



JJPOC Re-Entry Subgroup Meeting

MARCH 5TH, 2024

12:00 PM-1:00 PM

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

THIS MEETING DOES NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION- DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES

Attendance:

Cathy Foley Geib

Indre Fishman

Marisa Morello

TYJI Staff

Brittany LaMarr

Christa Rider

Joanne Tremblay
Jackson

Martha Stone

Paul Klee

Christina Quaranta

John Tarka

Nancy DeCrescenzo

Deborah Rogala

Katie Durand

Patricia Nunez

Eulalia Garcia

Kristen Mongillo

Talia Nunez

Glen Worthy

Lisa Sementilli

Meeting Summary:

1. Introductions
2. Announcements
3. Funding Needs & Quality Assurance Needs for Recommendation 6, Nos. 1-3, relating to Transition Supports
 - Recommendation No. 1
 - Overarching topics to consider when discussing funding and quality assurance needs include:
 - Timeline for when this information is needed.
 - The amount of youth receiving services.
 - Criteria for prioritizing the population.



- Discussion was held regarding narrowing the focus of the recommendations to eliminate areas that may be unattainable due to cost.
 - Staff and time intensive services (development and acquisition of ID's, Reentry Wallets, etc.) should be utilized for youths reentering from long-term stays such as REGIONS, community-based residential programs, treatment programs, and more, and not for youth reentering from pretrial because support staff, like juvenile probation officers, are already in place. Approaching services in such a way can help reduce the amount of funding that is necessary.
 - There is a cost associated with obtaining ID's and compiling documents for the Reentry Wallet.
 - School transcripts from a youth's time at a residential program should be included in the Reentry Wallet.
- A Request for Proposal (RFP) has recently closed to establish funding to provide Reintegration Mentors to all REGIONS programs and Community Residentials across the state.
- CDCS REGIONS programs are able to enter information pertaining to ID's and Reentry Wallets. Should the program be extended to other districts and/or community residentials, data collection would be extended as well.
- A point of emphasis was made regarding youth that are reentering their district and the importance of having their immunization records available.
 - Should a youth not have their immunization records, this will result in a delayed return to school.
 - Medical records compiling does not cost money.
- A question was asked regarding if there is currently an existing data collection platform where all Reentry Wallet information is stored to avoid the necessity of a USB drive.
 - An electronic platform of this nature is not something that is currently in existence nor is it something that has been discussed.
 - Youths are provided hard copies of their documents and a password protected USB drive would be used as a backup file location.
 - Currently, Reintegration Mentors store copies of youth's documents in the event that youths misplace the documents, the Reintegration Mentor can provide it to them again.



- The Department of Corrections (DOC) current protocol regarding document procurement for sentenced youth is very similar to the Reentry Wallet, document compiling recommendation. DOC recommends continuing to focus these efforts on the population that has a set release date staff and time intensive service concerns.
 - Discussion regarding the need to expand the document procurement efforts for pre-sentenced youths was held.
 - In certain instances, youths who have been removed from school for a period of time need specific medical documents to allow them to return.
 - By only focusing these efforts on sentenced youth, pre-sentenced youths may face significant roadblocks when attempting to return to school.
 - It was recommended that DOC determine what efforts they would be able to provide to pre-sentenced youth, rather than excluding them entirely, to avoid any issues in returning to school.
 - DOC has already begun to establish rapport with the court system and case managers to inform DOC ahead of time if/when an individual is leaving to begin the document procurement process.
 - Discussion was held regarding what additional supports DOC would need in order to expand the resources being provided to sentenced youth, in addition to the document procurement process.
 - While an additional Reentry Counselor would be beneficial, it is certain procedures, external to DOC, that restrict DOC's ability to compile all necessary documents for individuals that do not have an established discharge data.
 - Additional resources, such as a resume and cover letter, are able to be provided to youth at this time. Securing an email account for youths will be challenging due to policies in place that do not allow all youth to access the internet, only a select few individuals.
- Recommendation No. 2
 - Discussion regarding access to and understand of family visits to REGIONS programs was held.
 - Currently, REGIONS programs support family visits through their flex funds.
 - While family visits can be expanded to pre-trial youth, less pre-trial family members visit due to weekly obligations to appear in court.
 - A point was raised that even though pre-trial families may not utilize their ability to visit the youth, staff needs to understand they can offer access and families need to understand they have a right to request it.



- Mechanisms to track the amount of family visits are already established.
 - DOC has established weekly Family Engagement Meetings which allow for families to visit the youth and address any concerns or needs they believe the youth has. These meetings also provide the youth the opportunity to advocate for themselves.
 - DOC does not currently offer bus passes to any family members. Additional time to consider the financial budget for this request is needed.
 - Further research is needed to determine if the Medicaid 1115 Waiver can be expanded to cover transportation services for families to visit the facilities.
 - A Point of Emphasis was made regarding the feasibility of providing bus passes to families.
 - If a family is intending to visit a youth housed in another town, a bus pass will not serve effectively due to the family needing to travel several bussing zones.
 - Hamden and Hartford REGIONS currently provides families with Uber cards which they have recognized as the most effective way of providing transportation for families.
- Recommendation No. 3
 - A point of emphasis was made to address the importance of determining who the target population is for providing supports for up to six months following the youths return home.
 - Some of these services may be able to be covered under the Medicaid 1115 Waiver.
 - Clarification regarding who in the family, whether it be the youth themselves or the family all together, is being provided what types of services is necessary.
 - A needs assessment should be considered to identify what each family is seeking in terms of support.
 - Needs assessment can be completed as soon as the youth enters the facility, there does not need to be a delay.
 - DOC does not currently have existing flex funds to assist families with housing supports.