



JJPOC Community Expertise Workgroup Subgroup Meeting

MARCH 28TH, 2024

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

THIS MEETING DOES NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION- DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES

Attendance: ☐ OBJ

TYJI Staff

Janeen Reid

Stella Rose Dugue

Alicia Lind-Windham

Brittany LaMarr

Layan Jahaf

Trysten

Iliana Pujols

Paul Klee

Jordan

Ann Smith

Ray Dancy

Erika Nowakowski

Meeting Summary:

1. Working in the Community

- Workgroup members shared what work they have been involved with
- Workgroup member reported that they were working on Emerging Leaders, and they had 7 young men out of 10 spots attend
- Workgroup member reported that she has been having Speak Up meetings in Regent's Hamden program with young men from all over the state. The program has 2 phases. Phase 2 involves engaging with the community. Workgroup member reported that they plan to invite young members to join the Speak Up program hosted at Parker Memorial. This initiative aims to involve more juvenile justice-involved youth directly, enabling them to work alongside indirectly involved youth.



- Workgroup member expressed excitement about community engagement efforts led by Troy Ellison, the community engagement coordinator. They highlighted Ellison's certification for the 24/7 Dads program and his focus on engaging young fathers aged 18 to 26 at Cybulski. The aim is to gather their perspectives on juvenile justice system policies and practices. An upcoming eight-week series starting on April 12th will facilitate this. Additionally, workgroup member reported that Ellison is certified to work with inmates at Manson, allowing for exploration of policies and practices concerning young fathers within both youth and adult facilities. The focus is on understanding factors that could prevent incarceration and addressing needs upon reentry into the community.
- Workgroup member discussed various programs aimed at supporting fathers and teen parents within the community at the different centers. Workgroup members mentioned DCF's dad program and Career Resources' fatherhood initiative. Additionally, AF-CAMP has become an affiliate of Parents as Teachers, focusing on assisting parents, particularly teen parents, with parenting skills. Workgroup member then reported the importance of maintaining relationships between incarcerated fathers and their children as a protective factor. The group also discusses the upcoming CEW retreat and the wealth of resources available within the community that can be beneficial for all involved.

2. Youth Engagement

- Workgroups members discussed youth involvement in JJPOC and how they are feeling more comfortable participating at the monthly meetings
- Workgroups member reported that the preparation done before the meetings made it more productive for youth to participate in the JJPOC meeting. Youth were able to give insightful responses.
- Workgroup member suggested a young person is paired with the Under Secretary
- Workgroup member reported that it would be important to know what the youth would like to improve, what would they want to change
- Workgroup members discussed how having youth involved in the process can bring empathy to justice involved youth.

3. Strategic Plan

- Workgroup members discussed CEW pre-session for the JJPOC strategic planning meeting.



- Workgroup members suggested that the strategic planning meeting be postponed to July. In the meantime, workgroup members will be surveyed in June to gather information for the strategic planning process. The plan includes involving a sampling of workgroup members in brainstorming sessions, followed by a review and feedback session with JJPOC members. Additionally, there was a suggestion to integrate the voices of those already in the juvenile justice system into the planning process by gathering their input during facility visits.
- The discussion concludes with plans for the Career Map Pathways conference in May and the process for obtaining tickets. A workgroup member reported that attendees can use CEW funds to cover the costs for youth, staff, and community members.
- Workgroup member suggest that Speak Up teens could be encouraged to create a logo representing the Community Expertise Workgroup, showcasing their creative talent and computer skills.
- The meeting wraps up with positive feedback and appreciation for everyone's contributions.