

# ***Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Executive Committee Meeting***

***Monday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> 2019***

# Incarceration Workgroup Draft Recommendations

## Incarceration Workgroup Recommendation 1:

- A. Recommend amendments to the General Statutes that currently allow for transfer of juveniles to the adult criminal justice system to better align with research on public safety and behavior change in youth:
1. It is recommended that the laws on juvenile transfer be amended to limit the both the number of cases eligible for mandatory and discretionary transfer in order to decrease the population of youth in the adult criminal justice system \*
  2. For all youth transferred to adult court who receive sentences, adopt a “second look” provision that requires a sentence review by juvenile court prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday of the need for continued incarceration.

\*Atty. Chris Rapillo is currently working on drafting specific language on transfer laws in this recommendation, which will be brought forth prior to January 16, 2020

# Education Committee Draft Recommendations

## Infrastructure & Quality Control Subgroup Recommendation 1- Option 1:

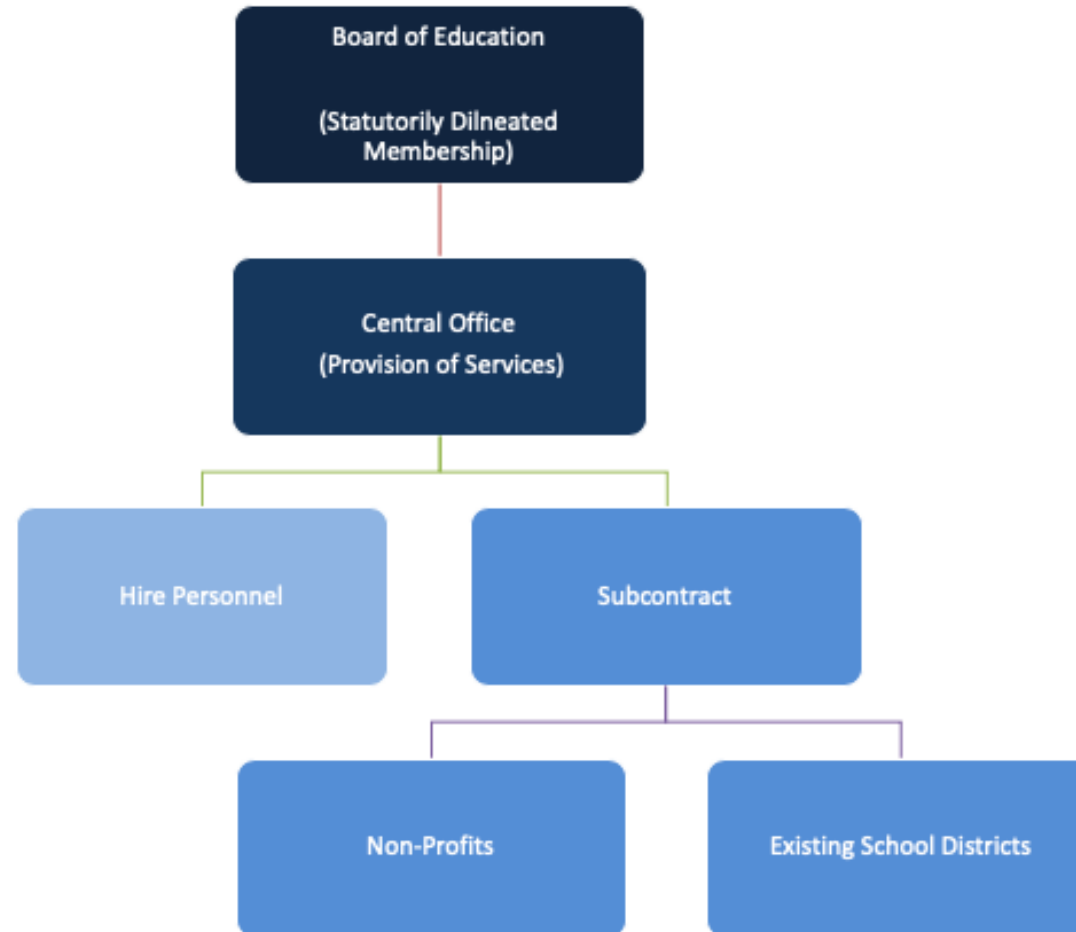
- A. Create a new independent Juvenile Justice school district for the education of youth in juvenile justice out-of-home placements including incarcerated youth.
  - 1. Independent school district should be adequately resourced.
  - 2. The school district may hire their own personnel, and/or subcontract to non-profit providers and/or other school districts for the provision of services.
  - 3. The central office that is responsible for the provision of educational services.
    - A. Central administration develops and reviews quarterly reports on academic performance, school discipline, attendance, etc.
    - B. Central administration requires education providers to (no less than semi-annually) provide student performance data to the administrators of the special school district and its school board and ensure that reporting measures are tailored to experiences of students in short and long-term placements.
    - C. Central administration requires education providers to develop partnerships and programs with local education agencies, non-profit cultural groups, local industries, and businesses.
- B. The school district will create an independent School Board comprised of legislatively mandated members to include:
  - a. Two members of the General Assembly appointed by the Governor
  - b. One representative from the SDE appointed by the State Board of Education
  - c. One representative each from Bridgeport, Hartford, Waterbury and New Haven school districts
  - d. One representative each from state agencies - DOC, CSSD, DCF, OPM
  - e. Two representatives from the advocacy community appointed by the Governor
  - f. Two community members with expertise in provision of education, mental and behavioral health services, or social work services with court-involved youth
- C. The newly created school board is authorized to operate the same as other districts within the state.

# Education Committee Draft Recommendations

## Infrastructure & Quality Control Subgroup Recommendation 1- Option 1 (cont.):

- D. The school district will provide an annual stipend and travel expenses to the community advocates serving as members of the board.
- E. The district will receive twice the average per pupil expenditure for public school students in the state.
  - 1. Sending districts will transfer local dollars to the juvenile justice education programs educating students from their district
  - 2. There will be supplement support from local school districts with formula per pupil grants from the SDE.
- F. Education service providers will be required to report student performance data, attendance, and rates of participation for all education programs. They will also be required to document transition activities and outcomes, collaborations with community service providers, and parents.
- G. The district will ensure that students have access to curriculum that enables them to earn credits toward high school graduation; ensure that students have access to arts and career and technical education (CTE) courses; and ensure that programs have alternative options for HS equivalency certificates for students who are overage and under credits.
- H. The district will enable students to have access to web-based content including credit recovery programs.

## New Independent JJ District



# Education Committee Draft Recommendations

## Infrastructure & Quality Control Subgroup Recommendation 1- Option 2:

- A. Expand USD #2 and authorize it to provide for the education of youth in all juvenile justice out-of-home placements including incarcerated youth.
  - 1. The expanded USD#2 may hire their own personnel, and/or subcontract to non-profit providers and/or other school districts for the provision of services.
  - 2. The expanded USD#2 may retain their current school board.
  - 3. USD#2 administration will develop and review quarterly reports on academic performance, school discipline, attendance, etc.
  - 4. USD#2 administration will require subcontracted education providers to (no less than semi-annually) provide student performance data to the USD#2 administrators and ensure that reporting measures are tailored to experiences of students in short and long-term placements.
  - 5. USD#2 administration will require education providers to develop partnerships and programs with local education agencies, non-profit cultural groups, local industries, and businesses.
  - 6. USD#2 is authorized to operate the same as other districts within the state.

# Education Committee Draft Recommendations

## Infrastructure & Quality Control Subgroup Recommendation 1- Option 2 (cont.):

7. The district will receive twice the average per pupil expenditure for public school students in the state.
  1. Sending districts will transfer local dollars to the juvenile justice education programs educating students from their district
  2. There will be supplement support from local school districts with formula per pupil grants from the SDE.
8. USD#2 will be required to report student performance data, attendance, and rates of participation for all education programs. They will also be required to document transition activities and outcomes, collaborations with community service providers, and parents.
9. USD#2 will ensure that students have access to curriculum that enables them to earn credits toward high school graduation; ensure that students have access to arts and career and technical education (CTE) courses; and ensure that programs have alternative options for HS equivalency certificates for students who are overage and under credits.
10. USD#2 will enable students to have access to web-based content including credit recovery programs. Again, I don't know if this should be moved the transition section. Also, I don't know if the reporting piece is necessary since there is no one for USD#2 answer to re: enforcing reporting. They will not have the same oversight board as the one described in option 1 above.

# Education Committee Draft Recommendations

## Infrastructure & Quality Control Subgroup Recommendation 2:

- A. Ensure access for educational programs for court-placed (DOC, detention centers, and CSSD-contracted facilities) a way to fulfill all graduation requirements and ensure students have access to statewide and college prep testing as is provided in home school districts (e.g. foreign language credit, senior study Capstone projects)
  - 1. Educational programs for court-placed youth should offer students alternative pathways to learning and credit access
- B. Ensure equivalent access to technology be provided across the continuum of juvenile justice school placements.
- C. Ensure all students through the age of 21 have access to all educational programming within juvenile justice school programs as well as their home school districts.



# Education Committee Draft Recommendations

## The Transition Subgroup Recommendation 1:

- A. Ensure that the education agency providing services to court involved youth **employ transition specialists** whose primary responsibility is to facilitate the successful transition of youth from secure facilities back to the communities. These transition specialists shall:
  - 1. Collaborate with receiving schools, youth serving agencies, employers, and other community supports to plan and manage successful transition.
  - 2. Manage to track and document the success of placements following youths' reentry into their communities.
  - 3. Be responsible for communicating with the reentry coordinators. This information will be used in reporting by the receiving district LEA or the district of nexus, if applicable.
- B. Establish explicit expectations and roles be established for **reentry coordinators** in the transition of youth into and out of educational programs for court-placed youth. The role of these reentry coordinators needs to be explicit – this person is responsible for obtaining records and ensuring credit for work completed while in educational programs for court-juvenile justice school programs is counted appropriately and transferred (timeframe noted below in Recommendation #2C and #2D).
  - 1. The list of reentry coordinators be distributed to system stakeholders, including DOC, DCF, CSSD and parents of students. This list should also be made public and displayed on the SDE website.
  - 2. SDE implement and maintain a current list of reentry coordinators. This list should be reviewed and updated concurrently with the August 1<sup>st</sup> statutory guideline. In districts under enrollment of 6,000, an alternate will be identified to coordinate the reentry process. Educational programs for court-placed youth refer to USD#1, USD#2, Detention Centers, CSSD-contracted programs, and Regions.

# Education Committee Draft Recommendations

## The Transition Subgroup Recommendation #2

- A. Create mechanisms within the independent school district to ensure that sending and receiving schools and programs provide services and supports that maximize youth's success.
  - 1. Use a uniform system of state-wide electronic record transfers (i.e. Powerschool, PSIS) for maintaining and sharing educational records for all students, including court-placed youth in educational programs, to be overseen by a Directory Manager as designated by the independent school district and align with the IEP Task Force.
- B. Mandate the **student's home district to offer home district diplomas** earned by students 17 and above graduating while in educational programs for court-placed youth who meet the statutory graduation requirements. If no nexus district can be determined, DCF will participate in the determination of credits and facilitate in the issuance of a diploma. There should be flexibility and collaboration in this process with the student's home district and special school districts.
- C. Establish state-wide expectations for ensuring credit transfers/partial credit transfers.
  - 1. Classroom hour-to-credit conversion should be standardized across school districts
  - 2. Credits should be awarded as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days of the transfer to the home district.
  - 3. At intake, it is recommended that a review be done of the student's transcript and attendance records to determine educational requirements up to graduation. Credits should be transferred from the home district within 5 school days of students' placement.
- D. Establish a timeframe for updating educational records pre-discharge.
  - 1. At a minimum, educational records should be up-to-date per marking period, as well as immediately upon discharge.

# Diversion Workgroup Draft Recommendations

## Raising the Lower Age Recommendation 1- Option 1:

- A. Legislation for raising the minimum age of juvenile court jurisdiction from seven years to twelve years by July 1, 2021.
  - 1. Considerations for alternative handling, including but not limited to, Children's Behavioral Health Services System, youth service bureaus, juvenile review boards, community-based services
- B. Development of a plan for ensuring that a child who would have been referred to the juvenile court system will instead be referred to the Children's Behavioral Health System and/or Community-based Diversion system.
  - 1. The diversion workgroup shall develop the plan that outlines a referral process for developmentally appropriate services (screening, assessment, interventions). Plans shall be delivered to the JJPOC by July 2020.

# Diversion Workgroup Draft Recommendations

## Raising the Lower Age Recommendation 1- Option 2:

- A. Development of a plan for ensuring that a child who would have been referred to the juvenile court system will instead be referred to the Children's Behavioral Health System and/or Community-based Diversion system.
  - 1. The diversion workgroup shall develop the plan that outlines a referral process for developmentally appropriate services (screening, assessment, interventions). Plans shall be delivered to the JJPOC by July 2020. (Should this date be January 2021?)
  - 2. The plan will include recommendations for raising the minimum age of juvenile court jurisdiction from seven years to twelve years to be effective by July 1, 2021.

# Diversion Workgroup Draft Recommendations

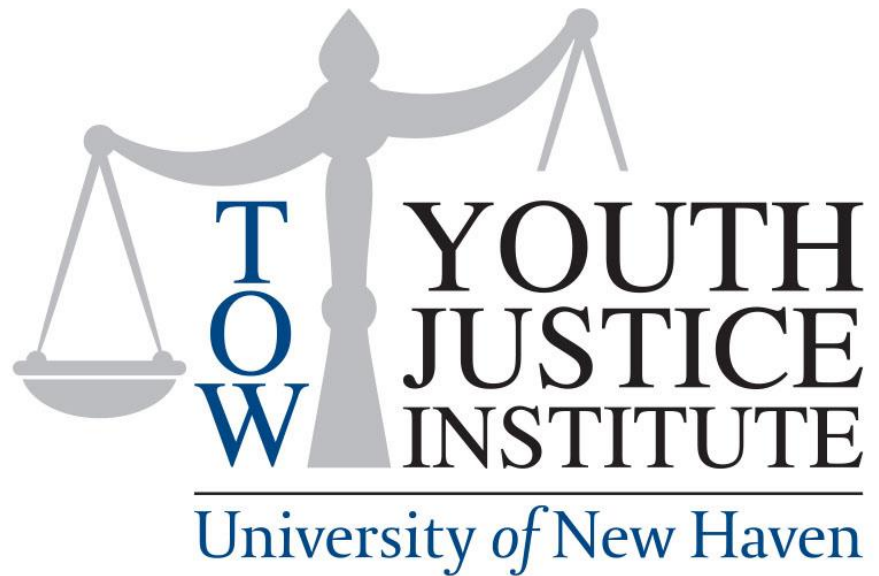
## Diversion Recommendation 2-

- A. Development and implementation of a statewide data-base case management system within the Youth Service Bureau Network by July 2021. The case management system is necessary for monitoring, accounting, and evaluating the significant reforms made to the FWSN laws and the implementation of the community-based diversion system.

# Diversion Workgroup Draft Recommendations

## Diversion Recommendation 3:

- A. Beginning July 1, 2020, the legislature and the Governor adequately fund implementation of the community-based diversion system.



## **JJPOC 2020 Recommendation Timeline**

# JJPOC 2020 Recommendation Timeline

- December 16, 2020 JJPOC Executive Committee Meeting
- December 19, 2019 JJPOC December Meeting
  - Annual Strategic Goals & Diversion Work Group Presentations
- December 20, 2019 Draft Recommendations Distributed to Executive Committee
- December 23, 2019 -January 1, 2020 UNH Office Closed
- January 6, 2020 Deadline for Executive Committee Feedback on Draft Recommendations
- January 9, 2020 Draft Recommendations Distributed to JJPOC Members