



JJPOC Truancy Subgroup Meeting

APRIL 23RD, 2024

10:00 AM- 11:00 AM

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

THIS MEETING DOES CONTAIN A PRESENTATION- DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES

Attendance:

TYJI Staff

Agata Raszczyk-Lawska	John Saccu	Karrol-Ann Brown	Brittany LaMarr
Emily Leen	Kristina Baldwin	Amy Vatner	
Erica Bromley	Jill Bourbeau		

Meeting Summary:

1. Truancy Subgroup Workplan Discussion

- Education Workgroup Charge:
 - Regular Updates from Department of Children and Families-JJEU
 - Follow up on 2018 legislation involving C-TECS
 - Receive regular updates from 119K Commission and School Discipline Collaborative
 - Connecticut State Department of Education Updates on Alternative Education Opportunities report, and 2022 Legislation
- Truancy Subgroup Charge:
 - Review 2016/2017 legislation: An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee
 - The act removed the truancy subgroup from the jurisdiction of juvenile court
 - Send out **OLR Report**: Public School Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism Law
 - Engage Connecticut State Department of Education in follow up info on district requirements related to Truancy
 - Coordinate/Collaborate efforts with Dalio 119K Commission



- The work of this subgroup needs to align with them
- Follow 2024 legislation (i.e. House Bill 5213)/ Pending FWSN legislation- House Bill 5506
 - House Bill 5213
 - The Bill allows for data sharing between school districts and the Youth Service Bureau
 - House Bill 5506
 - The bill returns family and youth services needs status offenses back to juvenile court
 - The bill has made it out of committee and will be heading to appropriations
 - It has a very large fiscal note, so it is believed it will not pass.
 - A committee member asked about who presented this bill and what basis they are using to justify it.
 - Another member answered that the bill came from Representative Fishbein and Judiciary
 - Their belief is that all youth service needs need to be handled in court, so youth can be forced into participation in state programs
 - The member added that this bill is not a new concept, a version of this bill has been proposed every year since the Family and Youth Service Needs were pulled from the juvenile court's jurisdiction
 - Re-design measuring success/ discuss definitions
 - i.e. define truancy v. chronic absenteeism as well as a way to determine re-engagement
 - Truancy
 - A status reserved for a student who has more than 4 unexcused absences in a month or 10 unexcused absences in a year
 - Chronic Absenteeism
 - A status reserved for students who are truant at some point within the year, but don't miss any additional days of school after receiving that status.
 - There is a chronic absenteeism town hall coming up in Meriden at the end of June
 - Review LEAP (ages served, model for older kids?)
 - Including



- An Overview of the program
 - Where the programs are located
 - What age group the program targets
- Discuss barriers, gaps in services, community capacity
- What is the Truancy Problem?
 - How do you get students to come to school?
 - When administrators reach out to parents regarding their child's truancy, they claim they can't do anything about it if their child doesn't want to go to school
 - A committee member suggested possibly getting the Department of Children and Families involved if the parent is not responding to notices of truancy.
 - Truancy referrals usually come too late in the game and the student is too far gone at that point.
 - Some referrals only reached the Youth Service Bureau after the student hadn't been to school in years
 - Schools and Youth Service Bureaus are not communicating enough to even gather data around truancy in the state
 - It's been harder for bigger districts to keep track of attendance in their schools
- Existing Programs
 - LEAP
 - The Common understanding of program was that LEAP had worked in the middle schools but had not worked in the high schools.
 - However, out of 300 visits, 137 were from high school students
 - The committee needs to do more research around LEAP including,
 - Who funds LEAP?
 - Local LEAP outcomes
 - Some program locations were having issues hiring
 - How have extremely truant students been fairing under LEAP in comparison to mildly truant students?
 - The Youth Service Bureau is running a program like LEAP without school involvement, but they are having issues having schools sign on.



- They would like help from subgroup members to figure out what LEAP did to be successful that the Youth Service Bureau didn't do
 - Their program focuses on middle-high school
- Research Needs to be done
 - Where to Research
 - Connecticut State Department of Education
 - Youth Service Bureau
- What to Research
 - What is the most recent school year chronic absenteeism data reported?
 - 2022-2023
 - Need to look for most recent truancy data
 - What is the average amount of days a student must miss to get a referral?
 - Look back at legislation concerning school districts' requirement of a truancy intervention plan in school districts
- Where do we want to get data from?
 - What is the average amount of days a student must miss to get a referral?
 - Schools and Youth Service Bureaus are not communicating enough to even get that number
 - In addition, it's harder for bigger districts to keep track of attendance for all of the schools in their jurisdiction

2. Outline Next Steps

- Invite the Connecticut State Department of Education to attend subgroup meetings
 - Possibly the Department of Children and Families as well?
- Research available data surrounding truancy
- Review prior marketing materials
- Review legislation surrounding truancy
 - Will be sent out to subgroup members in an email
- Slides from Connecticut State Department of Education at the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee meeting will be sent to the subgroup members
- Research whether Connecticut has tried to fund private institutions to work on the issue of truancy