Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee

June 17th, 2021
2pm-3:30pm
Zoom Meeting
Opening Remarks

• Meeting facilitation
  • Meeting is being recorded
  • Remain “muted” on Zoom, unless speaking
  • Refrain from interrupting with comments or questions until each presenter is finished speaking
  • Questions and Comments will be limited to JJPOC members
    • Use the “Chat” and “Hand Raising” feature so TYJI can help monitor and facilitate the meeting
Meeting Overview

- Acceptance of the May 2021 Meeting Minutes
- Final Update on the IOYouth Project
- Presentation on the Youth Employment Program
- Recap of the Youth-Led Vision Session with the Executive Committee
- Discussion on the JJPOC Bill
Connecticut IOYouth
Recommendations Status Update

Nina Salomon, Program Director, Juvenile Justice
Council of State Governments
Recommendations resulting from the IOYouth process were organized into four key “implementation” buckets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JJPOC Legislation</th>
<th>CSSD Implementation</th>
<th>Equity</th>
<th>JRBs/YSBs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Expand pre-arrest diversion</td>
<td>• Increase diversion of low-risk youth</td>
<td>• Develop equity dashboard to ensure a data-driven focus on system inequities</td>
<td>• Examine YSB/JRB model and determine if best/most efficient use of resources</td>
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<td>• Shift pre-trial detention responsibility</td>
<td>• Establish QC processes/policies to reduce use of detention</td>
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<td>• Pilot best practices</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Ensure probation with placement decisions are made in a data-driven, equitable way</td>
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<td>• Conduct landscape analysis</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Strengthen case management and family engagement</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Strengthen service processes</td>
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Progress on the YSB/JRB recommendations has stalled since January.

• Since the recommendations were approved in July, a small implementation team (DCF, TYJI, OPM, CYSA) has met multiple times with the support of CSG to discuss implementation of a pilot and next steps in conducting a landscape analysis.

• The team stopped meeting in January, due to a need for clear direction on next steps, priorities, available resources, and timeline.

• Questions that need to be addressed in order to move forward:
  • Should CT prioritize the pilot or conduct the landscape analysis? Can both be done simultaneously? How should these two pieces be sequenced?
  • What capacity and resources exist to support these activities?
  • What is the timeline for these activities?
CSG recommendations....

• Given all of the previous assessments and analyses that have been conducted to date, including IOYouth, Connecticut has a good understanding of what is working and where there are gaps with regards to the YSBs/JRBs.

• Connecticut should prioritize the implementation of the pilot, in order to assess the capacity of JRBs to take on an expanded and strengthened diversion role and consistently adopt research-based policy and practice standards.

• The JJPOC diversion working group can help DCF and others develop the parameters of the pilot and use the information gleaned to make recommendations to the JJPOC for policy change on how to move forward with the JRB/YSB system.
Questions?
Summer Youth Employment Program

Mark Polzella, Employment Program Director of Work Force Development Administration
Lisa P. Sementilli, Grants and Contracts Specialist Department of Labor
Outline

• Overview of Connecticut’s Workforce Structure
• Connecticut youth program overview
• Current services
• Youth Voice, Youth Survey
• COVID adaptations
• State Partnerships…Mental health innovations
• Successes
Youth Employment Funding

~ $5M state general fund
~ $500-700K DCF-DOL Youth Employment & Training, using Chafee and state funds

+funds from DADs, CARES, ARPA for subsidized wages, career awareness and exploration, training, job readiness and supports like bus passes

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act – federal youth program funds: $7.5M
Expanding Partnerships

• Direct referrals to/from DMHAS Young Adult Services/youth providers. YASBIZ is helps young people develop businesses
• CT DOL direct marketing to employers & youth via social media
• Collaborations w/ DADs & CSSD to increase the numbers of justice-involved youth & w/ disabilities
• “ w/ DEEP to recruit seasonal workers
• Enhanced partnerships, supports, trauma-informed trainings for providers build in more equity for marginalized youth
Training: Building in Equity

- Youth Mental Health First Aid for providers and WDBs designed to teach parents, family members, school staff, peers, and others how to help adolescents experiencing mental health/addiction challenges
- This year: mobile crisis services, suicide prevention, Turning Point.Org, racialized trauma + for providers
- Direct training support for YOUTH on mental health, self-care and racialized trauma
Success Stories, Innovations

- EWIB partnerships with AHEC and DEEP
- COVID responsive
- Career pathway oriented; links to WIOA Youth programs
- CWP partnerships with local youth agencies such as Our Piece of the Pie, Ebony Horsewomen, local arts organizations and community mental health agencies
Career Pathway Example: Health Care
What’s Next...

• Collaborations with other state agencies
• Career pathways
• Continued research on best practices across US
• More emphasis and funding for in-demand sector training, mentorship, employer engagement, support for food security

Questions

Mark.Polzella@ct.gov
Lisa.Sementilli@ct.gov
Recap of the Youth-Led Vision Session with the JJPOC Executive Committee

Iliana Pujols, Co-Chair of the Community Expertise Workgroup
Questions Discussed

1. In what way do you think the JJPOC can do better at working with directly impacted youth, parents, and community?

2. Workgroups work year-round to create strong recommendations for the entire JJPOC. Editing/not approving the recommendation can be easily done. How can this approach be more mindful of the work that the groups have done?

3. What do you think are some of the barriers to creating juvenile legal policies that are focused on addressing root issues and less focused on punitive approaches?
Questions Sent for Written Response After Session

1. How did the removal of section 2 make you feel as we are trying to ensure the leadership and inclusion of directly impacted voices?

2. In what ways do you think the current juvenile justice system that exists may be doing more harm than good (or vice versa) for young people?

3. How do you think racial and ethnic disparities impact communities?

You can email Iliana with your responses: Iliana@ctja.org
Next Steps

1. CEW will review feedback to identifying recommendations to help guide the work of the CEW for the rest of 2021 (As we just recently merged the youth and parent group)

2. Work on scheduling a part two of this discussion
Questions?
Discussion on the JJPOC Bill

Rep. Anthony Nolan
## Diversion Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JJPOC Recommendations</th>
<th>Passed Legislation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raise the Minimum Age to 12</td>
<td>Raise the Minimum Age to 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop plans for mandatory pre-arrest diversion of low-risk youth</td>
<td>Establishes an implementation team to develop two plans concerning mandatory pre-arrest diversion of low-risk children</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## RED Recommendation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JJPOC Recommendations</th>
<th>Passed Legislation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian stop data collection</td>
<td>Removed</td>
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</table>
# Education Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JJPOC Recommendations</th>
<th>Passed Legislation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish DCF administrative oversight for educational services of youth in juvenile</td>
<td>Passed as is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>justice facilities with an implementation plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendations on improving re-entry</td>
<td>Passed as is</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommendation on standardizing credit transfers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Phased-in ban of school suspension and expulsions</td>
<td>Establish a committee to study the effects of and possible alternatives to suspensions and expulsions of students</td>
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## Incarceration Recommendations

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>JJPOC Recommendations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Limit transfer to adult court</td>
<td>Removed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Automatic erasure of juvenile records</td>
<td>Requires CSSD to provide the child and the child's parent or guardian written notice of this when the child is discharged and when the child turns 18 if the child was discharged prior to age 18.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free phone calls for incarcerated youth</td>
<td>Passed through another bill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study telephone call rates and commissary needs for 18- to 21-year-olds incarcerated in DOC facilities</td>
<td>Passed as is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ban use of chemical agents on incarcerated youth in DOC</td>
<td>Requires the DOC to review the department's use of chemical agents on anyone under age 18 and report on the review to the Judiciary Committee by February 1, 2022.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-trial youth to be housed in CSSD</td>
<td>Passed as it</td>
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## CEW Recommendation

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>JJPOC Recommendations</th>
<th>Passed Legislation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth and Parent JJPOC Members</td>
<td>Removed</td>
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# Executive Committee Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JJPOC Recommendations</th>
<th>Passed Legislation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data Collection up to age 21</td>
<td>Removed</td>
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</table>
Questions?
Next JJPOC Meeting
July 15th, 2021
2:00-3:30 PM