



## JJPOC Diversion Workgroup MEETING

MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

2:00 PM- 3:30 PM

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

**THIS MEETING DOES NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION- DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES**

### Attendance

Elisabeth Cannata	Kelly Orts	Regina Mitchell	<b>TYJI Staff</b>
Erica Bromley	Lisa Simone	Susan Hamilton	Paul Klee
Jenny Lutz	Martha Stone	Thea Montanez	Brittany LaMarr
John Saccu	Nicole Colletto	Vin Duva	Erika Nowakowski
Kathryn Dube	Patrice McCarthy	Yecenia Casiano	

### Meeting Summary

#### 1. Introduction

- During the 2023 legislative session, \$4.2 million per year, over the course of a two-year period, was diverted from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to support the implementation of a 'Diversion First' pilot program.
  - The deadline to submit an implementation plan is set for summer 2024. However, the plan is to extend this deadline to the last quarter of 2024.
- In addition to this plan, an 'Alternative to Arrest' plan was recommended to be developed by the Council of State Governments to divert young people for lower level offenses.
  - This plan was mandated by Public Act 23-188.
  - A subcommittee was created to support the creation of this plan.
  - The most recent iteration of this plan was created in 2022.
- This workgroup will revisit this plan recommended by the Council of State Governments and use it to inform them on how to further develop the 'Diversion First' pilot program.



- Additional working members to the group include representation from local and regional Board of Educations, Youth Services Bureaus (YSB), Juvenile Review Boards (JRB), and police departments.
- The mandatory pre-arrest diversion tactics that this plan will cover are for low level offenses where no arrest by a police officer has been made. This includes: criminal mischief, creating a public disturbance, and disorderly conduct.
  - These pre-arrest diversion tactics cover first and second offenses for these particular criminal behaviors.
  - Additional conversation was held regarding including larceny and breach of peace.
- Concerns raised by law enforcement include the lack of a provision within the pre-arrest diversion plan to allow for court referral if JRB's were ineffective in addressing the issue.
  - Recommendation intention was always to allow for referral back to court should the need arise.
  - Decriminalization of offenses is not the intention.
- Discussion was held regarding how the Alternatives to Arrest plan and Diversion First plan will be merged.
  - Recommendation language is heavily dependent upon the data from the community-based diversion system.
    - While data from YSB's and JRB's is available, it is currently not able to connected to the broader scope of the diversion plan due to its limited scope. Recidivism data and school referral data, among other data points, are not currently accessible.
  - Further discussion is needed to determine what language will be incorporated into this new recommendation.
  - Discrepancies in the understanding of the ability to share data between schools due to HIPPA regulations need to be corrected to aid in the process of gathering particular data points.
- YSB's currently operate under general statute 10-19M. JRB's do not currently operate under general statutes.
  - A requirement of the Diversion First pilot program is to restructure protocols and procedures for organizations that operate under DCF funding.
- Discussion was held regarding relinquishing the truancy portion of the Diversion First Pilot program to the Education Committee.
  - Point of information was made that there is no prohibition on members of the Diversion Workgroup from joining the Education Committee.



- There was no dissent from Diversion Workgroup members about allowing the Education Committee to work on the truancy portion of the Diversion First Pilot program.

## **2. Raise the Age Subgroup Update**

- Recommendations from the Subgroup include raising the minimum age from 10 to 12 years old.
  - Data showcasing the effectiveness of previous raise the age efforts from 7 to 10 years old is needed to justify the recommendation of raising the age from 10 to 12 years old.
    - Data outcomes are not yet available.
  - In order to better understand the needs of this age range, it was recommended to look into behavioral health service needs data.
- Other metrics the Subgroup should consider assessing include:
  - What quantifies success;
  - Are there mechanisms in place currently to collect needed data;
  - What services are available to this population;
  - What barriers are in place preventing access to services.

## **3. JJPOC Annual Workplan & Strategic Plan Development Update**

- JJPOC operates under a three-year strategic plan.
  - This plan will expire summer 2024 and a new plan will need to be developed.
- An in-person meeting will soon be requested for JJPOC members to discuss a new strategic plan to orchestrate the work for the next three years.
  - The date is likely to be June 2024.
- Strong emphasis on reentry, alternatives to arrest, and diversion are likely to be included.
  - Reimagining what data and metrics are to be prioritized.

## **4. JJPOC 2024 Recommendations and Legislation Update**

- Recommendations voted on by the JJPOC in December 2023 and January 2024 have moved on to the legislative process.
  - They have been broken up into two bills:
    - House Bill 5339, moving through the Higher Education Committee
    - Bill number for the second bill moving through the Judiciary Committee is forthcoming.

**Next Meeting: April 9, 2024**