



JJPOC Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2016

2:00 P.M.

Hearing Room 2D

Attendance:

Rep. Toni Walker

Sen. Gary Winfield

Abby Anderson

Erica Bromley

Hector Glynn

Martha Stone, JD

Hon. Judge Patrick Carroll

Hon. Judge Bernadette Conway

Stephen Grant

Christine Rapillo

Linda Dixon, Ph.D.

John Frassinelli

Francis Carino

Mickey Kramer

Rep. Robyn Porter

Deborah Stevenson, JD

Shawn Rutchick

John Holland

Jamie Mills

TYJI Staff:

Bill Carbone

Kitty Tyrol

Kendell Coker, Ph.D.

Danielle Cooper, Ph.D.

Erika Nowakowski

Representative Toni Walker called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the April 21, 2016 meeting. There was a motion to accept the minutes which passed unanimously.

Deputy Commissioner Fernando Muñiz of the Department of Children & Families (DCF) provided updates on the Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS) closure. They have continued to gather input from the community with nearly 20 community meetings with over 300 participants. They are also gathering input from the public using the following email address cjtsplan@ct.gov for recommendations on the closure process. The greatest needs for the population have been identified as vocational programs and opportunities, substance abuse treatment, intensive community supervision, and housing for older youth geared towards a smooth transition back to the community. Deputy Commissioner Muñiz hopes to have a draft planned for JJPOC to review by the end of June 2016. As of this meeting there were 42 boys at CJTS and the process of entries and discharges has continued. Deputy Commissioner Muñiz informed the Committee that there is an educational program offered that includes vocational instruction. Deputy Commissioner Muñiz stated that the average length of stay is trending around 6 months. Deputy Commissioner Muñiz said that around the time of the staff layoffs the reduction of the population has possibly created anxiety but the staff have been proactive in providing adequate support for this contingency. There have been some incidents of restraints and seclusion but they have been called into the Care Line and reviewed appropriately. There was further discussion on layoffs at Youth Service Officers (YSO) and its complications, as well as the issue of mandated triple overtime.



William Carbone, University of New Haven, Director of the Tow Youth Justice Institute, welcomed and introduced Erika Nowakowski as the new Director of Youth Justice Initiatives at the Tow Youth Justice Institute.

Update on JJPOC progress

William Carbone updated the Committee about the research projects that had been authorized by JJPOC. Two of the projects are on children in congregate care facilities and the third project is on the pre/post of Raise the Age. The MOU is a seventy-three page agreement that is now fully drafted and has been accepted by the state agencies. It is currently being circulated for signatures by the state agencies and the University of New Haven.

Mr. Carbone provided an update on House Bill 5642. HB 5642, which makes numerous changes affecting juvenile detention, children returning to school after a juvenile justice placement, and disciplinary matters, has been passed and is awaiting the approval of Governor Malloy.

Honorable Judge Bernadette Conway, co-chair of the incarceration work group, provided further information on changes that will occur in juvenile detention according to HB 5642 in relation to the goal reducing incarceration by 30%. This included detention periods, criteria for detention, and the use of a detention risk assessment. Ongoing questions and concerns about the impact of the changes were again expressed by Fran Carino from the Chief State's Attorney's Office.

Erica Bromley, chair of the diversion work group, provided further information regarding the goal of a 20% increase in diversion in relation to the proponents of HB 5642. This included truancy intervention models, court referrals, Family With Service Needs (FWSN), and police and field training.

Christine Rapillo, co-chair of the recidivism work group, discussed the goal for reducing recidivism by 10% in relation to HB 5642. This included a recidivism reduction framework, de-escalation techniques, and tracking recidivism reduction.

Jamie Mills, co-chair of the cross-agency data sharing work group, discussed the goal for cross-agency data sharing and accountability in relation to the HB 5642. This included a data work group, IT solutions, and results-based accountability (RBA) implementation and reports.

Martha Stone, JD, Executive Director for the Center for Children's Advocacy, addressed the proponents of HB5642 that related to the educational barriers. This included due process protection, alternative educational opportunities, and out-of-school suspensions.

Mr. Carbone addressed the school-based diversion initiative (SBDI) to reduce arrests in schools and increase the appropriateness of mental health responses to children. Governor Malloy's two-year budget includes funding to expand SBDI to more than forty schools. The statute calls for ideas on how to implement this plan as soon as possible.



Next Step: Work Groups/Implementation

Laura Downs, consultant to the Tow Youth Justice Institute will be looking at everything passed in House Bill 5642, everything recommended from the work groups that has been adopted by the JJPOC which were not in the bill, and figuring out how to bring education and mental health together into the existing work groups. Ms. Downs will communicate with the co-chairs of the work groups on their responsibilities and deadlines. Additionally, Ms. Downs will update the committee in June with a recommendation on the organizational structure, revised charges, and potential revisions of membership for the work groups to begin implementation. In closing, the Community Supervision Grant was successfully submitted on May 13, 2016.

Presenters were thanked and the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: June 16, 2016