

THIS MEETING DID NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION

JJPOC Gender Responsiveness Workgroup

September 26th, 2024

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Web Based Meeting- Zoom

Attendance

Christina Ghio
Christine Kendall
Chyann Higgs
Erin Williamson
Hunter Clark
Jillian Gilchrest
Krystal Rich
Liz Sitler
Martha Stone
Sharmese Walcott

Sukhmani Singh
Sunindiya Bhalla
Tammy Sneed
Yvette Young

TYJI Staff

Brittany LaMarr
Erika Nowakowski

Meeting Objectives:

- The September 26th, 2024, Gender Responsiveness Workgroup Meeting began with opening remarks. The workgroup continued their discussions on the Landscape Analysis and the Special Gender Responsiveness Subgroup recommendations for legislative consideration.

Meeting Summary:

- Opening Remarks
 - The groundwork was laid for the work that is continuing to be done with the understanding that at the end of the 2024 year with the support of ROCA a landscape analysis will be produced for review and consideration of the Gender Responsiveness Workgroup.
 - The Special Gender Responsiveness Subgroup has been meeting to address the immediate needs of the young girls in the justice system, which the recommendations for legislative consideration by this subgroup will be presented.
 - The 2025 year will be focused on tuning the Landscape Analysis and the working on a gaps analysis in hopes of having additional policy recommendations by the end of 2025.
- Landscape Analysis Update
 - ROCA Update
 - ROCA shared their initial findings at the June 2024 Gender Responsiveness Workgroup meeting which was informed by interviews conducted with working group personnel. After this initial step was taken,

- ROCA spoke with young women and girls that are or have been in the justice system as well as staff members who worked with girls that had significant system involvement. A survey was also produced in order to understand the services that are available in the state of Connecticut.

 - ROCA is currently working on a literature review to inform their work as well.
 - ROCA found that older girls were more reflective of their experiences in the system(s) compared to younger girls, but staff members that worked with the younger girls were beneficial in gaining more insight into their experience.
 - TYJI Update on Quantitative Metrics for Landscape Analysis
 - The research requests have gone to the Cross Agency Data Sharing Workgroup chairs. One research request is through OPM and the other research request is through the judicial branch. OPM will be working with the state agencies and judicial will tackle the judicial data request.
 - Some of the data requested is more accessible than others therefore as much data will be collected as possible by the end of the year but it is important to understand that it may take longer to receive the data that is not already being collected.
 - Meeting Concerns
 - A concern was brought to the group's attention regarding the ROCA study not being more holistic across the state with girls from other areas of Connecticut. A recommendation was presented to work with community organizations that serve young people.
 - A question was asked regarding the sampling strategies of the young girls who were interviewed in the ROCA study, in which ROCA representatives discussed how consent was a big issue due to many of the girls being underage. To combat this, ROCA sampled from the ROCA population, specifically girls who are or have been involved in the justice system (preferably justice and DCF system involvement). Parental consent was able to be acquired due to their ROCA involvement. Many of the girls were from Hartford, but some from other parts of the state as well.
 - A question was asked regarding the sampling strategies of the stakeholders that were interviewed for the ROCA study, in which ROCA representatives discussed how the staff members that worked directly with the girls at ROCA were interviewed.
- Review of Special Gender Responsiveness Subgroup Recommendations for Legislative Consideration
 - Current Recommendations:
 - Enhance and require training for congregate settings/out of home care providers and enhance programing standards.

- A recommendation was given to include de-escalation and harm reduction training.
 - Enhance fundings for out-of-home care staff to support recruitment, retention of qualified workforce and appropriate staffing levels.
 - A recommendation was given to specify the cost of delivering service and the cost of recruiting a qualified workforce and to define a qualified workforce.
 - A comment was made that salaries need to be sufficient to retain and recruit staff.
 - Identify specialized programs needed to better serve this population and additional resources to support them.
 - A concern was brought to the attention of the group that this recommendation is too vague.
 - A recommendation was given to identify specialized programs that target the needs of youth so as to not overwhelm them.
 - Review screening tools that are utilized with this population, identify what screening is done for victimization and if there are opportunities to enhance and increase uniformity across systems.
 - Referral to multidisciplinary teams.
 - Enhance capacity to provide individualized WRAP services to children in STAR/other out of home settings.
 - Strengthen safety of out of home care settings.
 - Provide regular updates to legislative/oversight committees regarding enhancements to care continuum.
 - Ensure regular reporting regarding quality of out-of-home settings, and population being served.
 - The meeting concluded due to time constraints before recommendations 4-9 could be discussed.
 - The recommendations will be sent to the JJPOC during the third week of November.
- Next Steps
 - Comments regarding the recommendations should be sent to Brittany within a week.

Next Meeting: October 24th, 2024

