



JJPOC Diversion Workgroup MEETING

APRIL 9TH, 2024

2:00 PM- 3:30 PM

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

THIS MEETING DOES NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION- DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES

Attendance

Agata Raszczyk-Lawska	Kathryn Dube	Steve Smith	TYJI Staff
Anthony Nolan	Kelly Orts	Tasha Hunt	Paul Klee
Brian Wright	Marc Vallen	Thea Montanez	Brittany LaMarr
Derrick Gordon	Martha Stone	Vin Duva	Erika Nowakowski
Elisabeth Cannata	Michael Williams	Vin Russo	
Jeana Bracey	Nicole Colletto		
John Saccu	Shirley Ellis-West		

Meeting Summary

1. Subgroup Updates

- Alternatives to Arrest Subgroup Update:
 - Anticipated deadline for the report is July 1, 2024.
 - A deadline extension is currently being worked on, though it is unlikely this will succeed.
 - It is being recommended that an executive summary of the Alternatives to Arrest Development Plan be created due to the plans roughly 20-page length.
 - The Diversion Workgroup is considering utilizing preexisting recommendations created for the Alternatives to Arrest Development Plan, within their plan.



- Risk screen that is used within juvenile probation and delinquency court and a five-tiered needs assessment for youth under supervision are two of the tools.
 - Due to the lack of need surrounding utilizing a risk-based assessment tool for low- to medium-risk youth, it was determined that a needs-based assessment tool was needed for the populations that Juvenile Review Boards (JRB) use.
 - The Ohio Scale is one of the tools used by JRB's.
- JRB's are in the process of transitioning to utilizing the Ohio scale, statewide.
- Discussion was held regarding whether the Diversion Workgroup should recommend utilizing a needs-based tool, rather than a risk-based tool, to address the youths who are being diverted for low-level infractions and misdemeanors.
- Discussion was held regarding program fidelity and the necessity of maintaining continued conversation throughout the Diversion Workgroup Development Plan in order to avoid having to reconvene about creating another plan in the near future.
- There was discussion surrounding how police, statewide, would be able to determine the number of offenses an individual youth has committed, across municipalities.
 - Currently, police departments do not have the capability of tracking youth offenses across municipalities.
 - There is no centralized, comprehensive system that police departments use statewide to track the number of youth arrests and interactions.
 - Police departments have access to obtain information from juvenile courts so long as there is an investigation ongoing that necessitates the need for this information.
 - This database came about from legislation that was passed last year.
 - This database does not capture cases that are diverted from formal court involvement.
- Numerous years ago, as part of diversion reform, the Waterbury police department implemented a ticketing system that was modeled after Florida's system. Since then, staff transitions and the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted the usage of this ticketing system. Follow up will be provided to update this workgroup on the status of Waterbury's usage of the ticketing system.



- There is \$4.2 million in funds to be utilized to create the Diversion First Plan.
- **Raise the Age Subgroup Update:**
 - Raise the Age Subgroup is actively looking for a Chair or two Co-Chairs to facilitate this Subgroup.
- **Truancy**
 - Workgroup discussed the absorption of the Truancy Subgroup into the Education Workgroup and the need for a member or members of the Diversion Workgroup to represent diversion interests in the Education Workgroup.
 - Due to the strong correlation between the work being done in the Alternatives to Arrest Subgroup and the Diversion Workgroup, Diversion Workgroup co-chairs Thea Montanez and Lisa Simone have volunteered to co-chair the Alternatives to Arrest Subgroup as well.
 - Diversion Workgroup members were asked to consider chairing/co-chairing the Raise the Age Subgroup.
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- 2. **JJPOC 2024 Recommendations and Legislation Update**
 - The Education Workgroup will be absorbing the Truancy Subgroup responsibilities.

Next Meeting: **June 25th, 2024**