

## **JJPOC Education Committee Meeting**

**November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**2:00 PM-3:30 PM**

**Zoom Conference Call**

### **Summary:**

A representative from DCF gives an update on their current operational plan. Rep. from DCF emphasized their continuous efforts on reaching out to several people to sit on a board to look at the candidates for the lead educational unit in DCF. There were over 100 responses to choose from, in which DCF put together a list of questions to the applicants for responses. From the pool of applicants they receive, individuals will be chosen for the next step to be on the board for January. A review was given of the next steps after the applicants apply. Funding for half the year is brought up, as well as DCF bringing in an IT developer to manage the communications between DCF and other agencies involved. The representative for DCF in this meeting also emphasizes their current status working with FERPA, and confidentiality. The next meeting regarding this may be in December, and the goal is to be able to work around confidentiality issues in the system or specific branch of DCF.

- There is another plan discussed about having other members on the board for July 1st, 2022. This is the fiscal date for funding on additional staff. Rep. emphasized on the importance of getting this staff trained for October of 2022, in order to have DCF systems operating fully for the school year.
- Small discussion is formed from concern of not having DCF being fully operated with staff for the next school year. DCF responds by emphasizing their need and wants for feedback and continues to work collaboratively throughout the process. The education committee will ask members from DCF to provide updates every other month in order to provide support, guidance, review, and information on their progress for 2022. Rep. concludes last from DCF's update that October of 2022 is a key month of data reporting for education, and DCF is continuing to work on having their data systems in place before October.

There are multiple updates given from members of the suspension and expulsion committee. Alternatives to suspension & expulsion for pre-k through 2nd grade are due January 1st. The committee has been continuing to work on meetings involving guest speakers and experts on different needs for the schools, as well as students, teachers, and families of students. Community based programs are emphasized in the meetings, as well as focus groups and surveys given out to parents, youth, employees, and other members of the community. The committee's goal is to include as many voices as possible in the survey for diverse feedback. The Committee shares their work with CT State Dept. of Education, where focus groups were helped coordinated by them, such as 3 superintendent focus groups. There was a high turnout for the focus groups with principals.

- The question asked for this group pertains to funding for school resources for the need of more strategies to suspension & expulsion. State funding and money have been exacerbated since COVID-19 began. Funding for communities that have been affected by poverty & crime is one of the main goals of the committee. A workgroup member comments on the demographics of these focus groups and surveys going out. Overall, there is a diverse mix of different areas and people. Workgroup members suggest inviting smaller teacher unions since most focus on racial and ethnic disparities in their communities. JJPOC is in contact with Educators for Excellence, one member suggested.

- Establishing school based mental health clinics is one thing that members emphasize, with a small discussion surrounding suicidal preventative measures for schools.

The education committee makes recommendations to the JJPOC, and reviews the timeline and process for feedback. Throughout the next few upcoming weeks, the last changes will be made for the recommendations to the JJPOC. 911 data collection is also recommended from Waterbury's report, because of excessive phone calls made. Preventative measures possibly will be made in the future, beginning with a workgroup analyzing data from call centers. The end of the meeting contains a discussion on 911-piece vs. 211-piece and what to include/add for alternatives on 911 calls. These recommendations will be presented on the 16th from members, since the suggestion of adding the 911 call collection to the report.