



JJPOC Re-Entry Subgroup Meeting

JULY 7TH, 2022

11:00 AM- 12:20 AM

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

THIS MEETING DOES CONTAIN A PRESENTATION- DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES

Meeting Summary:

1. PBIS Implementation Update:

- A group got together to discuss goals of this group and figure out the membership for the larger group
- The first goal is to explore and identifying the different between transition, reentry and ?? planning
- The second goal is identifying gaps in the reentry
- The third goal is to look at restorative practices used during reentry
- Even though the second goal includes identification of gaps, it is important to highlight what is working as well
- It was suggested that for the third goal it would be important to look at restorative practices around the country not just Connecticut

2. Presentation from Kiesha Henry: Reintegration Mentorship Program, CSSD

- Four months ago, the reintegration mentoring program was started, there are 6 programs that have reintegration mentors, most programs have 2 mentors, a couple have more
- Part of the programs monthly meetings is looking at the goals, available resources and how to overcome challenges to better serve youth
- Reintegration mentors work with families of the youth to identify barriers that may be present and work to resolve them
- The program helps youth get vocational certificates so that youth can leave the program with skills that can help them get a job
- Some barriers that are present are companies not hiring youth because they have been involved in the system, getting a state ID can be a challenge for some youth, this is why the program is trying to partner with places like the DMV to remove barriers



- The neighborhood that youth live in can be a barrier, so it is really important for mentors to be there for support, whether that be planning, transportation, or other services

3. Discussion

- It was asked how long youth are involved with reintegration mentors, it is usually 4-8 months on, but they are trying to change it to at least a year, the only reason mentors would not work with youth anymore is if youth is 18 and no longer wanted services
- Even if youth is admitted to Manson, they would want to keep communication
- There are two mentors in Waterbury that have been there the longest, they know a lot about resources that are available in their area and are a great help to other mentors
- People wanted to know if these individuals' new hires into the agencies, or how long have they been there, some are staff that were promoted to be a mentor, and some have just come in as mentors, many mentors have similar lived experiences to these youth, they want to give back to youth, the program generally looks for people who can relate to the youth
- MYI wanted to know if there was something they could be doing to close gaps in reentry, the reintegration mentors do not serve youth from MYI, credible messengers serve the youth brought released from MYI
- It was asked if there is evaluation data available from the program, or are they in the process of evaluating, the program will be looking into this, it was clarified that there is an evaluation being done by the whole post-adjudication system, that will include this program
- There was concern that if mentors have to report violations to probation officers it would cause tension, it was noted that expectations are made very clear to everyone involved in the process and that everyone works together
- The main goal of the program is to have every youth in programs like Journey House to be connected to the mentorship program for at least a year, this does not include the youth in detention
- It was asked that if there is a separable component of the CSSD contract re-discharge and re-entry preliminary findings and recommendations, that information would be helpful for this group, once preliminary recommendations are made, they can be sent to this group
- The credible mentors continue to mentor youth when they are released, they are a part of the treatment planning team, it was noted that it is important for them to form a relationship with the youth so that youth can count on them, they serve as a prosocial support



- People were wondering if the community and region program have similar standards, reintegration mentors are a part of the program so youth see them regularly before they reenter the community, credible mentors are model after the reintegration mentors
- A question was asked about the continuation of the relationship between the youth and the mentor continues if the youth were to be sent back to detention, the relationship would continue, unless the youth was 18 or was in a different program upon release
- There was confusion as some thought that the credible messenger role is broader than the reintegration mentor, since they interact with youth during the pre-trial stage, they do help youth navigate the system in some instances in addition to mentoring
- It was asked that if Hartford's new reentry center has a collaboration with the reentry program, there is a separate program at that center call Behind the Walls, they work with youth who are transferring out of DOC facilities, they get referrals from social workers for anyone who is returning to the Hartford area three months before they are released
- The youth development specialist is the first point of contact for the youth, talk to youth about the services that can be offered, such as employment or education, working with different organizations to provide these services, currently they are working with OPP to see what can be done to help younger populations programs
- The program is hoping to expand this to youth who are being diverted by JRB, informing those youth of resources that are available to them
- It was mentioned that they are working with youth 3 months before release, but how long do they work with youth once they are out, it was noted that they work with youth until age 23, when they age out of OPP

4. Next Steps

- The group would like to see actual discharge and reentry policies from DOC and CSSD, the group would like to review the policies if they exist, it was noted that there are policies at CSSD and DOC that can be provided to the group
- It was stressed that the group should really try to get perspectives from youth about what could be improved in terms of reentry, trying to come up with a way to incorporate them in the process, whether that be meeting with a community council or creating a survey
- An email can be sent to CSSD and DOC reiterating that the group would like feedback from youth



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- CSSD can provide data from the surveys on the reentry process they give to youth