



JJPOC Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2018

2:00PM

2B

Attendance:

Abby Anderson

Sec. Ben Barnes

Erica Bromley

Kenneth Butricks

Francis Carino

Linda Dixon

Commissioner Joette Katz

Tais Ericson

Miky Kraner

Paul Formica

John Frassinelli

Eulalia Garcia

Hector Gylmn

Brian Hill

John Holland

Eleanor Michael

Christine Rapillo

Gary Roberge

Deborah Stevenson

Martha Stone

Len Suzio

Carolyn Treiss

Rep. Toni Walker

TYJI Staff:

William Carbone

Danielle Cooper

Susan Cusano

Gabriela Brito

Rashanda McCollum

Erika Nowakowski

Donna Pfrommer

Representative Toni Walker called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Rep. Toni Walker asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes of February 15, 2018 and April 19, 2018. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Sec. Ben Barnes spoke about the budgetary impacts surrounding the Juvenile Review Boards (JRB). Sec. Ben Barnes explained that one of the budget lines that was affected by the transition was juvenile justice outreach services, which included contracts that serve children who are involved and those not involved in the juvenile justice system. There has been some challenge for the Office and Policy Management (OPM) to operate some of the programs and services out of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) without resources. OPM and DCF have been working together to identify a smaller group of expenditures beyond what was budgeted as necessary to comply. A few programs, but not all, that have been identified in the juvenile justice outreach services account will be funded. DCF will not be funding JRBs out of their budget this year.

Discussion followed regarding budget concerns.

Update on Progress

William Carbone, from the TYJI at the University of New Haven, introduced Rashanda McCollum. Rashanda McCollum is the Manager for Education and Training at the TYJI.

William Carbone reviewed the agenda for today's meeting. William Carbone announced that the legislation presented by the JJPOC has passed and is now Public Act No. 18-31. William Carbone



thanked Doreen Del Bianco and Deb Fuller from the Judicial Branch for their help drafting the legislation. William Carbone reviewed Public Act No. 18-31.

William Carbone introduced Linda Dixon from DCF. Linda Dixon addressed questions that were raised during the April 19, 2018 JJPOC meeting. Linda Dixon noted that 2,500 youth were provided with behavioral health and substance abuse services. Linda Dixon also noted that 35% of youth have court involvement either for a new charge or an earlier charge post discharge from the Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS).

Discussion followed regarding the DCF follow-up questions.

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

William Carbone introduced Gary Roberge from the Judicial Branch. Gary Roberge noted that the Judicial Branch received one bid for a secure facility. The Judicial Branch will not be making an award based on that bid; therefore, the process will be delayed. Currently, the Judicial Branch is meeting with providers and addressing their concerns with the bid. The rebid will occur towards the end of summer into the beginning of the fall.

Gary Roberge explained that the Judicial Branch was able to fund the per diem beds that were put out for RFQ and they will be available for staff to utilize for the kids who will be transferred over from DCF. The Judicial Branch was also able to fund the FREE Program from July 1, 2018 through January 1, 2019. In addition, the Judicial Branch was also able to fund the MST program.

Gary Roberge noted that six bids were received for the staff secure RFP. The Judicial Branch is currently in the process of reviewing the bids and awards should be granted in the next three to four weeks. Judicial Branch anticipates granting three awards based on the bids. Gary Roberge explained that the bed capacity for the staff secure programs of 22 to 28 beds.

Gary Roberge explained the Judicial Branch's plan for July 1, 2018 if there is a need for a secure facility. Currently, the Judicial Branch is looking to see how they can use the juvenile residential centers for that purpose. Gary Roberge noted that this is not the ideal situation, but it is a solution until there is a secure community-based program.

Discussion followed regarding the transfer of juvenile justice functions from DCF to the Judicial Branch. DCF Commissioner Joette Katz made remarks regarding the transfer of juvenile justice functions and the closure of CJTS.

Due to time restraints, William Carbone suggested that the Judicial Branch not provide an update on the legislation but move this to the July JJPOC meeting. Rep. Toni Walker approved the request.

Truancy Diversion: New Process



John Frassinelli, co-chair of the Diversion Workgroup, reminded members of the JJPOC of the statutory changes to Family with Service Needs (FWSN) referrals for truancy, definitions, and process of creating the new truancy diversion process.

John Frassinelli explained that the Truancy Subgroup of the Diversion Workgroup developed and propose a community-based system for providing services to the youth. Youth Service Bureaus (YSB) were identified as the entity in the community to coordinate services for the youth. John Frassinelli explained that the Truancy Subgroup, in collaboration with the State Department of Education (SDE) and the Court Support Services Division (CSSD), created a YSB Referral Form. In addition, the Referral Form Companion Guidance Document was created. John Frassinelli noted that it is not mandated for schools to provide a referral to YSBs. John Frassinelli also noted that some districts refer truant students to other entities. John Frassinelli explained the process that schools and school districts have to complete before making a referral to the YSBs. John Frassinelli noted that the referral process was implemented in February of 2018.

Erica Bromley, co-chair of the Diversion Workgroup, explained that in addition to the referral form and companion document, the Truancy Subgroup also created a YSB Truancy Tool Kit. The YSB Truancy Tool Kit provided YSBs with as much information as possible. Erica Bromley noted that YSB Directors' Summits were held in January of 2018. At these summits, directors of YSBs were able to see the tool kit before it was officially released, discuss the new process, and ask any questions.

John Frassinelli explained that the legislation also required the development of intervention models for schools to use. The legislation named SDE as the entity to create the catalog of intervention models for districts to use. John Frassinelli thanked Dr. Danielle Cooper and the TYJI for their help in conducting a nationwide survey to find what truancy intervention models were effective.

Dr. Danielle Cooper, Director of Research at the TYJI, explained the research that was conducted regarding the survey of truancy intervention models. Dr. Danielle Cooper also explained the findings of the survey that was presented in a report which was released to the JJPOC members. In addition, Dr. Danielle Cooper described the process that researchers went through in implementing the survey.

John Frassinelli thanked Dr. Danielle Cooper. John Frassinelli explained that the resulting document is entitled the Catalog of Truancy Intervention Models and is posted on SDE's website. There are 38 models listed in the catalog. John Frassinelli noted that SDE has identified the disproportionately high rate of truancy. John Frassinelli also noted that SDE has identified the school districts, specifically, the Alliance Districts, with the highest rates of truancy.

Erica Bromley provided an update on the Ohio Scales for Youth Screening Tool implementation. In May of 2018, Ben Ogles, the developer of the Ohio Scales, trained YSB staff on the screening tool. Ben Ogles also aided in a train the trainer session on the screening tool. Also, an intake form was created for YSBs. Erica Bromley explained that this intake form will help create a standardized



tool for YSBs to use during the initial intake process. The intake form will also help collect information that will best identify what the needs of the youth are. The intake form is still in draft form and not yet completed. Erica Bromley noted that July 1, 2018 YSBs will begin to use the Ohio Scales screening tool and the intake form.

Erica Bromley explained that there was a cross-systems luncheon with various stakeholders and providers who currently use the Ohio Scales. At the luncheon, Ben Ogles and stakeholders were able to discuss how to utilize the Ohio Scales across various systems. John Frassinelli stated that Ben Ogles explained that the Ohio Scales is not being used across agencies in any other state.

Erica Bromley noted that data collection for the new truancy process and Ohio Scales screening tool is currently being discussed. John Frassinelli also explained the new process of how schools will be collecting data and reporting it to SDE. John Frassinelli noted that by August of 2020, SDE will have student level truancy data.

Rep. Toni Walker thanked Erica Bromley and John Frassinelli for their presentation. Discussion followed regarding the new truancy process and implementation of the Ohio Scales.

Next Meeting: June 21, 2018, 2:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.

*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