



JJPOC Truancy Subgroup Meeting

JULY 12TH, 2022

11:00AM-12:00PM

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

THIS MEETING DOES NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION- DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES

Meeting Summary

1. Review final referral consent form

- Changes to the form were made based on feedback
- The form shown was the short form, gives the basic background on definition of truancy, the role of school, referral to YSB or another agency, and more information
- Added in and made clear that participation is voluntary at every point in the process
- The second page is the permission page, specifies what information can be transfer between school and agency, allows parents to give permission regarding what information can be shared
- The form specifies that the services are not affiliated with a state agency
- Plan is to use this form in Hartford Public Schools in the fall, hoping to get feedback from this pilot program before going statewide
- It was asked if places other than Hartford can pilot this form, this is something that is possible, it would be helpful to get feedback from towns different from Hartford
- There were suggestions made about making changes to come of the language such as adding that the student has not yet been truant but by signing this form if the child were to become truant this would allow the school to connect them with services
- Think that adding that schools know that quick intervention is important, and schools will try to do something about it quickly, felt that language was more positive
- Suggested that the name of the form could be changed so it is clear it is a permission form, and the student has not been truant
- It was agreed that some language could be change, making it easier to read and sound more positive



- Adding that YSBs can provide referrals for other services, this is an important piece of information for parents to know
- This form is for schools to be using, it was asked if it would be good for YSBs to use at the beginning of the year, so they bring in families early on before students become disengaged
- YSB could have a form saying they look to partner with schools to help provide resources to families, this form could offer more information for families as well
- Another draft will be sent out after changes to language are made

2. Update on status of the educational video

- Currently waiting for feedback from parent groups
- Have received some feedback from the CEW, but still waiting for more information
- Tow will be meeting with media department to start some of the video just to get the process started
- Reaching out to more parent groups to get more feedback as well as to the Social Justice School to get feedback from parents
- Need to understand the foundation before starting the video, without feedback it is hard to start the video
- It was brought up that a set of questions could be given to YSBs to give out to parents

3. Review national query of best practices for truancy

- Found that many times if all interventions failed many states would refer to court or district attorney
- Check and connect, created by the University of Minnesota, started with a principle mentoring students with excessive absences then grew from there, it is a mentorship program
- It was noted that this method is used in Connecticut, but it is school based it would be beneficial to modify it to be community based
- School Attendance Review Boards are used across the country
- Community in school partnership program, this program creates connection to community, and it is implemented in three phases
- New Mexico early warning systems is used to track absences and tags data points to notify the schools when students are at risk for becoming truant
- FosterEd, aimed at kids in the foster care system, each youth got an educational liaison and a team that works to create an educational plan that
- It was noted that what is most important is connecting communities and schools so that issues can be identified early on, helping YSBs be more integrated into schools
- The issue in CT is that many kids are getting referred when they are already disengaged



- Part of reducing truancy is focusing on the correlates that cause it, YSBs could provide services before child is truant as well as after, this could possibly be added on the permission form
- The question how ambitious the group wants to be was asked, it is known what families are struggling with and it is tied to access to resources
- Maybe make an option that referral can be made for a variety of reasons to connect families to needed resources or just make a referral when a student is truant
- It was brought that a lot of this is a question for the YSBs, they would be the ones doing the work, it's about how much work they really want to be doing

4. Next steps

- The form will be sent out with edits that were discussed in this meeting
- Possibly reframe and create another form that would help connect families to resources they need
- Dr. Cooper is doing a multi-year review with the information for EdSite.gov, she will present that information in a future meeting