



## JJPOC Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2021

2pm-3:30

Zoom Conference Call

### Attendance:

Rep. Toni Walker

Marc Pelka

Rep. Anthony Nolan

Christina Quaranta

Rep. Craig Fishbein

Erica Bromley

Macklin Roman

Janeen Reid

Hector Glynn

Martha Stone

Rep. Greg Howard

Judge Patrick Carroll

Judge Bernadette Conway

Gary Roberge

Tais Ericson

Atty Christine Rapillo

Jack Doyle

Michael Williams

Angel Quiros

Desi Nesmith

Amy Marracino

Lisa Sementilli

Astread Ferron-Poole

Stacy Schulman

Chief Joshua Bernegger

Chief Ridenhour

Veron Beaulieu

Dr. Derrick Gordon

Sarah Eagan

**TYJI Staff:**

William Carbone

Kelly Orts

Danielle Cooper

Donna Pfrommer

Susan Cusano

## Welcome and Introductions

Undersecretary Marc Pelka filled in for Deputy Secretary Kostas Diamantis of OPM.

## Acceptance of Minutes for JJPOC

Representative Toni Walker asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the May 20, 2021 meeting. The motion to accept the minutes was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

## Final Update on the IOYouth Project

The key recommendations resulting from the IOYouth project include: the JJPOC legislative recommendations on pre-trial youth and decriminalization, the Equity Dashboard, and the pilot program for JRBS/YSBs. CSSD and DOC are working very closely to discuss next as they move forward on developing an implementation plan. Similarly, with pre-arrest diversion, there were conversations with the original subgroups about next steps and developing plans for 2022 and 2023.

The recommended development of an equity dashboard will help the state have a data driven focus on inequity across the entire juvenile justice system. There are still technical aspects being worked on and data is being collected directly relating to initial handling decisions, first-time felony dispositions, felony arrest, detention rates, and delinquency referral rates by town. Mock data was used so there was a sense of what was needed to help brainstorm ideas on how to



develop the dashboard. Since then, dashboard mockups have been created to get a general understanding of how the dashboard should look. The division applied for a BJS grant asking for three years of funding. Funding was received for the first year, and, if all goes well, they believe years two and three will be funded as well. There was clarification of the BJS grant and its role, which is to help standup a technical infrastructure pipeline with the judicial branch for an ongoing basis; to help with the development of the dashboard and for future issues that may arise.

The recommendation to examine the JRB/YSB model was discussed as a pilot, where certain JRBs were selected to pilot research-based policies and practices to determine the viability of the JRBs. Discussion then led to a landscape analysis to analyze where there might be additional gaps and challenges for the JRBs and YSBs. There was a small team that met to plan for the implementation and next steps, including mapping out the parameters of the analysis. The team stopped meeting in early January because of the need for clearer direction in regard to priorities and next steps. There are some questions that need to be addressed, such prioritizing one of the two activities or simultaneously doing both, and identifying resources needed. CSG recommends prioritizing the pilot to be able to address the capacity issue in a select group of JRBs and then grow from there.

## **Summer Youth Employment Program**

The Department of Labor presented on their Summer Youth Employment program. It was emphasized that there is also year-round employment programming, not limited to the summer months. Over the years, this program has been trying to be more expansive and not just focus on the youth's first summer job. The program has also been seeking out partnerships, and in addition, talking with other state agencies and organizations. For example, DCF can assist the program by targeting opportunities for youth that are in foster care. They have also been in contact with programs such as CSSD, DEEP, and DMHAS around how a partnership can help provide opportunities to more youth. This program is trying to establish career pathways for youth rather than just job experience. The goal is to have the youth see a connection between career pathways and secondary education and post-secondary education. Some of the challenges they have seen youth experience through the pandemic is mental health, which they also want to help address. DMHAS has helped them provide training and other support services for youth and how they can access these services. There was a video that was sent to the attendees about a success story that started within the program. They plan to continue their collaborations with other state agencies, organizations, and providers and continue to provide youth with access to meaningful career pathways. There was further discussion about special education and their extended services over the summer, with the concerns of summer jobs getting in the way of those extended services.

## **Recap of the Youth-Led Vision Session with the Executive Committee**

During the most recent executive committee meeting, youth from the Community Expertise Workgroup led a discussion focused on juvenile justice issues with the Executive Committee members. There were six questions that were brought to the meeting but, they were only able to get through three of them so the other three were distributed to the members via email. The youth



will review their notes to identify key points and concerns while also focusing on recommendations to help the CEW and the JJPOC. Some of the recommendations are moving the meeting time to be more accessible and acknowledging the youth and parents during meetings. There are also plans to schedule a second part of the discussion to be able to lead more discussions with the group. There was further discussion on ideas for youth, parents, and committee members to be able to create a bond that will help everyone in the long run.

## **Discussion on the JJPOC Bill**

The legislators of the JJPOC provided insight on which JJPOC recommendations had passed in the bill relating to diversion, incarceration, racial and ethnic disparities, education, and JJPOC membership. There was further discussion about the importance to debunk some myths about the levels of crimes that these young children are committing. There was also suggestion of messaging the right people and making it a strategy for the JJPOC.

Next meeting: July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2-3:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm