



## JJPOC Meeting Minutes

September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019

2:00PM

1E

### Attendance:

|                              |                  |                     |                    |
|------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Abby Anderson                | John Frassinelli | Sen. George Logan   | Rep. Toni Walker   |
| Hon. Judge Elizabeth Bozzuto | Deborah Fuller   | Eleanor Michael     | Sen. Gary Winfield |
| Sen. Dennis Bradley          | Hector Glynn     | Derrick Molden      | <b>TYJI Staff:</b> |
| Erica Bromley                | Derrick Gordon   | Marc Pelka          | William Carbone    |
| Francis Carino               | Susan Hamilton   | Maria Pirro-Simmons | Danielle Cooper    |
| Rollin Cook                  | Steven Hernandez | Christine Rapillo   | Rashanda McCollum  |
| Sarah Eagan                  | Brian Hill       | Gwen Samuel         | Erika Nowakowski   |
| Tais Ericson                 | John Holland     | Stacy Schulman      | Kelly Orts         |
| Astread Ferron-Poole         | Tasha Hunt       | Martha Stone        | Catherine Parafati |
|                              |                  |                     | Alex Scranton      |

Representative Toni Walker called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Rep. Walker thanked Marc Pelka, who was filling in for Secretary McCaw as the co-chair for the meeting. Rep. Walker and Mr. Pelka then welcomed the youth and families who were in the audience for the meeting.

Rep. Walker asked for a motion to accept the previously amended minutes for the July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting. The motion to accept the minutes was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

### Update on Progress

William Carbone, Executive Director of the Tow Youth Justice Institute (TYJI) at the University of New Haven, welcomed Chief Otoniel Reyes from the New Haven Police Department as the newest member of the JJPOC. Chief Reyes was appointed by Chief Keith Mello, President of the Connecticut Police Chief’s Association.

Mr. Carbone also informed the members of the Committee that the presentation for the Spectrum Report will be postponed until early 2020, after the Racial & Ethnic Disparities Workgroup has had the chance to review it thoroughly. Mr. Carbone then reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Erika Nowakowski, Director of Youth Justice Initiatives at TYJI, informed the JJPOC of the pending updates that will be starting in October. At the October meeting, Dr. Peter Leone will provide an updated of the JJPOC’s Education Committee and present draft preliminary recommendations. Similar presentations will be held during the November and December meetings. In November,



The Center for Children’s Law & Policy will provide an update of the Incarceration Workgroup on housing of the MYI/YCI population, and in December the Council of State Governments will give an update on their progress with the IOYouth Initiative.

### **Update: Judicial Branch on the Status of Contracted Programs for Adjudicated Juveniles**

Tasha Hunt, Deputy Director of Juvenile Probation at Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (CSSD), gave an overview of the disposition options that were effective as of July 1, 2018. These include probation supervision with residential placement or just probation supervision. Both options are for a maximum term of 18 months, but they can be extended for an additional 12 for a grand total of 30 months.

Juvenile Probation Officers maintain client contact and case management responsibility throughout a juvenile’s placement. Supervision and case planning are both aligned with cognitive-behavioral principles. Also, during the supervision period, probation officers identify supports and community resources to ensure sustainable connections after a juvenile completes their probation. Reentry planning begins immediately after a placement to provide continuity of services post-release. This is done by working closely with clients, their families and community providers. Graduated responses and incentives are ways the probation officers encourage accountability and positive behavior.

Julie Revaz, Director of Administration as CSSD, talked about contracted programs in the community. CSSD is pleased to report that they have an effectuated contract with Community Partners in Action in Hamden. This contract will provide 8 REGIONS Secure beds and is scheduled to be ready to accept juveniles by August 2020. From now until that time, considerable planning, construction and renovation is required. A third bid for an additional REGIONS Secure program was released on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019. No responses were received by the due date of September 12, 2019. Several of the Committee members expressed concern over the lack of response for the program. CSSD is committed to continuing to solicit community providers, both within and out of state.

The girl’s REGIONS Secure program is currently at Journey House and was inherited from the Department of Children and Families. That contract is set to expire on December 31, 2019. CSSD put out a successful bid on May 2, 2019 which is currently under legal review and days away from a formal announcement.

CSSD currently operates 2 REGIONS Staff Secure programs totaling 20 beds. A 3<sup>rd</sup> program is set to be available in January 2020, which will add an additional 8 beds. A bid for a 4<sup>th</sup> Staff Secure program is pending release. Estimations provided by CSSD show that the goal is access to 32-40 Secure and 32-40 Staff Secure beds. By the beginning of 2020, there will be 24 Secure and 28 Staff Secure beds.

Through an RFP, CSSD has acquired 10 vendors that provide per diem placements. These programs are licensed and allow the State to pay for them as they use them. Since the transfer



from DCF, there have been approximately 30 placements (7 current) in per diem beds with an average stay of 6 months. A second RFP will be going out in the near future for specialized per diem services.

In addition to the REGIONS and per diem placements, CSSD has an active contract for a Treatment Foster Care Oregon program that has a capacity of 10 juveniles and will be launching a MST-FIT program in January 2020. A contract for prosocial detention services is in place but a new RFP is scheduled to be released in Spring 2020.

Vocational services are offered to juveniles through a successful partnership with DCF in the larger cities and RFPs will be issued to fill vacancies in the smaller communities by July of 2020. A new bid has been accepted on MST-TAY services that will now incorporate the entire state. The standard MST program is being downsized and a partnership is under exploration with DCF for that program. CSSD has engaged with V.E.T.T.S. to provide mentorships to juveniles. In the future, CSSD hopes to add Functional Family Therapy to its continuum.

Catherine Foley-Geib, Assistant Director of Juvenile & Family Services, went into further detail on the REGIONS Secure and Staff Secure programs. The REGIONS Secure programming is currently housed in the Bridgeport and Hartford Detention Centers. There are 12 beds in each for a total of 24. These programs are specifically for males. Journey House provides 12 treatment beds and 1 respite bed for girls. However, in the case that a girl needs Secure placement and cannot access it through the contracted service, it can be available through the Detention Centers.

With access to only 24 beds, the Secure programs have been at capacity for the past 8 months. There is often a waitlist for a REGIONS Secure placement. It ranges anywhere from 6-12 juveniles (currently at 9). On average, a juvenile spends 50-60 days on the waitlist. There is roughly 10 dispositions to Secure care every month. For juveniles on the waitlist, CSSD has started to develop what they call a Stage 1 Treatment Program. This allows them to begin their treatment goals while in the pre-trial unit awaiting placement.

Yale Behavioral Health provides clinical treatment for the Secure program as well as a psychiatrist. Bridgeport Public Schools, and Hartford Public Schools, through DOMUS, provides the educational programming.

Boys & Girls Village provides 12 beds for the REGIONS Staff Secure program in Milford. Connecticut Junior Republic provides 8 beds in Waterbury and Community Partners in Action will provide 8 beds by the end of the year in Hartford. The treatment and programming provided is similar to that in the Secure programs for continuity of care. Each program is an approved private special education program and also provide on-site, hands-on vocational programs.

To summarize assessments and dispositions from 7/1/18 – 8/31/19, there were 123 juveniles who received a comprehensive forensic and behavioral health evaluation to determine public safety risk and treatment needs. 51 juveniles were placed in a Secure program, 55 have been



admitted to Staff Secure, 30 have been placed in per diem beds, and 26 girls have been admitted to Journey House.

In relation to treatment and programming, the START: AV assessment and Integrated Treatment Plans are used to develop treatment goals and monitor progress. Multidisciplinary teams are held on a weekly basis. Incentives, restorative practices, prosocial programming and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy are all used to promote healthy mental and behavioral changes. To ensure quality control, there are weekly Youth Council meetings, biweekly ombudsperson visits and bimonthly planning meetings. There are also monthly consultations with REGIONS clinicians and a quarterly review of their assessments. Data reports will be developed to monitor outcomes and program effectiveness.

After the presentation, the members of the JJPOC thanked CSSD for the information and engaged in a lengthy discussion. Some of the topics discussed included factors surrounding why REGIONS Secure contracts go without bids, recidivism of juveniles who completed treatment, data development to measure outcomes, room confinement/seclusion, and successful transitioning from REGIONS Secure to Staff Secure programming.

#### **Presentation: Educational Services at Manson Youth Institution**

Due to time constraints, Department of Correction's presentation on educational services at Manson Youth Institution was postponed until the October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting.

**Next Meeting:** October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 2:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.

\*Audio and/or video of the meeting can be found on [https://www.cga.ct.gov/app/taskforce.asp?TF=20141215\\_Juvenile%20Justice%20Policy%20and%20Oversight%20Committee](https://www.cga.ct.gov/app/taskforce.asp?TF=20141215_Juvenile%20Justice%20Policy%20and%20Oversight%20Committee)