

JJ & CW Systems Integration Resources and Assessment Subcommittee Meeting and Work Summary – January 11, 2008

I. Work Progress

The Resources and Assessment Subcommittee met on January 11, 2008 to complete the following:

- i. Intake and Assessment Forms – There are a variety of intake and assessment forms used to serve youth in the JJ & CW systems. Everyone fills out basic demographic information, consent forms, budget sheets, etc...
 - a. DHS Intake & Emergency Services – Also conducts an in-depth interview with the client and fills out an Intake Summary, which is a narrative regarding reason for referral, current living, medical, social situation, summary of problems, evaluation, recommendations and goals for services.
 - b. VIBS – Also collects a referral packet from DHS, which has a checklist of all of the items needed (i.e. Medicaid card, birth certificate) to process referral. Depending on the referral, a variety of evaluations and assessments are conducted with the client.
 - c. SOS – Also fills out comprehensive life-skills assessment with client.
 - d. Mental Health, YRC, WCSC – All fill out basic demographics and collect additional information on the client in the form of a narrative/case notes.

- ii. Definition of “Dual-Jurisdiction” Youth – There is still some confusion over the definition of “dual-jurisdiction” youth. There needs to be clarity regarding whether this population includes youth who have been referred to the juvenile unit because of behavioral problems, or does it only include youth involved in the court system. What about youth who have been arrested and/or detained but never formally charged?

- iii. Prioritize Resources and Recommendations – The subcommittee found it difficult to prioritize resources and recommendations given that there was still some confusion over the definition of “dual-jurisdiction” youth (see above), and given that the resources were so disparate (e.g. comparing DHS services to court advocacy). The committee would like more discussion with the whole executive committee regarding these issues. However, some resources/recommendations that stood-out are the following (in no particular order):
 - a. Resources that need to be maintained/strengthened:
 - Boys Group Home
 - Girls Group Home
 - DHS Intake Assessments & Referrals
 - DHS CYF (Case Management)
 - Mental Health Services (out-patient)
 - GED/Life Skills Programs
 - SOS Supervised Apartments
 - Parenting Classes
 - Crisis Stabilization
 - JISS

- YRC
- b. Recommendation for Macro-level Reform to benefit all youth in the CW & JJ systems:
 - Create transitional living program for youth (ages 16-21)
 - Create transitional living program for teenage parents and their children
 - Create Parental Responsibility Bill
 - Provide ongoing training for foster-care parents
 - Create annual training opportunities for all staff working in JJ & CW systems
 - Create outpatient substance abuse treatment program for youth
 - Create residential psychiatric program for youth
 - Create uniform assessment tool
- c. Recommendation for Micro-level Reform to benefit only dual-jurisdiction youth:
 - Mandate specific educational programs that include vocational training
 - Create multidisciplinary team to address case-management needs. Need to identify the team members, how often they meet, when they meet, and other logistics.
 - Enroll youth in comprehensive case-management of wrap around services. Case management team members should be identified as part of the initial assessment, and the assessment should be comprehensive (psycho-social, life-skills, physical (hearing/vision), education, etc.)
 - Specific cross-training for social workers on the JJ & CW systems
 - Intervention within the Dept. of Education – early identification of behavioral and learning problems. Provide special education services.
 - Transitional Living Program for dual-jurisdiction youth
 - Tie in parental involvement into services for adjudicated youth – whole family services. Also create real consequences for parents who do not comply with court orders (i.e. do not attend parenting classes).
- d. Evidenced-Based Approaches to serve dual-jurisdiction youth
 - Wrap-around service approach
 - Systems approach – individual, family, community
 - Innovative therapies focusing on individual growth/awareness and confidence/strength building, coupled with team/group building (i.e. boats, ropes courses, horses and other animals)