

THIS MEETING DID CONTAIN A PRESENTATION – DISCUSSION AND UPDATES

JJPOC Incarceration Workgroup

October 17, 2022

1:00pm-2:30pm

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

Meeting Summary:

- Introductions
- Presentation from Achieving the Dream
 - This program is a pathway to college and career for Connecticut's adjudicated youth.
 - The Gateway to College program allows colleges to support the community by building sustainable pathways for adjudicated and disconnected youth to earn a high school diploma and college credentials.
 - Gateway students are on average 17 years-old, have only earned approximately 55% of the credits required to graduate, and have an average GPA ranging from 1.38 to 2.86.
 - At the Gateway to College program data collected in New Haven, the average age at entry to the program was 17.5, they had an average of 69.9% of high school credits earned at entry, 92% came from low-income families, and 75% were first generation college students.
 - The average GPA upon entry to the program was 1.71 and the average first term college GPA was 2.43. On average 10 college credits were earned, and the program produced an 83% graduation rate.
 - They are proposing this model for the use of welcoming formerly incarcerated youth back to school in Connecticut.
 - A member of the workgroup asked if youth at a facility such as Manson Youth Institute or CSSD would have support systems in the facility helping youth with the transition from incarceration to being a college student.
 - It was clarified that currently there are no systems in place yet and that further down the line there are collaborative conversation that are going to have to happen to determine what will need to be implemented to serve the best interests of the students.
 - A member of the workgroup asked what the length of the program would be for the student who has a very small number of credits.
 - It was explained that this program is very flexible and the average length of time in this program is 18 months, but students have been in the program for three years and as a result the youth graduated with more college credits.
 - A member of the work group asked about students that have learning disabilities.

- The speaker clarified that there is a full-time special educator provided by New Haven public schools.
- Re-entry Subgroup Recommendations
 - Section 1 of the subgroups plan outlines the need for examining reentry models and national best practices as well as the expansion of community Re-entry Roundtables.
 - A member of the group raised a concern regarding the clarity of the language to ensure that the recommendations achieve what the subgroup intends it to achieve.
 - If any members of the subgroup have any questions, comments, concerns, or recommendations to co-chair Martha Stone or Brittany LaMarr.
- Commissary Subgroup Proposal
 - The subgroup came to a consensus to narrow down several things; the first being the population that is being addressed for commissary options, the second being mirroring some of the work that CSSD has done around behavior management systems and the access to commissary,
 - A member of the subgroup expressed several concerns including the timeline for implementation being too lengthy, issues concerning resources, and fiscal considerations.
 - Another member of the work group agreed and expressed concern regarding the transition from this behavior-based model to the standard model and avoiding re-traumatization
- Update on Youth Transfer from MYI to CSSD
 - A member of the work group recommended sending the implementation plan back to the judicial branch and reconvene another group with the inclusion of other legislative members to reconsider a new implementation plan with a certain date and have it come back for a vote to create movement on the plan.
 - It was explained by another member of the workgroup that this issue has not been dropped or forgotten, but last year circumstances arose which stopped it from moving.

Next Meeting: 12/19/2022