Proposed Scope of Work

Technical Assistance to the TYJI and the JJPOC Incarceration Work Group

Proposed Activities

1. Conduct a review of other states' laws regarding the transfer of juvenile cases to adult court and the outcomes associated with those laws, including their impact on public safety and their effectiveness in changing behavior.

    a. Conduct literature review of outcomes of adult transfer and prepare summary of conclusions for Incarceration Work Group and JJPOC.

    b. Identify implications from literature review regarding the current mechanisms for the transfer of juvenile cases to adult court in Connecticut.

    c. Provide recommendations for consideration by Incarceration Work Group and JJPOC for future changes to law, policy, and practice regarding transfer of youth to adult court.

2. Identify the potential programmatic and organizational alternatives to housing adult-charged youth under the age of 18 in Department of Corrections custody, both pre-adjudication and post-adjudication, in the State of Connecticut.

    a. Conduct interviews with key Connecticut youth justice and justice system stakeholders to identify perspectives, key considerations, and concerns regarding potential programmatic and organizational alternatives to housing adult-charged youth in Department of Corrections custody.

    b. Conduct on-site visits to Manson Youth Institute, York Correctional Institute, the Judicial Branch's juvenile detention facilities, and other residential programs to assess current practices for managing adult-charged youth and youth housed pursuant to involvement with the juvenile justice system, including an assessment of capacity and physical plant issues. CCLP would also conduct on-site visits to other locations that could potentially serve as an alternative housing option for youth currently held by DOC to assess the potential use of those locations as part of the plan and what modifications, if any, would be required were they to be used.

    c. Coordinate with local organizations to complete focus groups with young people and family members impacted by current practices to identify challenges and opportunities in developing alternatives to the housing of youth under the age of 18 in DOC custody. CCLP would prepare a methodology and questions for focus

groups but would rely on local organizations to coordinate and compile results from those focus groups.

d. Collect and analyze data on youth currently under the age of 18 housed pre-adjudication and post-adjudication to assess needs of and key considerations for the development of alternatives to housing youth in Department of Corrections custody, including:

    i. Race
    ii. Ethnicity;
    iii. Gender;
    iv. Age;
    v. Charge(s);
    vi. Admissions to DOC custody;
    vii. Status as pre-adjudicated or post-adjudicated;
    viii. Average daily population;
    ix. Average length of stay;
    x. Median length of stay;
    xi. Assigned risk levels;
    xii. Assessed treatment and educational needs;
    xiii. Disposition of cases; and
    xiv. Other factors identified by Incarceration Work Group members.

e. Review relevant reports, publications, and analyses previously completed by Connecticut stakeholders that could inform the identification of potential options for housing of youth under age 18 held in DOC custody.

f. Identify other jurisdictions across the nation that house adult-charged youth pre- and post-adjudication consistent with best practices while maintaining public safety that can serve as models for Connecticut.

g. Engage a current or former youth justice professional with experience housing youth charged and adjudicated as adults outside of a Department of Corrections who can provide strategic advice to CCLP, as well as consult with Connecticut stakeholders about barriers and challenges to developing alternatives and strategies to overcome them. Consultants would be chosen in partnership with Incarceration Work Group members but could include Gladys Carrion, who has experience with de-carceration efforts at the state and local level; Michael Dempsey, the president of the Council of Juvenile Correctional administrators; and Willie Fullilove, who currently manages secure facilities for the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services in Washington, DC and who has experience transitioning youth from adult facilities to juvenile facilities in the District of Columbia and Chicago, Illinois.

h. Coordinate and facilitate site visits of Connecticut stakeholders to one or two jurisdictions that currently house adult-charged youth under the age of 18 consistent with best practices (travel costs for Connecticut stakeholders to be provided through TYJI, employing agency, or another funding source).

3. Prepare a written report with findings and identified options for alternatives to housing pre-adjudication and post-adjudication adult-charged youth under the age of 18 in Department of Corrections custody in Connecticut by January 1, 2020.

    a. Identify and outline potential options for alternatives to housing pre-adjudication and post-adjudication based on the review outlined above.

    b. Identify and evaluate the benefits and potential concerns associated with each identified option.

    c. Engage a finance expert to assess and estimate the potential financial costs of each identified alternative to housing adult-charged youth under 18 who are currently in DOC custody. Consultants would be chosen in partnership with Incarceration Work Group members but could include Gladys Carrion, who has experience with de-carceration efforts at the state and local level or Yumari Martinez, who helped manage the creation of New York City's Close to Home limited secure and non-secure placements. It may be best to engage a Connecticut-based consultant who has experience with financial arrangements and budgeting in Connecticut. CCLP would consult with Incarceration Work Groups to determine if a local expert would achieve the best analyses needed for the plan.

    d. For each identified option, outline the steps needed to support implementation of the alternative housing arrangement, including a proposed timeline of activities and work plan tasks, if such alternative is to be pursued and implemented by July 1, 2021.

    e. As part of the plan, identify best practices needed in any alternative setting, including best practices related to behavior management and behavior intervention plans; suicide prevention and intervention; use of room confinement, use of force, and other mechanical and chemical restraints; trauma-informed practices and services; and sexual misconduct prevention, detection, and response pursuant to the requirements of the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act.

    f. Present study findings and recommendations to Incarceration Work Group members and JJPOC and answer questions.