

**THIS MEETING DID NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION**

**JJPOC EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**2:00pm-3:30pm**

**Web Based Meeting- Zoom**

Meeting Summary:

- JJPOC voting meetings are going to be moved to December
  - To try and work backwards from the deadline, it was suggested that to allow an opportunity for education and informing, as well as a Q&A discussion, as well as a possible debate, that a draft of the recommendations would need to be completed and reported to the JJPOC by October
- Education Workplan for the years 2021-2024 was projected
  - Goal 1: Limit youth entry into the justice system
  - Goal 2: Reduce incarceration
  - Goal 3: Reduce racial and ethnic disparities of youth in Connecticut's juvenile justice system
  - Goal 4: Right-size the juvenile justice system by setting appropriate lower and upper age limits
- Education Workgroup identified tasks as of January 2023 were projected:
  - Review of DCF Educational Oversight
  - Suspension and Expulsion? – oversight of 2023 recommendations continued work, i.e., “violent and sexual nature” language- look at impact of what we did implement
  - Workforce Development
  - Oversight of past legislation (i.e., vocational training)
  - The box on higher education, whether or not applicants should be required to disclose their high school disciplinary history when applying to college
- Dr. Worthy's Presentation during the workgroup meeting in March
  - His team as well as himself will be spotlighting different parts of the system such as the Youth Service Bureau, as well as the DCF educational oversight until to the bigger JJPOC
- Mentions previous legislation passed in 2018
  - Required the State Department of Education regarding vocational and technical schooling and education/programming
- Suggested that the Education Workgroup should give the Suspension and Expulsion Subgroup a meeting
  - Updated on recommendations and where they are going
  - Having a conversation with them inviting them to the workgroup to continue their work
- Housing is a significant issue
  - Students have been told to focus on their education, but then there is no one there to help them with their housing
    - Connect the Workforce Development here

- Part of the legislation that got passed for the Department of Children and Families Unit was re-entry
  - Because of this, it makes sense to put it in the Education Workgroup while the Re-Entry Workgroup can focus on other parts of the re-entry plan
- It was suggested that if people have specific ideas that are not apparent on the workplan, that they should be able to have room to share those ideas
- Two of the Suspension & Expulsion Subgroup Recommendations presented:
- Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, to July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, for the purpose of a case study of reporting on the Alternative Educational Opportunities from all districts, the districts will report on annual basis to Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee and to the CSDE with the expectation that there will be a MOA with the University of New Haven to complete the study.
  - The number of expulsions and the use of alternative educational opportunities for expelled students for the time period. Reporting will include the identification of the AEO placements, as well as the listing of completed credits for any expelled students during their AEO placement.
  - A description of the alternative education opportunities provided by the district, and how it compares with the model program known by the State Department of Education in the “Standards for Educational Opportunities for Students Who Have Been Expelled.”
- Behavior perceived by adults as being of a violent or sexual nature may trigger suspension or expulsion for a PreK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade student within the current state statute is evidence of a child’s need for intervention, not expulsion. Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, the Department of Education shall organize a team comprised of members of the subcommittee, and others to develop guidance and strategies that aim to reduce out of school suspension and expulsion.

**Next Meeting: March 27<sup>th</sup>**