



University of New Haven

HENRY C. LEE COLLEGE OF

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND FORENSIC SCIENCES

JJPOC Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2015
LOB
2:00-3:30PM

Attendance:

Rep. Toni Walker
Deborah Stevenson
John Finkle
Loel Meckel
Arthur Perry (*for Acting
Commissioner, Department
of Labor*)
John Frassinelli
Commissioner Joette Katz
Sarah Eagan
Hector Glynn
Chris Rapillo
Martha Stone

Sec. Ben Barnes
Joseph D'Alesio
Judge Patrick Carroll
Judge Bernadette Conway
Stephen Grant
Erica Bromley
Sean Ruckin (*for
Commissioner Jewel Mullen,
DPH*)
Astread Ferron-Poole (*for
Commissioner Roderick
Bremby, DSS*)
Sen. Gary Winfield

Rep. Robyn Porter
Sen. Beth Bye
Sen. John Kissell

TYJI Staff:

Kendell Coker, JD, PhD
Kitty Tyrol
Jeanne Milstein
William H. Carbone

Rep. Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked all of the members to introduce themselves.

Rep. Walker asked if there were any corrections to the meeting minutes. Jeanne Milstein indicated that Loel Meckel should be added to the attendance list for the meeting of September 17, 2015. With that change, all members accepted the meeting minutes.

Mark White received a recognition award by Rep. Walker for his 17 years of service to the CT Judicial Branch; Mr. White is leaving to work in New York State as the Director of Juvenile Justice.

Bill Carbone gave the update on progress, starting with the OJJDP grant award. The Department of Justice has awarded the juvenile justice strategic re-entry planning grant to the State of CT. He explained that the purpose of the grant is to improve reentry strategies and strengthen continuity of care throughout institutional and community systems. The three goals of the grant are (1) to develop a five year goal including a 50% reduction in juvenile recidivism, (2) to be "community-driven" – engaging a diverse local group of stakeholders (schools, health, housing, work force, social services, faith community, business, and others) in the planning and implementation and

(3) to be able to assess data, design strategies for reforming community supervision, target vocational education.

Jeanne Milstein informed the JJPOC about a panel called “America’s Distorted Image: The Over-Incarceration of African-Americans” which will be held at the University of New Haven on Wednesday, October 21, 2015. Ms. Milstein invited everyone to attend and to inform others about the event.

The co-chairs of the Work Groups provided an update on the first meetings. Sen. Winfield informed the JJPOC that the Incarceration Work Group is working on gathering data needed to reach the incarceration reduction goal in order to move forward in their work.

Chris Rapillo talked about the progress of the Recidivism Work Group and that the Work group reviewed the definition of recidivism and will propose minor changes to the definition. The recidivism study will be completed in early winter now that a Memorandum of Agreement between agencies is completed and data sharing will begin soon.

Erica Bromley discussed the Diversion Work Group meeting. The Work Group discussed the variety of definitions of diversion. The group decided to look at the four levels of diversion including: pre-arrest, arrest, court, and judicial handling. They also discussed financial impact, resource shifting, cost-benefit analysis, where the data is located and what kind of data they would like.

Brian Hill reported work of the Cross Agency Data Sharing Work Group. He indicated that the two charges include: 1) providing support to the other Work Groups and data needs and 2) to identify the breadth of current agency agreements. The purpose is to have large data sets consistent across state agencies.

Bill Carbone indicated that the goal is to have the reports from the work groups completed by end of January.

Dr. Coker presented information on the outcomes of services provided to youth. Dr. Coker reviewed information on youth that are handled through the Judicial Department and DOC and examined the outcomes of services that the youth were provided. Dr. Coker discussed the types of services used and the outcomes of services. He explained how the outcomes are measured and what data sources are being used. Dr. Coker thanked the agencies for their assistance and cooperation and explained that this is a complex subject with limited data. Dr. Coker summarized the data provided by the Judicial Branch including gender, re-arrest rates, completion rates and age, and programs. The presentation focused on outcomes as it relates to completion and re-arrest, although there are more outcomes to consider going forward. The concept of risk was discussed and Dr. Coker explained that they are considering risk of reoffending rather than risk to

the community. "Re-arrest" is explained as re-arrest within 12 months of completion of the program or discharge, which could also include adult arrests for those who are 16 or 17 years old.

Julie Revaz explained the different programs for the highest risk youth that are all evidence-based including in home services with engagement in the family systems. There was discussion on the differences of the programs length, the average risk score for the individuals in each program, the components of each program, and potential predictive value.

One of the recommendations Dr. Coker made is to compare Connecticut numbers to other programs or national re-arrest rates. He explained that there are different types of youth going to different types of programs. Dr. Coker reported that even if a program has high re-arrest rates it does not indicate that the program is not effective. Dr. Coker explained that completion and overall risk score was not necessarily a consistent significant predictor of re-arrest. He also explained that even if risk level, race, gender, and other factors were considered, one factor alone could not be shown to consistently be the strongest predictor for re-arrest. Dr. Coker explained that we should also be looking into what aspects of a youth life the program is supposed to improve (i.e., reduction in substance use, improved family functioning). He suggested that we need to expand our definition of success to include factors specific to the program outcomes rather than merely measuring success by completion and re-arrest.

A discussion on how the children are placed in the programs followed with questions on: clinical assessments on children, treating individual needs of the children, re-referrals, and what evidence-based practices really mean. Rep. Walker wanted to make sure that the youth received services based on needs and that the evaluation of the effectiveness of programs is in place. She indicated that simply participating in an agency or program does not mean they are effective programs and they are not necessarily addressing the issues needing attention. Chris Rapillo raised the point that other factors in the juvenile court process factor into decision making, and that while it appeared that procedures and risk assessments are consistent, it is important to note that many steps take place before youth receive services.

Rep. Walker indicated that the meeting was running late and that discussion would continue at a future meeting.

Sec. Barnes mentions that OPM Undersecretary Michael Lawlor is working with DCF to compile a data set that matches cohorts who were served at the Connecticut Juvenile Training School and subsequently end up at the Manson Correctional Institution.

Rep. Toni Walker announced that the next meeting will be November 19, 2015.