



JJPOC Alternatives to Arrest Subgroup MEETING

APRIL 25TH, 2024

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

THIS MEETING DOES NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION- DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES

Attendance

Brian Wright	Lisa Simone	Vin Russo	TYJI Staff
Erica Bromley	Steve Smith		Paul Klee
Joshua Bernegger	Tasha Hunt		Brittany LaMarr
Karrol-Ann Brown	Thea Montanez		Erika Nowakowski

Meeting Summary

1. Alternatives to Arrest Subgroup Workplan Update

- The Workplan for this Subgroup is as follows with an anticipated completion date of July 1, assuming an extension is not granted.
 - Review data (April).
 - Define recommendations; offense based-plan or instructional policy-based plan (April & May).
 - Write the plan (May & June).
 - Create stakeholder engagement plan (September).
 - Develop executive summary and/or FAQ for recommendations (September & October).
 - Identify key stakeholders (September).
 - Assign who will outreach to each stakeholder (October).
 - Deadlines for outreach (November & December).
 - Meet with Dr. Gordon
 - Examine best practices and policy efforts across the States (April).
 - Develop harm reduction model framework for diversion (April & May).
 - Re-define measures of success to evaluate diversion success (May & June).



- Develop outline of standardizes data/record keeping infrastructure (June, July, & August).

2. Discussion on the Implementation of the Alternatives to Arrest Plan

- Discussion surrounding the use of the term “arrest” was held due to the confusion it could cause.
 - There can be instances where a youth is charged with a misdemeanor and involved in court with a court summons, without an arrest taking place and thus, reducing the Implementation Plans reach.
 - Arrests is one mechanism for becoming involved with the justice system, but it is not the only mechanism.
 - A point was made that this plan is more akin to an “Alternatives to Court” title than “arrest.”
 - Continued discussion brought up the point that in order for anyone to be summoned to court, an arrest must be made. Therefore, the original title seems appropriate.
 - An arrest is being formally charged with a violation of a criminal statute and it may or may not involve being taken into physical custody.
 - An example of this is a “misdemeanor summons.”
 - The goal of this plan is to foster more pre-arrest diversions for youth rather than having youth be charged and then diverted.
 - The fluctuation of normal practice that varies amongst municipalities is something that needs to be addressed within this Subgroup.

3. Discussion on Mandated Diversion for Low-Level Offenses

- Discussion was held regarding the varying tactics used by police departments to divert youth for low-level offenses.
- The notion of developing a statewide policy in partnership with the Connecticut Police Officers Training Standards Council and the JJPOC to provide guidance around diversion was discussed.
 - Statewide policies on other issues have been developed in the past.
 - Before creating the recommendation that certain low-level offenses be diverted, it is being proposed that a partnership with the above-mentioned entities should be established first.
 - Previous diversion reform efforts were brought up that seemed to take this line of action as well, with very little growth to be seen. Specific areas to address within this partnership were asked to be stated to ensure all involved parties are working in sync.
 - Data tracking and local communities’ ability to implement diversion reform without guidance from the CT Police Officers Training Standards Council were discussed.



- The ticket book was discussed as a valid way of collecting and tracking data.
 - A consensus was established to move forward with working on developing policy initiatives with the CT Police Officers Training Standards Council and JJPOC first, before recommending changes that would be codified into law.
- 4. Discussion on the DCF Proposed Regional Plan**
- Discussion was held regarding DCF joining next month's meeting to present their proposal.
 - It was recommended that Subgroup members read the two iterations of the Regional Plan to familiarize themselves with it prior to DCF presenting on the topic.