

Jeffrey Lunde and Al Godfrey
Co-chairs of Minnesota Legislature's Working Group on Youth Interventions
600 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building, Room 72
St. Paul, MN 55155

October 31, 2023

Natalie Hudson
Chief Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court
25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Minnesota Judicial Center, Suite 135
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Justice Hudson,

We are reaching out on behalf of the Working Group on Youth Interventions to request an order from the Minnesota Supreme Court authorizing disclosure of certain data to our group.

The Working Group on Youth Interventions was created by the Minnesota Legislature (Minnesota Laws 2023 Chapter 62, Article 2, Section 119) to assess the current systems and resources for addressing the therapeutic and rehabilitative needs of youth who have been adjudicated a Child in Need of Protective Services (CHIPS) or delinquent. The group is tasked with reporting its recommendations to the Legislature in February 2024.

The enabling legislation calls for the group to collect and analyze data, to "evaluate racial disparities," and to "provide the demographics of all youth including age, gender, sexual orientation, and race or ethnicity."

A request was made to the courts for responsive data by Jackie Braun-Lewis, Head of Analytics for Hennepin County Law, Safety, and Justice, who is assisting the Working Group with its data collection and analysis efforts (see attached data request email). Some statewide data was provided, and we are appreciative of the quick response. The court did not include race or ethnicity data, stating that these data are non-public.

Pursuant to Minnesota Court Rule 4.1(e), race data may be disclosed if the recipient executes a non-disclosure agreement and obtains a Supreme Court order. Hennepin County has an executed non-disclosure agreement (see attached HC non-disclosure). We believe this satisfies the first prong. We are now requesting a court order to satisfy the second prong.

The additional data will be analyzed, and summary data will be presented to the Working Group members for discussion and inclusion in the final report. Because of the limited time allotted to do this work, we hope to receive these data before the next two meetings, scheduled for Nov. 15 and Dec. 13. The members of the Working Group voted unanimously to approve this request, authorizing the co-chairs to write to you on their behalf.

Thank you for your consideration and understanding the time sensitivity. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Lunde, Hennepin County Commissioner and Al Godfrey, MN Dept. of Corrections Field Services Director

Jeffrey Lunde

Allen Godfrey

cc: Jeff Shorba, State Court Administrator; Carla Heyl, Director of Legal Counsel Division