



JJPOC Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2018

2:00PM

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Attendance:

Abby Anderson

Sec. Ben Barnes

Kenneth Butricks

Francis Carino

Patrick Carroll

Hon. Judge Bernadette Conway

Linda Dixon

Sarah Eagan

Eulalia Garcia

Hector Gylmn

Susan Hamilton

Brian Hill

Eleanor Michael

Christine Rاپillo

Gary Roberge

Charlene Russell-Tucker

Martha Stone

Len Suzio

Rep. Toni Walker

TYJI Staff:

William Carbone

Erika Nowakowski

Susan Cusano

Devon McCormick

Gabriela Brito

Alex Scranton

Representative Toni Walker called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Rep. Toni Walker introduced Governor Dannel Malloy. Governor Dannel Malloy expressed his gratitude to the committee members for their participation in rethinking Connecticut’s approach to rehabilitation of the youngest offenders. Governor Dannel Malloy thanked the members for their support in having closed the Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS). Governor Dannel Malloy spoke to the history of CJTS and the reasons why CJTS has failed the youth. Also, Governor Dannel Malloy explained that this is not a time of celebration, but rather it represents an important opportunity for all of us to reflect on the past mistakes that have been made with respect to juvenile justice and the opportunity to create different systems that will better serve young offenders in our society and allow Connecticut to play an appropriate role in leading the national discussion on this point. Governor Dannel Malloy thanked Bill Rosenbeck and the staff at CJTS for their assistance in closing CJTS in a timely manner. Also, Governor Dannel Malloy spoke to the discussion regarding Raise the Age.

Sec. Ben Barnes asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes of February 15, 2018. Francis Carino noted that the minutes should reflect that there have been some issues regarding the closure of CJTS. There is a cohort of kids that are responsible for auto thefts and DCF is having a tough time placing them in staff secure settings. Francis Carino will provide TYJI with language to add to the minutes. Edits will be made to reflect this change. The motion made by Sec. Ben Barnes to accept the meeting minutes was seconded and passed unanimously if the corrections are made.

Update on Progress

William Carbone, from the TYJI at the University of New Haven, introduced Warden Kenneth Butricks, from the Manson Youth Institution, who is a new JJPOC committee member. Warden



Kenneth Butricks replaced Warden John Alves who retired in March 2018. William Carbone also introduced Alex Scranton who is a new graduate student with TYJI who will be assisting the JJPOC starting in the fall 2018.

William Carbone reviewed the agenda for today's meeting.

Update on the Raised Bill No. 5562: An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the JJPOC

William Carbone reviewed Bill No. 5562: "An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the JJPOC." The Judiciary Committee favorably voted on Bill No. 5562; however, it was a close vote. William Carbone spoke to the major concerns that the Judiciary Committee had regarding Bill No. 5562.

Discussion followed regarding Bill No. 5562.

Update Regarding Transfer of Juvenile Justice Functions from DCF to Judicial Branch

Erika Nowakowski, from the TYJI, noted that questions were posed by various advocates and other individuals regarding the transfer of juvenile justice functions from DCF to the Judicial Branch. The Judicial Branch, DCF, and the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) will respond to the questions.

Erika Nowakowski introduced Linda Dixon from DCF. Linda Dixon reviewed the transition plan for youth who were currently in DCF-funded programs. Linda Dixon explained that the planning and coordination began in November 2017 between DCF and the Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division (CSSD). Additionally, Linda Dixon noted that the adopted budget moved funding from DCF over to the Judicial Branch as of January 1, 2018. However, part of the budget has moved back to DCF in order for DCF to continue to provide certain services. Linda Dixon noted that Journey House, Fostering Responsibility Employment Education (FREE), and MST are programs that will continue to stay funded. Additionally, Linda Dixon also explained that joint team meetings will be held between DCF, probation staff, and the youth and their families at the site of the youth's current placement.

Linda Dixon explained that CJTS has a zero census. The total number of youth committed to DCF and juvenile justice is 209 and there will be 170 commitments that extend passed July 1, 2018. These 170 youth will be transferred over to the Judicial Branch.

Linda Dixon spoke to the discharges of youth from CJTS since January 1, 2018. There has been 37 youth discharged from CJTS, 25 of those youth have been released to their home with wraparound support services. A total of 12 youth will be needing 24/7 residential treatment plans. Linda Dixon also noted that there has not been a spike in the number of youth who have been placed in out-of-state facilities. Linda Dixon explained the placement process and monitoring process of the youth who are placed out-of-state.



Linda Dixon explained the number of youth who were AWOL every month since January 1, 2018. Linda Dixon provided examples of what DCF has done in response to the AWOL youth each month.

Linda Dixon spoke to the list of services that will either be continued or discontinued under DCF under the new adopted budget.

Discussion followed regarding DCF's responses to the questions that were presented.

Gary Roberge reviewed the various questions that were reviewed specifically for Judicial Branch CSSD. Gary Roberge introduced Cathy Foley Geib, Deputy Director for Clinical Educational and Residential Services for CSSD. Cathy Foley Geib spoke to the number of youth transferred to the adult court between January 1 through March 31, 2018 and compared that to the number of youth transferred to the adult court between January 1 through March 21, 2017. The numbers are very similar; however, there has been an increase in the motions for discretionary transfer when compared to last year.

Cathy Foley Geib explained that there has been a slight increase in the length of stay at the Bridgeport and Hartford detention centers between January 1 through March 31, 2018 compared to January 1 through March 31, 2017. There is also a slight increase in the average daily population at the Bridgeport and Hartford detention centers between January 1 through March 31, 2018 compared to January 1 through March 31, 2017.

Julie Revaz from CSSD spoke to the programs and services established by CSSD. Julie Revaz explained that CSSD has developed a program referral matrix guide for treatment matching that considers risk relevant areas and risk of recidivating. Julie Revaz also explains that the programs include numerous home- or family- evidence-based models, clinical services, community connection/day reporting programs, and congregate care centers. The services will be supported by flex funds, training, quality assurance, and other efforts. Additionally, CSSD will continue to rely on certain DCF and other non-contracted programs.

Julie Revaz also spoke about the integrity of the program continuum that has existed until now. CSSD has made minimal changes to the existing array of contracted services. Julie Revaz did note that the PARC program in Waterbury and Multi-Dimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) are two services that will be eliminated effective June 30, 2018. Julie Revaz explained that the reinvestment of the funding for these programs helps support the creation of Treatment Foster Care-Oregon (TFCO), which is an evidence-based model for both boys and girls who are deeply matriculated in the juvenile justice system, as an alternative to residential placement.

Julie Revaz explained how CSSD was focusing on family engagement, particularly with high/very high-risk clients. Julie Revaz noted that many, but not all, of the models that CSSD offers see the entire family system as the target of the intervention. Additionally, Julie Revaz noted that REGIONS will have staff dedicated to family engagement, reintegration home, and after care.



Tasha Hunt, Deputy Director of Juvenile Probation at the Judicial Branch's CSSD. Tasha Hunt noted that family engagement is a key component of the intervention efforts of juvenile probation. The case management model is infused with wraparound principles within a risk reduction framework. Tasha Hunt explained that probation officers are trained to use a strength- and evidence-based approach when working with families. Tasha Hunt also noted that probation officers work collaboratively with clients, families, providers, and other agencies to ensure case planning and supervision goals are successful and prevent future re-offending. Additionally, Tasha Hunt explained that multi-disciplinary case review teams have been meeting on a regular basis to coordinate services, address potential barriers, and revise and refine the case plan to ensure successful completion of supervision and long-term behavior changes.

Tasha Hunt noted that flex funding is a key component of family engagement is flex funding. The approval process for potential service providers is relatively simple and straightforward. Tasha Hunt noted that the process primarily involves submitting a W-9. Tasha Hunt also explained that in order to protect and safeguard youth, there will be an additional step for potential vendors who deliver individual services to clients. These vendors will need to consent to a national criminal record check and a Connecticut child protective services check is required. Vendors who flag for justice system involvement are typically deemed ineligible if their cases are active or if their charges occurred in the past 5 years. However, Tasha Hunt did note that potential vendors with older justice system involvement can be used, depending on the nature of the charges.

Tasha Hunt spoke to the transition plan for youth in DCF-funded programs to CSSD. Tasha Hunt explained that CSSD is finalizing a negotiation with DCF and the FREE providers that will enable us to assume responsibility and maintain those contracts through December 31, 2018. Tasha Hunt noted that CSSD will continue to utilize DCF services and placements during the transitional period from July 1, 2018 through January 1, 2019. Also, Tasha Hunt noted that any changes to programming will be in conjunction with the client, family, and other stakeholders.

Discussion followed regarding CSSD's responses to the questions that were presented.

William Carbone introduced Eleanor Michael from OPM. Eleanor Michael spoke to the adopted budget transferred funding for preventative services from DCF to CSSD. Also, Eleanor Michael noted that OPM is awaiting legislative action of the budget to determine which agency will be responsible for certain services.

Eleanor Michael explained that OPM has approximately \$1.1 million in uncommitted funds from Grant Years 2015, 2016, and 2017 from Juvenile Justice Formula Grant funds. Eleanor Michael explained that the Juvenile Justice Formula Grant funds will be targeted to Diversion activities to support a realignment of juvenile justice reform activities consistent with the goals and objectives of the JJPOC.

Discussion followed regarding OPM's responses to the questions that were presented. William Carbone thanked all three agencies for all of their work and providing responses to the questions that were raised.



Update on Work Plan for JJPOC Work Groups

Due to time restraints, William Carbone suggested that the update on the work plan for JJPOC work groups be pushed to next month's meeting. Sec. Ben Barnes approved the request.

Next Steps to JJPOC Strategic Planning

William Carbone introduced Lael Chester, consultant on the JJPOC strategic planning. Lael Chester reviewed what has been done regarding the JJPOC strategic planning. Lael Chester explained that meetings with the JJPOC co-chairs, JJPOC work group co-chairs, and additional stakeholders will meet between April through June 2018. Additionally, a written draft of the "Connecticut's Juvenile Justice System: Progress and Challenges for 2016 and Beyond" for review and approval at the June 21, 2018 JJPOC meeting.

Next Meeting: May 17, 2018, 2:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 3:40pm.

*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