

Juvenile Justice Joint Strategic Plan
Resource and Assessment Inventory Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
2/17/2005

I. Welcome and Introductions

- John Tuell, Deputy Director, National Center for Program Leadership, CWLA
- Christy Sharp, Director, Juvenile Justice, CWLA
- John Boyd – co chair, CT Junior Republic

II. Primary Goals and Focus

- The Resource and Assessment Inventory Subcommittee will work to gather and analyze information regarding available resources including funding, personnel, programs and services. An inventory of assessment tools will be completed with an examination of duplicate assessments utilized by both CSSD and DCF. Ways to coordinate and integrate these two areas will be identified, recommendations for change made, an action strategy developed, priorities set and implementation begun.
- The mandates, focus and goals of CSSD and DCF will be identified and points of commonality will be the highlight of the strategic plan development. Ultimately the Executive Committee will craft a joint mission statement with input from all subcommittees.
- Additional participants identified as potential members of the subcommittee:
 - DCF, probation, Police Officers – New Haven Chief of police
 - The Department of Education –
 - George Coleman is on the Executive Committee. John and Christy will bring this up at the next meeting.
 - Someone from the business committee in education, Business Council
 - A functioning superintendent
 - CAPSEF – works with private special education facilities
 - Please email John or Christy potential members and contact information.
- Relevant planning objectives identified in the RFQ:
 - Assessment of the agencies fulfillment of the mandates of the Connecticut Public Act 95-225
 - Identify key agency, interagency, and system issues and develop goals, objectives, and strategies to address each issue.
 - Review of agency policies to ensure consistency with the spirit and direction of the strategic plan.
- Input into the fundamental premises for the interagency mission and identification of problems that need to be addressed:
 - Educational system failure – interagency agreement for children with educational problems who are also in JJ.
 - Commitment to the inclusion of Department of Education and interagency protocols that engage them in the plan.

- Facts of the school to prison pipeline, and evidence of how school problems feed into this.
- FWSN vs. Delinquency children. Want to ensure FWSN youth do not penetrate delinquency system.
- Girls and bootstrapping
- Children are losing their caseworker once they enter the juvenile justice or FWSN system. Problems often started before they were arrested.
- Where does the system of care fit in to everything? In terms of caseworkers dealing with filing FWSN.
- An important consideration for the mission and vision of the project is working for better outcomes for Connecticut's children and not just DCF children. We should work towards actionable procedures that can be interpreted down to the front line level and develop a long-term commitment.
- Support of interventions that prevent JJ involvement.
- DMC – Pursue evidence-based practices.
- The Juvenile Justice System should respond to the diverse needs and unique challenges of youth. such as gender, race, ethnicity, and sexual preference.
- Outcomes should be agreed on, such as high school completion and family preservation. State this as an overall goal so that all systems work towards the same goals.
- Support the assessment of skills for families.
- The goal is to create procedures to facilitate better collaboration between DCF and CSSD rather than create one overall juvenile justice agency..
- Age of jurisdiction – examine raising the upper age of jurisdiction to 18
- Fiscal analysis and examination of ways to utilize funding for prevention and diversion and therefore save resources in the future. Practice of this process should result in cost effective reductions in duplication of services.
Connecticut Commission on Children may be a resource for this information.
- The juvenile justice system should have a goal of justice, not accountability.

III. Elements

- Work groups will convened gather information for overall analysis. Volunteers for each work group were noted. Work groups are to gather information related to their topic and present it to the larger group at the next meeting.
- Those interested in joining a work group please email Christy.
- Elements of focus include:
 - A. Case Flow – Identify key decision points in each organizations process and provide case flow charts. What is guiding each decision point? Identify decision points where DCF and CSSD meet and might be able to work together to make joint decisions. Provide an inventory of the assessment tools that are utilized by DCF and CSSD.
 - Work Group Members: Roxanne O, Brien (lead), Regina Witherspoon (lead), Geoffrey Scales, Amy D' Amaddio, Ann Adams, Lora Castronova

- B. Resources – Identify existing resources including funding, geographical location, target population, collaborative partners, system of care, foundations, licensed entities, and advisory or advocacy groups.
 - Bob Lichenstein is a potential resource (Bert will email).
 - Work group members: Peter Panzariolla, Bert Plart, Mary Roche Cronin, Emily Jackson, Diane Sierpina, Julie Revaz, John Boyd
- C. Issues – Identify current issues in CT that are driving reform/change such as FWSN, Memorandum of Understandings, consent decrees, legislation etc.
- D. Current initiatives – Identify and examine current initiative that will aid in the creation of the joint strategic plan.
 - Examples would include girls, juvenile court jurisdiction, McArthur/CSCI.
 - Fernando Muniz could help in this area
 - Organizations that support children and families, - Voices for CT Children.
 - Work group members: Kim Sokoloff (lead), Martha Stone, Tom White, Reginald Simmons, Cathi Coridan, Cindy Clancy
- E. Youth, family, and community – Identify ways to ensure input and involvement of youth, families and communities in the development of the strategic plan.
 - Examples: Consumer survey, focus groups
 - Identify DCF and CSSD advisory councils or committees
 - Kid care coalition outlined goals and objectives of juvenile justices state advisory council.
 - DCF has a methodology for this that may assist in the process
- F. Work force development – Examine training and workload issues?
 - Multisystem training academy is a resource to check.
 - Jane Fleishman with DCF, Jim Sullivan with CSSD are potential resources
 - Work Group Members – Reginald Simmons and Randy Roorbach
- G. Other issues that we need to examine –
 - Joint mission and vision
 - Outcomes of the process and how this will lead us to the future.

- For additional information on the work of the subcommittee please review “A Guidebook for Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare System Integration” available at <http://www.cwla.org/programs/juvenilejustice/jjguidebook.htm>
- For information regarding similar work in other jurisdictions please visit <http://www.cwla.org/programs/juvenilejustice/jjwork.htm>

IV. Next Steps

- A. Next Meeting – March 24th 8:30 – 11:30 at DCF
- B. Ongoing Meetings – 3rd Thursday of each month.

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