

Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee


November 13, 2014
Legislative Office Building
2pm Room 1E

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November 13, 2014 1

**Report Due January 1, 2015
PA 14-217, Sec. 79**


1. Statutory Changes
2. Recidivism
3. Goals
4. Impact of Raise the Age
5. Education

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November 13, 2014 2

**Progress on Report Due January 1, 2015
PA 14-217, Sec. 79**


1. Requested and received 70 copies of "relevant" reports and strategic plans
2. All agencies have designated a single point of contact
3. Another State agency, DCF, will present today

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Progress on Report Due January 1, 2015
PA 14-217, Sec. 79


4. Recidivism Work Group met and will report today on the common definition
5. All other Work Groups will have first meeting in the next two weeks


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Progress on Report Due January 1, 2015
PA 14-217, Sec. 79


6. We have asked all agencies for data regarding Raise the Age; report at the next meeting
7. Work has begun on report due in July 2015 including presentation to UNH faculty to enlist additional support


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Progress Report Due July 1, 2015


- The quality and accessibility of diversion programs including Juvenile Review Boards, and programs for the Status Offender population:
- Assessment of the community-based system of services to the juvenile justice population
- Assessment of congregate care settings both public and private
- Examination of collaboration between state agencies and local education


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Progress Report Due July 1, 2015


- Examination of practices that result in disproportionate minority contact
- Integration of Results-Based Accountability
- Assessment of delinquency that occurs after DCF supervision
- Assessment of overlap between juvenile justice and mental health system

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Recidivism Work Group

Jeanne Milstein
Jim Isenberg, Ph.D.

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November 13, 2014 8

Recidivism Work Group Members

- Department of Children and Families
- Judicial Branch/CSSD
- CT Juvenile Justice Alliance
- Office of the Child Advocate
- Department of Correction
- Office of Senator Joe Markley
- Division of Chief Public Defender
- Office of the Victim Advocate
- Office of the Chief State's Attorney
- CT Youth Services Association
- Village for Children and Families
- Central Connecticut State University/IMRP

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November 13, 2014 9


Definition of Recidivism

New criminal activity (arrest) by a juvenile offender with a prior conviction after a specified point in the system;

- After conviction
- After commitment to DCF and/or parole
- After completion of commitment and/or parole including transition into adult system

4 measures:

- Rearrests
- Reconviction
- Recommitment/resentencing
- Technical Violations




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Recidivism Work Group Next Steps

1. Availability and Access to Data
2. Determine length of time for tracking youth
3. Protocol to track the "former" population prior to Raise the Age
4. Inclusion of Status Offenders and Juvenile Review Board participants as separate cohorts for analysis
5. Other indicators to measure outcomes




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Next Steps

Data sets for recidivism analysis can be utilized to examine:

1. Effectiveness and quality of programs and services
2. Gaps in services
3. Cost-effectiveness




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**Review of “Relevant” Reports
PA 14-217, Sec. 79**

Kendell L. Coker, Ph.D., J.D.
DiJonée Alésia Talley


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Process of Review

- Requested all relevant reports from state agencies
- Received approximately 70 reports from the DOC, the Judicial Branch, DCF, and CYSA
- Identified 8 factors as outlined by the statute


Goal: Identify major themes emerging from the reports

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8 Guideposts for Review (statutory)


- Improve Public Safety
- Promote Best Interests of Children
- Improve Transparency and Accountability
- Promote Efficient Information Sharing
- Define Recidivism
- Short, Medium, and Long Term Goals
- Impact of Raise the Age
- Educational Barriers

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Major Themes


1. Treatment
2. Diversion – School & Community
3. Data Sharing


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November 13, 2014 16

Major Theme: Treatment


1. Substance Abuse and Mental Health
 - High rates of mental health needs
 - High percentage of youth with learning disorders
 - Increase in 16 and 17 year-olds with higher rates of substance abuse
 - Need for comprehensive assessments


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Major Theme: Treatment

2. Treatment Matching
 - Shortage in overall specialized services
 - Diversity of youth calls for unique services
 - Maximize effectiveness of individualized treatment with appropriate and accessible resources to reduce risks


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Major Theme: Treatment

3. Family Engagement

- Essential to administering services
- Overrepresentation of minorities calls for culturally competent services
- Sensitivity to LGBTI or SOGI youth, families and communities
- Promote sustainability of treatment and overall well-being of youth by practice of family inclusion



November 13, 2014

19

Major Theme: Treatment

4. Evidence-Based Practices and Accountability

- Evaluate programs using common definitions, i.e. recidivism
- Comprehensive approach to monitor fidelity
- Expand outcome measures to include indicators of well-being
- Re-conceptualize tracking efforts for youth transitioned from juvenile involvement into developing adult services



November 13, 2014

20

Major Theme: Diversion

School-Based Diversion

- DMC inconsistencies between JJ involvement and treatment
 - Minority youth are identified with *behavioral* problems rather than *mental health* disorders
 - Community-specific *stigma* association with mental illness
- Explore ways to overcome barriers caused by stigmas



November 13, 2014

21

Major Theme: Data Sharing

Data Sharing

- Potential benefits of sharing data among agencies:
 - More accurate tracking of youth across systems
- Consider a unique identifier to track youth across agencies
- Increase efficiency of timely sharing of information
- Consider confidentiality and privacy laws



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22

Next Steps

- Informs various Work Groups as they explore charges
 - Identify barriers, gaps, and challenges
 - Make recommendations to JJPOC



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23
