



JJPOC Alternatives to Arrest Subgroup MEETING

JUNE 27TH, 2022

1:00 PM- 2:00 PM

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

THIS MEETING DOES NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION- DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES

Meeting Summary

1. Discussion of updated report

- A lot of the leg work was done in the initial report, the new report will mostly include any new data
- Decisions need to be made about to present the new data in the report that will be released in October
- The group should look at judicial branch data from 2020-2021 and compare it to new data
- It would be interesting to see if there has been a change of practice for how law enforcement handles tier 1 and tier 2 cases just based off the survey and discussion of legislative changes
- Next meeting someone from judicial will come to walk through the new data with everyone
- In the new report put in 2021-22 data and information about new initiatives should be included so that changes in the data can be seen
- Adding this information will help to show through data how the system responds to the changes that were made
- Even though only a small percentage of cases would have come through the court there is an opportunity to talk about the diversions that are happening
- The JRB pilot has not started, it will start in July and will be at least 12 months, there will be an updated protocol guide that comes from the pilot that is more restorative that can be used for across the state in other JRBs
- The group does not feel that it should not be an issue getting people on board with the new JRB protocols
- Information about JRBs can be included in the updated report
- It was asked if the protocols for court diversion in all court locations, it was noted that right now it is in Bridgeport, Stamford, Hartford, and Rockville



- The judicial is making changes to the CT practice book, courts will be making decisions based on the actual needs of the person rather than the charge, this will help with consistency across the state
- The report may be in the form of an update of the data and an explanation of some of the diversionary programs that impact the numbers, will help to reinforce the point that there are only a small number of cases that are not already being diverted, and the purpose is to standardize so that there are not disparities

2. Discuss format of the referral form

- It was asked if it would make sense to have one form for everyone to use for diversion
- There has been a standardized FWSN form before, the group could potentially do something like that
- The school and community-based referrals exclusively go to the YSB, which when looking at delinquency offenses often get referred to a JRB, status offenses should be separated from this because they are more along the lines of case management
- Having a standardized referral for JRB delinquency would be helpful
- It was brought up that some communities have been using ticket books because it is easier, it just had information about JRBs and was a different color than the summons form
- It was noted that using forms for FWSN should stay the same because they do not concern delinquency
- Recently a question was raised about using FWSN since it does not exist for the courts, there was concern about how the public would perceive the use of the form and where it is going
- Whatever form is given to people should be clear, people should not be confused about whether they need to appear in court or not
- What has been happening in some places is that summons ticket book is being used to refer kids to YSBs, it is clearer to just use a different form for YSB referrals
- FWSN does not exist anymore, the term should not be used as it confuses people the referrals should be referred to as JRB referrals
- The group should determine what would be best moving forward in terms of language
- The group is talking about status offenses versus arrestable offenses, this could be brought up with the diversion workgroup to brainstorm how to move forwards and change some of the terms
- This group would like to come up with some sort of referral form that is standardized



- Last meeting the group looked about referral forms from Tolland and Waterbury, some would prefer to use the simplified version of these forms, the one that is the same size as the ticket book
- It was brought up that the simplified form could be used to get the families information to the JRB, then the JRB could explain the rest of the information to the family
- On the existing forms the group would need to tweak information on form about waiving rights which can be confusing for people as they are not being referred to court
- It was asked if there is a way on the ticket book to mark if an arrest was made or not, this would be important for tracking
- As a part of the JRB pilot there will be a recommendation made that police departments use the ticket book so that everything is standard
- Referrals that are not to a JRB should also be incorporated, language that the referral is for the JRB or other services
- It was noted that the form should be called a diversion ticket book not a JRB referral since the form can be used to refer youth to a variety of services
- The form should be made to be user friendly, not just for law enforcement but also for the people who are receiving it
- It was brought up that the group should include a law enforcement officer on the committee so they can give feedback on the form

3. Raise the Age Subgroup Update:

- There is a need for tracking the number of referrals made because of the language used in the legislation
- Last meeting it was decided that referrals would need to be sent back to the town the youth reside in
- Instead of law enforcement tracking the number of referrals the JRBs could track them, potentially law enforcement could then contact local JRBs for information about previous referrals that were made
- The group should come up with a variety of scenarios so there is guidance for what to do
- The number of offenses does not preclude someone from participating in the JRB trying to not referring more youth to court
- A question was asked about when youth move towns how information gets transferred from one JRB to the other, maybe a system could be made to transfer information from one JRB to the other
- It was noted that JRBs are very good about transferring information from one place to another even though there is not centralized data base



- It was asked how officers know if youth have been involved in a JRB previously, it was stated that officers do have records of contacts with youth, but it would be worth getting confirmation about how they track that information and how long they hold onto the information
 - There should be a consistent number of opportunities for youth to be diverted, this would help to reduce disparities that currently exist
 - It was brought up that if a case goes to court that should not there are safeguards in place to diver the youth
 - It was asked in what situation would 211 get called, are there cases that go through 211 now, often mobile crisis services for a crisis through the school system
 - The first option should be service not arrest
 - Since police departments do have a data base at would connecting the dots, a data base could be created to track referrals, it was noted that is out of this groups reach, a database would have to track everything, not just referrals
 - It is important to make sure that the agencies involved have the resources that they need
 - It was noted that on July 1 there will be a platform for YSBs as a part of phase 1 to use for tracking, in phase 2 information sharing with other service providers not just YSBs will be possible
 - There is no way for law enforcement and other service providers to track if youth have been referred elsewhere, but it is not harmful to over include youth in diversion services
- 4. Review of the Alternatives to Arrest Report Submitted January 2022**
- The updated report will include an update on new data and initiative
 - The report will also include an updated version of the referral form and tracking
- 5. Next Steps**
- Contacting law enforcement officer to get input on all these forms and potentially reaching out to non-responding agencies with a survey
 - At the next meeting in August, someone will come go over the new data with the group
 - During the next meeting there will be a draft of the new referral form to go over

Next Meeting: August 22, 1:00pm-2:00pm