

THIS MEETING DID NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION
JJPOC DIVERSION WORKGROUP
JUNE 25TH, 2024
2:00 PM-3:30 PM
Web Based Meeting- Zoom

Attendance

ERICA BROMLEY
CURTIS ELLER
REP. ANTHONY NOLAN
THEA MONTANEZ
DR. LISA SIMONE
MICHAEL WILLIAMS
DERRICK GORDON
AGATA RASZCZYK-
LAWSKA

JOHN SACCU
SHANDA EASLEY
DR. DERRICK GORDON
JENNY BRIDGES
JOSHUA BERNEGGAR
KATHRYN DUBE
KELLY ORTS
MICHAEL C. WILLIAMS

TYJI Staff

MELISSA MILLER
MARTHA STONE
RYAN MATTHEWS
TASHA HUNT
REP. TONI WALKER

BRITTANY LAMARR
ABBY DARLING
ARYANA AGLI
SHELBY HENDERSON
CRYSTAL CHEN
PAUL KLEE

Meeting Summary:

- Review and Vote on Pre-Arrest Diversion Recommendations
 - The Alternative to Arrest Subgroup is required to submit a pre-arrest diversion plan to CGA by July 1, 2024
 - The following plan has been approved by the Alternatives to Arrest subgroup, and now needs to be voted upon by this workgroup.
 - Recommendation 1
 - Proposed Recommendation
 - Standardize all Juvenile Review Boards by November 1st
 - Submit a pilot program for diversion by November 1st, 2024.
 - Pilot program is estimated to cost \$4.2 million to implement
 - Discussion
 - The workgroup asked for clarification as far as what the proposed recommendation meant by “standardize”.
 - The current legislature allows communities to develop YSBs and JRBs in accordance with their own requirements. This proposed recommendation will standardize those requirements including assessments, evaluation, access, timeline, etc.

- It was noted that the workgroup needs to be careful with the term standardization, because YSBs and JRBs only have so many resources, and may not be able to meet all these proposed standards.
- A workgroup member emphasized that all children need to have the option of diverting pre-arrest, and not post-arrest.
 - The legislature does not require all towns to have a JRB, but maybe this program should require all towns to have a connection to a specific surrounding JRB, so that all kids are guaranteed access.
 - If juveniles have a relationship with law enforcement prior to arrest, it is easier to prevent a larger incident.
- Concern was raised about over standardization of JRBs to the point where some lower funded JRBs may not be able to meet those standards.
- It was clarified that while standardization needs to be defined by the launch of the pilot program in November, it doesn't necessarily need a definition today.
- Concern was also raised that this proposed program won't work for kids being disciplined in school, only kids involved in the criminal justice system.
 - This was rebutted with the idea that diversion is at its core about keeping children out of jail, not to keep them from committing non-criminal offenses.
- Recommendation 2
 - Proposed Recommendation
 - Develop a Statewide Pre-Arrest Diversion Policy
 - Discussion
 - The workgroup doesn't think diversion should be statutorily mandated at this moment.
 - Developing a policy allows the workgroup to flex diversion procedures according to results before they are codified in law
 - It was proposed that if recommendations 1,3, and 4 are successful, the workgroup revisit this recommendation with the goal of creating legislature instead of policy.

- Concern was raised that the workgroup's rationale for not pursuing legislature was for the benefit of the police, and not the youth.
 - It was argued that those items are not mutually exclusive
- There are policies that are required for police departments as a part of the accreditation process
 - If a police officer decides to arrest, this policy requires the police officer to file a report as to why they decided not to divert
- Further, it was argued that police need to be able to use discretion when deciding between diversion and arrest because different instances of the same offense can still be incredibly different in terms of context (ex. A child that shoplifts a candy bar from the corner store shouldn't be handled in the same manner as a child who steals a gold necklace from their friend's house, yet both offenses are Larceny 6).
- One workgroup member raised the point that police accountability is already mandated in the form of a report that needs to be filed explaining why an officer chose to arrest in lieu of diversion after every instance of juvenile arrest.
- It was also recommended that the workgroup works with the CEW in the creation of this policy.
- Recommendation 3
 - Proposed Recommendation
 - Develop a state-wide pre-arrest diversion training program for police officers in conjunction with CEW, POSTC, and DESPP.
 - This training will become a part of the accreditation process.
- Recommendation 4
 - Proposed Recommendation
 - Identify Youth and Police Engagement Training Programs to better prepare children for an interaction with police.
 - Would involve role-playing scenarios so youth can understand why police may respond a certain way to a certain behavior.
 - Discussion

- Benefits
 - Can help prevent escalation in police-encounters
 - Youth get to establish a positive relationship with the police
- The possibility of implementing this program into school curriculums was discussed.
- One workgroup member suggested following up with OPM about their previous work with the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee for a blueprint of this program
- Clarification was given regarding the format of this training, (online, in-person, training videos, etc.)
 - It was determined that this would be decided after an evaluation of current programming.
- Due to perceived consensus, the work group opted to Block Vote
 - Yea
 - 12
 - Abstain
 - 2
 - Nay
 - 0
- The Plan will be submitted by July 1st to JJPOC
- Raise the Age Subgroup Update
 - This discussion was postponed to the next meeting due to time concerns.

Next Meeting: August 13th, 2024, 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM