

**Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee
November 13, 2014**

Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee Minutes

Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Legislative Office Building, Room 1E Hartford, CT

Members Present: *Rep. Toni Walker (Co-Chair), Secretary Ben Barnes (Co-Chair), Sen. Gary Holder-Winfield, , Sen. Rob Kane, , Judge Patrick Carroll, Erica Bromley (CYSA), , Hector Glynn, Martha Stone (Center for Children’s Advocacy), Joseph D’Alesio (Superior Court Operations), Christine Rapillo (Chief Public Defender), Francis Carino (Chief State Attorney’s Office), Dr. Linda Dixon (DCF), John Alves (Warden DOC), Derrick Gordon (Yale University), Mickey Kramer representing Sarah Eagan (Child Advocate), Sen. Gayle Slossberg, Barbara Richard representing Loel Meckel (DMHAS), Judge Bernadette Conway, Stephen Grant(CSSD), John Frassinelli(SDE),Rep. Dante Bartolomeo, William H. Carbone (UNH TYJI), Jeanne Milstein (UNH TYJI), Kendell Coker, PhD (UNH TYJI) DiJonee Talley (UNH TYJI), Chloe Williams (UNH TYJI)*

MINUTES

Representative Walker called the meeting to order at approximately 2:10 P.M.

I. WELCOME

Rep. Walker and Secretary Ben Barnes, Co-Chairs, welcomed committee members to meeting. Rep. Walker made a motion to approve minutes from October 16, 2014 meeting. Motion was seconded. Unanimous approval.

II. PRESENTATION: Tow Youth Justice Institute Presentation

William H. Carbone of the University of New Haven, Tow Youth Justice Institute (TYJI) gave a progress report on items that have been accomplished:

- Recidivism work group unanimously agreed upon common definition
- Agencies have designated single point of contact
- 70 reports from state agencies have been reviewed and TYJI staff summarized findings and major themes
- All work groups have been established and first meetings have been scheduled
- Data was requested regarding impact of Raise the Age and will be provided within the next few weeks

Mr. Carbone identified that the Institute has been reviewing and working toward requirements for July 2015 report.



III. Recidivism Work Group Update

Jeanne Milstein thanked co-chair Dr. Jim Isenberg and members of the work group reporting that a common definition of recidivism was developed:

New criminal activity (arrest) by a juvenile offender with a prior conviction after a specified point in the system;

- After conviction
- After commitment to DCF and/.or parole
- After completion of commitment and/or parole including transitions into adult system

Ms. Milstein indicated that next steps include:

- Reviewing availability and access to data
- Determining the length of time for tracking youth
- Developing protocol to track the “former” population prior to Raise the Age
- Developing a process to include status offenders and JRB participants as separate cohorts for analysis
- Determining other indicators in addition to recidivism, to measure outcomes, i.e. well-being

Rep. Walker thanked the work group and asked if definitions from other states were reviewed to help determine this definition. Ms. Milstein indicated that the definition was based on academic and national research. Abby Anderson added that the definition is modeled after one recommended by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Attorney Martha Stone recommended that two additional next steps be included:

- Analyze recidivism data broken down by race and ethnicity and determine any patterns of DMC
- Analyze recidivism data, breaking out the data for youth who are committed to DCF for child welfare

IV. Review of Reports

Dr. Coker reported his method of reviewing the reports included a guidepost that came directly from the statute, which includes the following:

- Improving public safety
- Promoting the best interest of children
- Improving transparency and accountability
- Promoting efficient information sharing
- Defining recidivism
- Short, medium, and long term goals
- Impact of Raise the Age legislation
- Educational barriers

Dr. Coker's presentation outlined barriers surrounding four major themes identified in the reports including:

A. Treatment

1. Substance Abuse and Mental Health
2. Treatment Matching
3. Family Engagement
4. Evidence-Based Practices and Accountability

B. Diversion

C. Data Sharing

Dijonée Talley reported on next steps, which include informing the work of the various work groups, identifying gaps, challenges, and making recommendations to JJPOC.

Representative Walker emphasized the importance of having a good assessment of needs so that effective treatment matching can occur. She indicated that it is important to use validated risk assessments and provide quality treatment services that address needs.

V. DCF Presentation

Dr. Linda Dixon, Mr. Steven Smith, Attorney Sarah Gibson reported on core concepts and strategies guiding the work of DCF strengthening families approach

- Best interest of the youth as overriding standard
- Risk responsivity framework to guide case planning, service matching and system design
- Adoption of Connecticut universal risk/needs tool



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- Development of data agenda
- Data dashboards developed for immediate use
- Longer term projects to build capabilities into new case management system
- Assessment of service array; mapping services
- JJ inclusion in new DCF case management system to replace LINK (DCF computer system for child welfare)
- Electronic record and data sharing with CSSD

DCF also reported on post RtA service enhancements including:

- Juvenile Review Boards
- Multi-Systemic Therapy-Problem Sexual Behavior
- Transitional living apartment program, supportive work, education and transition program/ maternity
- Summer Youth Employment
- Trauma Focus Cognitive Behavior Therapy
- Opened Multi-Dimensional Treatment Foster Care slots for youth involved with juvenile justice

There have been educational enhancements related to *Raise the Grade* including assigning coordinator to each region.

DCF reported that planned efforts are underway to address remaining challenges including:

- Workforce Development
- Training for treatment providers, foster care providers; training for group care treatment provider and DCF facilities; continue to develop a training certification package for Juvenile Justice Social Workers (JJSW); reduce police calls/arrests in congregate care settings; develop formalized guidelines for graduated responses; adopt definition of recidivism and a tracking system; crossover youth project and achieve racial justice.

Senator Holder-Winfield asked if other challenges remain. DCF indicated that there is a need to track youth for a longer period of time. Senator Holder-Winfield expressed concern about the timeline and the accuracy of the data. Rep. Walker asked DCF to describe the treatment services that are provided. DCF indicated that treatment services include mental health services and that they are looking at employment, pro-social activity, recreation, post-secondary education and treating the whole child. They are also focusing more on substance abuse.



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Rep. Walker asked that DCF provide a report that was conducted by Georgetown University and that more information be provided on specific services and expansions that are being provided to the youth. She asked for more information about how DCF is serving young parents and how families are being engaged. She requested more information on the risk assessment tool that is being used and emphasized how important it is to coordinate among State agencies and providers.

Mr. Carbone indicated that there is a project underway to work with Judicial, DCF, and CCSU to develop a new (risk assessment) tool that both Judicial and DCF can use that will complement the work that each agency is doing. The expectation is that it will gradually unfold over the next year.

V. Next Steps

- DCF will return to continue discussion of this presentation.
- Work groups will meet to establish work plans
- Status reports on Work Groups will be included at the December 11th meeting

VII. MEETING ADJOURNED

Representative Walker adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:00 p.m.

**Minutes taken by Chloe Williams of TYJI