

THIS MEETING CONTAINS A PRESENTATION
JJPOC ALTERNATIVES TO ARREST SUBGROUP MEETING
MAY 23RD, 2024
10:00 am – 11:30 am
Web Based Meeting- Zoom

Attendance

ERICA BROMLEY	REP. NOLAN
JOSHUA BERNEGGAR	CURTIS ELLER
VINCENT RUSSO	THEA MONTANEZ
BRIAN M. WRIGHT	TASHA HUNT
DEVON WHITE	LISA SIMONE
NOAH TRIPLETT	
STEVE SMITH	
KATHRYN DUBE	
A. RAY DANCY	

TYJI Staff

PAUL KLEE
BRITTANY LAMARR
ABBY DARLING

Meeting Summary:

- Subgroup Updates
 - Alternatives to Arrest Report due July 1, 2024.
 - Just need a plan, don't necessarily need to be ready for implementation in July.
 - Diversion Policy to be created with CT Police Officers Standards and Training Council (POST-C)
 - Want POST to develop a training in youth diversion that police officers would have to take every three years as a part of the accreditation process.
 - Policy needs to be approved through POST-C Board
 - The board is in recess during the summer months; however, the board has a subcommittee that is meeting, and they are happy to review the policy and make recommendations to POST Counsel.
- Dr. Gordon TA Update
 - Yale School of Medicine shared a table of their findings on Qualitative Themes, Definitions, and Exemplar Diversion Policies across the country.
 - Specifically, they found that these policies tended to

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- Mandate diversion.
- Cite specific Objectives/Goals of Diversion
- Focus on certain impacted communities.
- Aim to strengthen communities and natural support.
- Outline funding.
- Incorporate a fee for youth to pay to be diverted.
- As well as outline the diversion programming and interventions including,
 - The requirement of a Diversion Agreement
 - Guidelines for Completion of Diversion Programs
 - Guidelines for Failure to complete Diversion Programs
 - Who oversees the implementation of this plan?
 - Oversight procedures.
 - Data Collection and Evaluation Procedures
- Discussion about the table?
 - How did they decide which states to research?
 - They compiled themes for diversion policies across all 50 states and pulled random examples from random states, regardless of if they aligned with CT diversion practices.
 - Essentially made a check list of common themes for every states' policy on a spreadsheet.
 - They calculated the percentage of states that implemented each theme into their diversion policy.
- Reminder that CT is much more community oriented than other states that are run by counties, so our policies may have to be structured differently.
- Due to the high volume of information, the table and spreadsheet were shared with committee members to review on their own time.
- In addition, cochairs will review this information and come to the group with initial recommendations based on the data presented.
- They also investigated how well states seem to be adhering to their diversion policies.
- JBCSSD and CYSA Updated Data Review
 - Prior to 2023 the probation supervisor for any juvenile court case had to decide how the case would be managed based solely on the charge and no other information about the child like level of risk, mental health needs, etc.

- In 2023, Risked Base Case Handling (RBCH) was implemented which used an interview with the child and family to better understand the child's risk to reoffend to inform the handling decision of each juvenile court case.
- Graphs
 - RBCH Referrals by Handling Decision
 - Graph compared the percentage of handling decisions of breach of peace, creating a public disturbance, disorderly conduct, Larceny 5th and 6th degrees, and simple trespass cases that were managed through a judicial route, a. non-judicial route, diversion, or no determined route between 2023 and 2024.
 - As of March, CT seems to be on track for similar numbers of diverted cases or a few less cases being diverted than there were in 2023.
 - RBCH Referrals that were Diverted by Screener Recommendation
 - This graph looked at how often cases that were recommended to be diverted were actually diverted as opposed to cases being recommended for diversion, and still being managed differently.
 - Most of the time in 2023 and 2024, the cases that were recommended to be diverted were diverted.
 - RBCH Diversion Dispositions
 - Shows where diverted cases ended up being diverted to in 2023 and 2024.
 - Additional Information
 - Dismiss at Intake
 - Diverted to Community
 - Engaged in Services
 - Misc. Unique Action
 - Not Presented
 - Refer for Services.
 - Refer to JRB.
 - Return to Police
 - Comparisons
 - In 2023, 291 cases were referred to the JRB.
 - In 2024 81 cases were diverted to the JRB
 - The graph conveys the new numerous ways the state of CT is diverting juvenile justice cases.

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- Current Research Questions
 - Which cases are automatically diverted?
 - What happens with tier 2 cases that are not diverted?
- Committee Discussion
 - In the future, workgroups want to ensure true diversion and diversion based on needs and not based on risk.
 - Confidentiality is a big piece of this.
 - How do we know how many times a child has been diverted in the past? Is that considered when considering diversion in a current situation?
 - The group wants to create a system that would allow for information sharing around the state considering diversion.
 - Must balance maintaining child's confidentiality and having enough information to make an informed decision.
 - P20Win could be this system? Needs more work though.
 - Police need to communicate with JRBs about a child's criminal history before deciding about handling referral.
 - Some PDs already share that information with each other as a preventative measure.
 - Ultimate priority should be keeping kids out of court no matter how many times they have been diverted.
 - Would like to explore who has discretion over if a child should be diverted.
 - What does refer to services mean? What services are kids being referred to?
- DCF Alternatives to Arrest Plan
 - Background
 - DCF was asked to work on a diversion plan for legislators.
 - Plan included by reviews by DOC and YSBs
 - Per those laws, DCF has come to JJPOC to review the plan.
 - DCF's Diversion Plan
 - Want to create 6 Diversionary Navigation and Referral Hubs across the state.
 - Will be lined up with DCF Super Regions so DCF staff can step in and help provide families with services.

- Participation would be available for any juvenile being charged with breach of peace, creating a public disturbance, disorderly conduct, Larceny 5th and 6th degrees, and simple trespass.
- DCF would contract with independent organizations to provide services.
 - Would make it so these organizations would have staff specifically trained in diversion.
 - Would require 4-6 full-time employees per hub.
- Would include a needs assessment tool from a clinical view.
 - PrediCT Tool
 - Ohio Scale
- Meant to figure out if there is a behavioral issue or mental health issue.
- Treatment would be provided for mental health issues through provider network.
- 30, 60, and 90 day follow up assessments
- Would track Data and outcomes through their Data Management Systems
- Would report common underlying issues and how they are being addressed.
- Would have a program director within DCF to oversee this program.
- Initial budget is \$2-3 million per hub, but that is dependent on usage.
- Use program in concurrence with JRB, review as a second step.
- The program has not been piloted yet due to budget sweeping, but they currently have money budgeted to run a pilot for the next legislative session.
- Discussion
 - Reentry committee is also working on a similar program for adults.
 - A hub isn't necessarily a physical space, services would be administered at home, but there would need to be a physical place for staff to collaborate and coordinate services.
 - Does this model make sense in every community in the state?
 - In some communities, there is already a process for being diverted, so the subgroup needs to be careful that this doesn't add an extra step in the diversion process, this needs to be an additional option to get services not available in their community.

- The diversion process would start in the community and then be referred to this program if the child and family wishes.
- Legal and Financial Implications
 - Don't use Predict, use a Nationally recognized Validated instrument for the targeted population, predict was only validated on delinquent youth.
- What to do about lack of engagement?
- Requires probation officers.
 - Would add another job function for probation officers.
- This plan would extend JRB Services to communities without JRBs.
- Should this workgroup put a list together of what they are looking for in a Diversionary Plan?
 - Yes
 - Also include what other organizations need.
- Ground needs to decide on a direction and make it better later due to tight timeframe.
- Should the next meeting be devoted to discussing if this function should be centralized to only the DCF or should municipalities be allowed to continue their diversionary plans and fall back on the DCF as a plan B?
 - The JJPOC is already moving toward standardizing state juvenile procedures for every town, it will be confusing if this process isn't standardized.
 - Or
 - Different towns need different things.
 - Worry about this after July 1 deadline.

Next Meeting: June 20th, 2024 10:00 am – 11:00 am