

Incarceration Workgroup Meeting
November 15th, 2021
1:00 PM- 2:30 PM
Zoom Conference Meeting

Summary:

An update on the consolidation of services for pre-trial youth was given by CSSD:

- The CSSD has formed a working group that consists mostly of internal business. They have continuously met with advocates and their report is almost completed.
- One of the issues they struggled with the most is where the population will be housed. CSSD did not mention any of the different options of places to house the individuals in a residential setting.

- This factor of the meeting will be a legislation recommendation for the JJPOC.

An update on the use of chemical agents/alternatives was given by members of the DOC.

- DOC reached out to agencies outside of CT. Through reaching out, they continue to work on developing a curriculum for types of training, and better ways of interacting with the population. Limited usage of chemical agents was also mentioned, and they would like some input from CSSD and DCF.
 - There is a process discussed for children who have more than once had chemical agents used. They are talking to more children now to get more input on how the issues are treated on an individual basis. The limited usage of chemical agents is suggested by workgroup members.
 - A young men's group and the effectiveness of the different topics that will be discussed to show that they do have a voice, and to get to know each other in a safe environment.
 - A community counsel modeled after the JJPOC was brought up in this portion of the meeting, where kids can bring up different issues as to why fights spread and the circumstances around fighting, and work with staff to resolve different issues. Some topics discussed in this portion of the meeting include childhood/adolescence, trauma, different policies at NYI, etc. By picking topics like these,

An ombudsperson presentation was given by the DOC. This aspect of the meeting focuses on what kind of different groups and/or services that are in the making and/or shown to be successful.

- One specifically that was discussed is NYI's services since September. A quality of life survey is planned to be given to different young adults to see what areas can be improved in their life.

The workgroup holds a discussion on different JJ Programs and the effectiveness of the programs, with presentation slides. The primary focus/area in the discussion is how the OCA, (Office of the Child Advocate) will engage more youth in different programs services can offer. One setback that is discussed in this section of the meeting is the need for staffing, to facilitate and hold these programs. More specifically, the need for second shift staffing is mentioned in the meeting as well. Different members discussed the different implications of staffing for specific juvenile justice programs, especially for programs used to build the sense of self in children, and engage them within the community, and when they're at home/school.

- Overall goal of the presentation and discussion was of the re-entry concern for individuals. The goal is to look into what different types of programs would work best in CT for this issue, including ROCA which was summarized by speakers. ROCA's overall goal is to disrupt incarceration rates, as well as poverty and racial issues by engaging/educating more young adults, law enforcement, and systems to address the traumatization of youth. As discussed in other previous meetings, getting to the root of what's causing these issues.