



JJPOC Raise the Age Subgroup MEETING

AUGUST 1ST, 2022

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

THIS MEETING DOES NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION- DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES

Meeting Summary

1. Discuss Threshold

- Previously there was work to raise the minimum age to 12, but there have been conversations to raise the age to 14
- Maybe creating a phased process where the age is raised to 12 first, then later the age is raised to 14, this could have more buy in than just proposing to raise the age to 14
- Raising the age to 14 politically would not work, more would be in favor of raising the age to 12 then raising the age to 14 in the next phase
- The numbers justify raising the age to 14, so it could be done
- It was agreed that phasing in is a good idea as long as it gets to 14 at some point
- Previously when the age was raised to 10, 12 was the age that was recommended and 10 was the middle ground, possibly proposing 14 then getting a middle ground of 12 would work
- The end goal of 12 seems more reasonable in the short term than 14
- It was asked if there is room in this conversation to create referrals to special education as a part of diversion efforts
- When looking at diversion efforts, the alternatives to arrest group is working on diverting youth of all ages from system involvement which could help support raising the minimum age
- Hartford and Bridgeport have a low number of school-based arrests, but Waterbury is consistently higher as well as New Haven and Hamden, the age of kids being arrested is 15-, 16- and 17-year old's, very rare for younger than that to be arrested
- CSSD has many pilots underway, data from these could help to give an idea of the number of youths under 14 that haven cases handled judicially
- It is important to look at both sides of the argument, it's a small number of youths so why involved them in the system, on the other side, it is a small number of youth so what is the point in changing it
- Maybe showing how much money the state will save, what resources are available, downstream consequences, and showing what services go to which kids could be helpful to support the argument to change



- It was asked if there is a way to look at the cases of younger kids to see what services they are getting and where they are going
- Since people often respond well to stories, many like the idea of finding some examples that are compelling, showing the disparate impact that was shown in the data last year could be helpful
- It was suggested that listening sessions could be conducted, this could help to present different narratives, CTJA does listening sessions often and this could potentially be something they could help with

2. Identify Data Needs

- Looking at CSSD data and carving out the data all the way up to 14
- Getting data on YSB referrals broken up by court, young person's age, and race, this can help to show disparities on how young people are being treated
- Probation makes a lot of referrals to JRBs, for young kids especially, this data could be helpful when broken up by age up to age 14
- School records on these kids particularly the younger ones can provide information on trajectories, youth who have gotten in trouble in before, and more
- This information could be hard to get on a state level, but New Haven has a program called YouthStat that would have this data, and a professor at University of New Haven is currently working with this data
- The tricky thing with school record data is privacy, which limits the ability to access it
- When the education unit at DCF starts there will be a lot of good data that this group can use

3. Develop Timeline

- The language for proposal will be easy
- The report will be due around October or November
- It was asked if there were legislators could join the group, people from both sides of the isle, it would be helpful to bring people in early in the session for conversations, the more people on board the better
- It will be challenging to get people from the other side to join in on this initiative
- The group knows who will be on board, but thinking through how to package this as a public safety conversation to persuade people on the other side
- Getting data from YSB, JRB referrals, and CSSD will help make a stronger argument
- There needs to be thought on how to create a phased process
- CSSD can work to update data if the request is made update and maybe slightly expand, this data could help decide if phasing in would be the best option depending on the numbers

4. Next Steps

- If there is any data that could show that things are not worse when 10-year-olds are not processed through the courts that could be helpful support



- It was suggested that looking at what Massachusetts has done could be helpful since they have done this already
- Looking at what ages 12, 13, and 14 looks like developmentally like has been done in the past, refreshing these materials to use
- Giving thought about people to get on board, and what stories should be told to get more support for this
- It was asked that if this group is looking to put this recommendation forward this year how many more meetings are needed, there are two months to pull everything together then create a draft, this would then have to go through the diversion workgroup before it goes to the JJPOC
- The group should schedule a meeting in September, if it is decided that it is not needed it can be cancelled

Next Meeting: TBD