



JJPOC Truancy Subgroup Meeting

JUNE 14, 2022

11:00AM-12:00PM

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

THIS MEETING DOES NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION- DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES

Meeting Summary

1. Update on identified workgroup goals

- Looking over parental consent forms and creating plans for an education video for parents
- A query on the catalog that SDE released and on SDE truancy data
- A query on nationwide best practices that will be looked at during the July meeting

2. Discuss parental consent forms

- There are two versions of the form
- Some worked with the legal department at SDE to create the forms and need to make a decision of which to use
- Feedback is wanted before finalizing the forms, so today it would be helpful to discuss the forms
- There needs to be a decision made about whether to use the longer or shorter form when piloting it in Hartford, the short form is made with simple and parent friendly language, the longer form is much heavier in text with more information
- The feedback from the parent groups was that the simpler one was preferred, there were concerns around not having the background to understand the info or where the information on the form was going
- It was asked if people thought a sentence specifying that YSBs are a community service and not a part of DCF or CSSD is needed
- There was a question about if on the short form it states that this is a voluntary service, it is stated, but not explicitly which should be changed
- Suggested that a short PowerPoint presentation could be formed so that when there is a meeting with school staff there is more information given than just the form
- There needs to be a clear sentence stating that it is a community-based program, and it is voluntary



- Would it be possible for parents to get the YSB pamphlet of information when they get the parental consent form in the beginning of the year, there needs to be a decision about what will come in the packet so that is possible
- Some were wondering how schools are sending out information in the beginning of the year, if it is online or hard copy, this group would need to accommodate to this
- It was brought up that schools need to project the importance of attendance, and state that if it becomes an issue there are supports in place to help students and their families
- There is a consensus that people would like to add a sentence about voluntariness and that this is a community process
- Some families may say they already have services so it should be stated that the YSBs have supports to help supplement or manage the current services
- It was noted that feedback from parents should happen before presenting to schools
- It was brought up that utilizing the CEW to get input on the video and the forms would be helpful
- The group will be working closely with Hartford to find out what parents think, and why or why not people are utilizing these services
- There needs to be an investment in why kids do not want to go to school, which could be the responsibility of the YSB, there should be a way to collect this kind of information
- It was brought up that this group should be advocating for prevention strategies
- It was asked if there are any risk factors that can predict if someone will become truant, there is no comprehensive and solidified data on this
- Potentially SDE could expand their capacity for data collection on truancy, it was asked if they have the tools to do so and if not, the issue could be raised to CCA to see if they could do that in their RED meetings
- The state is indicating that they will have more data next year, but many are unsure of what that will look like but regardless it will be helpful

3. Discuss plans for educational

- Creating an educational video with a link or barcode for people to access easily
- This video will go hand in hand with the form to help get information to people about what is the form and the YSB
- In discussion with UNH media department it is clear that this is an informational video about why the form is being offered, the conversation is more focused on the format of the video
- The target audience of this video should be parents, there will be English and Spanish version



- DCF translated the brochure a couple of years ago, potentially do something like that with the form so it would be accessible for everyone
- Brought up that the group could provide some questions that can be posed to CEW for feedback
- It was asked if the media department needs guidance about what is truancy and the theme that is trying to be presented, they have been a part of the process with the consent forms, so they are familiar with the information
- Suggested that the video could present the importance of attendance along with what the benefit is for everyone to make it more engaging
- It is important to get input from the parents to make it user friendly, getting this feedback before completely forming the video would be useful
- The question was asked if the video should include real parents or something animated, what should the delivery and then the format of the video be so that it is easily digestible
- It was noted that testimonials from parents could be a really powerful tool to get the message across
- The video will be translated, but it is important to also make it culturally sensitive, this is something that the group would get parents perspectives on
- It was brought up that there was a short educational video done in the past by a school, about 5-8 minutes long, that was able to address a lot of different points effectively, this could be used as a sample for this video
- The group is asking for thoughts and ideas about the questionnaire that will be given to the CEW, getting feedback to see what may be missing before it is sent over.

4. Next steps

- Before next meeting- A questionnaire will be sent out to the workgroup for their feedback, the questionnaire will be sent out to the CEW, and the feedback will be collected before the next meeting
- The query on national best practices for truancy will be presented at the next meeting
- Sending out the same set of questions that was given to the CEW to another group that in the past has offered feedback

Next Meeting: July 12, 2022, 11:00-12:00