-county/about-dchs/data-reports/data-team>

¹⁸ Results Based Accountability: <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dchs/about-king-county/about-dchs/data-reports/data-team>

¹⁹ See Evaluation of King County Restorative Community Pathways.

<https://impactjustice.org/innovation/research-action-center/building-community-led-alternatives-to-youth-prosecution/>

²⁰ Ordinance 19861, Section 107, Proviso P1.

²¹ See Evaluation of King County Restorative Community Pathways.

<https://impactjustice.org/innovation/research-action-center/building-community-led-alternatives-to-youth-prosecution/>

²² Strategies include case management, concrete basic needs support, social, emotional, and life skills development, education and employment pathways, restorative justice.

²³ The KCPAO determines eligibility of youth up to age 18, which includes most first-time misdemeanors. The PAO paused previously eligible non-violent felonies in 2025.

²⁴ The DCHS referral manager will sit in the Children, Youth, and Young Adult Division's unit that includes education and employment services to young people ages 16 to 24 years old.

²⁵ DCHS will run a request for proposal (RFP) process in 2026 to select community-based organizations that will host community navigators to work with referred youth and community members who have experienced harm. As required by Ordinance 20023, Section 108, Proviso P2, the Executive plans to transmit a preview copy of the RFP to the Council 21 days before its release.

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- ²⁶ Council of State Governments Justice Center. <https://csgjusticecenter.org/publications/restorative-justice-practices-and-credible-messengers-promising-innovative-approaches-for-improving-outcomes-for-youth-in-the-juvenile-justice-system/>
- ²⁷ How students' transportation options—or lack thereof—affect educational and health outcomes. Housing Matters. <https://housingmatters.urban.org/articles/how-students-transportation-options-or-lack-thereof-affect-educational-and-health-outcomes>
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Executive Girmay Zahilay

Chinook Building, CNK-EX-0800
 401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
 Seattle, WA 98104-2391

April 7, 2026

The Honorable Sarah Perry
 Chair, King County Council
 Room 1200
 COURTHOUSE

Dear Councilmember Perry,

This letter transmits the King County Youth Diversion and Intervention Program Report required by the 2026-2027 Biennial Budget Ordinance 20023.

As required, the enclosed report includes:

- A description of the proposed King County Youth Diversion and Intervention (KCYDI) program guiding principles and outcome goals;
- A description of the framework or model to be utilized for program implementation, evaluation, and reporting;
- A description of how the proposed program was informed by input from stakeholders including the Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO), the King County Superior Court (KCSC), and community partners, as well as prior experience with the Restorative Community Pathways program (RCP);
- A status update regarding the program's implementation timeline; and
- A cost estimate for broadening program eligibility to provide felony diversion to youth.

The KCYDI program brings community and County system partners together to provide a collective response to youth under 18 who have had an encounter with law enforcement. It builds off of Restorative Community Pathways (RCP), King County's community-based diversion for youth under the age of 18 and community members who have experienced harm. The proposed KCYDI program includes changes to RCP set forth in Executive Shannon Braddock's October 2025 letter to the Council responding to Ordinance 19861. DCHS designed KCYDI with input from current RCP community partners, the PAO, KCSC, as well as from four years' experience with the RCP programming, and the independent evaluation of RCP conducted by Impact Justice.

KCYDI program implementation includes effective model elements from RCP. These elements, such as working with a consortium of community-based organizations to provide culturally responsive services and providing wraparound services through KCYDI community navigators, help ensure that service lengths are flexible to respond to the needs of participants. Services and restitution funds for community members who have experienced harm are also included.

The Honorable Sarah Perry

March 2, 2026

Page 2

Through the forthcoming KCYDI RFP, DCHS intends to introduce changes to KCYDI that include DCHS staffing the referral manager role, enhanced data collection and reporting on school and education engagement, increased services to support youth to re-engage in school, and youth voice that informs program improvements rather than serve as primary decision-makers.

DCHS intends to collect selected measures quarterly and use them to summarize program implementation and related outcomes. DCHS will share quarterly KCYDI reports with KCYDI community partners, PAO, King County Department of Public Defense, KCSC, and on its public-facing [website](#).

DCHS plans to launch the request for proposals for KCYDI community providers in April 2026, and to finalize contracting and transition from RCP to KCYDI in the third and fourth quarters of 2026. DCHS and community partners intend to formally launch KCYDI operations in January 2027.

I look forward to continuing this important work supporting the health and well-being of King County youth and their communities partnership with PAO and KCYDI community providers.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Dr. Susan McLaughlin, Director, Department of Community and Human Services at 206-477-9309.

Sincerely,



for

Girmay Zahilay
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council
Karan Gill, Deputy Executive, Office of the Executive
Jasmin Weaver, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Hyeok Kim, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Executive
Sierra Howlett Browne, Director of Government Relations, Office of the Executive
Garrett Holbrook, Council Relations Manager, Office of the Executive
Dr. Susan McLaughlin, Director, Department of Community and Human Services



Metropolitan King County Council Staff Report

Committee:	Law and Justice		
Agenda Item:	6	Analyst(s):	Brandi Paribello
Proposed No.:	2026-0089	Meeting Date:	July 1, 2026

OVERVIEW

TOPIC: Proposed Motion 2026-0089 would confirm the Executive’s appointment of Brian Flaherty, who resides in Council District 9, to the Public Defense Advisory Board as a representative of the Washington Defender Association for the remainder of a three-year term to expire on June 30, 2027.

BACKGROUND

Purpose. The Public Defense Advisory Board (the Board) reviews the activities and plans of the Department of Public Defense (DPD), advocates for high-quality public defense, plays a significant role in the selection of the public defender when the office is vacant, and advises the Executive and Council on matters of equity and social justice related to public defense.¹

Membership. King County Code requires the 11-member Board to consist of one representative from each of the following:

1. The Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers;
2. The Washington State Office of Public Defense;
3. The Washington Defender Association;
4. The King County Bar Association, and
5. Bar associations identified as minority bar associations by the Washington State Bar Association; and
6. The remaining six members of the Board shall represent areas or issues that may affect public defense clients, including mental health, substance abuse, military veterans, poverty, juvenile justice, and immigration issues.

Additional membership requirements set in the Code² include:

¹ K.C.C. 2.60.031.A.

² K.C.C. 2.60.031.H.

- Each member shall have substantial experience and expertise relevant to DPD's work and the ability and willingness to commit the time necessary to attend meetings and participate effectively as a member of the Board;
- A majority of the members should have substantial familiarity with advocating on behalf of the indigent;
- To the extent practicable, the Board membership shall reflect the diversity of the county; and
- While serving on the Board, a member may not:
 - Hold or be a candidate for elective public office with the exception of precinct committee officer;
 - Serve as a King County judicial officer, prosecuting attorney, or public defender; or
 - Be an employee of a King County court, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, or DPD.

APPOINTEE INFORMATION

Brian Flaherty received his law degree from New York University School of Law in 2008. He began his career as a staff attorney at the King County Department of Public Defense where he worked for 15 years on misdemeanor, felony, and Involuntary Treatment Act cases. He also supervised a felony unit for four years and spent four years working on policy and practice issues in the Public Defense Director's office. Since 2024, he has been in solo practice where he works on behalf of indigent defendants, represents post-conviction clients pro bono, and works on criminal legal system legislation.

ANALYSIS

Staff have not identified any issues with the proposed appointment. It appears to be consistent with the requirements established in the King County Charter and King County Code.

INVITED

- Brian Flaherty, Appointee to the Public Defense Advisory Board
- William Casey, Communications Manager, Department of Public Defense

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Motion 2026-0089
2. Transmittal Letter



KING COUNTY
Signature Report

ATTACHMENT 1
1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Motion

Proposed No. 2026-0089.1

Sponsors Dunn

- 1 A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of
2 Brian Flaherty, who resides in council district nine, to the
3 public defense advisory board, representing the
4 Washington Defender Association.
- 5 BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:
- 6 The county executive's appointment of Brian Flaherty, who resides in council
7 district nine, to the public defense advisory board, as a representative of the Washington

- 8 Defender Association, for the remainder of a three-year term to expire on June 30, 2027,
9 is hereby confirmed.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Sarah Perry, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, ____.

Girmay Zahilay, County Executive

Attachments: None



King County | Office of the Executive

Executive Girmay Zahilay

Chinook Building, CNK-EX-0800
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104-2391

April 14, 2026

The Honorable Sarah Perry
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
COURTHOUSE

Dear Councilmember Perry:

This letter transmits a proposed Motion that would, if approved, confirm the appointment of Brian Flaherty, who resides in Council District nine, to the Public Defense Advisory Board, as a representative of the Washington Defender Association, for the remainder of a three-year term expiring June 30, 2027.

Mr. Flaherty's application, resume, financial disclosure, board profile, and appointment letter are enclosed to serve as supporting and background information to assist the Council in considering confirmation.

Thank you for your consideration of the proposed legislation. If your staff have any questions about this appointment, please contact Rosa Mai, Community Service, Boards & Commissions Specialist, at (206) 369-9279.

Sincerely,

Girmay Zahilay
King County Executive

The Honorable Sarah Perry

March 16, 2026

Page 2

Enclosures:

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Karan Gill, Deputy Executive, Office of the Executive

Jasmin Weaver, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Hyeok Kim, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Executive

Sierra Howlett Browne, Director of Government Relations, Office of the Executive

Garrett Holbrook, Council Relations Manager, Office of the Executive

Rosa Mai, Community Service, Boards & Commissions Specialist, Office of the Executive

William Casey, Staff Liaison to the Public Defense Advisory Board

Brian Flaherty



Metropolitan King County Council Staff Report

Committee:	Law and Justice		
Agenda Item:	7	Analyst(s):	Leah Krekel-Zoppi
Proposed No.:	2026-0067	Meeting Date:	July 1, 2026

OVERVIEW

TOPIC: An ordinance to add a new King County code chapter related to notification requirements for booking restrictions at King County adult detention facilities.

LEGISLATION SUMMARY

The proposed ordinance would add a new chapter to King County code requiring thirty days' notice prior to implementing jail booking restrictions. The proposed code chapter would include definitions and an exemption to the thirty-day notice requirement in cases of emergency. The Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD) reviewed the proposed ordinance and provided suggested technical corrections and a request to include an exception for short-term booking restrictions of less than 48 hours for operational necessity. These proposed changes are included in Amendment 1. DAJD has no other concerns with the proposed ordinance.

Jail booking restrictions for non-violent misdemeanor offenses were implemented in King County during the COVID-19 pandemic. The restrictions remained in place after the pandemic due to significant staffing shortages that limited jail capacity. The booking restrictions were lifted in late 2024 once corrections staffing reached the level necessary for the jails to safely operate at full capacity. DAJD states they have no plans to implement booking restrictions.

KEY ISSUES FROM THE ANALYSIS

No issues.

AMENDMENTS

- **Amendment 1** would make technical corrections to the statement of facts and definitions sections. It would also add an exception to the requirement for 30 days prior notice in cases of short-term booking restrictions of less than 48 hours due to operational necessity.

King County Adult Detention. King County's Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD) operates two adult detention facilities located at the King County Correctional Facility (KCCF) in downtown Seattle and the Maleng Regional Justice Center (MRJC) in Kent.

The county's secure detention facilities house pre-trial individuals who have been arrested or had charges files and are awaiting adjudication of their cases in King County Superior Court or District Court, or who are awaiting state psychiatric competency restoration services. King County also houses post-trial individuals who have been sentenced to secure detention for less than a year. Individuals in the county's custody who receive sentences that exceed one year are transferred to the state correctional system.

In 2025, annual bookings into adult detention were over 18,000, and the average daily population (ADP) was 1,411.5.¹ The average length of stay in secure detention in 2025 was 32.7 days.

Jail Services Contracts and Booking Restrictions. While King County is responsible for housing people booked in detention on felony offenses, the responsibility of detaining people booked on misdemeanor offenses belongs to the jurisdiction where the arrest occurred, according to state law.² Rather than operating municipal jails, 19 cities and the Port of Seattle contract with King County for provision of misdemeanor jail services. King County also houses people booked into jail for misdemeanor offenses that occur in unincorporated King County.

During the pandemic, the Executive implemented booking restrictions which prevented most non-violent misdemeanor offenses from being booked into county detention. Following the pandemic, DAJD experienced significant corrections officer staffing vacancies of up to 24% of budgeted positions, so the Executive maintained the booking restrictions to help manage jail capacity during staffing shortages. The booking restrictions were lifted in late 2024 when DAJD staffing levels stabilized.

In the 2025 Annual Budget, the King County Council included a proviso³ requiring a plan for a protocol to engage city partners before implementing new jail booking restrictions. The proviso response⁴ stated that, "any new booking restrictions would likely only be considered in the event of extraordinary circumstances that could severely compromise the health or safety of people in custody or staff." The report included hypothetical

¹ [2024-12-kc-dar-scorecard.pdf](#)

² RCW 39.34.180

³ Ordinance 19861, Section 54, P4

⁴ [King County - File #: 2025-RPT0072](#)

protocols for how partners would be engaged regarding future booking restrictions, but no adopted policies or protocols.

ANALYSIS

[↑ BACK TO TOP](#)

Overview of Proposed Ordinance. The proposed ordinance would add a new chapter to Title 2 (Administration) of the King County Code (K.C.C.). The new chapter would address notice requirements for implementing jail booking restrictions. The chapter would include two sections. The first section includes definitions of terms included in the chapter. Terms being defined include, “booking,” “contract cities,” “emergency,” and “jail.” Definitions for these terms are consistent with the definitions included in the jail services contracts between King County and local jurisdictions. The definition of “emergency” would refer to the definition of that term in the Emergency Powers code chapter.

The second code section would lay out communication requirements for implementing jail booking restrictions. These include:

- Written notice to contract city managers or mayors at least thirty days prior to implementation of the booking restrictions;
- That the written notice includes the reason for the booking restrictions, the list of restrictions, the conditions under which the restrictions would be lifted, and a method for providing feedback and resolving concerns;
- An exception to the thirty-day notice requirement in the case of an emergency, in which case the notification would need to occur within 48 hours; and
- That notices must be electronically filed with the clerk of the council, including a list of contract cities that received written notice and the date they received it.

Executive Response. The Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD) reviewed the proposed ordinance and provided a list of suggested changes, which are included in Amendment 1. DAJD stated that they have no additional concerns about the proposed ordinance. They also stated that the department has no plans to implement booking restrictions.

AMENDMENTS

[↑ BACK TO TOP](#)

The following amendment is publicly available as of June 25, 2026 and attached to this staff report. Additional amendments may be released prior to the committee meeting.

Amendment	Sponsor	Effect Statement
1 Short-term exemption	Dembowski	Amendment 1 would make technical corrections to the statement of facts and definitions sections. It would also add an exception to the requirement for 30 days prior notice in cases of short-term booking restrictions of less than 48 hours due to operational necessity. In such circumstances, notice would be required within 48 hours of the booking restrictions being implemented.

INVITED

- Steve Larsen, Deputy Director, Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention
- Garrett Holbrook, Council Relations Manager, King County Executive's Office

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Ordinance 2026-0067
2. Amendment 1

6/18/2026

RDe1

[L. Krekel-Zoppi]

Sponsor: Dembowski

Proposed No.: 2026-0067

1 **AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2026-0067, VERSION 1**

2 On page 1 line 6, after "approximately" strike "15,000" and insert "18,000"

3 On page 1 line 14, after "4." strike "Twenty-seven" and insert "Municipal city and other"

4 On page 1 line 15, after "county for" insert "adult incarceration of misdemeanor offense"

5 On page 2 line 23, after "7. In" strike "2025" and insert "2024"

6 On page 2, beginning on line 30, after "in the" strike "Jail or assignment to a King

7 County community corrections division program" and insert "jail"

8 On page 2 line 32, after "means cities" insert "within King County"

9 On page 3 line 50, after "an emergency," insert "or for short-term restrictions of less than
10 forty-eight hours due to operational necessity,"

11

12 **EFFECT prepared by L. Krekel-Zoppi: *This amendment makes technical corrections***
13 ***to the statements of facts and definition sections. It also adds an exception to the 30***
14 ***days' notice requirement for "short-term booking restrictions of less than forty-eight***
15 ***hours due to operational necessity." In circumstances where the 30-day notice***
16 ***requirement does not apply, the proposed ordinance would require notice to contract***
17 ***cities within 48 hours of the booking restrictions being implemented.***



KING COUNTY

Signature Report

ATTACHMENT 1
1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Ordinance

Proposed No. 2026-0067.1

Sponsors Dembowski

1 AN ORDINANCE related to notification requirements for
2 booking restrictions at King County adult detention
3 facilities; and adding a new chapter to K.C.C. Title 2.

4 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

- 5 1. The King County department of adult and juvenile detention operates
6 two adult detention facilities that process approximately 15,000 combined
7 bookings annually.
- 8 2. King County is required by state law to house all people arrested in the
9 county for a felony and presented for booking into jail.
- 10 3. Under RCW 39.34.180, counties, cities, and towns are responsible for
11 incarceration of misdemeanor offenses committed by adults in their
12 respective jurisdictions and referred from their respective law enforcement
13 agencies.
- 14 4. Twenty-seven jurisdictions within King County contract with the
15 county for jail services including booking and incarceration.
- 16 5. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the King County
17 executive implemented jail booking restrictions at King County's adult
18 detention facilities in order to reduce the number of people in custody and
19 limit the spread of COVID-19 within secure detention.

20 6. As the health risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic decreased,
21 jail booking restrictions remained in place to maintain safety during
22 pandemic-related staffing shortages.

23 7. In 2025, King County lifted jail booking restrictions as adult detention
24 staffing had reached a level sufficient for full capacity operations.

25 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

26 SECTION 1. Sections 2 and 3 of this ordinance should constitute a new chapter
27 in K.C.C. Title 2.

28 NEW SECTION. SECTION 2. The definitions in this section apply throughout
29 this chapter.

30 A. "Booking" means processing persons for confinement in the Jail or
31 assignment to a King County community corrections division program;

32 B. "Contract cities" means cities that are signatory to an interlocal agreement
33 between King County and the contract cities for jail services.

34 C. "Emergency" has the same meaning as "emergency" in K.C.C. 12.52.010.

35 D. "Jail" means a place owned or operated by or under contract to King County
36 primarily designed, staffed, and used for any combination of: housing, in full
37 confinement, of adults charged or convicted of a criminal offense; the punishment,
38 correction, and rehabilitation of offenders charged or convicted of a criminal offense; and
39 confinement during a criminal investigation, and for civil detention to enforce a court
40 order, all where such a place is structured and operated to ensure that the individuals
41 being investigated or subject to the court order remain on the premises at all times,

42 excluding time for court appearances, court approved off-premises trips, or medical
43 treatment.

44 NEW SECTION. SECTION 3.

45 A. At least thirty days before implementing jail bookings restrictions, the
46 executive shall provide written notice to the King County council and all contract city
47 managers or mayors providing the reason for the booking restrictions, the list of
48 restrictions, the conditions under which the restrictions may be lifted, and a channel for
49 providing feedback and resolving concerns.

50 B. In the case of an emergency, the thirty-day notice requirement does not apply,
51 but notification with the same information set forth in subsection A. shall be provided to
52 the King County council and contract cities within forty-eight hours of the booking
53 restrictions being implemented.

54 C. The executive shall electronically file the notices required under this section
55 with the clerk of the council, who shall retain an electronic copy and provide an
56 electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff, and the lead staff to the
57 law and justice committee or its successor. The notices shall include a list of contract
58 cities that received written notice and the date they received notice.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Sarah Perry, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, ____.

Girmay Zahilay, County Executive

Attachments: None