



JJPOC Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2017

2:00PM

2B

Attendance:

Rep. Toni Walker

Abby Anderson

Erica Bromley

Martha Stone, JD

Christine Rapillo

Robyn Porter

Linda Dixon, Ph.D.

Natalie Wagner

Gary Roberge

Amy Marracino

Derrick Gordon

Brian Hill

Shawn Rutchick

Hon. Judge Bernadette Conway

Sarah Eagan

William Rosenbeck

Natasha Pierre

Carolyn Treiss

John Frassinelli

Deborah Stevenson

TYJ Staff:

William Carbone

Erika Nowakowski

Kitty Tyrol

Donna Pfrommer

Susan Cusano

Co-chair Natalie Wagner called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Co-chair Wagner asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes of January 19, 2017. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Update on Progress

William Carbone, from the Tow Youth Justice Institute at the University of New Haven, reviewed the agenda for today's meeting.

Mr. Carbone spoke about the Leadership Institute at the University of New Haven. Fifteen individuals graduated in December which included middle level managers from police departments, DCF, Judicial Department, state agencies and local agencies. The purpose of this program is to prepare future reformers for the juvenile justice system. The second Leadership Institute will begin spring 2017. More than thirty-five applications have been received. The nine-month institute will be a concentration on teaching how to develop leadership among people, how to help them to work across different systems, teach them about best practices, look at evidence, how to develop systems of accountability and will end with a capstone project that gives them the chance to take a real issue in juvenile justice and plan around it and submit a proposal.

Mr. Carbone spoke of House Bill No. 7286, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the JJPOC. There will be a public hearing held on Monday, March 20, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. in the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, Room 2C. This bill represents the work of the JJPOC over the past year.

Other items included in the agenda for this meeting is a Census trend report of confinement within the state facilities, the two CT detention Centers, Manson Youth, and CJTS for 2016. DCF



will also give an update on the recommendation that was made in January about the closure of CJTS. Workgroup co-chairs will report on their plans and we will hear a presentation by Judicial and DCF on the Detention Diversion Release Plan.

Reports

Census of Juveniles in Facilities

Department of Corrections – Mary Lansing

Reported on the quarterly, average, daily population of the Manson Youth institution under 18 years of age from 2015-2017. This does not include 14 year olds. The trend has gone down to 62 average total under 18 in the 4th quarter of 2016. This number is down from 81 average the first quarter 2015. This report includes pre-trial as well as sentenced inmates at Manson. It does not include the female population. Thirty are pre-trial and the remaining are sentenced.

CSSD- Deb Fuller

Detention numbers are down about 30%. Juvenile detention population has declined rapidly. The grounds for detention have been restricted; only hold a child that has been charged with a crime and brought to court or if they presented a risk to public safety or a risk of not appearing in court or for a court appointment. A risk screen instrument was developed and has been implemented since January 1st 2017. It is too early to predict impact of this new process. January is generally one of the lowest months for detention population and goes up in the summer. Population today is 42; 29 in Bridgeport and 13 in Hartford. No racial breakdown available at this time. Abby Anderson is interested in finding out if there was any impact gender wise. Deb Fuller noted it will be looked into. They are not currently staffed for the full number of detention beds.

DCF - Bill Rosenbeck

There has been a 50% further reduction at CJTS. Higher admission during the first quarter this year at 51 youth at CJTs; 2016 had 47 males. Jan, Feb and March had approx. 52 youth at CJTS.

Twenty-three of the kids are new commitments; 16 parole admissions, 12 kids from congregate care, (1 from detention, 1 from Manson, 3 from CJR, 2 from Waterford, 1 from Rushford, 1 from Boys and Girls Village, 1 from Harmony Hills, 1 from Windsor House & 1 from Anchorage House).

Bill Carbone noted ways in which we are different than New York. The assessment is done by a system to determine what the correct placement is and New York does not have the right of refusal by the private non-profit.

We have to build right of refusal into decision making.

Kathy Foley-Geib, Assistant Director of Juvenile Family Services, CSSD noted if a child was acting out in a disruptive manner, and it was not safe for the staff or the other children in that facility, they would be put in a state detention center. Children get matched to the treatment programs based on their needs. Very rarely are the kids arrested in their programs, but may be sent back to detention for reassessment.

Bill Rosenbeck noted at DCF, in most cases, the kids are not getting arrested at the facility.



Abby Anderson inquired about the number of girls who are in a locked facility. Bill Rosenbeck did not have this number, but will supply this information at the next meeting.

Martha Stone explained if a child didn't have a family, the provider wouldn't take the child. How can a residential refuse to take a kid if the family won't be involved? Bill Rosenbeck noted there is only one provider that requires a family that will work with the child. Family work will continue at home. To be successful you need to have a family that will commit to that. Linda Dixon explained family is described as a discharge resource. It doesn't have to be the biological family; it can be someone the youth is going to live with post discharge.

Bill Carbone noted The Journey House model is the closest we have come to the New York model.

DCF Update

Bill Rosenbeck indicated RFI should be released by next week. It will be released to all states. Commissioner's office has not gone forward with the independent review of the population estimates at CJTS. Commissioner Katz is looking at every single case that comes into CJTS.

Abby Anderson finds the decision by the commissioner's office troubling. She went on to say experts need to come in and look at how we can make the numbers better at CJTS. Kids should be in secure care when they are at risk in the community. She is not happy with the number of kids at CJTS. Bill noted they are not satisfied with their numbers. Mr. Carbone noted the intention of the independent review was to take a look at the population and see if there are groups of kids for whom there are some other type of residential placement.

Rep. Walker expressed her concern about the number of kids that have touched CJTS that go on to other incarceration. This is a child that has not done anything violent, they are just acting out. Kids need a gentler approach; they are scared, lost and have not been supported in the development they need. Group homes are a better facility when working with kids.

Sarah Eagan asked if there is a breakdown of youth present are being readmitted to CJTS. Bill Rosenbeck did not have this information on him today, but will get that information out to people. The pattern of re-incarceration needs to be halted. We need to work with kids more effectively. Sarah would like to know who the population is that needs secure care. She observed that the intervention we have available to kids is not working.

Rep. Walker asked about the assessment given when the kids come in and it is determined where they go. Bill Rosenbeck noted there are different standard assessment tools used as well as a clinical assessment for new commitments upon admission. Records are gathered from CSSD, detention, any psychiatric hospitalization and put into one comprehensive assessment report that takes a complete look at the youth from early on.

Attorney Rapillo noted first there is a court process. There is a decision made that the child needs to go to DCF. The judge makes the determination. She doesn't feel there is an individual assessment about public safety. There are very limited options of where to place kids and therefore may end up in CJTS. It is not always that they are always the most dangerous kids in the system.

Workgroup Updates:

Diversion

Mr. Carbone introduced Co-chairs John Frassinelli and Erica Bromley. Erica explained the community-based diversion system plan is complete and the work is being done by subgroups. The truancy subgroup has been looking



at the impact of the elimination of the truancy and defiance of school rules from court jurisdiction. They are currently looking at referral tools, assessment tools and intake process and then they will come up with a standardized process that will be used in school districts.

John Frassinelli noted the truancy subgroup is looking at national intervention models to see who is running them, the cost association and how successful they are. They are looking at successful models that can be implemented in CT. The group will seek feedback within the next few months.

Erica Bromley indicated the State Department of Education will identify the school districts with the highest rate of truancy based which will have to will have to adopt one of the models by August 2018.

John Frassinelli responded to Natalie Wagner's question regarding truancy intervention models. The use of the models will be sample models and they will not be required. They will be used as best practice models. There will be a threshold where high risk truancy districts will have to implement at least one of the models. Discussions will take place internally on the thresholds and the requirements of which school districts will have to implement the model.

Erica Bromley updated on the progress of the Police Recruit Training identified. They have identified two areas where learning objectives are currently being developed. The two areas are trauma informed responses and adolescent development. POST and Connecticut State Police will incorporate the new training objectives during their upcoming fiscal year recruit period.

Recidivism

Co-chair Christine Rapillo reported there has been good progress since their last report. They have heard from all agencies implementing de-escalation techniques. They have heard from all agencies and they are implementing a variety of programs. Workgroup is trying to establish a data baseline to find out if these techniques are having an impact. Recidivism workgroup had a productive meeting with the data sharing workgroup and are progressing towards a plan to have a recidivism and outcome report for juveniles that is similar to the report that is produced for the adult criminal justice system. A meeting will be held between the data workgroup and recidivism workgroup. Education subcommittee has begun to meet and starting to prioritize issues.

Data Sharing

Co-chair Brian Hill noted the workgroup continues to work with the Tow Youth Justice Institute on phase I and II of congregate care facilities reports and also the pre and post assessment of community-based programs and recidivism outcomes. Studies are in the analysis phase and they should receive ongoing reports on data analysis in the coming months. Progress has been made in discussions with the recidivism workgroup and are working on a data plan for measuring the recidivism reduction framework that is in their 2017 recommendations. They will also be working with the incarceration workgroup to measure the progress and the outcomes of the Detention, Diversion and Release Plan.



Incarceration

Judge Conway reported on housing for pre-and post-convicted children under the age of 18 transferred to adult courts. They want to get all children under 18 out of DOC. Population at Manson was looked at. Since last meeting the workgroup concluded it would make sense to craft a proposed legislation that would indicate by January 2018, the 15-17 year olds that are being held pre-trial at Manson, come out of the DOC facilities and be placed in a judicially run detention facility. The goal is to get all children under the age of 18 out of DOC.

We are 75 days into the changes made on January 1st and no conclusion can be made at this time. These are cycles and some months will be busier than others. Waiting for the spring to see the impact. First meeting of the children's behavior advisory board took place. Very good conversation; will have more to report back in the future.

Mr. Carbone acknowledged the co-chairs and thanked all the workgroups. Rep Walker agreed and is impressed with all the work that is being demonstrated. Abby Anderson thanked all for their work and made note of the last bullet point – "All initiatives will focus on gender and DMC".

Discussion

Mr. Carbone deferred the Detention Release Plan for this meeting in order to have time to reflect on the morning's forum, "Moving from Institutions to Community-Based Treatment in Juvenile Justice". Bill introduced the three speakers, March Schindler, Shaena Fazal and John Dixon.

Rep. Walker thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting: April 20, 2017, 2:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.