

Connecticut Joint Juvenile Justice Strategic Plan
Stakeholders Meeting
Thursday, June 16th, 2005
1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Connecticut Juvenile Training School
Minutes

The *Stakeholders Group* of the *Connecticut Joint Juvenile Justice Strategic Plan* met on June 16, 2005, to hear preliminary reports from each subcommittee: Resource and Assessment Inventory, Data and Management Information, and Legal Analysis. (see attached Power Point presentations) Additionally, a goal of the meeting was to solicit stakeholders' comments and input as to the respective progress and direction of each subcommittee. The following is a brief summary of the topics raised during the discussion.

Resource and Assessment Inventory Subcommittee

Peter Rockholtz, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, presenter

Q&A Session – the following questions/comments were submitted by stakeholders in attendance. Answers were provided where appropriate:

What is meant by “Resource Rich”? Connecticut is putting funding into deep-end programs such as secure facilities, rather than community-based, less restrictive programs and services

Could we sort these vast resources by type? Yes, and the plan is to sort by location. All of the information will be available on the CWLA website as it is finalized.

Communities need to work with youth long before the juvenile justice or court system is involved. We should look at the issue of prevention/diversion and expanding the Juvenile Review Board process already in place in some areas.

With respect to educational services, we should look at models as to how to effectively transfer youth from residential programs to their home communities so that they can get appropriate credit for their schoolwork.

What is meant by “step-down” services? Transitional programming from residential or secure environments to community-based settings, and lessening interventions at the clinical level so that a youth may transition to a less-restrictive environment.

Who has the mandate to provide prevention programs? There is a statewide prevention initiative (Governor's Prevention Plan) that addresses prevention programs for youth and families. Also, DCF has a small budget for prevention services, and we may need to look at whether money needs to be directed within the DCF budget to enhance these services.

Where is Education? Education will continue to be invited into discussions, and the subcommittee is looking at the development of protocols among local education and juvenile justice delivery systems.

With the new FWSN legislation, is the group looking at what the implications are for the “pure” FWSN youth/family? Yes, there are community-based models that will be examined for possible use for this population.

Are “continuum of care” and gender-specific services going to be addressed? Yes, the group is looking at the national Systems of Care Framework for Communities, as well as the managed services model in Connecticut, as possibilities for pilot projects. Also, gender-specific needs are to be addressed.

Has there been an analysis on the geographic distribution of the resources? There are not enough data to analyze geographically as yet, but that is the plan.

Out of all of the resources that are available in CT, how do we know whether they work? Not all programs and services listed on InfoLine are evidenced-based, nor do all programs work for all youth. When evaluation data are available, they will be provided.

The Resource and Assessment Inventory Subcommittee will continue the analysis of the information they have gathered and will incorporate and consider comments and questions provided by Stakeholders.

Data and Management Information Subcommittee

John Mengacci, Undersecretary, Office of Policy and Management and Fernando Muniz, Executive Director, Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance, presenters

Q&A Session – the following questions/comments were submitted by stakeholders in attendance. Answers were provided where appropriate:

Did you find that across departments, the same information is being shared? Yes, there is much overlap as to information collected by each agency, especially background information.

Can we look at outcomes so that when we look at programs, we know what we want to buy? Evidence-based practices, and programs and services we know are successful, will be replicated.

Often when a case is open in one system, it is closed in another and no one knows what services have been provided to a family. Interventions and services should be identified in one database so that they are identified by all.

Is there a report of data that we have now that we can look at? The committee is putting that information together from many areas. It’s not available yet.

DCF has a legislative proposal this session that was worked on with CSSD and the Department of Corrections, but it did not pass. The subcommittee will look at that language and take it into consideration when developing an information-sharing protocol.

Much of what is being talked about cannot be shared because we are working with the criminal justice system and there are legal implications and ramifications. That is much of what the Legal Analysis Subcommittee is working on.

We need to be considering the profiles of youth who are sent to programs. We will be looking at this, along with who does well in which type of program.

The culture between agencies is going to be important when we talk about changing and improving our juvenile justice systems. We should reflect what needs to be done so that it filters down to direct care staff and communities working with youth in the juvenile justice system. Agreed.

The Data and Information Management Subcommittee will continue to review existing systems, identify elements to be shared, review overall findings of the data-sharing survey, and examples of one-time and recurring reports.

Legal Analysis Subcommittee

Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt, Director, Team Child Project, Center for Children's Advocacy, Inc., presenter

What is the remedy if information is shared inappropriately? Current statutes are virtually unenforceable. We are developing a chart or a grid that will clarify what is currently allowed by statute that will be available to all level of workers in the respective systems.

Parents need to know what their signature means, and what they have access to. The work of this subcommittee will address needs and issues relative to parents/legal guardians.

Parents need to be able to give input to the court as well. They also need to know what is going on in school. There will be work conducted on what parents should know about information-sharing and court processing.

It is important to distinguish what can be shared in that some information may not be appropriate to share. The subcommittee will be analyzing information that can be shared, including what is needed.

Do Child Health Care Clinics share information with DCF on clients on their caseload, particularly information related to diagnoses? The subcommittee will look into this.

A danger of sharing information is that there may be information that gets out that is wrong. Is there going to be a "quality assurance" aspect to this work? The subcommittee will consider quality and well as type of information to be shared.

Much information sharing occurs in an unofficial capacity and anything this subcommittee can do to clear that road will be helpful.

There is a big issue of workforce development where staff must be trained on what is appropriate. This was reflected by the results of the survey. Interpretation is not clear from agency to agency. The subcommittee will focus on this.

Everyone is afraid to share information and decisions are being made “on the fly”. This issue of improper disclosure was revealed in the survey responses. There is much room for growth in each agency regarding this issue.

The Legal Analysis Subcommittee will continue to collect and analyze data relative to information-sharing and statutory requirements and mandates.

The meeting was adjourned and the subcommittee chairpersons felt that they had clarification on issues to be able to carry their respective work forward.