



REACH COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 21, 2025

1:00 – 2:30 pm @ Ascend Center

ATTENDEES

Tina Horton, Cory Sparks, Tammy Schneiderman, Matt Friesen, Jennifer Gregg, Ashley Erickson, Kaye Jones, Carley Somers, A'Sean Bagneris, Kelly Crittenden, Angela Roberts, Shelley Burke, Maria Black, Daniel Darting, Kristy Jordan, Brenda Wychullis, Seth Fischer, Lara Stern, Nicole DeHerrera, Nicole Schurbon, Matt Lujan, Angela McKibben, Cassy Reyes, Bernadette Valdez

MINUTES

1. Welcome

Tina Horton and Cory Sparks opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed all attendees.

2. REACH Full Committee Expectations

The Committee emphasized the importance of in-person attendance to strengthen collaboration and communication. Members discussed the expectation that either the primary representative or a designated alternate should attend consistently.

A need was identified for mandatory training specific to the REACH Program to ensure clarity and shared understanding among all partners.

3. Partner Updates

- District 49 joined the REACH Committee as new participants. Representatives noted they are in a listening and learning phase but emphasized the need to address expulsions, citing 57 expulsions last year.
- Ms. Shelley Burke (Zebulon Pike) highlighted concerns around youth being prematurely labeled as aggressive and stressed the need for improved communication.
- Members agreed to expand involvement to include Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD), School Resource Officers, School Counselors, and Guardians Ad Litem.
- Mr. Seth Fischer noted limited placement options and shared that families refusing to accept children back home creates additional strain on available resources.

4. Budget Review + Reallocation

- Tammy Schneiderman recommended separating CYDC and CMP budgets side-by-side to avoid confusion.
- Mr. Matt Friesen recommended structuring future REACH meetings with the first hour dedicated to CYDC and the second hour to CMP. This would help avoid confusion and ensure participants know when to attend during their allotted portion of the agenda.

- An update was provided highlighting decreases in some areas and increases in others. Warrant language will also be revised.
- CYDC: \$1,708,406 (a decrease of \$4,745 from FY 2024–2025).
- MTR: \$427,469 (an increase of \$20,296 from FY 2024–2025).
- Net Change: \$15,511 overall increase, with the possibility of additional mid-year funds.

5. CYDC Update

- The monthly allocation remains at 30 detention beds.
- July usage exceeded allocation all 30 days, with detention counts ranging from 43 to 49 youth.
- Emergency Beds: 33 used, with an average stay of 3.54 days.
- El Paso County remains the largest district, with over 1,000 cases filed last year—higher than both Denver and Pueblo.
- Transportation continues to be a challenge, especially when retrieving youth from Denver or Pueblo.

6. CMP Update

- Tina Horton reported that 45 families are active in the YESS program.
- July and August were particularly busy periods for service delivery.
- ISST Activity:
 - June 2025: 15 ISSTs conducted (3 new intakes, 12 ongoing plans), 2 E-ISSTs completed, and 2 youth exited from services.
 - July 2025: 9 ISSTs conducted, including 1 E-ISST; 4 new youth supported through Care Coordination, and 3 cases closed.

7. Crossover Youth Plan

A vote on the Crossover Youth Plan was presented. Vote was postponed.

8. Community Garden & School Initiatives

- Galileo Middle School's community garden now has 16 active beds. Volunteers are needed daily, Monday–Sunday, during shifts from 7:30–9:30 a.m. and 9:30–11:30 a.m.
- Harvested produce is distributed to the school and community agencies.
- The Back-to-School Block Party was highlighted as a major success, with backpacks, supplies, and community resources provided. Over 40 youth physicals were completed on-site, and multiple partners supported the event.
- Upcoming events include:
 - Career Day on October 1, 2025, at the Ascend Center
 - Holiday Event during the first or second week of December at the Ascend Center

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: September 18, 2025 | 1:00–2:30 pm @ Ascend Center

REACH reports, presentations, and minutes are posted on the [JI website HERE](#).