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From: Kaplan, Brittany
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 9:54 AM
To: Keane, Susan <Susan.Keane@cga.ct.gov>
Cc: Farley, Melissa <Melissa.Farley@jud.ct.gov>
Subject: JB CSSD follow up to 12.13.21 Children's BH Approps mtg

Good morning Sue,

I hope you had a lovely Christmas. At the Children's Behavioral Health Appropriations meeting on December 13, 2021, JB CSSD was asked to provide information in response to several legislator inquiries, which is offered below and in the attached. If we can provide anything further, please let me know. Have a wonderful new year!

Best,

Brittany

Brittany Kaplan, Esq.
Staff Attorney/Legislative Liaison
External Affairs Division
Connecticut Judicial Branch
231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

brittany.kaplan@jud.ct.gov

860-757-2270 (office)
860-996-0260 (cell)

1. Representative Walker asked about juvenile program utilization, and whether there are waitlists for community-based services:

A continuum of juvenile community-based programs serving justice-involved youth with a range of risk factors and service needs is available statewide. The existing service continuum has sufficient capacity to serve youth who are referred (even as there are additional service needs, as described at the 12/13/21 meeting, that are unfunded). There are no waitlists for any programs today, and juveniles have been able to access services without waits for most of the last several years. Any waitlists have been very short-lived, and have typically resulted from staff vacancies in programs.

2. Representative Porter asked about providing competitive wages for staff in PNPs, to assist with retention:

Challenges in attracting and retaining a qualified workforce have long plagued the private nonprofit program (PNP) network, and COVID and nation- and statewide workforce shortages have exacerbated this problem. Staff shortages are a primary reason for occasional waitlists or interruptions of services. Based on research conducted by JB CSSD staff, it would take a 38% increase in staff salaries in the PNP network to bring wages to a reasonable market standard. As the attached spreadsheet shows, increasing staff salaries in targeted, direct service, juvenile contracts / programs by 38% would require an additional appropriation of roughly \$9.8M.

Of note, the adult network of programs operates on an even tighter budget, with adults programs consistently operating at a lower cost-per-slot rate. To increase the salaries by 38% in the adult continuum would cost an additional \$8.8M, and that does not include increases for staff in the treatment beds we buy through DHMAS and DoC. Increasing only our own contractors' adult program staff salaries by 38% would still leave them underfunded relative to the juvenile programs.

3. Representative Nolan asked for a summary and description of diversionary programs:

Community-Based Diversion Options include the Children's Behavioral Health System, Youth Service Bureaus and Juvenile Review Boards.

Court-Based Diversion Options include Nonjudicial Handling, Suspended Prosecution on Motor Vehicle Theft Cases, Suspended Prosecution in School Violence Cases, Suspended Prosecution in Fire-setting Behaviors.

Additional information on these diversionary options is attached.

CT Judicial Branch CSSD
Community- and Court-Based Juvenile Diversion Options
December 29, 2021

Community-Based Diversion Options

- Children's Behavioral Health System
The Children's Behavioral Health System provides an array of services and supports designed to meet the mental, emotional, and behavioral health needs of children in the state.
- Youth Service Bureaus
Youth Service Bureaus (YSBs) provide a network of resources and opportunities for children, youth, and their families. A wide range of services and programs are offered with the goal of helping youth to develop positively and to function as responsible members of their communities. YSB services include needs assessment, resource identification, and youth advocacy.
- Juvenile Review Boards
Juvenile Review Boards (JRBs) are designed to divert youth engaged in at-risk behaviors or charged with minor offenses from Juvenile Court involvement. JRBs provide an array of services including: counseling, conflict resolution, therapy, substance abuse services, mentoring, tutoring assistance, and pro-social activities. The board is comprised of community volunteers, school officials, local service providers, Department of Children and Families, law enforcement, and Juvenile Probation Officers.

Court-Based Diversion Options

- Nonjudicial Handling
Pursuant to the Connecticut Practice Book, delinquency court referrals eligible for nonjudicial handling Juvenile Probation Officers work with the child and family, assess needs, develop and monitor the supervision and treatment plan for rehabilitation, such as community service, counseling, substance use testing and/or other requirements such as obeying the law, following parents' rules and curfews, participation in school and prosocial activities, etc.
- Suspended Prosecution on Motor Vehicle Theft Cases
Pursuant to Sec. 46b-133j. Suspension of delinquency proceeding for participation in services to address condition or behavior related to an offense involving a motor vehicle, the court, on motion of a child charged with a delinquency offense involving a motor vehicle for which the child is not yet adjudicated as delinquent, may order the suspension of the delinquency proceedings for a period of up to six months and order the child to participate in services to address any condition or behavior directly related to the offense. Juvenile Probation Services assesses, monitors, and provides supervision and coordinates services for juveniles granted a suspension of prosecution in motor vehicle theft or misuse cases.

- Suspended Prosecution in School Violence Cases
Pursuant to Sec. 46b-133e. Suspension of delinquency proceedings for participation in school violence prevention program, the court, upon motion of a child charged with an offense involving the use or threatened use of physical violence in or on the real property comprising a public or private elementary or secondary school or at a school-sponsored activity may order the suspension of the delinquency proceedings for a period of one year and order the child to participate in a school violence prevention program during the period of suspension. Juvenile Probation Services monitors compliance with program requirements for juveniles granted a suspension of prosecution in school violence cases.
- Suspended Prosecution in Firesetting Behaviors
Pursuant to Sec. 46b-133i. Suspension of delinquency proceedings for fire starting behavior treatment, the court, on a motion of a child charged with a delinquency offense involving an act of fire starting, but not yet convicted, may order the suspension of the delinquency proceeding for a period of up to one year and order the child to participate in a fire starting behavior treatment program. Juvenile Probation Services monitors any court-ordered condition imposed by the court for juveniles granted a suspension of prosecution in firesetting cases.

Local fire departments throughout the state offer a Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program, which is designed to educate and/or refer children and families based on needs associated with firesetting and fire play. Each child and family is interviewed, and, when additional services are needed, are referred to agencies working with the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program.

JUVENILE PROGRAMS	38% OF PERSONNEL		38% OF PERSONNEL
	STATE LINE	A&G	STATE LINE PLUS A&G
AFIR	\$480,273	\$86,449	\$566,722
AMIR	\$399,008	\$73,218	\$472,226
ASBTE	\$183,752	\$34,346	\$218,098
BTRAC	\$371,829	\$50,494	\$422,323
DDSS	\$354,645	\$68,163	\$422,807
JSSRF	\$1,977,640	\$334,837	\$2,312,477
LYNC	\$1,667,250	\$283,614	\$1,950,864
MST	\$1,220,512	\$172,331	\$1,392,844
MST-EA	\$441,444	\$79,460	\$520,904
MST-FIT	\$191,062	\$25,679	\$216,741
REGIONS-LS	\$1,207,014	\$169,103	\$1,376,116
	\$8,494,429	\$1,377,694	\$9,872,123

ADULT PROGRAMS	38% OF PERSONNEL		38% OF PERSONNEL STATE
	STATE LINE	A&G	LINE PLUS A&G
ABHS	\$996,762	\$115,109	\$1,111,871
ASOS	\$1,043,988	\$156,598	\$1,200,586
ASIST	\$201,914	\$32,665	\$234,579
AIC	\$4,304,095	\$660,386	\$4,964,481
CC	\$206,441	\$31,777	\$238,218
TH	\$922,292	\$138,344	\$1,060,635
	\$7,675,492	\$1,134,879	\$8,810,371