



JJPOC Incarceration Workgroup MEETING

FEBRUARY 26TH, 2024

1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

THIS MEETING DOES NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION- DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES

Attendance

Angel Quiros	Indre Fishman	Sarah Eagan	TYJI Staff
Brianna Rawl	Janet Freimuth	Sharmese Walcott	Paul Klee
Cathy Foley Geib	Kelly Orts	Sharonda Carlos	Brittany LaMarr
Craig Washington	Laura Furr	Stella Rose Dugue	Erika Nowakowski
Emily Leen	Martha Stone	Tammy Nguyen-O'Dowd	
Eulalia Garcia	Michael Pierce	Tasha Hunt	
Gary Roberge	Patricia Nunez		
Gary Winfield	Robert Francis		

Meeting Summary

1. Introductions

- Judge Tammy Nguyen-O'Dowd was introduced as the new Co-Chair of the Incarceration Workgroup, working alongside Attorney Sharmese Walcott.

2. Update on 2024 JJPOC Recommendations

- Incarceration workgroup voted on three specific recommendations:
 - Expand mentorship to serve interested youth reentering from DOC, JBCSSD facilities and contracted programs. Support will be available to youth for up to 24 months from the time of release.



- JBCSSD and DOC will ensure that youth, prior to reentering from juvenile facilities or contracted programs, will have started, and whenever possible, completed job readiness and/or career training programs with imbedded industry-recognized credentials, certifications, or licenses. The facility or contracted program will collaborate with the youth and coordinating entity to support the youth in seeking, and whenever possible finding, employment prior to release and sustaining employment after release.
 - Will require further discussion, if passed, on how it will be implemented.
 - Connections to Career Resources on employment preparation and placement was briefly discussed.
 - The JJPOC Reentry Subgroup will continue to meet, with the continued participation of CSDE, DCF, DOC, JBCSSD, DOL, DSS, DMHAS, and DOH, to complete the Quality Assurance Framework and Funding Sections of the 2023 Reentry Success Plan no later than December 1, 2024.
3. **Discuss DOC-JBCSSD Fiscal Information on Expanding Credible Messengers Recommendation**
- Discussion surround how much it would cost to provide services to youths reentering from DOC and JBCSSD facilities for up to 24 months was held.
 - Average contract of 12 months per youth was taken into consideration for projected costs.
 - For Credible Messenger services, the average cost per youth is \$58,125.00.
 - Each youth is provided approximately 7 hours of services per week.
 - Exact breakdown of the services provided to each youth, per week, was requested to determine the cost-effectiveness of the services.
 - Flex Funds provided per youth is \$250.00.
 - Program process and outcome evaluation cost estimated to be \$300,000.00.
 - With 411 youth, the estimated total cost would be \$24,292,125.00.
 - 40 youth served through Bridgeport and Hartford REGIONS programs.
 - 194 youth reentering from pretrial detention.
 - 124 youth reentering from JBCSSD community-based residential programs.
 - 53 youth (including unsentenced and sentenced) reentering from DOC.
 - Feedback from Credible Messengers about the program include the need to increase the work from part-time to full-time and to improve salaries to expand and retain the number of Credible Messengers contracted.
 - More information was requested regarding the average caseload for Credible Messengers.
 - This information will be provided in the follow-up summary to this meeting.
 - Discussion was held regarding a phase-in funding plan that prioritizes specific groups of youth at certain intervals.



- Giving highest priority to repeat offers coming out of REGIONS
- Further options for prioritizing specific groups of youths will be provided to group in the follow-up summary.

4. Review of DOC Chemical Agents/ Use of Restraints Report

- Four instance of chemical agent usage in January 2024.
 - All instances involved two separate youths who would not respond to commands to cease fighting.
 - Minor injury reported from one fight.
- Unsure of the reasoning behind this increase in physical altercations.
 - It was noted that tensions in the facilities have been high since the commencement of the Commerce Implementation Plan.
 - January 2024 was the first month during the Commerce Implementation Plan where youth were unable to use their own funds to purchase supplies from Commerce.
- February 2024 has not seen the same increase in physical altercations as January 2024.
 - This is due to increased staff presence in high traffic areas.
- DOC has expressed interest in reverting back to the previous commissary structure due to the increase in physical altercations and reports from upset families.
 - DOC is waiting on directives from the legislative body before making any changes.
 - Further discussion resulted in continuing the implementation of the new Commissary Plan to allow a period of time for adjustment to these changes.

5. Update Re-entry Subgroup

- Since the recommendations were approved, there has been one Reentry Subgroup meeting.
 - Total of 10 recommendations were submitted.
 - Recommendation 10 is to have the Reentry Subgroup review quality assurance and funding as it relates to Credible Messengers and employments.
- Multiple aspects of the Reentry Subgroups plan overlap with other Workgroup and Subgroup material.
 - It was discussed that to maximize time, moving forward meetings can be combined to provide information to multiple groups at once to avoid any redundant efforts.

6. Review 2024 Incarceration Workgroup Workplan

- Plan for the next year is to:
 - Focus on the **Connecticut Reentry Success Plan**, analyze the various components of the plan to determine the status of ongoing efforts.



- Continue to monitor the progress of the two specific recommendations that came from the Incarceration Workgroup.
- Monitor progress of the Implementation Plan.
- Monitor progress of the Reentry Subgroups quality assurance and funding framework.
- Strategic plan meetings will be held sometime during June 2024 to review the strategic plan and goals of the JJPOC as they are expiring this year.
 - This updated strategic plan will be delivered to the JJPOC for consideration in October/November 2024.