



## JJPOC Meeting Minutes

May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

2:00PM

Zoom Conference Call

### Attendance:

Abbatemarco, Jennifer	Eagan, Sarah	Pierre, Natasha	Stone, Martha
Anderson, Abby	Ericson, Tais	Pirro-Simmons, Maria	Walker, Toni
Bromley, Erica	Frassinelli, John	Porter, Marshall	Winfield, Gary
Carino, Fran	Glynn, Hector	Rapillo, Christine	
Carroll, Judge Patrick	Gordon, Derrick	Reyes, Otoniel	<b>TYJI Staff:</b>
Colangelo, Richard	Henry, Brenetta	Roberge, Gary	William Carbone
Conway, Bernadette	Kostas Diamantis	Roman, Macklin	Susan Cusano
Cook, Rollin	Logan, George	Schulman, Stacy	Erika Nowakowski
Dorantes, Vanessa	Molden, Derrick	Sementilli, Lisa	Kelly Orts
			Catherine Parafati

Representative Toni Walker called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Rep. Walker briefed the JJPOC on the format of the meeting and its facilitation via Zoom Conference Call.

### CSSD Update on COVID-19 Response

Gary Roberge, Executive Director of Connecticut Judicial Branch, provided an update to CSSD's response to COVID-19.

- Effective March 19, 2020, the Judicial Branch restricted juvenile operations to two locations: Bridgeport Juvenile Court and Detention Center & Hartford Juvenile Court and Detention Center
- Juvenile Probation and Residential Services management, in coordination with DCF and the OCPD, is closely examining each juvenile in the Detention Centers to identify those who can be safely released without a risk to public safety.
  - An individualized release plan for each of these juveniles is being developed and presented to the court at the weekly Detention Review hearings, or sooner if the placement is imminent.
- Beginning 3/13/20, entrance to the detention centers was limited to staff and medical and mental health contractors who work at the centers.
  - Distancing Learning initiated by the school districts providing education at the centers.

- Ombudsperson Services switched to telephone check-ins with youth and staff.
  - Family visits now include both phone calls and virtual chats.
- Staff are being screened, including temperature checks, by contracted Medical Assistants before each shift. Employees are not allowed to enter the Centers if they have any symptoms and/or a fever.
- Admissions:
  - Each juvenile is screened for COVID-19 including temperature checks.
  - For any juvenile who has a fever or symptoms, the COVID-19 isolation protocol is followed.
  - All new admissions are medically quarantined for 14 days consistent with DPH guidelines.
- Releases:
  - The nurse does a symptom check and temp check the evening before and the morning of a scheduled release.
  - Medical staff communicates with the receiving facility about any quarantine or other issues on the juvenile's unit, if applicable.
  - No symptomatic juveniles are released to another congregate care setting.
  - For all juveniles released to parents/guardians, medical staff is reviewing the situation at the facility with them and educating them about how to check for symptoms and providing information about resources.
- All Juvenile Probation Officers have initiated and are maintaining contact with the juveniles on their caseloads via telephone contact.
  - Juvenile Probation Officers are inquiring about the juvenile's distance learning plan, treatment services as well as any human service issues the family is experiencing.
- Contracted service providers continue to deliver services, by phone or videoconference. In-person crisis management occurs as needed.
- All vendors are required to check in with clients *a minimum* of once weekly, record such contacts in client files, and reach out to JB referral sources at least weekly for case collaboration. Contract staff are communicating with all programs at least weekly.
- Orders for PPE for residential programs have been placed and filled. Biweekly deliveries of PPE will occur.
- Vendors have been given access to the same rapid COVID testing in New Haven that is currently available to state employees.
- Flex Funds are being increased to ensure that clients' "basic needs" are met, by addressing food insecurity, hygiene, clothing, assistance with utilities, or other needs.

There was Q & A and discussion after the presentation. All questions were requested to be submitted through the "chat" feature of Zoom. Any questions not answered at this meeting would be followed up on.

- As children are admitted into the detention facility, the protocol is that they are placed in quarantine for 14 days- symptoms are monitored 2 times a day. If symptoms progress, they are placed into isolation unit.
- Interaction with other people: detention officers check-in and engage youth in conversation, classification of program officers (counselors) interact every day, mental health clinician checks-in every other day
- Huge mental health impact with room quarantine, have provided magazines and DVD players
- Mask availability: using N-95 masks in accordance with CDC guidelines (only when working/coming in contact with a sick youth)
- Sanitation machines mist out disinfectant over all areas to assist in cleaning process of large common areas- do not come in contact with youth
- Specifics of 14-day quarantine: child is not out in common areas socializing with other youth, come out of room for large muscle activity, for phone calls, and for the bathroom use/daily showering
- Mental health support: mental health clinicians hired by Yale, some staff are doing remote work/ still remotely checking in with children every day. Other Yale staff are still doing face-to-face check-in.
- Education: Bridgeport public schools provide education packets weekly, notify Bridgeport of the results and they are recorded. Packets are also distributed in Hartford- teacher calls for a check-in when class would be taking place, credits are assigned after packet is completed. Will be testing virtual classrooms

## **DOC Update on COVID-19 Response**

Derrick Molden, Warden of Manson Youth Institution, provided an update to DOC's response to COVID-19.

- Total facility count of 234 with 48 youth
- Constant communication with stakeholders
- 2 members over age 18 were tested- 1 was reporting COVID-19 related symptoms, he and his cell partner tested negative
- No youth have been tested at this time- none have reported symptoms
- There is a plan to test everyone in the population
- 75 out of 270 staff members have been tested- 9 tested positive
- Cell cleanup program: in place prior to pandemic, now available upon request
- Hygiene items are distributed at no charge
- Issued 4 masks, can send up to three at a time to be washed with their laundry every week
- Students are receiving individualized work from their teachers
- Video visitation- 2 video stations

## Discussion:

- Are correctional officers isolated to just one facility, or do they alternate between youth and adult facilities? Staff is currently strictly assigned to MYI.

## Education Update on COVID-19 Response

John Frassinelli, Bureau Chief of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, provided an update to Connecticut's Department of Education response to COVID-19.

- Supports for Distance Learning
  - Cares Act Priorities- Computers, Connectivity, Curriculum, Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Supports
  - Connectivity- Gathering information from districts through our "Learn From Home" Task Force
  - Laptops- 60,000 for Alliance District high schools will arrive in 3 waves - the first wave of 17,000 began arriving on May 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Scholastic Book Packs- Spanning grades K-8 started arriving on May 4<sup>th</sup> to all Alliance Districts
  - Partnership with LEGO- provided every 1<sup>st</sup> grader in Bridgeport with a robust play box; additional Alliance Districts to be included
- Variety of professional support webinar series available for families and students
  - Social Emotional Support for Students, Supporting Students with Special Needs, English Learners and Continuation of Education, Support for Homeless Liaisons, Internet Safety for Students, etc.
- Child Nutrition Program
  - Emergency School Meals Program
    - 130 Programs, 458 Sites, 6-Million meals since the closure of schools in March; 81 At-risk After-school Supper Programs
  - Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Program
    - Phase 1 - Late May: Students in households receiving benefits through SNAP and TANF
    - Phase 2 - Late May: Students in households enrolled in Medicaid (HUSKY A)
    - Phase 3 - Mid-June: Students not included in Phase 1 or Phase 2 but receiving free or reduced-price school meals when school is in session

## Community- Based Services Response to COVID-19

Hector Glynn, Vice President of The Village for Families and Children, provided an update to community-based services' response to COVID-19.

- Focus of programs has shifted to basic need component
- COVID-19 has had an effect on families to make basic purchases and pay bills
- Quarter of the residential population was tested positive and asymptomatic
- Created quarantine units for children to keep them as safe as possible
- JJ programming has transitioned to all virtual
- Site based programs: working with CSSD to modify the service delivery so that engagement can be as strong as possible
- Prevention programs: working with Hartford public schools to deliver meal programs, and how to support learning during the summer
- JRB referrals have not been as high as in the past- looking to investigate how the community is reacting and adapting

### **Law Enforcement Update on COVID-19 Response**

Marshall Porter, Chief of Police for the Glastonbury Police Department, provided an update to Law Enforcement's response to COVID-19.

- Police departments across the state are taking same precautions, following CDC guidelines
- Juvenile detention has become challenging, since Hartford facility is currently not accepting juveniles
- Alarming uptick in juvenile mental health
- Concern with JRB's not meeting to resolve juvenile arrests or referrals

**Next Meeting:** June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 2:00pm via Zoom Conference Call

Meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.