



JJPOC Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2016

2:00 P.M.

Hearing Room 2B

Attendance:

Rep. Toni Walker

Sec. Ben Barnes

Rep. Robyn Porter

Sen. Gary Winfield

Sen. Danté Bartolomeo

Sen. John Kissel

Erica Bromley

Abby Anderson

Hector Glynn

Martha Stone, J.D.

Hon. Judge Patrick Carroll

Hon. Judge Bernadette Conway

Stephen Grant

Christine Rapillo

Commissioner Joette Katz

Linda Dixon, Ph.D.

Warden John Alves

John Frassinelli

Francis Carino

Derrick Gordon, Ph.D.

John Finkle

Sarah Eagan, J.D.

Shawn Rutchick

Cheryl Jacques

Scott Jackson

Senator Joe Markley

Deborah Stevenson, J.D.

TYJI Staff:

Kitty Tyrol

Jim Isenberg, Ph.D.

Kendell Coker, Ph.D., J.D.

Aissa Lugo

Consultants:

Jeanne Milstein

Laura Downs

Representative Toni Walker called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the February 18, 2016 meeting. There was a motion and the minutes passed unanimously.

Planning consultant for the Tow Youth Justice Institute (TYJI), Laura Downs, stood in for William Carbone during the March 17, 2016 meeting providing an update on progress and introducing presenters.

Jeanne Milstein provided the committee with an update on the JJPOC legislation, bill, **House Bill 5642: An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Policy Oversight Committee** that was released the morning of March 17, 2016. The TYJI will send the draft bill to members electronically.

Ms. Milstein informed members that a public hearing will be held on March 23, 2016 beginning at 10:30 a.m. in Hearing Room 1C to provide an opportunity for people to present comments, concerns, and feedback regarding HB 5642. Ms. Milstein also suggested that people contact her with their feedback regarding the drafted bill so that such feedback can be consolidated prior to the hearing. After the public hearing, Rep. Walker and Secretary Ben Barnes will set up a process for going forward with further discussion about the bill.



Rep. Walker has been in contact with Senator Eric D. Coleman to discuss some of the errors that have been identified in the bill and reiterated that the March 23, 2016 public hearing is a good time to discuss draft issues. In order to participate in the drafting of the bill, information should be submitted to the judiciary committee and Senator Coleman. Those interested in working with Senator Coleman are asked to contact Rep. Walker.

In order to get some of the issues resolved on the bill, Secretary Barnes would like to have a small working group come together. The final bill will then be sent out to everyone.

Senator Danté Bartolomeo and Attorney Deborah Stevenson raised concerns regarding recommendations being put forth into the bill without further discussion or consideration of making amendments as was their understanding at the time of voting. Time constraints precluded the opportunity to schedule discussions or amendments prior to drafting the bill.

Senator Gary Winfield added that due to legislative time lines/deadlines, the appropriate time to bring about concerns is at the March 23 public hearing, emphasizing that this bill will be a “work in progress” and that the draft should not be looked at as the final bill because it still needs to go through the legislative process.

UPDATE: Plan to Close Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS)

Deputy Commissioner Fernando Muníz gave an update on the DCF plan to close CJTS. Specifically, he explained that they have been engaging in an inclusive process by getting national and local stakeholder input. They are looking at national models and resources as well as local providers and services to assist and inform plans. Particular consideration is being focused on community based needs for vocational programs. There is a demand for parole services as well as community services to be strengthened. Transportation and travel also pose challenges. Although education systems are participating, no discussions have occurred yet with local Boards of Education.

UPDATE: Research Studies Scopes

Of the three research projects presented during the February 18, 2016 meeting, two have been cleared with state agencies. The Pre- and Post- Raise the Age Assessment of Community-Based Programs as well as Phase 2 of the Congregate Care Study will be moving forward. The third research proposal regarding Mental Health and Trauma Among Youth in Secure Confinement is still in progress. Additional information regarding the Mental Health and Trauma Among Youth in Secure Confinement research proposal will be discussed during the April 21, 2016 meeting.

UPDATE: Incarceration Work Group

Honorable Judge Bernadette Conway reported for the Incarceration Workgroup and their specific focus on Manson Youth Institution (MYI). The workgroup is requesting additional time to continue discussion regarding circumstances for youth ages 15-17 at MYI and are anticipating that it may take until September to bring forth further recommendations. Additional time is needed to research whether our state’s present statutory scheme and court practice(s) optimally handle the 15-17 year olds charged with serious felonies. The Incarceration Workgroup now needs to



evaluate the impact upon the child defendant, crime victim and to the community at large. In addition, the workgroup intends to look into what other states have done to remove 18-year-olds from the adult prison system as well as researching blending sentencing structures and improved outcomes. The Incarceration Workgroup also plans to address whether pre adjudicated offenders should be housed with convicted offenders and whether the charge offense should be the determinate factor triggering the automatic transfer of cases to the adult court and the adult prison system. Lastly, the Incarceration Workgroup will look at contemplating scenarios in which juvenile court would or should retain jurisdiction of transferrable offenses.

DISCUSSION:

Discussion turned to the pending HB 5642, its contents and requirements in certain sections, and the process of moving forward, revising the bill, the public hearing and the legislative process as well as concerns by JJPOC members.

Commissioner Joette Katz raised concerns regarding a number of items included in the bill that were not voted on and that will result in an enormous cost to the agency. Commissioner Katz also raised an objection to language in Section 8 of HB 5642 pertaining to the DCF and the closing of CJTS.

Francis Carino raised concerns regarding Section 10 of HB 5642 in that it does not accurately reflect what was discussed within the Diversion Workgroup. The recommendation of removing truancy that came out of the Diversion Workgroup but was contingent upon CYFS programs being available statewide and this is not included in the bill language.

Christine Rapillo and Secretary Barnes both emphasized the importance of moving forward with the bill suggesting that there be a group to work on and fine-tune the content of the bill and then the bill still has to go through the legislative process.

Rep. Walker suggested that people participate in a smaller group so that all members do not have to attend an additional meeting next week and that interested individuals contact Jeanne Milstein or Laura Downs.

Rep. Walker called for a motion to move forward with HB 5642. The motion was moved and seconded. A hand vote was requested; the motion passed with six committee members opposed this Motion.

The Committee also voted on continuing the study and report of the Incarceration Workgroup and moving forward with what was presented. The decision to move forward was unanimous.



PRESENTATION: Implementation Plan for Results Based Accountability (RBA) for JJPOC Goals and Strategies and for the Juvenile Justice System

The RBA Implementation Plan was created by The Charter Oak Group, LLC., in conjunction with a working group of agency, provider, and advocate stakeholders. The report was distributed electronically prior to the meeting and Ronald Schack, Ph.D. gave a PowerPoint presentation on the overview of the RBA Implementation Plan and its intent.

Dr. Schack emphasized that the framework of the RBA Implementation Plan is a comprehensive measurement framework that works at both a population level measuring community impact as well as at a performance level for particular programs. The implementation plan also measures the impact of services on youth using a “broad operational definition system [and] program performance measures.”

The program offers a menu of measures relating to each of the three specific JJPOC goals. The types of measures include: (1) Population Indicators; (2) System Performance Measures; and (3) Common Program Performance Measures.

Dr. Schack discussed RBA in conjunction with the Results First Approach, which focuses primarily on identifying the best practices along with the application of cost-benefit and return on investment measures. The presentation included an RBA Implementation Timeline and a section addressing the expectations from the “Initial Plan Implementation.”

PRESENTATION: Housing Instability and Juvenile Justice

The Presentation Housing Instability and Juvenile Justice will be held at the April 21, 2016 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.