



JJPOC Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2017

2:00PM

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Attendance:

Abby Anderson

Erica Bromley

Francis Carino

Hon. Judge Bernadette Conway

Linda Dixon

Sarah Eagan

John Frassinelli

Hector Glynn

Brian Hill

John Holland

Fernando Muñiz

Rep. Robyn Porter

Gary Roberge

Deborah Stevenson

Martha Stone

Carolyn Treiss

Sen. Gary Winfield

TYJI Staff:

William Carbone

Erika Nowakowski

Kitty Tyrol

Josh Perry

Donna Pfrommer

Danielle Cooper

Kendell Coker

Senator Gary Winfield called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Sen. Gary Winfield asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes of May 18, 2017. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Note at end of this document regarding March 16, 2017 meeting minutes which are pending approval due to revision needed.

Update on Progress

William Carbone, from the Tow Youth Justice Institute at the University of New Haven (TYJI), reviewed the agenda for today's meeting.

Mr. Carbone provided an update to House Bill No. 7286, *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the JJPOC*. HB 7286 did not pass during regular session. There were no substantive disagreements on the House Bill; however, main concerns surrounded the fiscal budget. There has been an alternative bill introduced which made some changes to the original bill. Most changes surrounded deferring the implementation of activities outside the upcoming biennium to avoid fiscal notes and in addition there were some language changes.

Sen. Gary Winfield spoke about the possibilities of the future of House Bill No. 1025 and House Bill No. 7286 regarding the fiscal notes.

DCF RFI Update

William Carbone introduced Fernando Muñiz. Fernando Muñiz explained that the Department issued an RFI and received 20 responses. 19 of the responses were from service providers and advocates, while one of the responses was from another state agency. Half of the responses to the RFI were sharing information or best practices models that we should consider; however, they



were not offering to provide services. Fernando Muñiz broke down the responses into categories where respondents provided suggestions regarding staff secure facilities, semi-secure facilities, and how to run a secure facility in the community.

Regarding the next steps to the RFI, Dr. Dixon, the Superintendent of CJTS, and Fernando Muñiz will review all of the proposals and sketch out a RFP or RFQ that will be issued by August. The core of the RFP will be for small, 6-8 beds, with complete wrap around programs to address all needs of the young individual that was previously being provided at CJTS.

Sarah Eagan asked Fernando Muñiz whether or not the responses to the RFI were publicly available so that others can conceptualize responses in more detail. Fernando Muñiz explained that the RFI responses will not be made public because the respondents were not originally aware of this; however, Mr. Muñiz will reach out to the respondents and see if they are willing to share responses publicly.

Abby Anderson thanked Fernando Muñiz for his update. Abby Anderson would like to hear from DCF at future meetings regarding the overall plan and scope of what DCF is doing. Fernando Muñiz is willing to provide an update on the programming side, as well as, where the Department is in regards to the closure of CJTS plan since it includes more than just closing CJTS.

William Carbone spoke about the original purpose of the RFI and asked Fernando Muñiz whether or not DCF believes that they have received sufficient responses and information to move forward with the RFP or RFQ. Fernando Muñiz explained that there is enough information from the RFI to suggest that we should move to the next step of exploration; however, many providers only responded with their expertise and not offer to run secure care.

There was follow up discussion regarding whether or not there are identifiable locations that are properly zoned for residential facilities and close to communities where youth are currently located.

Also, there was discussion regarding the timeline of the closure of CJTS. Fernando Muñiz explained that there will be a stop in admissions to CJTS in early 2018; therefore, changes in the system need to occur soon for example, additional community based services or other alternatives need to be identified so that the closure of CJTS can move smoothly.

Abby Anderson thanked Fernando Muñiz and explained that citing a location is on all of us and is not just the providers' responsibility, but it is everyone's responsibility. Hector Glynn suggested to look at other sister agencies and providers so that the issue of citing a venue can be worked on collaboratively.

William Carbone thanked Fernando Muñiz for the update.

Workgroup Updates



Diversion

William Carbone introduced Erica Bromley and John Frassinelli to provide the update on the Diversion Workgroup.

Erica Bromley provided an update on the police recruit training subgroup. Erica Bromley explained that the subgroup had identified two areas, techniques for handling trauma and adolescent development, where POST and the Connecticut State Police could improve training. She also explained that it was not the group's duty to help train or put together a training session for POST or the Connecticut State Police; instead the subgroup identified learning objectives, resources, and expertise that could help create curriculum for the trainings.

William Carbone asked about existing officers and what training they receive in regards to training. Erica Bromley explained that the training would occur for new recruits only because they have more time for training early on. She also explained that there is additional training for existing officers if they wish to go to. Francis Carino provided feedback on possibly the need to create a video presentation which would be available for existing officers to utilize at any time outside of the required training.

Erica Bromley provided an update on the school-based diversion subgroup. Erica Bromley explained that the group has been looking at data from various agencies and surveys. The data will contribute to creating the plan and help the subgroup decide on how to proceed with the model. The subgroup will look at both arrests and school discipline so that the plan includes many age groups and will be done district wide.

Erica Bromley provided an update on the Diversion Workgroup which has been looking at screening tools for the community based diversion system plan. The screening tool would be used by coordinating hubs for both kids who are being diverted from the juvenile justice system as well as kids with family with service needs behaviors. There has been lots of conversation about the tool that it does not only look at risk level, but also looks at other issues such as trauma, mental health, and substance use.

Deborah Stevenson asked what the workgroup is doing to incorporate feedback from parents, students, and teachers. Erica Bromley explained that the school-based diversion subgroup has had school representation at the meetings; however, they are not well represented at any of the other subgroups which seems to be a common theme in all of the subgroups. There are many challenges trying to get parents and students at the meetings. Bill Carbone explained that FAVOR is now in partnership with TYJI and have agreed to help us get parents at the workgroup meetings. Discussion followed of how to increase engagement of the communities at the meetings.

Erica Bromley provided an update on the legislation that truancy and defiance of school rules will be removed from juvenile court jurisdiction starting August 15, 2017. The school districts will still have the same responsibilities and the process they had before; however, the only difference is that the referrals will no longer go to the court.



Erica Bromley explained the various agencies, providers, and school representations at the truancy subgroup meetings and that the members are all able to identify issues on the community side as well as the provider's side.

Erica Bromley explained that the referral form is almost completed. The subgroup decided that since the school districts are familiar with a particular referral form the form was revised and that the schools will make the referral to the community hubs. Along with the referral form there is a referral guidance document which is a step by step of how to fill out the form and what the schools are responsible for as they fill out the form and attempt to make a referral. There will be no legislative mandate to require schools to make that referral to a community organization or to the coordinating hub; however, it will be a recommendation as we do feel working together with a community agencies will be beneficial for the children and the families.

John Frassinelli provided an update on the truancy intervention models research. There was a national survey sent out to 137 states and entities around the country to get more information on their truancy intervention models work and what makes them successful.

John Frassinelli explained that the districts with the highest rates of truancy will need to implement a truancy intervention model. The threshold for high rates of truancy has not yet been identified by the subgroup and the commissioner of education. Next the subgroup will have to create a companion document for the models that will be helpful for districts when they are selecting one or two programs that they would like to implement. John Frassinelli explained that this truancy intervention model is a tier three intervention and went on to explain what the truancy process would look like.

John Frassinelli spoke to the work on chronic absenteeism that the State Department of Education is working on. Also, John Frassinelli went on to explain the difference between chronic absenteeism and truancy because they are not interchangeable definitions.

John Frassinelli explained the timeline and training of how the State Department of Education plans on engaging school districts for the new truancy intervention models and referral process.

Martha Stone was concerned about the lack of urgency from school districts and the implementation timeline because it does not have much for this upcoming year. John Frassinelli explained that the chronic absenteeism work cannot be separated from truancy and districts are interested in how they can use the resources to make sure that students stay in school. John Frassinelli also explained that they are seeing chronic absenteeism reduced in many school districts over the past few years.

William Carbone inquired if we know why the school districts are already seeing a reduction in absenteeism and what models have made that difference. John Frassinelli explained that there are some best practice models in the Chronic Absence Prevention and Intervention Guide.



Abby Anderson thanked Erica Bromley for all of her work within this workgroup. Abby Anderson asked what are the YSBs going to do capacity wise as this plan goes into place. Erica Bromley explained that YSB's do have concerns about being able to service all of the kids especially in the medium and larger sized districts. Discussion followed regarding how YSBs are going to accomplish the new tasks and influx of students and what SDE is doing to help the YSBs with these major changes.

Francis Carino raised concerns regarding the March 16, 2017 meeting minutes. William Carbone let the group know that these meeting minutes are still not revised and require updated language. The meeting minutes from March 16, 2017 are not accepted and the record should reflect this.

Sen. Gary Winfield presented Colleen Shaddox for recognition of 10 years of advancing juvenile justice policy both nationally and in the state of Connecticut.

Sen. Gary Winfield thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting: July 20, 2017, 2:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 3:27pm.

*Audio and/or video of the meeting can be found on https://www.cga.ct.gov/app/taskforce.asp?TF=20141215_Juvenile%20Justice%20Policy%20and%20Oversight%20Committee