



JJPOC Diversion Work Group

November 1, 2019

11:00-12:30pm

State Department of Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT 06103

Meeting Summary:

- Update from Subgroups
 - FWSN
 - The group reviewed the informational page as well as the referral form that is intended for parents, police, etc. to understand the referral process. Some changes were made and will be reflected in updated versions of the document(s).
 - It was mentioned that the CYSA needs to conduct outreach to parents/police to notify them that the form exists and ensure its availability for use. It was suggested that the form is available online on the CYSA website and available at local YSBs/Police Departments.
 - The Workgroup discussed possible funding for services as well as YSB staff training for new processes.
 - Truancy
 - The truancy brochure has been completed and distributed to the intended audience
 - The goal of the brochure is to encourage parent engagement as early as possible.
 - The State Department of Education is creating a 1-page factsheet concerning truant/chronically absent youth.
 - Factsheet includes statutes related to both of the status' and lists what schools must do (attendance teams, possible referrals to YSB)
 - Currently, once a child is truant, they cannot lose that status for the entire school year. There is a possibility to explore a new definition that allows for kids that begin to regularly attend school again to no longer be considered truant.
 - The Workgroup discussed that truancy referrals to the YSBs are not being sent properly due to incorrect contact info, lack of parental consent, use of additional resources in/out of school, and no statutory obligation for referral to YSB. There needs to be an emphasis on attendance outcomes, regardless if services are received through YSBs or other resources.
 - Some members discussed the possibility of engaging a researcher to evaluate outcomes for truancy. The group questioned how we might measure positive/negative outcomes.
 - Rightsizing the Age
 - The group discussed carve outs for certain crimes if the age is raised.

- The group would like to look at what other states are doing for the kids who are too young to be referred to court. Questions considered included: What services are provided for these children? What happens if they fail to engage in these services?
 - The overall number of kids is small and manageable in one single reform. A phase-in was considered but deemed unnecessary.
- Legislative Proposals of Diversion Work Group
 - Raising the Lower Age- Needs to include piece that clearly states where these kids should be served instead of court. Will meet again in December.
 - Truancy- Release of educational records to YSBs specifically for truancy. Potential FERPA concerns were discussed. The members emphasized the importance that the language should be in proper section of statutory law (10-76).
 - FWSN- Possible funding for educational advocacy from FWSN referrals.
- Next Steps
 - The Council of State Governments is coming to CT this month for a front-end analysis of the system. The Workgroup talked about using this analysis for recommendations of more funding.

Next Meeting: Doodle poll will be sent out for meeting after Thanksgiving