

Child Advocate's Working Group on Juvenile Justice

SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE

September 20, 2019

Attendance:

Richard Sarette
Richard Long
Shea Sennett
Emily Lawrence
Michele Smith

Unable to attend:

Rhonda Henault
Francesca Diggs

Notes from the 1st meeting

- Group went over the tasks as outlined in the “responsibilities” document which tasks the group with looking at both public safety and the safety of the children within the JJ system
 - It was noted that the vast majority of the youth involved in the JJ system reside at home; youth in residential programming would be next; followed by a small population at SYSC
- Group looked at how safety is addressed at each level of the JJ system (from arrest to exit) - what assessments are currently in use?
 - At arrest- the only assessment that may be used is the Detention Assessment Screening instrument (if detention is being considered). This would be filled out by law enforcement with the assistance of JJ on-call staff.
 - Pre-adjudication- competency may be raised and an evaluation ordered; other defense approved evaluations
 - Post-adjudication- SAVRY, trauma screening and pre-dispositional investigation completed by JPPO; other evaluations as needed
 - Post-disposition- SAVRY every 6 months or after a significant event by JPPO; community supervision plans created by JPPO/family
 - Shelter care, residential programs and SYSC do further psycho-social, risk assessments, trauma screenings but nothing is consistent
 - Community-level programs, diversion, schools and other providers may also do assessments but again nothing consistent
- Group discussed the use of the SAVRY- how it is currently being utilized and how it could be better utilized
- Group considered the ramifications of SB14 that requires all contracted providers use a uniform assessment instrument as well as the requirement for a written clinical assessment of the behavioral health and other treatment needs of any child where placement outside of the home is being considered
- Group agreed that focusing on the safety of the large youth population in residential care is important
 - What does the oversight of these programs look like?
 - What is the process/protocol for reporting incidents, including 126U incidents?
 - Are there standard internal discipline techniques among programs?
- Group thought it was important to look at the Adequacy Assessment that was completed in 2018 to see what recommendations came out of that and what has/has not been addressed?

Actions Items:

- Contact potential additional members to fill gaps in expertise in law enforcement (Rich L., Shea), residential providers (Rich L), residential certification and licensing (Michele).
- Talk to Kathleen Talbot about what kinds of assessments the residential programs provide? (Emily)
- Talk to Rhonda Henault about the types of assessments provided at SYSC. (Michele)
- Find out what the reporting process for incident reports is? For what types of incidents? Time frames? Who gets reports? (Michele)
- Find out what other States have in place for reporting incidents in their residential programs? (Emily, Shea)
- Find out what happens after the aggregate 126-U report is submitted by DCYF to the legislature. Is there follow up? (Emily)