

JJPOC Education Workgroup
August 26th, 2024
2:00pm - 3:30pm
Web Based Meeting- Zoom

Attendance

Andrew Feinstein
Amy Vatner
Emily Leen
Erica Bromley
Glen Worthy
Jill Bourbeau
John Saccu
John Tarka
Rep, Robyn Porter
Tina Mitchell

Vin Duva
Virginia Brown
Werner Oyanadel

TYJI Staff

Brittany LaMarr
Erika Nowakowski

Meeting Objectives:

The objectives of the August 26th, 2024, JJPOC Education Workgroup meeting were to review the DCF JJEU update, the 119K Commission's updated work, and to provide an update regarding the JJPOC strategic plan. Next steps will also be developed for this workgroup.

Meeting Summary:

- DCF-JJEU Update
 - Public Act No. 21-174
 - Tasked DCF with assessing the education programs for juvenile justice involved youth, which will require the establishment of a new DCF unit that is tasked with analyzing educational records, perform needs assessments, and track the educational progress of juvenile justice involved youth.
 - Data and Academic Accountability Measures
 - Mandates, Progress toward Mandate(s), and Next Steps outlined
 - Transition Planning
 - Mandates, Progress toward Mandate(s), and Next Steps outlined
 - Support Teachers and Administrators' Effectiveness
 - Schools within detention centers
 - Mandates, Progress toward Mandate(s), and Next Steps outlined
 - Vocational Training
 - Mandates, Progress toward Mandate(s), and Next Steps outlined
 - Discussion

- How many children are currently being served? What is the ethnic-racial breakdown?
 - Data to be presented during their next presentation (~200 children maximum)
 - Location of the schools:
 - Step-Down Programs/Staff Secure Programs: Journey House, Lisa's House, Hamden CPA, Hartford CPA, CJR Litchfield, CJR Waterbury
 - Correctional Facilities: York and Manson
 - Detention Center: Hartford Domus, Bridgeport
 - How should we measure the success of this effort?
 - Students come into the system at different times and some leave before they graduate, therefore they may not receive their diploma during their time there. They are able to see if the youth have graduated after they left the educational programs.
 - Credit attainment and standardized assessment (STAR): Have students improved/ grown during their time?
 - Students can earn their GED and high school diplomas
 - The time students spend in these facilities varies greatly based on the center
 - People Service Specialists (PSS)
 - Begin working with the students as soon as they are in the detention centers
 - PSS's are constantly in contact with the family of the student
 - PSS's meet with students as needed but a minimum of once a week and meet with them at the school on a schedule
 - Work more on the education side and possibly part-time employment for youth
 - Background of PSS's?
 - Certified teacher, school social worker, school counselor, or special education teacher
 - STAR Assessment
 - What educational gaps do students have in reading and math?
 - Helps fill in these gaps that are unique to each student
 - Special Education
 - Assessment is the responsibility of the school itself
- Update from 119K Commission
 - Holding regional public meetings, roundtable discussions with youth, conducting 35+ pieces of testimony and will continue to collect through August, local forums hosted by commissioners, hearings from residents (5 forums), Connecticut

- stakeholder briefings (more planned for August and September), briefings with the Chicago Crime Lab, and interviews with national experts
- Update on their strategic plan mission
 - Get 60,000 disconnected and at-risk back on track within 10 years.
 - Plan on how to achieve this goal
- Discussion
 - Commission's strategic plan seems to be ambitious based on scheduling
 - Alignment of JJPOC and the commission's work
- Strategic Plan Update
 - JJPOC strategic plan will work to not have overlapping strategies with other taskforces and commissions by reviewing their related strategic plans
 - Three Main Areas
 - Diversion, Incarceration, and Education
 - Initial drafts will be available around the middle of September
 - Final drafts around the beginning of October and JJPOC will vote on the strategic plan in October
 - Discussion
 - Early identification of issues is key
 - Cross-organization collaboration is necessary
 - Housing issues facing different demographics is a large issue that needs to be addressed
 - The Education Subgroups are important to the success of the workgroup itself, especially through supportive efforts
- Next Steps
 - Continued efforts and collaboration with the education subgroups

Next Meeting: October 28th, 2024