



JJPOC Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2021

2:00pm-4:00pm

Zoom Conference Call

Attendance:

Rep. Toni Walker

Marc Pelka

Anthony Nolan

Gary Winfield

Ilianna Pujols

Christina Quaranta

Erica Bromley

Macklin Roman

Patrick Callahan

Janeen Reid

Hector Glynn

Martha Stone

Catherine Osten

Judge Patrick Carroll

Judge Dawne Westbrook

Robyn Porter

Gary Roberge

Tais Ericson

Christine Rapillo

Susan Hamilton

Vannessa Dorantes

Angel Quiros

Derrick Molden

Desi Nesmith

Amy Marracino

Lisa Sementilli

Stacy Schulman

Chief Joshua Bernegger

Chief Fred Spagnolo

Sarah Eagan

Derrick Gordon

Vernon Beaulieu

Natasha Pierre

TYJI Staff:

William Carbone

Erika Nowakowski

Kelly Orts

Donna Pfrommer

Susan Cusano

Patrick Saley

Danielle Cooper

Shauntaye Monroe

Welcome and Introductions

Rep. Toni Walker and Undersecretary Marc Pelka welcomed everyone into the meeting and thanked the workgroups for their hard work on the recommendations. Community Expertise Members from AFCAMP, Full Circle, and the Center for Children’s Advocacy were also welcomed.

Acceptance of Minutes for JJPOC

Rep. Toni Walker asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the December 16th, 2021, meeting. The motion to accept was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Presentation on Draft 2022 JJPOC Recommendations and Reports

The Community Expertise Workgroup recommendation includes increasing the JJPOC membership by adding four community expertise workgroup members. One member from each of the four organizations, the only change is that each appointed member would be funded through their sponsor organization. The role of the community expertise workgroup is to identify and suggest ways to overcome the barrier to equal sustainable partnership with JJPOC work by those who have first-hand experience with the juvenile legal system. The difference between



partnership and engagement is that engagement is no full commitment, not always consistent, when needed basis, and no voting right. Partnership is a full commitment, more consistent, always needed, and the vote matters. Validating a partnership would include experience as an expertise contributing to the official decisions of the group, and appointing voting seats validates the value behind that expertise for those who are directly impacted. The workgroup had organizations comment on the importance of their vote, making statements such as having a voting seat means directed directly impact the voices. This recommendation was approved by the JJPOC in 2021 but did not make it out into the legislative bill. A vote was called- voting resulted in 30 votes in favor and 1 vote abstaining, the community expertise workgroup recommendation passed.

The alternatives to arrest recommendation stems and is a continuation from the work of the Council State Governments IOYouth task force. The charge for the group was to complete an implementation plan with findings and recommendations for mandatory pre-arrest diversion for low-risk children and to use youth service bureaus and other community based services for Tier 1 offences. The group has reviewed the YSB/JRB data and CSSD data on the Tier 1 offenses. The subcommittee conducted focus group with YSB/JRB representatives, there was a survey sent out for law enforcement to provide input, they discussed restorative practices with a restorative justice expert and in the process looked at other state models. One of the questions that came up was about the impact of this recommendation on the existing system and what this change would look like as it relates to community resources. The business intelligence unit analyzed historical data to give a better understanding of what has come into the court that would fall into the Tier 1 category. Looking specifically at the dockets where the Tier 1 offense was the most serious statute and sometimes it's the only offense. But there are times when that child will have multiple charges but once that case is disposed, the statute is used to get a better understanding of how the case was handled in court and the outcome of that case. When a referral comes into court and it's processed, the juvenile probation supervisor is responsible for reviewing that police report to determine if the child is eligible for nonjudicial handling. There can be a child who ends up on a period of probation for one of these lower- level offenses because that's what they admitted to, but it doesn't take into account when looking at this data that there were other charges pending. The supervision category cases were primarily disposed to some type of administrative supervision or non-judicial supervision. When looking at Tier 1 and 2 cases, it was found that most of them were disposed to a lower level of supervision in the court but, were referred to services in the community. There is a very small percentage of those Tier 1 and 2 offenses that result in some form of judicial probation supervision but, more than 75% of those youth who had some form of supervision, it was handled either through the administrative supervision or non-judicial supervision. The recommendation is the following behaviors would be automatically diverted pre-arrest to the community- based diversion system for first and second time offenses. Beginning July



1st of 2022, simple trespass and creating a public disturbance would go into effect and then beginning January of 2023, disorderly conduct and larceny in the 6th degree would be added. The implementation plan has additional recommendations, such as to standardize the referral process for law enforcement using a diversion ticket book, which mirrors a summons ticket book, and continuing to use the YSB referral form from schools. As well as law enforcement trainings in identifying and handling youth trauma and community resources mentoring in mental health. Cases referred through the process will follow the same procedure as other JRB cases so if a youth and family decide not to participate, the referral will be sent back to the referring agency, and they will have the discretion as how to handle the case moving forward. Youth are held accountable for their actions utilizing a restorative approach, which does allow for appropriate victim involvement restoration of relationships. Intake and screening is used to determine if other supports are needed, there is an intake and screening process to identify those. The referrals end up in the youth's town of residence and police department send out of town cases to their corresponding hometown PD. JRBs currently serve youth who have engaged in these behaviors that are in this recommendation, 30 to 35% of cases fall into the tier one offenses and there is an additional portion of youth who are related to the cannabis charges. There is research to understand that a punitive approach isn't always the best approach, so it is important to preserve the court process for the highest risk youth. A vote was called – voting resulted with 25 votes in favor, 2 not in favor, and 1 abstaining, the diversion recommendation on alternatives to arrest for Tier 1 offenses passed.

The next diversion workgroup recommendation is regarding funding of the community-based diversion system. Beginning July 2022, the legislature and the governor will begin funding a multi-year plan to strengthen and expand the community-based diversion system. These funds are being requested to stabilize the structure YSBs/JRBs which is being exhausted with the continued diversionary reforms. Reforms create expenses and staffing needs. In the past there has been an impact of disconnections from school and the community from what's important to youth and it's more of an issue now moving forward than it ever has been in the past. There is not enough staffing to work with youth, they have more intensive needs, they're experiencing trauma and crisis at much higher levels and they require more time, services and programming. In addition to the funds for the community-based diversion system, all available funding sources should be considered to address the current crisis. There is not enough staff to provide the necessary case management to provide services and programs that youth need, so they are trying to make sure that what they can provide is that with much more intensive caseloads, more time is necessary. A vote was called resulting with 28 in favor, 2 not in favor and 0 abstaining, the diversion recommendation to fund the community-based diversion system passed.



The raising the minimum age recommendation has been tabled and on hold until next session. This will allow for further evaluation of the impact to the most recent change in the law. In 2021, CT raised the age from 7 to 10 the workgroup will use this time as an opportunity to track longer term data, longer term recidivism, and review what is and not working. Concern was expressed by some members of the JJPOC that what is being done right now is not working and maybe this is the solution and prolonging this is only exacerbating the problem. Things are getting worse for the youth and are dealing with issues that they have been dealing with since pre-COVID. The raise the minimum age recommendation has been tabled at this time.

Last year, RED workgroup presented a recommendation to add pedestrian stops to the Alvin Penn statute which collects motor vehicle stops. It was supported by the JJPOC with a recommendation that they work closely with the racial profiling advisory group to construct the language for legislation. After the vote, they worked closely with the group which created language that allowed for the addition of officer initiated pedestrian stops to the Alvin Penn act as defined by the Advisory Board. That language also included an effective date of 18 to 24 months from passage to allow for sufficient time to make modifications to the system and properly trained police officers. It is being recommended to use the same language as last year's bill. A vote was called resulting with 23 in favor, 0 not in favor, and 0 abstaining, the RED recommendation to collect pedestrian stop data passed.

The RED workgroup recommendation to standardize the MOUs for school resource officers has been tabled and on hold until next session. More time is needed to develop a recommendation that will strengthen the MOUs and work with and obtain the input of law enforcement specifically SRO.

Next Meeting: February 17th, 2022, 2:00pm-3:30pm.