

**CHILDREN'S CABINET
SENATOR JOAN HECKAMAN, CHAIR
JUNE 13, 2022**

**Lisa Bjergaard, Chair, Presented a report on the activities of the
Commission on Juvenile Justice**

Chair Heckaman and members of the Children's Cabinet, my name is Lisa Bjergaard, and I am the chair of the Commission on Juvenile Justice. I am here to report on behalf of the Commission.

The Commission on Juvenile Justice is a time limited, 16-member working group tasked to gather information, receive reports, and make recommendations regarding effective interventions, resources, and services for children.

Recommendations may include legislative strategies to implement recommendations. The Commission on Juvenile Justice is to report to the Children's Cabinet. This body has received updates regarding the activities of the Commission on Juvenile Justice at each of your meetings, and so today's report will begin where the last report ended.

This body received an update in October 2021, which included a report on HB 1427. This legislation created three planning committees that work under the supervision of the Commission on Juvenile Justice. The committees were charged to assess, identify, and develop opportunities to build a service continuum designed to safely maintain youth under system supervision in the community. The committees began their work in August, 2021 and will conclude

this upcoming August. The Children's Cabinet and the Commission on Juvenile Justice are required to review and approve any recommendations made by the committees.

The three committees are:

1. Planning Committee for Alternatives to Juvenile Detention
2. Juvenile Justice Planning Committee
3. Planning Committee for Children in Need of Services

The Commission on Juvenile Justice supervises the three committees, and approves the membership for and names the chair for committee's 1 and 2. The Children's Cabinet appoints the members who serve on committee 3. Committee 3 is specifically directed to report to and be subject to the Children's Cabinet.

Because the Commission on Juvenile Justice is responsible for supervising committee 3, as well as making sure a chair is appointed, the Commission has been receiving reports from committee three as well.

All three groups are attended by the Council of State Governments Justice Center staff, who are providing technical assistance.

You will recall that Children in Need of Services is a new category of cases created in the 2021 session, and included in Century Code as Chapter 27-20.3, the new Child Welfare chapter. Currently, children alleged to be Child(ren) in Need of Service are referred to the juvenile court. However, on August 1, 2022, those cases will be referred to the Human Service Zones for processing. In order

to prepare for this transition, the Children in Need of Services Planning Committee formed two sub-committees. One worked on the process for referrals to the Zones, and one focused on developing policies and procedures for managing these cases. The reports from the committees are archived, and can be accessed at the following link:

www.ndaco.org/programs_and_services/jj/hb1427_planningcommittees

The Association of Counties has generously agreed to host the archive, as part of their work with the Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group, and the Commission on Juvenile Justice.

The Commission on Juvenile Justice continues to provide reports to the Interim Judiciary Committee meeting on a regular basis as well. This is an attempt to continue to communicate the work between the Cabinet, the Commission and the Interim Committee.

I would like to introduce Jacob Agus-Kleinman, who is a Senior Policy Analyst with the Council of State Government's Justice Center. Jacob has been working closely with the Children in Need of Services planning committee and is here to provide you with the recommendations of the two sub-committees. The Commission on Juvenile Justice has received these reports and has approved them. HB 1427 requires this body to review and approve the recommendations as well.

Thank you for receiving this report.

