



JJPOC Meeting Minutes

June 20th, 2019

2:00PM

1E

Attendance:

Abby Anderson	Derrick Gordon	Ken Mysogland	Sen. Gary Winfield
Erica Bromley	Susan Hamilton	Josh Perry	TYJI Staff:
Francis Carino	Steven Hernandez	Marc Pelka	William Carbone
Hon. Judge Patrick Carroll	Brian Hill	Natasha Pierre	Danielle Cooper
Hon. Judge Bernadette Conway	John Holland	Rep. Robyn Porter	Susan Cusano
Rollin Cook	Mickey Kramer	Christine Rapillo	Rashanda McCollum
Tais Ericson	Sen. George Logan	Janeen Reid	Erika Nowakowski
Glen Peterson	Melissa McCaw	Gary Roberge	Kelly Orts
Eulalia Garcia	Eleanor Michael	Stacy Schulman	Donna Pfrommer
Hector Glynn	Derrick Molden	Martha Stone	Alex Scranton

Secretary Melissa McCaw called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Secretary McCaw asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes of May 16th, 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 has been passed in both the House and the Senate and is currently awaiting the signature of Governor Lamont. Some of the major highlights include authorizing a study on how other states currently incarcerate their transferred youth. The Bill also calls for the Judicial Branch and the Department of Correction to adopt best practices and policy in regard to the areas of solitary confinement, chemical agent, prone restraint, and suicide and self-harming ideations. After highlighting the remaining key parts of HB 7389, Mr. Carbone then reviewed the agenda for today's meeting.

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

Department of Correction (DOC) 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 also informed the committee that Manson Youth Institution (MYI) was introducing new programs for the juveniles including:

- Unlock Your Thinking- encourages the youth to think how feeling-based distortions can interfere productive communication
- Voices- designed to broaden the youths' understanding of the impact their crime(s) have on their victims.
- Embracing Fatherhood- working with fathers and expecting fathers
- Music Production Program- using new Mac computer technology
- Re-Entry Programs- focus on preparing them for employment, money management and building positive relationships

Along with the new programs, MYI is working to enhance their anger management, circles and addiction services programs. Commissioner Cook also announced that the department was approved to hire 10 substitute teachers so that school would not be cancelled when the regular school teachers are not able to attend.

Commissioner Cook expressed Manson's dedication to improving their mentorships with the youth. The mentors come from various places including nonprofits, universities, department staff and formerly incarcerated individuals. Family Day at MYI was a success with over 40 family members in attendance. All youth are now eligible for contact visits and a new incentive program is currently being designed that will reward the youth for positive behavioral interventions as well as progress in school, programming, etc.

The members of the JJPOC thanked Commissioner Cook for his presentation.

Update: JJPOC Education Committee

Mr. Carbone then introduced Representative Robyn Porter and Attorney Josh Perry, co-chairs of the Education Committee, for an update on the committee's progress. The Education Committee is under a legislative mandate in accordance to PA 18-31 to propose a comprehensive set of improvements for the education of youth in out-of-home care in the juvenile justice system. Some of the challenges include ensuring that there is a continuity of educational services provided to youth as they navigate through the juvenile system. In only a handful of months, a juvenile may have placements in detention, a hardware secure facility, and a staff-secure facility which makes it even harder to provide the continuous educational services that the juvenile needs.

By January 1, 2020 the committee must propose a single, integrated system for delivering education to youth in the justice system, including the designation of a single, responsible state agency. There must also be a quality assurance system and transitional supports put into place by that same date.

The membership of the Education Committee is made up of representatives from state agencies, such as DOC and the State Department of Education, school districts, such as New Haven and



Hartford, and nonprofits, such as the Center for Children’s Advocacy. There are currently three separate working groups in the Committee; infrastructure, quality control and transitions. Each of the groups is focused on one of the main deliverables that is required by January 1, 2020. In addition, Peter Leone from the University of Maryland has been contracted as a consultant to help with the project.

So far, the Committee has begun to collect data and materials, visit detention/incarceration facilities, hold presentations, explore out-of-state models and initiate the development of proposals for committee approval.

Presentation: Engaging Youth and Families for Juvenile Justice Reform

Secretary McCaw then introduced Dr. Steven Hoffer, a professor at Southern Connecticut State University, for his presentation on Engaging Youth and Families for Juvenile Justice Reform.

As part of the presentation, Dr. Hoffer talked about 5 characteristics of family engagement. The 5 characteristics were treating families with dignity and respect, peer-to-peer supports, partnership, communication/information sharing and sustained participation. Along with these 5 characteristics for maintaining family engagement, Dr. Hoffer also emphasized the concepts of warmth, genuineness, empathy, acceptance and support as key concepts for engaging youth.

Dr. Hoffer addressed the importance of avoiding any shaming behaviors when working with youth and their families. These behaviors include constant negative suspicion, ridicule, labeling, condemnation and ignoring.

In settings where youth are in placement, aspects of Restorative Justice have the power to engage youth by giving them a voice. When implementing restorative practices, Dr. Hoffer recommends identifying key staff who have trust, credibility and positive relationships with not only youth but other staff as well. When designing the practices, a multicultural and caring approach needs to be considered that accounts for gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc. Most importantly, it is critical to solicit feedback from the youth themselves.

In conclusion, Dr. Hoffer stated that the key take-home points of the conversation include talking with youth and families as partners, including youth at every stage possible to enhance their recovery, the avoidance of any and all shaming behaviors, using alliance skills and constant evaluation of what we are currently doing. After the presentation, the members of the JJPOC thanked Dr. Hoffer for his presentation and engaged in a discussion.

Update: Workgroup to Integrate Community Voice

William Carbone then introduced Janeen Reid and Abby Anderson, co-chairs of the Workgroup to Integrate Community Voice for their update on the workgroup’s progress. Per the 2019-2021



JJPOC Strategic Plan, the Workgroup to Integrate Community Voice has been identified to suggest ways to overcome the barriers to equal, sustainable participation with JJPOC work by those who have firsthand experience with the JJ system.

The workgroup includes young people with current or prior juvenile justice system involvement, parents/guardians and family of those with system involvement, victims of offenses committed by juveniles, those who live in communities with high rates of juvenile arrests and other community experts.

As part of JJPOC's commitment to incorporate youth, family and community voice to their work, several youth, family and community members spoke during the meeting to voice their opinion concerning the very important work that the JJPOC engages in.

In addition to participating in this presentation, youth, parents and community members, as well as the JJPOC members, were invited to an event following the JJPOC meeting. This event will provide members of the JJPOC an opportunity to interact on a personal level with those who have lived experiences with the juvenile system.

Next Meeting: July 18th, 2019 2:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.

*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