



JJPOC Meeting Minutes

December 19th, 2019

2:00PM

1E

Attendance:

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Abby Anderson | John Frassinelli | Desi Nesmith | Sen. Gary Winfield |
| Erica Bromley | Eulalia Garcia | Maria Pirro-Simmons | TYJI Staff: |
| Francis Carino | Hector Glynn | Rep. Robyn Porter | William Carbone |
| Hon. Judge Patrick Carroll | Derrick Gordon | Chief Otoniel Reyes | Susan Cusano |
| Cheryl Cepelak | Vincent Hatten | Gary Roberge | Erika Nowakowski |
| Hon. Judge Bernadette Conway | Steven Hernandez | Macklin Roman | Kelly Orts |
| Kosta Diamantis | Brian Hill | Martha Stone | Catherine Parafati |
| Vannessa Dorantes | John Holland | Rep. Toni Walker | Alex Scranton |
| Sarah Eagan | Sen. George Logan | Michael Williams | |
| Tais Ericson | Eleanor Michael | Tori Williams | |

Representative Toni Walker called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Rep. Walker also welcomed the youth and families who were participating or in the audience for the meeting.

Rep. Walker asked for a motion to accept the minutes for the November 21st, 2019 meeting. The motion to accept the minutes was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Update on Progress

William Carbone, Executive Director of the Tow Youth Justice Institute (TYJI) at the University of New Haven, reviewed the agenda for today’s meeting, which included the 2019 Annual Report on Strategic Goals by the Cross-Agency Data Sharing Workgroup and a presentation on Raising the Minimum Age by the Diversion Workgroup. Mr. Carbone also reminded the group that there will be discussion and voting on potential recommendations at the next JJPOC meeting on January 16th and that attendance is strongly recommended.

Presentation: 2019 Annual Report on Strategic Goals

Mr. Carbone introduced Brian Hill, co-chair of the Cross-Agency Data Sharing Workgroup. Mr. Hill began by explaining that in June of 2015, the JJPOC established three target goals to be accomplished by 2018; increase diversion by 20%, decrease incarceration by 30% and decrease recidivism by 10%. Every year, the Cross-Agency Data Sharing Workgroup has presented on the progress of these goals to the JJPOC.



In fiscal year (FY) 2014, there was a total of 11,471 juvenile delinquency referrals. To date in FY 2019, that number has declined to 7,916 referrals, a 31% reduction. This surpasses the target goal of 20%. In addition, new data was available for this year's presentation on Juvenile Review Board (JRB) referrals. In FY 2013, there was 2,230 JRB referrals. Through FY 2019, there have been 2,307 referrals, an increase of 3.5%. Erica Bromley, co-chair of the Diversion Workgroup, clarified that there was still about 15% of reports missing from JRBs across the state for the FY 2019. The missing reports include referral data and would raise the figure presented today closer to the 20% goal.

The second target goal was a 30% reduction in incarceration. In FY 2014, there was 2,334 admissions of youth into the Hartford and Bridgeport Detention Centers. In FY 2019, this number dropped to 1,086 which equals a 53.5% reduction. Data on the CT Juvenile Training School was also included. In FY 2014, there was 222 admissions. At the time of its closure in 2018, there were 43 admissions during that fiscal year, an 80.6% reduction. For transferred youth, during FY 2014 there was 146 admissions of boys to Manson Youth Institution. In FY 2019 this number has dropped to 111, a 24% reduction. For girls at York Correctional, annual admissions have remained at or below 10 for the past four years. Mr. Hill noted that the transfer numbers are inclusive of both pre-trial and sentenced admissions.

The last target goal was a 10% reduction in recidivism. For this presentation, recidivism is defined as re-arrest within a 24-month period. In FY 2012, adjudicated youth on probation had a recidivism rate of 60%. Through FY 2017, this number was 65.3%, an increase of 8.8%. For youth released from DOC, during FY 2012 there was a 76% recidivism rate. In FY 2017, this number was 65%, a reduction of 14.5%. Mr. Hill noted that as the state has begun to divert more kids from the system, what was left were youth who have the most serious risk and complex needs.

Previously, requests were made by the Racial and Ethnic Disparity Workgroup (RED) and other JJPOC members to break down this data by race and ethnicity. An in-depth review of the data was presented to the JJPOC. The PowerPoint is available for review on CGA.

After the presentation, Mr. Hill thanked members of the JJPOC and state agencies who helped collect the data. The members of the JJPOC then engaged in a lengthy discussion.

Other points of discussion included the importance of addressing the needs of at-risk youth and their families that could potentially lead to their involvement with the juvenile and/or criminal justice system. Some of these needs include; housing, stable employment, etc. Funding was a concern when addressing these needs and providing meaningful programming. Several members of the Committee expressed their desire to hear from more youth, parents and communities for their perspectives. The members also discussed reports that the number of in and out-of-school suspensions and expulsions are decreasing steadily since 2010. The State Department of Education requested time in the future to present data when it becomes available.



Presentation: Raising the Minimum Age

Due to time constraints, Rep. Walker asked that this presentation be postponed until sometime in early 2020.

Next Meeting: January 16th, 2020 2:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.

*Audio and/or video of the meeting can be found on

https://www.cga.ct.gov/app/taskforce.asp?TF=20141215_Juvenile%20Justice%20Policy%20and%20Oversight%20Committee