



JJPOC RED Workgroup MEETING

MARCH 20, 2024

9:00 am- 10:30 am

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

THIS MEETING DOES NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION- DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES

Attendance

Abby Alter	Hector Glynn	Joshua Bernegger	Robert Francis	TYJI Staff
Agata Raszczyk-Lawska	Jackie Cushing	Karrol-Ann Brown	Sharmese Walcott	Brittany LaMarr
Derrick Gordon	James Mandracchia	Martha Stone	Steve Smith	Erika Nowakowski

Meeting Summary

1. Introduction

- Brief discussion surrounding the Medicaid 1115 Waiver and the impact CSSD believes it will have on its service array.
 - The greater understanding of the impact this waiver will have on justice-involved youth, the more prepared the Workgroup will be.
 - It was determined that moving forward CSSD will be asked to provide updates on the impact they believe this waiver will have on the service landscape.
 - While the Department of Social Services (DSS) may not have the answers to questions this Workgroup provided, continued discussion about the impact the waiver will have on justice-involved youth in Connecticut is paramount and needs to be ongoing.

2. JJPOC Recommendation Legislation Update

- JJPOC Recommendations were divided into two separate legislative bills.
 - House Bill 5508 contained:
 - Gender Responsiveness Workgroup recommendations
 - Reentry Subgroup recommendations
 - 1. Public Hearing scheduled for March 20, 2024
 - House Bill 5339 contained:



- Education

Workgroup recommendations

1. Recently voted out of committee and made its way to the Legislative Commissioner's Office

3. Equity Dashboard Update

- The third measure, 'Felony and Misdemeanor Detention' is currently being worked on to be publicized on the Equity Dashboard.
- CSSD provided data regarding felony and misdemeanor detention to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM).
 - Data focuses on detention admission for youth committing felonies and misdemeanors.
 - Data is being transferred from CSSD to OPM on a quarterly basis.

4. Diversion Workgroup Update

- At the most recent Diversion Workgroup meeting, it was determined that the Alternative to Arrest Subgroup will be reestablished and additional members will be added to the roster, according to specific legislation requirements.
- These members include: local and regional board of education members, Youth Service Bureau (YSB) members, and Juvenile Review Board (JRB) members.
- Subgroup is tasked with reviewing the Alternatives to Arrest plan from the past two years, initial legislation, Council of State Government's report, and the most recent draft of a plan that the Department of Children and Families (DCF) has submitted.
- In previous years, 'Pedestrian Stop' legislation had been proposed from the Alternatives to Arrest Subgroup with the legislation being continuously impeded due to various reasons.
 - Further discussion between the Subgroup and state and local police departments is warranted due to discrepancies in understanding what software would need to be developed and where the funding for the software development would originate from.
- The due date for the Alternatives to Arrest recommendation plan is possibly being moved to later in the year from July 2024 to sometime during the last quarter of 2024.
- It is highly encouraged that in order to be successful with this recommendation in 2025, a pilot program must be implemented to generate data and showcase success.
- Discussion surrounding a clear definition of what diversion means to the State was held.
 - It was mentioned that a specific, legal definition should be codified to reduce implicit bias and racial discrepancies, and create a standard practice across all cities and towns.



- The opportunity for diversion should be equal across the state while the services provided should be specific to the needs of each individual city and town.

5. RED Committee Meeting Updates

- Meetings took place in New Haven, Waterbury, and Bridgeport in January 2024.
 - In New Haven, the outlier continues to be auto theft.
 - Of the 84 arrests reported, 47 were auto theft.
 - Of the 84 arrests reported, 54 were Black youth.
 - The root cause is still unknown, however, strong correlation between youth previously involved in the justice system, youth being suspended and expelled, and those being arrested for auto theft.
 - Lack of access to services, parent involvement, and school discipline are considered to be contributing factors.
 - An increase in services and employment opportunities could curtail this rise in auto thefts.
 1. Other options discussed included opening up gymnasiums during certain times of the day to increase youth participation in sporting activities such as basketball.
 - Subcommittee is meeting to discuss options to decrease youth arrest.
 1. Subcommittee members include probation officer, school administrators, community agencies, DCF, and public defenders.
 2. Relationship improvement between communities and police department is considered vital to reducing the number of arrests.
 3. Meeting with select youth who have been arrested for auto theft was discussed to improve subcommittee members understanding of the reasons behind the youth's decision to commit the crime.
 4. Community forum is being planned to increase parental involvement, provide youth with additional services, and to gain a better understanding of youth's rationale to commit certain crimes.

Next Meeting: May 15th, 2024