Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee

November 19, 2015

Progress Report

• Raise the Age Study
  – New Scope to be presented in December
• Report on National Conference: Improving Outcomes for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System - A 50 State Forum
• Report and Recommendations on Education Issues Facing Children in the Juvenile Justice System
Improving Outcomes for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System- A 50 State Forum

- The Council of State Governments- Sponsor
- November 8-10, 2015 in Austin, Texas
- Gathering of Federal, State, Foundations, and Universities committed to improved outcomes for youth
- Learning and Sharing on system reform challenges
  - Diversion
  - Recidivism
  - Incarceration

Improving Outcomes for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System- A 50 State Forum

- Successes in other states- Texas, Utah, Illinois, Kentucky
  - Strategic Partnerships
  - Data informed policy and programming
  - Measurable Goals
- “What Works” from Edward Latessa, Director of the School of Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati
  - Validated Assessments
  - Classification by Risk
  - Treatment Matching
  - Quality Assurance
Improving Outcomes for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System- A 50 State Forum

• Youth who have transitioned from system involvement to crime free and productive adults
  • Consistent Caregiver

• Shay Bilchek, Director of Juvenile Justice at Georgetown University, about youth in custody and their model for evidence-based transition to community
  • Principles similar to Latessa

• Federal Funds will be available to assist in reform, especially for states given strategic planning grants, such as Connecticut

• Significant technical assistance from national organizations

My Take Aways:
  – We are on the right track!
  – We have a strong strategic partnership
    • The JJPOC
    • University Partners

  – We have Strategic Goals
    1. 20% Increase in Diversion
    2. 10% Decrease in Recidivism
    3. 30% Decrease in Incarceration
My Take Aways (cont.)

- We have interdisciplinary groups at work
- We have experts on Education and Mental Health conducting reports
- We are building a database to support our efforts beginning with measure of recidivism
  - Other indicators in planning
- In January, we begin to implement the DOJ grant targeting incarcerated youth returning to big cities and building a strong, seamless connection between confinement and the community
- Optimism- Connecticut cited as a model at the National Conference

JJPOC Goal- Increase Diversion by 20%

- School Based Diversion Initiative (SBDI)
- Cited as a model diversion program by Kathleen Skowyra, Associated Director of National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice

**Goals**

1. **Reduce** the number of suspensions, expulsions, and discretionary school-based arrests
2. **Build** knowledge and skills among teachers, administrators, staff, and resource officers to recognize and manage behavioral health crises in school
3. **Link** youth who are at-risk of arrest to appropriate school and community-based services and support
JJPOC Goal - Increase Diversion by 20%
SBDI Cited As National Model

Reductions in Court Referrals

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The number of juveniles referred to the court is down 9% since 2008, despite full implementation of Raise the Age.
JJPOC Goal - Recidivism Reduction by 10%

• *Dr. Latessa’s Formula:*
  – Validated Assessments
  – Matching Criminogenic Risk Factors to the Right Treatment Needs
  – Address both Criminogenic and Protective Factors
  – Address “Responsivity”
  – Use Motivational Interviewing and Positive Reinforcement
  – Quality Assure Program Models
  – Track Progress
Progress Report

• We have achieved significant reform

• That reform will position us to consider raising the age again, as recommended by Governor Malloy

• The job is not complete-
  – The new DOJ grant will address the issue of youth transitioning from incarceration
  – Disproportionate Minority Contact
  – Education and Mental Health

• We move ahead on a very solid foundation