



University of New Haven

HENRY C. LEE COLLEGE OF
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND FORENSIC SCIENCES

Tow Youth Justice Institute

JJPOC Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2015

LOB, 1E

2:00-3:30 PM

Attendance:

Rep. Toni Walker
Sen. Gary Winfield
Erica Bromley
Hector Glynn
Martha Stone
Judge Patrick Carroll
Judge Bernadette Conway
Sec. Ben Barnes

Rep. Robyn Porter
Joseph D'Alesio
Fancis Carino
Linda Dixon
Warden John Alves
John Frassinelli
Loel Meckel
Sarah Eagan

Bill Carbone
Kitty Tyrol
Kendell Coker
Jeanne Milstein
Frank Olive, III
DiJonee Talley
Sara Dudeck
Kelly Tea

Sen. Gary Winfield called the meeting to order, informing JJPOC that the co-chairs would arrive momentarily.

Rep. Toni Walker welcomed the committee and asked for a motion to accept minutes. Motion was made, seconded and minutes accepted unanimously.

Presentation: TYJI JJPOC Progress Report

Bill Carbone presented a progress report, beginning with new legislation, PA 15-183, passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor, which will go into effect October 1, 2015. The new legislation expands the JJPOC membership to include the Commissioners of Labor, Public Health and Social Services, and a chief of police from a municipality with a population in excess of 100,000 to be appointed by the president of the CT Chiefs of Police Association. In addition, the legislation expands JJPOC responsibilities that include:

- implementing a strategic plan that integrates the short-term, medium-term and long-term goals,
 - assesses the mental health and substance abuse treatment programs and services for children and youth involved with/or at risk of involvement with the juvenile justice system
 - training on the juvenile justice system for state agencies and municipal police departments
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- assess vocational educational opportunities for children and youth in the juvenile justice system until the child or youth reaches the age of twenty-one years of age
- the oversight and the reduction in the use of restraints for children and youth, and the reduction in the use of seclusion and room confinement in juvenile justice facilities
- data sharing among different agencies

Rep. Toni Walker opened discussion by asking how contractors involved in mental health services in the state of CT are being assessed and what the specific goals and success are being measures.

- Linda Dixon indicated that DCF requires data on an annual basis and that one example of measuring success is meeting a treatment goal.
- Stephen Grant stated that CSSD uses quarterly reports with expectations such as successful completion rates or reduction in recidivism. Demographics are reviewed on a quarterly basis as well.
- Rep. Toni Walker asks for the copies of the contracts be provided to JJPOC and asked Mr. Carbone to review the contracts for requirements for mental health outcomes.

Mr. Carbone stated that the TYJI is working with the Charter Oak Group to determine how to infuse (RBA) Results-Based Accountability throughout both the public and private sectors of the juvenile justice system with intention to address other indicators of effectiveness as well.

Mr. Carbone reported that the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) has submitted a grant application to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OFFDP) for a re-entry project.

- Jeanne Milstein, who coordinated the process of drafting and submitting the proposal, explained that the grant will support state and local efforts to improve outcomes and reduce recidivism. If awarded, the State of CT will receive \$100,000 to develop a one-year strategic plan. There is a potential to then receive implementation dollars of \$650,000 for 5 years. The target population is the highest risk youth in the four largest urban areas. Ms. Milstein explained that, if awarded, the state of CT will be able to build on current efforts and expedite reforms.
 - Ms. Milstein thanked Sec. Barnes, OPM, Rep. Toni Walker and all partners involved with the development of the proposal for their hard work and collaboration.
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Presentation: TYJI JJPOC Strategic Goals

Renee LaMark Muir updated the committee on the strategic goals and trend reports that were proposed in the April meeting. Ms. LaMark Muir summarized trends for each of the goals for the last ten years. She proceeded to review the target rates and strategies for increasing diversion, decreasing incarceration, and decreasing recidivism.

- Rep. Walker indicated that it is important to decrease probation and paroles violations and believes that this reduction will have a significant impact on reducing recidivism
- Sec. Barnes stated that the goals of increasing diversion by 20%, decreasing recidivism by 10% and decreasing incarceration by 20% are reasonable goals, but that other goals should also be explored.
- Members of the JJPOC will review the goals and discuss at the July meeting. Mr. Carbone also stated that the TYJI will recommend a reconfiguration of JJPOC work-groups in order to address the goals.

Rep. Walker and Sec. Barnes exit the meeting.

Presentation: CCSU/IMRP and Pew Results First Initiative on Cost-Benefit Analysis

Andrew Clark, director of IMRP at CCSU, and Steve Lize, Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative consultant, presented on Cost/Benefit Analysis by explaining the analysis methodology for programs designed to reduce recidivism. Mr. Lize stated that the IMRP is building an inventory of all the programs that are evidence-based and are reviewing how they are delivered in CT. The goal will be to show the programs' impact on recidivism. The model will show the cost and the net benefit for each of these programs and is compatible with the goals of the committee's plan, as presented. Steve Lize also explained that the drug court and scared-straight program shown in the Powerpoint presentation only show that they have a research base but does not mean these programs are evidence-based with positive results. However, Steve Lize indicated that the drug court and scared straight programs are not offered in Connecticut.

Presentation: Center for Children's Advocacy on Education

Mr. Carbone thanked them for their presentation and introduced Martha Stone and Leon Smith from the Center for Children's Advocacy (CCA).

Martha Stone and Leon Smith presented information on the study of educational strengths and barriers facing children in the juvenile justice system. They explained that they purposely use the word “students” because they are referring to children and youth who go to school. While involved in the juvenile justice system. Ms. Stone summarized the scope of work being done by CCA and explained the Raise the Grade legislation that was passed 2 years ago.

- Attorney Smith explained the disproportionate discipline based on race, education needs, and social economic status and the link found between the school system and entry into the juvenile justice system. He also stated that there is very little data on the achievement of students in the juvenile system and showed the CMT and CAPT data compared to the state average.
- Attorney Stone emphasized the importance of youth voice in education issues. She presented a report card of a student with failing grades every semester and how s/he was still promoted to the next grade. Attorney Stone reported that many students are changing schools multiple times in a year. She reported that each time a student moves from foster home to foster home, and/or detention and back again to the community or back in care, it is an educational disruption.
- Additionally, Attorney Stone shared where data is lacking, such as level of chronic absenteeism, grade level performance, role of youth and parent voice, and the history of suspensions and expulsions.
- Attorney Smith reviewed the various points in the juvenile justice system where students meet barriers and disruption in school. Ms. Stone also summarized the reports that are forthcoming
- Rep. Porter stated that if our students are failing, the State is failing. It is critical to identify ways to redesign the system to promote success
- Sarah Eagan has indicated interest in conducting a needs assessment and analysis of students who receive home-bound services and the outcomes for the youth. Attorney Eagan is also interested in learning about overlap with the juvenile justice population.

The next meeting is July 16, 2015.
Meeting Adjourned.
