



JJPOC Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2023

2:00pm-4:00pm

Legislative Office Bldg., Rm 2E

Zoom Option Available

Attendance

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Toni Walker | Tais Ericson | Patrick Carroll | TYJI Staff |
| Marc Pelka | Susan Hamilton | Vin Duva | Bill Carbone |
| Anthony Nolan | John Frassinelli | Brian Hill | Sue Cusano |
| Gary Winfield | Vincent Russo | Cathy-Foley Geib | Erika Nowakowski |
| Iliana Pujols | Darrick Molden | Tammy Exum | Brittany LaMarr |
| Erica Bromley | Amy Marracino | Tasha Hunt | Paul Klee |
| Macklin Roman | Derrick Gordon | Eulalia Garcia | Donna Pfrommer |
| Janeen Reid | Astread Ferron-Poole | Dr. Scudder | Hunter Clark |
| Hector Glynn | Joshua Bernegger | Eulalia Garcia | Sydney De Lannoy |
| Martha Stone | Veron Beaulieu | Talitha Coggins | Shauntaye Monroe |
| Angel Quiros | Kim Binette | | |
| Sharmese Walcott | Michael Pierce | | |
| Greg Howard | Sarah Eagan | | |
| Dawne Westbrook | Thea Montanez | | |
| Gary Roberge | Sean Cleary | | |

Welcome and Introductions

Undersecretary Mark Pelka and Representative Toni Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Overview of the Meeting

The February monthly meeting is a continuation of the January voting meeting, where Suspension and Expulsion Workgroup Recommendations and Community Expertise Workgroup Recommendations were discussed and voted on. The February voting meeting will involve discussion and votes of Incarceration Workgroup Recommendations and Diversion Workgroup Recommendations.

Acceptance of JJPOC Meeting Minutes

Representative Toni Walker asked for a motion to accept the January 19, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Incarceration Recommendations

The Commissary Subgroup of the JJPOC Incarceration Workgroup has worked two years to draft evidence-based recommendations regarding commissary for young people housed in the Department of Corrections. This specific recommendation describes a commissary implementation plan developed by



the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Incarceration Workgroup for youth 17 and under. The implementation plan shall include an integrated positive behavior motivation system to engage and reinforce positive youth behaviors and expectations that can be used as payment for commissary goods in place of a monetary system. This would also require that the DOC revises commissary policies and procedures to include the development and implementation of positive behavior motivation policies and procedures. This shift in the DOC's commissary would increase incentives in a way that promotes good health and recognizes the diverse range of ethnic groups, races, sexes, and cultural backgrounds, some of which may not currently have equitable access to commissary- including indigent youth, youth without family supports and youth with disabilities. Currently at MYI, there are 51 youth under the age of 17 that would be affected by these commissary changes. These changes to commissary focus on incentivizing positive behavior and encouraging positive interactions among the resident youth and between the youth and staff. Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBS) is a peer intervention that is used to educate on positive environments by teaching cooperation on what *can* be done, rather than what cannot be done by the youths.

There was discussion amongst the committee members regarding what the best timeline for implementation, including a potential additional 3 months for implementation measures. The committee recommended keeping the plan 'due' July 1, 2023, but allowing for a friendly amendment to add an additional month for implementation by DOC, making the implementation date November 1, 2023. There was also discussion regarding concern for the recommendation including youth up to 17 years old, since youth being transferred to adult facilities will no longer be able to receive commissary in this same manner; this led to concern about certain populations receiving better commissary practices, rather than all populations. Judges would be made aware of the commissary practices at MYI, but this transition is still of concern with the implementation of this commissary plan. This recommendation was passed by the JJPOC.

Another recommendation was made to develop a Reentry Success Plan through collaboration between the Judicial Branch, the Department of Correction, and the Department of Children and Families, in consultation with the JJPOC's Incarceration Workgroup, the Community Expertise Workgroup, and the Education Workgroup. This Reentry Success Plan should be developed for youth released from DOC and Judicial Branch facilities and contracted programs for the purpose of reintegrating these youth back into their communities successfully. The Reentry Success Plan should be developed based on evidence-based best reentry practices, wraparound services, and transitional housing- as well as examining expansion of community Reentry Roundtables and Welcome Centers to include focus on youth and any other considerations to ensure successful implementation of the plan. Restorative and transformative practices should be utilized to create increased academic and vocational supports, developmentally appropriate housing, and trauma-informed mental health and substance abuse assistance. The plan should also utilize credible messengers, transitional support providers, restorative justice reentry circles, and reentry coordinators. The plan shall include a proposed quality assurance framework, including the collection of appropriate data, promulgation of a public dashboard, and the monitoring framework to ensure the successful discharge and re-entry of incarcerated youth. Similarly, to the first incarceration recommendation, there was discussion about timeline of implementation and a friendly amendment to have the plan developed by November 1, 2023. This recommendation was passed by the JJPOC.



Diversion Recommendation

The Alternatives to Arrest Subgroup of the JJPOC Diversion Workgroup recommended a phased-in approach for youth to be automatically diverted pre-arrest to the community-based diversion system or other services for first and second-time offenses. This would allow law enforcement, schools, and other systems to refer children to a Youth Service Bureau (YSB)/Juvenile Review Board (JRB) or other community-based agencies in lieu of an arrest and would permit the agencies to send the case back to the referring entity for further action, including referral to court, if the services are unsuccessful. The recommendation as presented strengthens the YSB and JRB systems in the state of Connecticut and allows them to become a critical part of the juvenile justice system. The YSB/JRBs will work with young people to conduct screenings, identify individual's needs, and refer them to appropriate services. There was concern that the number of services available to YSB/JRB's is not equal across municipalities and this recommendation may highlight those disparities.

This recommendation is recommended to be implemented in a phased-in approach, beginning July 1, 2023, with simple trespass, creating a public disturbance, disorderly conduct, and larceny sixth degree. Beginning July 1, 2024, these offenses should be expanded to include breach of peace in the second degree and larceny in the fifth. There was concern that with the second phase happening quickly after the first phase, that there will not be adequate time to analyze and collect data to see if the first phase was successful; this creates an issue of being able to evaluate and change responses based on data. It has become especially paramount that members of this committee participate and communicate about the programs and their effectiveness to determine if change needs to occur. The committee is working closely with DCF to determine a way to uniformly collect data, as well as establishing if there is a need for development and training. DCF oversees the YSB/JRBs and have a pilot they are working on, so next year JJPOC will be able to make data driven adjustments, if needed. This recommendation was passed by the JJPOC.

Next Meeting:

Hybrid Model Option (In person and available over zoom)

March 16, 2023

2:00-3:30 PM