



JJPOC Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2017

2:00PM

2D

Attendance:

Rep. Toni Walker

Abby Anderson

Erica Bromley

Martha Stone, JD

Christine Rapillo

Robyn Porter

Linda Dixon, Ph.D.

Natalie Wagner

Francis Carino

Derrick Gordon

Gary Roberge

John Alves

Tais Ericson

Brian Hill

Shawn Rutchick

Hon. Judge Bernadette Conway

Sarah Eagan

Carolyn Treiss

Deborah Stevenson

Fernando Muniz

John Holland

Ezequiel Santiago

Hector Glynn

John Frassinelli

TYJ Staff:

William Carbone

Erika Nowakowski

Kitty Tyrol

Danielle Cooper

Donna Pfrommer

Susan Cusano

Rep. Walker opened the meeting by addressing at the March 16th JJPOC meeting minutes which need to be revised. Rep. Walker excused herself as she had to attend to other business and turned the meeting over to Natalie Wagner.

Natalie Wagner introduced Bill Carbone for updates. He welcomed the new JJPOC members: Senate Co-chairs of the Judiciary committee, Senator Paul Doyle & Senator John Kissel; Children’s Co-chair, Senator Len Suzio and ranking member Rep. Leslie Zuptkus; Appropriations Committee Co-chairs, Senator Paul Formica and Senator Kathy Osten; acknowledged Tsai Ericson from Court Operations Division in the Judicial Branch, designated by Judge Carroll to fill Joe D’Alesio’s slot; Gary Roberge from CSSD – designated by Judge Carroll to replace Steve Grant.

Mr. Carbone noted that H.B. bill 7286 “An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the JJPOC” was voted out of the Judiciary committee.

New assignments that may come to JJPOC to be addressed over the next year:

- The Office of Policy and Management to produce the annual recidivism report. OPM currently does this for the adult system.
- Work plan to collect data necessary to evaluate recidivism reduction activities in the juvenile justice system.
- The implementation of the Community-Based Diversion System two-year plan.
- Plan to improve vocational education access and opportunities for children that are in the juvenile justice system.



Mr. Carbone acknowledged and thanked the state agencies, Judicial Branch, the Department of Children and Families, Department of Correction, and the Cross Agency Data Sharing workgroup chaired by Brian Hill and Natalie Wagner who have been working with the University of New Haven, in ensuring accurate data for the JJPOC studies.

Mr. Carbone introduced Kathy Foley-Geib and Kristina Stevens from DCF to present their report on the Detention Diversion and Release Plan which is required by Public Act 16-147. They reviewed why the plan was developed and the strategies and services that are being implemented.

Kathy began the discussion stating the recommendation to reduce the number of grounds for detention from 6 to 3 came out of the incarceration workgroup of the JJPOC. The workgroup was charged with reducing incarceration rate by 30%. After reviewing data from FY 2014, it was discovered about 52% of the kids that were admitted into detention were admitted because they were under some condition of the court but no new charges were filed. Discussion took place on why kids are put into detention other than for serious offenses. Some kids ran away from home, some have significant behavioral health needs and waiting for other treatment and others may have come from families with serious conflict, not feeling safe at home.

The recommendation was to limit the number of children who could be detained and limit those reasons to public safety risk, the need to hold for another jurisdiction, or concern of not appearing for court based on previous behavior. From January 1- March 31, 2017, the impact of the new grounds and the detention risk screen went into effect. There has been a 30% decrease in admissions since 2016 and also a 30% decrease in the average daily population.

Kristina spoke of ways the community based system is positioned and available to the entire population. There are approximately 783,000 kids in the state of CT; we need a continuum of services. Prevention and early intervention, school-based interventions, group-based cognitive behavioral therapies, clinic-based services and in-home services are some of the ways we can protect children, families and communities. Since 2014, 20,000 children and youth have been screened for trauma exposure in CT. Over 9,000 professionals have been trained in state-wide initiatives related to childhood trauma. Since 2008, more than 10,000 young people have received evidence based treatment interventions.

Connecticut's mobile crisis system is among one of the best in the country and is available to everyone with 24-hour access. The access or utilization of EMPS of youth that are juvenile justice involved is between 1-2%. Appropriate outreach is needed to let people know it is available. People need to be reminded to use 211, not 911. A 211 call will allow for a behavioral health crisis assessment. There is a significant need for crisis stabilization and respite. With a great need for crisis stabilization beds, the number was increased from 14 to 80 beds that are available to anyone in CT.

Kathy continued discussion on strategies and services. A grant from OJJDP was received which allows them to pilot community supervision strategies. This provides a more evidence base approach and strategies to supervising kids who are on probation or parole. They will continue their cross-system collaboration between Judicial-CSSD, DCF, SDE, DMHAS, DSS, LISTs, providers, family and adolescents. Kristina continued discussion on coordination between JJPOC & Children's Behavioral Health Plan Advisory Board through information sharing and planning.



Discussion took place on the Detention Diversion & Release Plan. It was noted there is an evaluation component of the Community Supervision grant so the outcomes of this pilot will be available. Question was raised about providing a safe place for kids when detention can no longer be used.

Workgroup Updates:

Diversion

Co-chairs, Erica Bromly and John Frassinelli introduced co-presenters, Justin Carbonella (Youth Services Coordinator of Middletown), Tammy Papa (Youth Services Director of Bridgeport), and Bob Francis (Executive Director of the Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership (RYASAP)).

John Frassinelli explained that the task of the Diversion Workgroup was to create a community-based diversion system plan and to make sure that kids have access to services who are diverted from the court system. The Workgroup decided to build upon the infrastructure that is already in place so the community-based diversion system HUBs will be the Youth Services Bureaus (YSB).

Erica Bromly noted that the YSB are the only state statutorily mandated youth serving agencies in the state. There are 101 YSBs serving 144 communities across the state. Each YSB is structured differently so that they can work best with their community and resources which are available.

Justin Carbonella spoke about the suburban perspective of YSB of Middletown. Tammy Papa spoke about the urban perspective of YSB of Bridgeport. She explained the importance of the collaboration efforts between the YSB of Bridgeport and the RYASAP. Bob Francis explained that the RYASAP runs the juvenile review board in Bridgeport and also provides mediation and conflict resolution services in all of the juvenile courts in western Connecticut.

Justin Carbonella introduced the video created from the collaboration of the Connecticut Youth Service Association and the Child Health and Development Institute for focusing on Diversion and the influence of the JRBs. The video shows a success story of what happens when diversion works and how important it is to service youth in the community.

John Frassinelli acknowledge the hard work that the Diversion Workgroup put into putting together the plan. He also acknowledged the YSB collaborations and partnerships that already exist and how they will be working together even more after this plan is implemented.

Natalie Wagner thanked the presenters and workgroup for all of the hard work they have done.

DCF Update on RFI Progress

Fernando Muñiz reported on the RFI progress. The department released request for information for secure and semi secure settings to replace CJTS. The RFI was published at the end of March. An addendum to the RFI will be published on April 21st which will include answers to questions that were gathered. The RFI deadline is May 26th.

Natalie Wagner thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 3:49 pm.

Next Meeting: May 18, 2017 at 2pm

