



JJPOC Diversion Meeting Summary
March 1, 2019
11:00-12:30
SDE 450 Columbus Blvd, Hartford

Review of Strategic Plan

Co-Chair Erica Bromley presented the Diversion workgroup's goal "Limit Entry into the Juvenile Justice System" to all the members. They reviewed the primary measures and the objectives that they agreed upon. This plan is a 3 year plan and is the roadmap for the work that the diversion work group is doing moving forward.

Priorities and Timeline of Diversion Workgroup Tasks

The group reviewed a document that was created as a suggested work plan for 2019. The suggested work plan consisted of Removal of Status Offenses, Truancy, Justice Reinvestment Plan, YSB Data, and Right Sizing the System. A subgroup is going to be formed in order to work on the removal of the remaining status offenses from court jurisdiction. This group will work on creating a referral system for parents, law enforcement and other entities that may make referrals. This group will also be tasked with defining what are the appropriate referrals for YSBs and help educate others on the process.

The truancy subgroup has begun working together again. At this time, they are focusing on creating a toolkit for schools and families to better understand the referral process to YSBs for students who are truant and for the services that YSBs can provide. The hope with the toolkit is that schools will understand how and when to make referrals to YSBs and parents will understand the benefits of the referrals to YSBs. The group is also looking to hold an Attendance Forum with schools in the northwest corner of CT. This will be a forum with many open table discussions for the truancy group to gather information on what is happening on the group level with truancy and what the needs are of schools.

Justice Reinvestment is a task of the Diversion workgroup however, it is being done by Dr. Lauren Ruth and her team at Ct Voices for Children. They are doing a historical look at the juvenile justice system and where money was spent over the last 10 years. A site visit was also recently conducted with the Council of State Governments who are considering working with CT in 2019. If they decided to work with CT, they would be conducting an evaluation of our programming and fiscal implications of it. CSG will then provide a recommendation that could be used for proposed legislation.

YSB Data and their data system, and the problems that YSBs are currently facing was discussed. The group agrees that YSBs need support, but are not sure if the diversion workgroup is the right group to provide that support. This conversation will continue offline.

A subgroup will be formed to work on right sizing the system, raising the lower age limit. This group will mainly collect the research and data that is already created around this topic. The goal is to create a recommendation for legislation for 2020 to raise the lower age limit of the juvenile justice system.

Georgetown CJJR Capstone Project



A team was formed and sent to Georgetown University to complete a certificate program, "School Justice Partnerships and Diversion Pathways." The team made up of, Devon McCormick, TYJI, Dr. Lauren Ruth, CT Voices for Children, Sgt. Jill Ruggiero, Westport Police Department, Daisy Ortiz, CSSD, Patrice McCarthy, CAFE Tianna Hill, UCHC, and Dr. Danielle Cooper, TYJI presenting on their proposed capstone project. The team is planning on compiling an inventory of CT school-based diversion initiatives/programs. They then plan on talking directly with stakeholders to gather more information on what schools and communities are doing and what is and is not working. Once all the information is gathered, they plan on analyzing it and presenting a report to JJPOC. The diversion workgroup approved of their capstone project and agreed to support them when needed.

Status Update on JJPOC Recommendations

The recommendations that the diversion workgroup proposed to the JJPOC was accepted. At this time there is a place holder for the bill, but it has not yet been presented.

Next Steps:

Subgroups need to be formed for Status Offenses and Right Sizing the System

Meeting Schedule: The next meeting will be held May 3, 2019 at SDE, 450 Columbus Blvd, Hartford 11:00-12:30