



JJPOC Executive Committee
September 2nd, 2020
1:00 PM- 2:30 PM
Zoom Conference Call

Meeting Summary:

- Brief Overview of IOYouth Task Force Recommendations and Next Steps
 - Josh Weber from CSG presented a PowerPoint on the IOYouth Task Force recommendations relating to YSBs, JRBs, CSSD, and DOC. CSG conducted multiple site visits to CT and spoke with over 100 stakeholders to discuss areas of improvement.
 - Key Takeaways:
 - Delinquent referrals to juvenile courts have decline 26% since 2014 but many were still being arrested and referred to system for low-level offenses. Most of these youth were youth of color.
 - Diversion systems vary considerably across the state.
 - Admissions to pretrial detention have declined 51% since 2014, but this decline is disproportional for Black and Hispanic, as they have increased.
 - Service completion rates are low and rearrests rates after services is above 50%. More efforts are needed to identify the reasons for such challenges and ensure youth and families engaged in services and receive services that are matched to needs.
 - Focus group participants expressed significant concerns with placing youth in short term detention facilities for extended periods of time and effectively meeting their needs.
 - Most stakeholders do not believe that DOC facilities are the most appropriate place for youth.
 - Recommendations:
 - Decriminalize in statute specific adolescent behavior; divert all low risk youth from any form of system supervision and establish a pilot/ landscape analysis process to explore the viability of strengthening the YSB/JRBs statewide to serve as a more robust research-based diversion service system
 - Establish family engagement/safety planning protocols to limit the automatic detention of youth on warrant/ taken into custody orders and base initial detention decision from detention screening tool.
 - Strengthen youth and family engagement policies and practices
 - Create an equity dashboard to ensure the equity changes are having a positive impact on system disparities
 - Eliminate short-term housing of youth in secure, state-run facilities and engage in a planning process designed to facilitate the phased transfer of responsibility for youth from DOC to CSSD

- Next Steps:
 - Establishing the IOYouth Implementation Committee, which will be co-chaired by leadership from the 3 branches of government and comprised of agencies/entities that are responsible for implementing the approved recommendations.
- Timeline:
 - Develop agency and action plans (Sept.)
 - Hold first meeting of the Implementation committee (Oct.)
 - Advance action plans under the committee (ongoing)
 - Provide updates to JJPOC (ongoing)
- Discussion on JJPOC Work Plans
 - The JJPOC Draft Work Plan is separated by Working Groups. Before COVID-19, these work plans were more robust. However, the workgroups will now narrow their focus to prepare for the 2021 legislative session.
 - Diversion will focus on raising the minimum age from 7 to 12 years old.
 - RED will focus on structuring and formatting the workgroup, with subgroups created for police use of force, school resource officers, and pedestrian stops. In addition, JJPOC had some goals in mind to use the research for racial and disparity data. There was discussion on improving the system for children of color and improve the disparity of the system.
 - Incarceration will revisit improving conditions of confinement and amending current legislation on transfers.
 - Cross-Agency Data Sharing Workgroup discussed how it can support the other workgroups, as well as how they could use the CSG analysis to evaluate the reform efforts.
 - The Integrated Community Workgroup, consisting of both a parent group and a youth group, will learn more about the other workgroups and their plans for the year and decide where and how they want to be involved. The Youth Expertise Workgroup, for example, holds monthly meetings with all youth and has started to invite the JJPOC workgroup co-chairs to their meetings to learn more about their work and ask how their voice can be incorporated.
- Next Steps
 - There will be a JJPOC meeting September 17th, 2020
 - TYJI will scheduling future Executive Committee meetings.

Next Meeting- TBD