



## JJPOC Incarceration Workgroup MEETING

APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

**THIS MEETING DOES NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION- DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES**

### Attendance

Carmen Hernandez	Kelly Orts	Sharonda Carlos	<b>TYJI Staff</b>
Emily Leen	Michael Pierce	Tammy Nguyen-O'Dowd	Paul Klee
Eulalia Garcia	Rafal Matuszczak	Tammy Perreault	Brittany LaMarr
Gary Roberge	Robert Francis		
Julie Revaz	Sharmese Walcott		

### Meeting Summary

#### 1. Recommendations Update

- Credible Messengers Recommendation Update
  - Two vendors are currently delivery credible messengers in four locations around the state.
  - Credible Messengers contract is currently available for six months for involved youth.
    - Most youth typically remain in the program longer than six months.
  - Five cost options have been provided to the Workgroup prior to the meeting for deliberation.
    - One option cost \$58,606 per youth for a period of one year.
    - Additional funds include \$250 Flex Funds per youth that cover incentive or necessity costs.
    - Program evaluation is included in the cost options.
    - The costs of the five options include the total amount of youth who could be served with this figure.



- To alleviate concern from youth regarding the formal end to the relationship with their credible messenger, emphasis is placed upon relationship building with other vendors from youth admission.
    - Additionally, time spent with youth is front-loaded with a tapering down at the end of the 12-month relationship to prepare the youth for the separation.
  - Fiscal concerns about the Credible Messenger program were raised with a point of emphasis placed on the comparative program price to similar programs across the country.
  - Prioritization of services is based off a risk management model with an emphasis being placed on the youth who are in the “deeper” end of the system (i.e. incarcerated youth).
  - Additional Credible Messenger Program funding will be based off the determination of the option being selected by the Workgroup.
  - Workforce Alignment Recommendation Update
    - In House Bill 5508, there is a section that mentions the Reentry Success Plan and includes a requirement for youth to be connected to industry-based credentials prior to release and whenever possible, prior to employment.
    - Additional language within the recommendation includes allowing youth credentialed career pathways and the opportunity to seek employment.
      - Agencies are meeting to discuss pilot programs for technical high school systems to become involved in juvenile justice facilities.
2. Subgroup Updates
3. **Commissary Subgroup Update**
- There is currently a piece of legislation in the Appropriations Committee that discusses an amendment to the commissary bill that was passed that seeks to have PBIS be a supplemental source of funding for purchasing goods in the commissary.
  - It was also requested that a fiscal analysis be performed that will analyze raising the indigent threshold from \$5 to \$20 and the implementation of using the products that Judicial uses in its hygiene care packages for care packages at the Department of Corrections (DOC).
    - This fiscal analysis was performed and sent to Workgroup members.
    - If the indigent threshold was raised to \$20 and the products that Judicial uses in its care packages were incorporated into DOC care packages, it would cost \$173,232.
      - This figure encompasses all indigent individuals currently at DOC.
    - The cost of providing the same hygiene products for youth would be \$13,016.



- A fiscal analysis was performed to analyze the cost of prolonging the technical

assistance program with CERC for six more months.

- The cost is roughly \$1,400 per session for a total of \$8,400.

#### **4. Reentry Subgroup Update**

- The Reentry Subgroup has created an organizational chart for each of the recommendations contained within the Reentry Success Plan.
  - Additionally, a month-by-month agenda has been created to orient members and partnered agencies on discussion points and to allow for ample time for materials, such as fiscal analyses, to be curated.
- By September 2024, all recommendations will have been discussed.
- November and December 2024 will be used to assess the quality assurance framework.

#### **5. DOC Use of Chemical Agent Report**

- Two instances of chemical agent usage reported for March 2024.
  - First incidence occurred on March 7, 2024, when a fight broke out in a classroom.
  - Second incidence occurred on March 12, 2024, when five youth were reported assaulting an adult.
    - It was reported that staff handling of the situation could have been better.
    - No major injuries were reported for any involved parties.

#### **6. Transfer of Manson Youth Implementation Update**

- Since reporting on the implementation plan last month, there have been no changes.
- Emphasis was made on the importance of obtaining a second, secure facility site of transfer for youth being transferred from DCF to the Judicial Branch facilities.