



JJPOC Executive Committee

December 16, 2019

2:00-3:30pm

Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

Meeting Summary:

- Review Options of Draft JJPOC Recommendations
 - Diversion
 - The Diversion Workgroup proposed two options for raising the minimum age from 7 to 12. The first option called for legislation, followed by a plan and the second option called for the plan, followed by legislation. In both options, the plan is to be delivered to the JJPOC by January 1, 2021 with implementation by July 1, 2021.
 - Currently, between 100-150 youth ages 7-11 are referred to juvenile court every year.
 - Some statistics discussed were regarding RED, age, court vs. school-based referrals, and DCF involvement.
 - There was general consensus to move forward with the first option.
 - The Diversion Workgroup is also recommending the development and implementation of a state-wide database case management system by July 1, 2021. This system would be utilized by the Youth Service Bureau (YSB) network for accounting, monitoring and evaluating reforms.
 - Members of the Committee discussed the possibility that YSBs could utilize the DCF data system since YSBs are now under DCF in state government.
 - DCF expressed they need an in-depth sit down with YSB representation. There was concerns over the July 1, 2021 date for implementation.
 - There was general consensus to remove the date but move forward with the recommendation.
 - Finally, the Diversion Workgroup recommends that the legislature and the Governor adequately fund the community-based diversion system. There was general consensus to move forward with this recommendation.
 - Incarceration
 - The Incarceration Workgroup is going to be recommending adjustments to the Connecticut General Statutes that will limit the number of cases eligible for mandatory and discretionary transfer. Attorney Chris Rapillo is working on drafting specific language that will be brought forth prior to January 16, 2020.
 - A second recommendation is proposed that would require a “Second Look”; a sentence review by juvenile court prior to a juvenile’s 18th birthday in order to determine if continued incarceration is necessary.

- There was general consensus to move forward with the Incarceration workgroup recommendations.
 - Education
 - The Education Committee presented two options for infrastructure.
 - Option 1 is the creation of a new independent school district that would serve all youth in juvenile justice out-of-home placement. The independent district would need to be adequately resourced, may hire its own personnel and or subcontract, and must have a central office that is responsible for the provision of educational and other key services. It would also have an independent school board comprised of various system stakeholders and legislative appointees. Educational performance data will need to be collected and reported and the district will be required to offer students access to curriculum that enables them to satisfy their high school graduation requirements.
 - Option 2 is the expansion of USD#2, which operates under DCF. Under this option, USD#2 would be allowed to retain their current board. However, all other provision under Option #1 remain the same.
 - There was general consensus to move forward with the second option and future meetings between key stakeholders and DCF have been scheduled for January 2020.
 - Other recommendations from the Transition Subcommittee of the Education Committee were provided in written format. The Executive Committee members were advised to review the remaining recommendations and email TYJI with any concerns or questions. These recommendations were regarding equivalent access to technology across all placements, employment of transition specialists and reentry coordinators, a state-wide uniform system of electronic record transfers, and more.
 - The Group to Integrate Community Voice
 - Representatives from the Group to Integrate Community Voice brought forth an additional draft recommendation to consider a legislative mandate 2 youth and 2 parents to become members of JJPOC.
- Timeline/Next Steps
 - The next JJPOC meeting is on 12/19/19
 - The draft 2020 JJPOC recommendations will be distributed to the Executive Committee.
 - The TYJI will be closed for winter break from 12/23/19-1/1/20.
 - 1/6/20 is the deadline for feedback from Executive Committee members on the draft 2020 JJPOC recommendations
 - Draft 2020 JJPOC recommendations with feedback will be distributed to JJPOC members on 1/9/19.

Next Meeting: TBD