



Raise the Minimum Age Subgroup
September 3rd, 2020
10AM-11:30AM
Zoom Conference call

Meeting Summary:

- The subgroup has expanded its membership and began the meeting with introductions of all members.
- There was a discussion on the continuation to expand membership to cover a variety of areas and services related to the under 12 population. It was suggested that educational advocacy, AFCAMP, and Waterbury system leaders be invited to participate in future meetings.
- Overview of the Office of Child Advocate Report regarding Waterbury Public Schools
 - OCA provided a summary of the recent report released on the Waterbury Public Schools during academic year 2018-2019.
 - There is a need to identify children with higher needs, trauma, developmental disorders and differentiate calling 911 and calling 211. The police were called on multiple occasions. 40 incident reports were documented under the age of 10 years old. 12+ were more likely to be arrested for fighting /bullying.
 - The severity of use of police in the school system is worse in Waterbury than in other areas, but the problems are happening throughout the state.
 - Many of the kids had special education or autism. Special education individuals had many suspensions. The police are now redesigning these problems to give more positive support.
 - The number of incidents with children and in suicide behaviors was striking. Many children lived in families with DCF. Prevention and diversion need to start at a young age in public schools.
- Review of CSSD Data for the Under 12 Population
 - The subgroup reviewed data on the under 12 population of the justice system from the past ten years. The data specifically looks at youth under the age of 12 at the time of offense who were referred to court. This information was also previously presented to JJPOC. JJPOC in January.
 - The data showed the number of referrals has decreased and the last three years of the monthly volume are low double digits or single digits per month system wide.
 - **Distribution by age:** The majority of these children are 11 years of age.
 - **Charge Type:** Primarily misdemeanors.
 - **Court Referrals by Location:** While we have seen a decline in most towns, New Haven has seen an increase in recent years. The primary contributors are Waterbury, Hartford, and Bridgeport.

- **Annual Referrals by Source:** Police departments were the source of most referrals. When we look at school-related, which are 30-40%, and others are community-based.
- **Demographics:** Increase in percentage for white/non-Hispanic youth, and gender has been stable with 2/3 males represented and 1/3 females in this age group population.
- **Top 10 Cities with Referrals:** Waterbury, New Britain, Bridgeport, New Haven, Enfield, New London, Stamford, Hartford, Norwalk, Danbury.
- **Court Handling:** Youth are handled judicially or non-judicially. As our total number of referrals to court decreases, we see an increase in the percentage that is not received by the court. It has been steady for judicially handled that are 20-30%. The court does not accept most of these children. There was also a discussion on handling decisions and disposition, non-judicial supervision, and JRB referrals.
- **Court Decisions and Age:** Primarily, 11-year-olds will get non judicially handling. Only 20% of these children and judicially managed. We need to examine how many of these referrals are home-based or community-based. If they are home-based, what are the specific incidents to get those referrals to the police?
- **Disposition Groups per Year:** Many of these cases are being supervised through probation, very few kids were committed. The most significant increase was not prosecuted and an increasing percentage that was not accepted by the court. 1/5 are getting a discharge from their case. Many kids do not a large amount of supervision, which means that they will not get the services unless they are at higher risk in the system.
- **Treatments Being Referred To:** Most of these children have no treatment entered, which will be familiar with the supervision is administrative. 85% that were committed were now rearrested as well.
- **Risk of Supervised Youth:** Most of these children are low risk, especially with youth administrated supervised. JAG to PREDICT tools in 2018, which are risk assessments, is a 5-tier model. Tier 1,2 were handled as a low-risk child would be held. Tier 3 is medium, and 4,5 is high risk. Not every youth is not focused on trauma in this tool. These risks are focused on individuals that are in detention centers.
- **Need Areas for Youth:** It is essentially dealing with needs, risks, and supports within the intake process with youth dealing with youth development and trauma.
- **Prior DCF Involvement:** The type of dispositions that fewer than 20% have been DCF involved or committed to that system that did not change the outcome's difference.
- Trying to figure out the community-based referrals for larger cities and where those kids were at. Bryan will send slides on needs, treatments for these children, and the assessment protocols for non-judicial supervision.
- **Work Plan Outline**
 - “Alternative Handling” Language, Referral Process, Screening, Assessment, Intervention, Services
 - There was a discussion on drafting the language for “alternative handling” by a subgroup member with a legal background. Sue Hamilton and Fran Carino

offered to assist. There was an emphasis on outlining the services, how youth get to the services, and alternative systems for this population.

- We need to look at what is already being provided and examine how the police and community work together.
- Although there is a lot of work to be done, there is a deadline of January 2021 so this subgroup is only temporary. TYJI will send out an email to recruit volunteers to be more actively involved in the outline of the plan.

Next Meeting- October 1st, 2020 at 10am via Zoom