

Care & Closure



King County

Overview of the Recommendations for Youth Healing, Accountability, and Community Safety

Executive Constantine is committed to ending the use of jail for children and youth.

The Advisory Committee identified six recommendations, including areas where more deliberation is needed, to achieve this goal.

The recommendations were informed by:



community partners, systems partners, and impacted community members at the advisory committee and subcommittees



input from nearly 1,800 impacted community members



examples of existing models from jurisdictions across the country



research on effective alternatives to secure youth detention and harms of incarceration on youth

1

Create, operate, and maintain a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week **respite and receiving center** where law enforcement will take all youth under 18 years old upon arrest unless they can be released upon entering the center. **More deliberation needed.**

2

Provide **very short-term respite housing** at the respite and receiving center for youth who cannot go home due to safety reasons. **More deliberation needed.**

3

Provide **enhanced immediate supports** when youth return home to their families or are placed in kinship care with extended family members. **Strong consensus.**

4

Create, contract, and provide oversight to a **network of community care homes** where youth would stay while their court case proceeds if they are unable to go home because of safety concerns. **General consensus.**

5

Strengthen community infrastructure and capacity to ensure all youth have access to and can benefit from **culturally responsive and linguistically relevant, developmentally appropriate, and youth- and family-centered supports** that address their identified needs. **Strong consensus.**

6







Ensure the next steps for these recommendations are informed by and **centered on input, expertise, and ideas of the community members most directly impacted** by the youth legal system. **Strong consensus.**

To accomplish this significant transformation, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Executive expand the timeline to close the youth detention center long enough to allow for the finalization, resourcing, and implementation of these recommendations.

Executive Constantine remains committed to ending the use of jail for children and youth.

The Advisory Committee's recommendations offer a framework to achieve this goal and identify where there is still work to do. The Executive will embark on six actions to make progress quickly and present policy makers with choices required for implementation.

Strategy Planning & Implementation Phase

 Apr. 2024	Propose Improvements for Outcomes in Current Facility	DAJD will identify and develop budget proposals to improve current care by March 31, 2024 for the 2025 King County budget.
 Oct. 2024	Propose State Legal-Regulatory Changes Needed	A legal team will propose changes that would address licensing requirements and amend existing juvenile justice requirements by October 15, 2024 to act on in the 2025 Washington State legislative session.
 Dec. 2024	Educate and Engage the Broader Public	Executive's Office will hold engagement opportunities throughout 2024 , including town halls, webinars, and community meetings on the harms of secure youth detention, the recommendations, and next steps.
 Jan. 2025	Deliberate and Seek Agreement on Recommendations 1 & 2	The Advisory Committee will reconvene to further understand, clarify, and deliberate on recommendations 1 and 2 by January 2025 .
 Feb. 2025	Develop Implementation and Budget Plans for Supported Recommendations 3, 4, 5	An inter-departmental team will provide detailed implementation and budget plans for recommendations 3, 4, and 5 by February 15, 2025 . These plans will allow consideration for the 2026-27 biennial budget.
 Ongoing	Prepare to Support Youth Detention Staff for Future Transitions	Executive's Office will continue to develop opportunities for career pathways and professional development for existing youth detention staff in partnership with staff and their labor representatives.

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