



JJPOC Meeting Minutes

June 18th, 2020

2:00PM

Zoom Conference Call

Attendance:

Abbatemarco, Jennifer
Anderson, Abby
Bradley, Dennis
Bromley, Erica
Carino, Fran
Carroll, Judge Patrick
Conway, Bernadette
Diamantis, Kostantinos
Dorantes, Vannessa
Formica, Paul
Frassinelli, John

Glynn, Hector
Gordon, Derrick
Kramer, Mickey
Logan, George
Mysogland, Ken
Pirro-Simmons, Maria
Porter, Marshall
Rapillo, Christine
Reid, Janeen
Roberge, Gary
Roman, Macklin

Schulman, Stacy
Stone, Martha
Walker, Toni

TYJI Staff:

William Carbone
Danielle Cooper
Susan Cusano
Erika Nowakowski
Kelly Orts
Catherine Parafati
Hellen Vasquez

Representative Toni Walker called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Rep. Walker briefed the JJPOC on the format of the meeting and its facilitation via Zoom Conference Call.

Rep. Walker asked for a motion to accept the minutes for the February 20th, 2020 and May 18th, 2020 meeting. The motion to accept the minutes was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Dr. William Carbone presented an overview of the meeting and introduced the speakers.

Non-Profit Community Dialogue

Brunilda Ferraj, Director of Policy Research and Organizational Initiatives of CT Community Non-Profit Alliance, discussed how COVID-19 has affected the mental health care system for non-profit organizations. Many providers have continued to serve youth and families throughout the pandemic, with the increased use of telehealth. Providers can now bill Medicaid for tele-health, which has allowed for the continuity of services, and engagement of new families who have not received services in the past. No-show rates have decreased. In preparing to resume full operations, providers are anticipating an increase in demand of services in the wake of COVID-19. Some families are still experiencing anxiety about face-to-face meetings. With the declaration of a public health emergency established, Governor Lamont has provided flexibility (i.e. using HIPAA compliant software such as Facetime and WhatsApp for services).

Dr. Alice Forrester from Clifford Beers discussed how COVID-19 has affected providing services for clients. Clifford Beers has been able to continue services with an 81% compliance rate to tele-health. Technology has been the biggest barrier for the remaining population. No-show rates have decreased from 30% to less than 10% as a result of ease of using the phone and not needing transportation.

Tirzah Kemp, Director of Community Services at Clifford Beers, further discussed how COVID-19 has impacted providing services for clients. They are utilizing WebEx for the Fatherhood program and have at least 80% of fathers are having 24/7 dad groups to continue to have them engaged. Continuing community work in partnership with New Haven public schools. They are currently discussing how to facilitate summer schooling. The next phase will discuss what reentry into school will look like. They have also donated over \$30,000 in gift cards over the past few months in response to COVID-19 and created a helpline for instant communication.

Fernando Muniz, Chief Executive Officer of Community Solutions Inc. discussed how COVID-19 has affected their clients. Their first main goal was to reduce the risk of clients and staff contracting COVID-19 through telecommuting, providing proper PPE, and ensuring safety protocols in compliance with CDC guidelines. The second main goal was to decrease the risk of infected staff and clients from spreading COVID-19 through visitor restrictions, staff screening, dedicated quarantine areas, and a partnership with Hartford Healthcare to deploy mobile testing to 11 residential sites. The third main goal was to ensure that staff remain employed by increasing residential staff pay by 15%. Proper PPE was distributed to all staff, and a virtual town hall meeting was held for all staff to discuss their concerns.

Kim Selvaggi, Chief Strategy Officer of Community Solutions Inc., discussed the challenges and opportunities experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. The main challenges were the access to PPE, increases in staff pay and staff incentives, physical plant changes leading to cost increase, ensuring residents remain engaged, and medical care for those who are sick. Some opportunities that were presented include the creation of tele-health options for community-based services and in-home programs, improved partnerships with DCF and other providers, residential staff feeling supported and valued, and the PPP loan may be forgiven.

There was discussion by the committee, focused on barriers to technology and services for youth reentry.

2020 JJPOC Workgroup work plans

Diversion Workgroup

Erica Bromley, co-chair of the Diversion workgroup, shared updates regarding future workgroup plans. The FWSN changes will be going into effect on July 1st, 2020. A memo will be distributed to the CT Police Chiefs Association to notify them of changes. A separate memo will also be sent out

to all YSBs, along with the referral form, so they can be prepared for the changes. Information will also be sent out to superintendents to be posted on parent portals, as well as social workers and guidance counselors, and all juvenile courts. There is a continued discussion on the runaway population with YSB (i.e. when to involve DCF), which will follow up with DCF regarding 211 and knowledge of upcoming changes. Lastly, the Raising the minimum age subgroup will continue to improve recommendations and create implementation plan for next session and hopes to expand the subgroup membership.

Education Committee

Attorney Amy Vatner, co-chair of the Education Committee, shared updates regarding future workgroup plans. They are currently planning meetings with DCF to map out DCF oversight of educational services for youth in juvenile justice out-of-home placement and the specific operations. Additionally, the Education Committee asked that the implementation plan due date be delayed from September 2020 to January 2021 due to the pandemic.

RED Workgroup

Hector Glynn and Dr. Derrick Gordon, co-chairs of the RED workgroup, shared updates regarding future workgroup plans. Dr. Gordon has continued to work on a public health, ecological, and restorative justice model, which will be shared with the JJPOC in the near future. The RED workgroup will also discuss SRO's, the expansion of data collection at pedestrian car stops, and the formation of two subgroups focused on policing and data.

CSSD Update on RFP

Gary Roberge, Executive Director of CSSD, provided an update on the RFP, in addition to the document distributed electronically. The construction and renovation of Hamden location is moving along and should be completed by mid-September and hope to begin taking youth in October 2020. The RFP is currently at purchasing and looking for up to 12 beds (bidders can propose more). A request was submitted for locations to operate a secure location. 6 or 7 sites have been identified and have included one particular site in the RFP. If a second program is obtained with up to 20 beds, in addition to 16 beds in Hamden, there would be a total of 36 beds for secure.

Next Meeting: July 16th, 2020 2:00pm via Zoom Conference Call

Meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.