



## JJPOC Suspension and Expulsion Workgroup Meeting

**MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

**11:00 AM- 12:00 PM**

**Web-Based Meeting – Zoom**

**THIS MEETING DOES CONTAIN A PRESENTATION- DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES**

### Attendance

Amy Vatner	Jennifer Iussier	Steven Hernandez	<b>TYJI Staff</b>
Andrew Feinstein	Maria Tcherni-Buzzeo	Tony Gasper	Paul Klee
James Mandracchia	Sharmese Walcott	Werner Oyanadel	Erika Nowakowski

### Meeting Summary

#### **1. Juvenile Justice Education Unit (JJEU) presentation**

- Introductions
- JJEU reported that on hiring new staff and where they are located. 7 out of 15 people service specialists have been hired and a new wave of interviews is about to begin
- The programs serviced are:
  - Bridgeport, State Juvenile Residential Center
  - Hartford, State Juvenile Residential Center
  - Hamden, community Partners in Action
  - Mansfield, Journey House
  - Hartford, Community Partners in Action
  - Waterbury, Connecticut Junior Republic
  - Manson Youth Institute
  - Connecticut Junior Republic, AMIR
  - Connecticut Junior Republic, TRAC
  - Connecticut Junior Republic, TEAMS & AFIR
- 153 Students served
- JJEU reported that the work they do is split into 5 buckets
  - Data and Academic Accountability Measures.
  - High School Options and Transition Plans.



- School of Network and Alignment
  - Support Teachers and Administrators Effectiveness
  - Invest Resources in Vocational Training Alignment
- JJEU reported on Data and Accountability measures
  - Current status is that there is no consistent way to assess student learning across all facilities, there is no universal screener that assess student growth, and there is no information sharing platform. They then presented their desire status and the action steps.
- JJEU Reported High School Options and Transition Plans
  - Current status: No statewide structures to reintegrate students t the community, no statewide Virtual Academy, some Pupil Services specialists are working in facilities, and JJEU is unable to access educational records. They then presented their desire status and the action steps.
- JJEU Reported on creating a Network and Alignment
  - Current Status: JJEU meets monthly with Network Educational providers and learning walks are being planned. They then presented their desire status and the action steps.
- JJEU reported on Support Teachers and Administrators Effectiveness
  - Current status: Professional development around instruction is inconsistent. The only structure is once a month network meeting and nothing else to address areas of professional development. They then presented their desire status and the action steps.
- JJEU reported on Invest Resources in Vocational Training
  - Current status: Some facilities have vocational equipment and programming, however, is not statewide. There are minimal partnerships with community colleges and employment agencies. They then presented their desire status and the action steps.
- JJEU then reported on what accountability measures the JJEU will take
- JJEU reported on an amendment they recommend for the current legislation to give guidance on what the providers should do. Additionally, they recommended for there to be legislation that would give JJEU access to student's education records. Another recommendation made was to develop sustainable access to postsecondary and career readiness skills for all students in the regions and DOC facilities. Another recommendation made was for funding for PowerSchool, STAR Assessment, and contractual services to support JJ population in college and career services.

## **2. JJEU then opened it up for Q&A**

- Workgroup and JJEU discussed what assessments exist and what assessments they want to implement



- Workgroup and JJEU then discussed how they will coordinate with the districts with reentry and the reentry coordinators. JJEU has reached out to reentry liaisons and are looking to have in person meetings.
- Workgroup and JJEU discussed how they are connecting to the STE and the department of labor. Workgroup then discussed what STE's responsibilities are under law and better collaborate to better define the roles between the programs.
- Workgroup and JJEU discussed how the young adults (ages 18-21) are being serviced.
- Workgroup and JJEU discussed reentry circles and reentry services the youth are receiving and/or not receiving.
- Workgroup and JJEU discussed the rights of the youth and their families.
- Workgroup and JJEU discussed engaging with enrichment summer program and the execution of programs due to the fact that a lot of families are not receiving the adequate services even though they exist. Additionally, workgroup discussed how there are other programs doing the work JJEU is doing.
- Workgroup and JJEU then discussed how they can work around HMOU.
- Workgroup recommended if a "quick glance" could be developed then that would make it quicker for the youth to transition to school.
- Workgroup discussed the differences between a youth from a detention center, MYI, and Regents and how it could get complicated and how that affects their reentry.