



## JJPOC Re-Entry Subgroup Meeting

MAY 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

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

### Attendance:

Amy Marracino	Eulalia Garcia	Michael Pierce	<b>TYJI Staff</b> Brittany LaMarr
Christa Rider	Heriberto Cajigas	Nancy DeCrescenzo	Paul Klee
Deborah Rogola	Katie Durand	Tammy Perreault	
Elba Caraballo	Martha Stone	Will Seals	

### Meeting Summary:

#### 1. Legislative Update

- House Bill 5508, which contain the recommendations from this Subgroup, is waiting to be called to the Senate.
- The recommendation includes
- Expanding the use of credible messengers to be accessible to youth for upwards of 24 months.
- Providing pathways for industry related credentials to youth who are leaving facilities (DOC or Judicial).
- There was an amendment that removed the fiscal note attached to this bill which eliminates increased funding for the recommendations contained within this bill.

#### 2. Housing Recommendations of the Connecticut Reentry Success Plan

- Recommendations pertaining to the Connecticut Reentry Success Plan are recommendations 8, numbers 1 through 4.
  - Recommendation 8, No. 1: JBCSSD and DOC will screen youth for housing needs upon admission to the facility and work with the family to determine their housing needs upon release of the youth.



- DOC Reentry Counselor completes reentry survey upon admission to screen for housing needs.
  - DOC is requesting one additional staff member and additional funding for this role.
- JBCSSD performs detention and probation intake that includes a screening on housing needs.
- It was recommended that DOC and JBCSSD share the housing screening instruments that they use.
- Recommendation 8, No. 2: Department of Housing (DOH) will continue to educate JBCSSD and DOC staff about DOH funded housing options and how to access them so that identified youth and/or their family may benefit.
  - DOH suggests formalizing the sharing of information.
  - DOC will make their staff available for additional training opportunities relating to this recommendation.
  - JBCSSD would need to develop a training plan that would be executed by one JBCSSD staff for the Reentry Success Plan who will coordinate with the Training Academy.
  - Brief discussion was held to include within this recommendation education about section 8 vouchers.
- Recommendation 8, No. 3: JBCSSD and DOC will use flex funds, as funding allows, to provide youth and their family the ability to relocate if needed for safety reasons. Funds may cover moving, basic needs, and initial housing payments.
  - DOC currently has no flex funds available to fulfill this request.
    - DOC is requesting \$40,000 of funding to cover the costs for five families for a pilot program for one year. This funding covers first month, last month, and security deposit for housing needs.
  - JBCSSD currently offers first and last month's rent for youth and families, basic needs first cards, and offers moving assistance.
    - JBCSSD would develop a housing report within CDCS.



- Recommendation 8, No. 4: JBCSSD and DOC will enhance awareness of the existing triage systems with DCF, DMHAS, and DDS to determine eligibility and develop service plans to support youth who cannot return home because of abuse/neglect, significant behavioral health, or developmental needs. Services based on eligibility and appropriateness may include but are not limited to: (a) DMHAS behavioral health supports, (b) DCF educational and vocational supports (e.g. CHAP/CHEER), (c) START program case management and housing assistance for non-DCF involved youth, and (d) CSSD transitional housing and rapid rehousing opportunities.
  - JBCSSD currently has a Transitional Living Program (TLP) operating in Wethersfield.
    - Funding needed to fulfill this recommendation include additional funding to develop a training plan that would be executed by the one additional staff member mentioned in recommendation 8, No. 2 above.
  - DCF was asked to discuss internally what the need is for serviced youth ages 15 through 17.
- Discussion was held regarding additional needs that are not being met by the current services being provided.
  - Youth who flee from housing services that they are provided but do not go back to their homes were mentioned as a possible service delivery/housing gap.