



Raise the Minimum Age Subgroup
July 29th, 2020
12:00 PM- 1:00 PM
Zoom Conference Call

Meeting Summary:

- Membership:
 - The JJPOC Integrated Community Workgroup reached out to their members for possible addition to the Raising the Minimum Age Subgroup.
 - It was also mentioned that psychologist/developmental expert, 211 representative, Vera Institute, victim advocate, and/or police chief may also be helpful to the subgroup membership.
- Sana Fadel, Deputy Director from Citizens for Juvenile Justice in MA, provided feedback regarding their recent process of raising the minimum age.
 - Their organization considered passing legislation to raise the minimum age and abolishing juvenile life without parole.
 - The work around raising the minimum age was a part of a campaign to address juveniles in the most developmentally appropriate way. The organization wanted to shift the focus on middle to high school youth, up to their 21st birthday.
 - Research showed that there were very small numbers of youth under the age of 12 in the system and are predominantly Black and Latino youth. The international standard is for 12 to be minimum age of the juvenile justice system. If a younger person enters the legal system, they are more likely to be exposed to other negative effects of the system and are also more likely to reoffend.
 - They discussed incompetency issues; juvenile court clinics were in support of raising the age because a juvenile will not be found competent to stand trial so they would have to wait in detention centers.
 - It was helpful to have positions of leadership and parents in the community support their work.
 - There was further discussion on alternative options to arrests and prosecution for this young population, including forcing diversion alternatives, parental neglect, and resources.
- Discussion of Workplan Outline
 - The subgroup discussed the data needs for moving forward. The subgroup hopes to take a deeper dive into the specific services youth under 12 were referred to and follow a specific case example from beginning to the end of their case. There was a discussion on visualizing a decision-making map.

- There was also a discussion on how to make services accessible for this young population and how the referral process would differ.
- Meeting Schedule/Frequency
 - Schedule a standing monthly meeting and if there are any additional needs the subgroup will alter the schedule accordingly.
 - TYJI will send out a Doodle poll for this standing meeting.
 - TYJI will reach out to Bryan Sperry to review additional data.

Next Meeting- September 3rd at 10am via Zoom