



University of New Haven

HENRY C. LEE COLLEGE OF
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND FORENSIC SCIENCES



JJPOC Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2017

2:00PM

2B

Attendance:

Rep. Toni Walker
John Holland
Abby Anderson
Erica Bromley
Hector Glynn
Martha Stone, JD
Hon. Judge Patrick Carroll
Stephen Grant
Scott Jackson
Gary Winfield
Derrick Gordon
Hon. Judge Bernadette Conway

Natalie Wagner
John Finkle
Robyn Porter
Natasha Pierre
Sarah Eagan
Christine Rappillo
Linda Dixon, Ph.D.
Francis Carino
Brian Hill
John Frassinelli

TYJ Staff:

William Carbone
Erika Nowakowski
Kitty Tyrol
Donna Pfrommer
Susan Cusano
Kendell Coker
Danielle Cooper
Joshua Perry
Devon McCormick

Rep. Toni Walker called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Rep. Walker asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes of December 15, 2016 (November 17th minutes previously approved). The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Rep. Walker thanked Erika and members of the Tow Institute for all their work in putting the Recommendations Report together.

Update on Progress

William Carbone, from the Tow Youth Justice Institute at the University of New Haven, introduced Josh Perry who will be assisting with the JJPOC work groups over the next few months and Devon McCormick who will be working with some of the alliance school districts in the state to infuse restorative justice practices in the schools as a way of reducing arrests, expulsions and suspensions.

Mr. Carbone explained the main purpose of today’s meeting is to present the workgroup reports for consideration and adoption. Four sets of recommendations will be presented. Mr. Carbone introduced the first workgroup, Diversion, and spoke about what it is and its importance.

2017 Work Group Recommendations

Diversion Workgroup

Erica Bromley and John Frassinelli spoke on behalf of the Diversion workgroup as the co-chairs and presented their recommendations to the committee. They reported on the Community Based Diversion System Plan. She noted this is the product of an entire group and does not represent any particular agency or organization.

Rec# 1- Implementation of the Community-Based Diversion Plan

Question was raised regarding the 3 million dollars and what it will and will not pay for. Erica stated they looked at how YSB's were funded in the past and also looked at population. It was a combination of a formula and population.

Population based, and in addition, creating a need for case management for additional cases coming in, as well as administrative costs that go along with that. Combine both the administrative core functions along with the direct service piece regarding case management and additional cases coming in. This was based on population.

Erica confirmed to Senator Winfield that the 3 million dollars is in addition to the 2.5 million dollars.

Erica responded to Natalie Wagner's question regarding System Responsibilities. The 3 million dollars does not include training programs listed under recommendations. Those system capacities are more facilitation and coordination opposed to being the ones providing the actual training.

Natalie Wagner confirmed 2.5 million dollars is fiscal year 2017.

Natalie Wagner asked about enhancements to the YSB's. Erica Bromley explained there are two funding streams, entitlement and enhancement. Enhancement was an added line item about 10 years ago and is approximately \$625,000 which is just for enhancement of services. It was created in a separate line item outside of the formula because entitlement is based on formula.

Erica confirmed to Rep. Walker that the municipalities will not match the 3 million dollars. The current funding is 100% matched. This would be additional funds.

Rep. Walker asked about the 144 towns that are in YSB's. The percentage of the juvenile justice population that is represented is unknown, but Erica will look into this.

Rep. Walker noted with Diversion, we would be able to identify savings in the system. Erica replied based on the amount of time they had to come up with the plan, they were not able to come up with a cost analysis.

John Finkle expressed his concerns about what ability the local community will have unless they provide the funding for it because services have been cut. Erica explained there are a few communities that don't have a youth service bureau system. Some funding has been put aside for those communities.

Rec #2- Collaboration with the Behavioral Health Plan Implementation Advisory Board

John Frassinelli started discussion. The Behavioral Health Plan was created by Public Act 13-178 in response to the Sandy Hook tragedy and directed DCF to

include strategies to prevent and reduce the long term negative impact of mental, emotional and behavioral health issues on children. This recommendation pulls together both the Diversion work group and the Behavioral Health Plan Implementation Advisory group to see how we are working together to make sure both of these systems work effectively to meet the needs of kids.

Rep. Walker questioned the financial mapping. Erica noted it is in progress through the Children's Behavior Health Plan Advisory Board and should be completed in October.

Rec #3-Removal of the remaining Family with Service Needs Categories

John explained this recommendation identifies the remaining FWSN categories and decriminalizes them.

Erica explained the yearly timeline was created to lay out what the expectation would be for all the recommendations.

John thanked the Diversion workgroup, members of the planned writing subgroup and Laura Downs for all their time and hard work.

Dr. Gordon questioned whether the integration of physical health into the plan was considered. John agreed this is an excellent recommendation and it should be considered.

Martha Stone supports the recommendations. She expressed her concern over the justice reinvestment issue. This plan gives a lot of the infrastructure to the YSBs and doesn't do much for the service delivery capacity.

Abby Anderson is in agreement with Martha, Erica and the Diversion committee. Conversations should continue with the Diversion group and the Behavioral Health Advisory Board.

Mr. Carbone noted part of the Diversion system is to divert the status offenders, but many of the kids who will come into the system are not status offenders. Most have committed minor offenses which will end with arrest and into the court. Mr. Carbone urged the adoption of these recommendations.

Rep. Walker thanked John, Erica and their team. She has concerns regarding mapping and the need to know where we are in some of these services. We need to have coordination. We cannot allocate a dollar amount to anything unless we can identify the savings that would be shifting. This is critical. Have to do the reinvestment. The issue of children having to get into the criminal justice system to get mental health services must be addressed.

Incarceration Workgroup

Mr. Carbone introduced the Incarceration Workgroup. The area where we have made the greatest progress in terms of reducing incarceration in our state.

The Honorable Bernadette Conway spoke on behalf of Senator Winfield and the Incarceration Work Group as the co-chair and presented their recommendations to the committee.

Rec #1 – Collaborate with the Children's Behavioral Health Plan Implementation Advisory Board

JJPOC collaboration with the Children's Behavioral Health Plan Implementation

Advisory Board to identify the elements of the behavioral health service array that are most appropriate for addressing the mental health and substance use needs of children diverted or released from detention and the costs associated with enhancing identified system components, policies and procedures.

Medicaid dollars – look for savings to help cover the expenses.

Rec #2 – Confinement of 15 to 17 year-olds

Bill Carbone discussed policy advances – housing of the 15, 16, 17 year olds that are currently at Manson. Making sure kids are housed in an age appropriate facility, not based upon the court in which their case was processed. DCF has brought the population down at CJTS. Enormous progress has been made. Recommendation 6 suggests we look at state owned buildings for renovation to replace CJTS. 35-50 secure beds needed. Vinnie's advice about the Four R's – state should follow this approach. Reduce the population, reform the system through programmatic and practice changes that have the strength of research behind them, replace prisons with smaller, non- correctional programs that focus on behavior change & reinvest a portion of the monies for things like the diversion system and the career pathway system.

Sarah Eagan expressed her appreciation for all the work in preparing this report. Secure care should be examined through a look at the identified needs of the youth that have been confined, capacity of the system to respond to those needs now and what we might want to change to be confident we are meeting the needs of the youth.

Rec #3 - CJTS Closure Plan Goal 6

Abby Anderson would still like to look at the data. Many of the white youth do not come into CJTS which raises some concerns about racial and ethnic justice as well as judicial decision making. We should also look at which courts the youth are coming from that are being committed to DCF.

Natalie Wagner commented on the relationship between Rec. 2 and Rec. 3. Does moving youth out of DOC go into DCF custody – seems to be contemplated by Rec. 2. She recommends there be a change to Rec. 3 to say that whatever planning is going on currently regarding CJTS should be taken into account Rec. 2.

Hector Glynn – question of reinvestment. Recommends the Incarceration group look at the entire continuum.

Rep Walker expressed concerned about the idea that we mix populations. Need to stay focus on each population individually.

Judge Conway thanked members of the workgroup.

Recidivism Workgroup

Mr. Carbone introduced the Recidivism Work Group.

Christine Rapillo spoke on behalf of Hector Glynn and the Recidivism Work Group as the co-chair and presented their recommendations to the committee.

Rec #1 – Career Pathway System

It is recommended that effective August 15, 2018, the JJPOC in collaboration with the CSDE and the CT Technical High School System implement a Career Pathway System for justice involved youth. This system should look to improve vocational and educational outcomes for justice involved youth and include a focus to impact their ability to succeed.

A cost benefits analysis of vocational educational programs of the 2016 and 2017 FY to be submitted to JJPOC on January 1 2018.

An implementation plan that includes cost options shall be submitted to the JJPOC by January 1 2018.

Rec #2 - Recidivism Annual Reports to JJPOC by DCF, Judicial Branch, and DOC

Rep. Walker noted the needs of the youth in the system need to be addressed and data must be presented to collectively work together to address these needs. Thanked workgroup for their recommendations.

Christine Rapillo noted there is a lot of data out there, but it hasn't been collected in a way that makes it easy for people to search for it and produce it. Before they can use the data, they have to do a better job at processing it.

Hector Glynn agrees there is a great deal of data which is collected but if the data isn't used, it becomes more of a burden than a tool that can be used for policy and decision making.

Rep. Walker stressed that many of the meetings are focused on the inability to use or collect data. We need specific data in order to make sound decisions on legislation.

Linda Dixon commented on how much time it takes to pull information in order to create reports.

Martha Stone commented on the data collection. She has served on this community for a year and a half and the conversation still continues.

Stephen Grant suggested that the data drills are designed to generate routine regular reports throughout each agency and to the administration.

Christine Rapillo agrees with Martha's comments. The goal of the recommendations is to get to a starting point and the basic data is what they need. Going forward they will work with the data group, but first they need just basic data on the kids and recidivism in order for them to begin.

Abby Anderson also agreed with Martha's comments about where we are is unacceptable. She also agrees with Linda about how it takes a great deal of time and hours to get this information. We need to have regular monthly reports otherwise we won't be able to answer major questions about what we are doing without the data and is it working.

Natalie Wagner commented on the annual report. By requesting the specific set of data on an annual basis would cut down on the requests from Ad Hoc requests to the agencies. The agencies themselves who know best their limitations and strengths would be the ones to help come up with the work plan for data matching and data access.

Brian Hill noted there has been a significant effort on the data sharing workgroup to present some of the information included in this

recommendation. Three months ago there was a lot of work done on this and work toward reporting on the progress of the goals of this committee.

Rep. Walker closed the conversation with making sure we efficiently address the needs of the youth that are in the system. The only way we can do this is to be honest and present the data as it is in order to work together to address their needs.

Raise the Age Report

William Carbone spoke on behalf of the co-chairs of the four workgroups. The Raise the Age report that was submitted by Harvard was reviewed by the co-chairs and the following was recommended.

The workgroups did not make any specific recommendation on whether or not Raise the Age should happen. They feel this is a policy decision best made by the governor, legislators and policy makers. Our job to implement what to do.

If Raise the Age is put into law, a series of guidelines to make it successful was recommended. It would be implemented in a 4 ½ year phase-in process:

Phase-in of 18 yr old emerging adults effective October 1, 2018

Phase-in of 19 yr old emerging adults effective July 1, 2020

Phase-in of 20 yr old emerging adults effective July 1, 2021

JJPOC will continue to be involved, providing annual reports on progress.

Three recommendations in the Harvard Report:

Rec #1 – This report deals with lowering the age. Report recommends raising the age from 7 to 12.

Rec #2 – Development of a full continuum of services for the emerging adults, Harvard term for 18, 19 & 20 year olds.

Rec #3 – Reconsider the automatic transfer of 15-17 year olds.

Rep. Walker shared the decreased numbers of incarcerated youth from 2009-2017, 16 & 17 year olds started at 312, and now down to 63. The 18-21 year olds were 2,092 and are now down to 840. We are not pushing people into a system, we are reducing them touching the system.

Rep. Walker noted the dollar amount had to be removed and put in the recommendation for reinvestment of dollars we have into a system that will help in the diversion. Mr. Carbone noted the dollar amounts were removed.

Rep. Walker made a motion to accept the recommendations. Motion was moved and seconded. All in favor. Rep. Walker asked if they were any nays. Vote was unanimous.

Rep. Walker thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting: February 16, 2017, 2:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 4:04 pm.