



JJPOC Alternatives to Arrest Subgroup MEETING

MAY 23RD, 2022

12:00 PM- 1:00 PM

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

THIS MEETING DOES NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION- DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES

Meeting Summary

1. Legislative update

- The language for pre-arrest diversion got muddled in with everything else, so there is not new language, but the language from last session that charged this group with doing report, is still in place
- Highlighted in the report that many behaviors are already diverted, it is just a matter of diverting pre-arrest as opposed to post-arrest, and figuring out how to track how many times a youth is referred

2. Review of the Ticket Book and Referral Form

- Since the language in the legislation just said pre-arrest diversion, this group determined that there is mandatory diversion but also the potential for arrest
- A main question is how will law enforcement know if youth have already been referred to the JRB for similar behavior in other jurisdictions
- This group discussed using the existing process, ticket books, that some police departments use already to divert, which is likely currently done post-arrest
- Wanting to make sure that if a young person is diverted multiple times without success that it will go back to the referent and then could move forward with a summons or arrest
- A few years back looking at other states using civil citations; however, it did not make sense for the state to create a new process, they could use existing structures
- The idea is that law enforcement will be able to track the history of youth in diversion programs to determine if diversion or arrest is needed, potentially using ticket books to track this information
- Thought that using ticket books would be a good idea to get law enforcement what they need because it is a tool they already use
- It was asked if schools use a form like the JRB referrals or if they use something like FWSN referral, it was clarified that schools use FWSN document



- Using these forms are not an arrest, but it was asked how people are going to separate this form from an arrest, how will they know that it is something that is used to avoid arrest
- On the document it is stated that the case can be referred to the court for prosecution, but there is an opportunity to help people understand, using language on the form that suggests that this referral is a good thing
- Some feedback from people in communities is that they don't really understand the diversion process, if they should participate or not, so the form should be clear to show that the case will be diverted and supported, but if it cannot be resolved it will be referred to the court
- This is an opportunity for education, people should understand that this is a right for them and an opportunity for their children
- There was concern that the form looks just like a summons which makes it look punitive rather than an opportunity
- This is an opportunity to look at the format of these sheet, with FWSN, although it was not the best, there was a front page to describe the hope and the expectations for outcomes, something similar could be done with the referrals
- The current referral is familiar to law enforcement, but since there is concern that it looks like a summons potentially some changes could be made
- Some JRBs have created their own forms that look like documents that come from local Youth Service Bureaus
- The referral form should have information on why you have been asked to participate, what are the conditions of participating, what is the hope, and if this process doesn't work there is the potential for arrest, it was noted that these should also be reviewed during the first meeting with JRB
- The questions was asked that if a YSB has their own records, do law enforcement officers need to have their own system to track referrals, could they contact the YSB to find out if the youth has already been diverted multiple times
- It was asked if there would be a database for this information, it was clarified that there would not be a database and the group will be building off current systems that are already in place
- There are multiple materials that officers would need to have all the information, that could that include information like local YSB, 211 contacts, and other resources
- The tracking piece would need to be mapped out; what the officer is doing, will a copy be sent to the YSB, there needs to be more detail for the implementation
- A lot of this information is already collected, whether at the local YSB or community provider, the information should not be over complicated, everyone should be able to access what they need



- If a youth has an infraction in another town, the referral will go to the town the youths reside in, all the information would be there
- Ideally a system would be great, the idea was brought up that the YSB would support this information, but resources would be the barrier to create this data system
- At a minimum there should be required tracking from YSB and JRBs, if that is not already happening
- Part of the message is that this process already exists, these ideas and tools are suggested processes that can be used if improvement is needed
- It was noted that there are some JRBs that will need to adapt to the new two strike law instead of one
- If a uniform form is sent out across the state, potentially families could be asked if they have been involved in a JRB before being referred
- Currently there is not a uniform system across the state, in some locations kids cannot access a JRB, which means not all kids are treated equally, some will be diverted, and some will not be depending on location
- A training component will be needed for police prior to implementation

3. Next steps

- Everyone should look at the ticket books and take notes on what is liked or not liked to get feedback on how to improve
- Discussion today around scrapping ticket book that looks like a summons, looking at a way to frame this through a memo or brochure
- Using the existing report to create a draft or a supplement of a final report to be done by in October, potentially creating a brochure within the final report
- Part of the initiative was to look at data on the wide disparity of who is being referred, sharing this within the final report so everyone has access to it
- From this point forward, this group will have a set meeting time the fourth Monday of every month and skipping July

Next Meeting: June 27, 2022, 12:00-1:00pm