



JJPOC Truancy Subgroup Meeting Summary

February 25, 2019 1:00-2:30

450 Columbus Blvd, Hartford, State Department of Education

Attendance Forum

Erica Bromley presented information on an attendance forum that is taking place in April in the northeast part of Connecticut. The forum is for all school staff to participate to discuss some of the issues they are facing in their schools in regard to attendance. This forum will include discussions around truancy, chronic absenteeism, interventions in school and community service providers who can be of assistance. This forum will also have Erica Bromley, representing the JJPOC and the truancy subgroup, as well as a representative from the State Department of Education. It was suggested that the truancy subgroup attempt to host a similar event in the northwest corner of the state. Erica explained that this area already has a regularly scheduled meeting between schools and has an active LIST that can be the sponsor of the event. The purpose of the truancy subgroup hosting this type of event would be to gather information on what is happening on the ground in schools. This information will be used to decide what are the next steps of the group and what is needed in regards to truancy. The next step is for Erica Bromley to reach out to the Torrington LIST to discuss if this would be something they would be interested in doing.

YSB/Truancy Tool Kit

The creation of a Tool Kit was discussed between the group members. This toolkit would be for the schools themselves and for them to provide to the parents. The group agreed that the following aspects should be included in the tool kit:

1. Parent brochure to help them understand the process and what YSBs can offer
2. 1 pager/fact sheet for schools to help guide them in the referral process
3. Referral Form/Referral Guide
4. Flowchart of the process for when a student is identified as truant, and what steps the school takes

Erica and Elizabeth Cannata are working on the flowchart

Bill Bilyak and Dana Forry are working on the brochure

YSB Referral Consent Form

The group continued the discussion around the problems of parents not signing the consent forms in order for schools to make referrals. This discussion was more of a brainstorming effort around what other possibilities there are to have consent forms signed and how to support school staff in having conversations with parents around the referral process. A suggestion was made of potentially engaging The Network of Care agencies such as AFCAMP or FAVOR to gather feedback from parents to gain a better understanding of why they refuse to sign the referral form. There are no current next steps.

***Next Meeting: March 22, 2019 from 9:30-11am at State Department of Education 450 Columbus Blvd**