

Connecticut Joint Juvenile Services Strategic Planning Resource & Inventory Assessment Subcommittee

**Connecticut Juvenile Training School
1225 Silver Street
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**7/21/05
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Minutes**

Welcome

Neil Kaltenecker called the meeting to order. The timeline for completion of the strategic plan was shared. (see attached) All subcommittee findings and recommendations are to be complete by the August 18th meeting. A draft copy of data subcommittee findings will be made available for member review between September 19th and 22nd, 2005.

Work Group Reports

Work Force Development – Ileana Velasquez reported that a meeting was held with staff from DCF and CSSD on July 12, 2005, and a lively discussion ensued. Minutes from that meeting were handed out. Changes recommended include, increased communication between CSSD and DCF, an effective liaison to the court from DCF is needed, cross-training is needed, joint treatment planning, joint case conferencing, and consistent expectations and procedures for all. It was observed that the findings from this meeting were almost exactly the same as the findings/solutions that the case flow workgroup put forth as a result of their analysis. They will be holding a meeting in two weeks with the same focus group in order to talk at more length and to devise more specific recommendations. Jane offered that “Workforce Development” may not be the appropriate term for this group – it is more about integration, communication, collaboration. There was a question about how to ensure that those on the worker level have a mechanism for dealing with relationships across agencies – there needs to be some institutionalized processes for addressing this issue. It was discussed that this would be a part of the strategic plan dissemination and implementation strategies that will be put forth.

Case Flow – Amy D’Amaddio and Ann Adams reported that this group spent the last month looking at the assessment piece, and examined six areas on which they are touching the family through assessments. They talked specifically about substance abuse – there are several different assessments that go to the level of care that a youth is at; the recommendations of what assessments are good, what information you are going to

gather for that; looked at the GAIN, the Teen addiction severity scale, etc. The challenge is that they feel that they can make some solid recommendations, and know what assessment works for what level of care, but the concern is how to operationalize it in the real world. For example, once protective services is involved and the court process takes over, many people look at this as something that can be used against a child. Help will be needed in the political arena as well as the Legal Services Workgroup to determine what is “best” for the child, which is defined different based on what role you have. Part of the plan is to overcome those barriers, there is the political will to implement this plan and these strategies successfully.

Resource - Jane Fleishman reported on this group’s priorities and work from the past month. She handed out the recommendations relative to Statewide/Regional and Local Administration, Development of a Stronger Continuum of Care, and Standards and Training. They emphasized that we need to look at what goes on at the regional/local level. Promising practices on the inside as well as the outside were reviewed. It was also discussed to have staff from both agencies get together to develop joint services. Quality assurance was also discussed in terms of monitoring the programs and practices that are developed or continued as a result of the planning process in order to ensure a high degree of performance. The next meeting is August 18th, 2:00 – 5:00 at CSSD.

Initiatives – This was a short presentation and Kim Sokeloff stated that her group has been collecting reports that have been completed in the past, both in CT as well as nationally, and will compile a list of the reports for the group, as well as the name and contact information for the person who wrote the respective report.

Neil presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled, “Best Practices – Promising Programs” (see attached).

Findings and Goals

A discussion was held regarding the Resource Subcommittee’s recommendations and continued work. Findings were finalized and goals were outlined. They are as follows:

Finding #1 - The current service delivery system is not well coordinated or accessible to children and families when and where they need it.

Goal #1 – The development of a service continuum driven by the needs of the child and family.

Finding #2 – We miss opportunities to support families and children in their communities, which can lead to unnecessary and/or further involvement into the JJ system.

Goal #2 – Programs, policies, and procedures will be in place to reduce the number of youth entering the JJ system and improve outcomes for those already involved.

Finding #3 – There is limited and ineffective communication among stakeholders which impedes success.

Goal #3 – Communication between agencies, families, providers and communities needs to be improved.

Finding #4 – The public and private work force is limited in meeting the needs of the community. Barriers exist in recruiting, hiring, train and retain staff who can serve the diverse needs of the children, youth and families and communities in CT.

Goal #4 - The workforce of both agencies needs to be strengthened and supported.

Workgroups

Members of this subcommittee were asked to sign up to develop actions strategies relative to the goals. It was made imperative that the new workgroups were to meet at least once, and preferably twice before the August 18th meeting. List of members and their respective committees are attached.

NOTE: The final subcommittee meeting will be held September 22nd, 2005 from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., at CSSD. This is a change from the regular meeting held on the third Thursday of the month.