



JJPOC Meeting Minutes

May 16th, 2019

2:00PM

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Attendance:

Abby Anderson	Hector Glynn	Ken Mysogland	TYJI Staff:
Erica Bromley	Susan Hamilton	Marc Pelka	William Carbone
Francis Carino	Steven Hernandez	Christine Rapillo	Danielle Cooper
Hon. Judge Patrick Carroll	Brian Hill	Janeen Reid	Erika Nowakowski
Hon. Judge Bernadette Conway	John Holland	Gary Roberge	Kelly Orts
Rollin Cook	Sen. George Logan	Stacy Schulman	Alex Scranton
Sarah Eagan	Eleanor Michael	Martha Stone	
Eulalia Garcia	Derrick Molden	Rep. Toni Walker	

Representative Toni Walker called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Rep. Toni Walker asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes of April 18th, 2019. The motion to accept the meeting minutes was seconded and passed unanimously.

Update on Progress

William Carbone, Executive Director of the Tow Youth Justice Institute at the University of New Haven, informed the members of the JJPOC that House Bill - 7389 had been put on the House calendar and referred to the Appropriations Committee. The Bill includes most of the recommendations that were adopted by the JJPOC. Mr. Carbone then welcomed Kelly Orts to the Committee, who is serving as the new JJPOC Project Manager at TYJI. Next, Mr. Carbone informed the Committee about the upcoming Council of State Governments Site Visit from June 11th – 13th as well as the Kickoff Event for the family/youth voice which will follow the June 20th JJPOC meeting. Lastly, Mr. Carbone then reviewed the agenda for today’s meeting.

Presentation: Recommendations and Findings from the Study of Community-Based Programs and Services

Dr. Danielle Cooper, Director of Research for the Tow Youth Justice Institute at the University of New Haven, presented the findings from her study on community-based programs and services for delinquent youth. The study took 11 years of state data (2005-2015) and analyzed 2,493 juveniles that had received community-based programs and services. It is important to note that none of the juveniles in this study ever received an out-of-home placement.



The study identified the top 8 most commonly used interventions for youth under supervision. These interventions include Multi-Systemic Therapy, Brief Strategic Family Therapy and Aggression Replacement Training. It was found that of the youth involved in this study, 76% received services from a top 8 intervention. Breaking down the data further, it was revealed that 44.6% of youth received group interventions and 31.5% of youth received in-home interventions.

Data analysis revealed characteristics about the youth who received services. The most common age of the youth receiving services was 15. In addition, most youth receiving services were medium risk, male and white. Most commonly, youth were residing and offending in the same region (87%). The length of supervision was, on average, approximately 6 months and 82% of youth were not rearrested for any new offenses within the 12 months following supervision. When looking at services and outcomes both pre and post-Raise the Age, it was observed that outcomes are the same or better post-RTA, while data collection has improved substantially

Feedback was gathered from practitioners. Some of the concerns they voiced included data collection and impact on service implementation, wait lists, and lack of a uniform definition for successful program completion. Some recommendations discussed included increased/continued inter-agency data sharing, increased family involvement, increased use of flex funds, follow-ups with youth served and increased opportunities for cultural competency training. Additional evaluation research is needed that takes a program-specific approach.

After the presentation, the members of the JJPOC thanked Dr. Cooper for her in-depth presentation.

Update: Department of Correction on Progress Made Following Release of the Child Advocate's Report

Department of Correction Commissioner Rollin Cook was introduced to give a statement on the ongoing progress by DOC following the release of the Child Advocate's report earlier this year. Commissioner Cook expressed DOC's commitment to improving upon the conditions of confinement in their juvenile facilities as well as their desire to providing updates to the JJPOC when needed. After his statement, Commissioner Cook introduced Dr. Craig Burns and Dr. Meleney Scudder for their presentation on mental health services at Manson Youth Institution (MYI).

From January – March of 2019 anywhere from 34-38% of juveniles at MYI were receiving mental health services on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. It was noted that this number does not include those participating in Restorative Justice circles, receiving addiction services or participating in any of DOC's regular programming. Between January and March, a majority of the mental health referrals were coming from health services or MYI staff.

At intake, juveniles receive a mental health assessment by a licensed professional. One of the assessments that is administered is the Connecticut Trauma Screen (CTS), which identifies youth who are at elevated risk for mental health problems. It is at this time they receive a DSM-V



diagnosis and can be referred for further assessment. If needed, juveniles may be admitted to the infirmary. 6 juveniles were admitted to the infirmary between January to March of 2019.

Mental Health groups are available at MYI. Some of the groups that are offered include anger management, mood disorders, trauma education and adjustment disorders. From January to March, there was a total of 29 mental health group meetings.

MYI also administers a Suicide Risk Assessment that covers history of self-harming behaviors, acute/chronic risk factors, and current risk. MYI is committed participating in the national Zero Suicide Initiative.

In an effort to improve upon staffing, mental health staff at MYI are no longer providing care to the entirety of Cheshire Correctional Institution as of January 2, 2019. In addition, an additional LPC was hired in February. To further understand their juvenile population's awareness of mental health services and receive feedback, the mental health team at MYI conducted a survey. Most respondents said they were "mostly satisfied" with the overall number of services provided and rated these services as "fair" or "good" in quality. All but 1 juvenile were able to properly identify their mental health clinician. Juveniles were also asked to respond which groups they would like more of and the most popular responses were circles and music therapy. In the future MYI is hoping to increase family engagement and will provide mental health brochures to all juveniles admitted.

After the presentation the members of the JJPOC thanked Dr. Burns and Dr. Scudder for their presentation and engaged in a discussion. One of the topics that was discussed was working on eliminating the stigma behind a mental health diagnosis. A concern is that juveniles may not be coming forward with potential problems due to fear or repercussions from their peers.

JJPOC Work Group 2019 Updates

Mr. Carbone then introduced Honorable Judge Bernadette Conway and Christine Rapillo, co-chairs of the Incarceration Work Group for their 2019 work plan. The work plan includes an exploratory study for the removal of youth from Manson/York with assistance from the Center for Children's Law & Policy, the creation of a definition for room confinement, the creation of a Youth in Custody Bill of Rights and the increase of family access and knowledge of ombudsman/woman.

Erica Bromley, co-chair of the Diversion Work Group, provided their 2019 work plan. The plan includes the removal of Family with Service Needs (FWSN) referrals out of juvenile court jurisdiction, refining the community response to truancy/defiance of school rules, and right sizing the system by raising the lower age of juvenile court jurisdiction.

Hector Glynn, co-chair of the Racial & Ethnic Disparity Work Group, provided their 2019 work plan. The plan includes information gathering to understand decision making points in the juvenile system as well as presentations from law enforcement, YSBs/JRBS, the Prosecutor's Office



and the Commission on Racial & Ethnic Disparities. The work group is also closely working with the Center for Children's Law & Policy.

Eleanor Michael and Brian Hill, co-chairs of the Cross-Agency Data Sharing Work Group, provided their 2019 work plan. The plan includes the facilitation of the Auto Theft Subcommittee, data support for all Workgroups and the Council for State Governments project and the collection and reporting of yearly data listed in the Strategic Plan.

Next Meeting: June 20th, 2019 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