



## JJPOC Re-Entry Subgroup Meeting

MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

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

### Meeting Summary:

#### 1. Representatives from New Jersey's Juvenile Justice Commission spoke about their programs

- Beginning a pilot program to make services easier to access in communities
  - Over \$1 million in funding for “hubs” in various municipalities
    - Hubs have goal of providing Community and Restorative practices and resources for youth returning from the commission
    - There is a focus on Restorative and Transformative Justice Practices
    - Hub has 10 required services but can contract out for others
    - Required Services
      1. Mental Health
      2. Substance Abuse
      3. Education
      4. Employment
      5. Housing
      6. Financial Literacy and Debt Support
      7. Life Skills
      8. Social Support
      9. Preventative Mentoring
      10. Community Conferencing/Case Circling
    - Parole officers have been a vital part of the implementation team
      1. This pilot is set to go for two years, data will be collected and analyzed by Rutgers University, it will then be presented to the state to see if this should be expanded
    - Similar models in Chicago and Pennsylvania



- NJ Juvenile Justice Commission found that the Juveniles having their parole revoked were not getting enough support in: Education, Employment, Stable Housing, and Treatment/Services
  - Each of these shortcomings have been addressed and now the state is only seeing around 3 revocations per year (down from 15-25)
    - To address housing: independent living models have been developed for 18-25 year olds
      - In these homes, youth are expected to save money and learn life skills to be ready to life on their own within one year
      - These homes are in the suburb or in different cities from where the youth was getting in trouble
    - To address education: there have been partnerships with community colleges in order to offer education to commission involved youth to get their associate degrees
      - Older youth are also having opportunities to learn trades
    - To address work: there are Supportive Work programs where employers are compensated \$20 a week and 5% of administration costs for 20 weeks if they hire a commission involved youth
- The state also has developed a Resident Reentry portfolio
  - This portfolio creates an online copy of documents all in one place
    - Some of the documents that are included are: birth certificates, Social Security cards, certifications, etc.
    - This has helped parole officers keep track of the services youths are involved with as well
      - Employment is also tracked in this portfolio
    - There is limited access to each section to maintain privacy
- Additional Services in the state include:
  - Tattoo Removal from: Hands, Arms, Face, and Neck
  - Pot of money to help with other expenses such as: driving courses, tuition, work clothes, materials for trade, etc.
  - Inside healing circles (Modeled in CA prisons) to address trauma
  - Family counselors to help families support themselves and support the youths
  - All services begin when they're inside in order to increase success on the inside