

Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee

JANUARY 16, 2018 MEETING SUMMARY

On January 16, 2018 the Utah Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC) convened for the ninth time. The meeting took place at the Capital in Salt Lake City. The meeting was led by Representative Lowry Snow, chair of the JJOC. The purpose of the meeting was to receive an update on the status of H.B. 132; learn about the operation of Youth Courts; review the juvenile justice system mapping recommendations; discuss the JJOC goals for 2018; and to provide Committee Working Group updates.

Chair's Update

Representative Snow provided an update on the status of H.B. 132 and shared that additional changes have been requested from different stakeholder groups. The details of these changes are still being worked out and a copy of H.B. 132 will be shared with JJOC members when it is in a more final form.

Cuong Nguyen informed the JJOC that the April, May or June JJOC meeting will likely be held outside of Salt Lake City. Mr. Nguyen will keep the JJOC members updated on the status of the meeting location.

Peer Courts

Kayley Richards, former Salt Lake Peer Court Program Director, delivered a presentation on the operation of Peer Court in Salt Lake. Ms. Richards also described the commonly shared goal of peer courts across the state aiming to divert youth from the juvenile justice system, but there is wide variation in the structure of peer courts throughout Utah. Ms. Richards informed the JJOC that currently there is no uniform data collection for all peer courts and efforts to develop a standardized list of data measures has been challenging because of the varying capacities to do so across peer courts statewide.

Juvenile Justice System Mapping

Greg Gardner delivered a brief presentation on recommendations from the Juvenile Justice System Mapping group. The group identified the following goals for the juvenile justice system: improve public safety and hold juvenile offenders accountable; control costs; reduce recidivism; reduce racial, ethnic, economic and geographic disparity; and prevent further system involvement. These recommendations centered on the use of the "SUCCESS+ framework" tools. These tools are meant to identify challenges, and strategically identify solutions, across the juvenile justice system. The specific recommendations are:

1. Apply triage and standard work concepts to identification, screening and referral activities.
2. Define and implement standard work for core services.
3. Define and implement key success measures.

JJOC Goals for 2018

Tessa Upin, of the Crime and Justice Institute, reviewed the JJOC implementation plan and highlighted accomplishments of the various working groups and agencies that took place in 2017. Ms. Upin highlighted upcoming activities for the JJOC related to ongoing efforts as well as policies going into effect July 1, 2018. Activities and responsibilities of the JJOC include data collection, evaluation and reporting; development of the sliding scale for fees and restitution; and, the development and implementation of a detention risk assessment tool.

Committee Working Group Updates

Services Working Group

Judge Noonan informed the JJOC that the Services Working Group plan to complete their work in 18 months and has set a schedule to meet monthly. This group is aware that part of their mission may overlap with the system mapping group and effort is being made to minimize duplication. The working group will gather information from local communities to identify gaps in services and access barriers. An information-gathering form is being finalized to share with local providers, local area authorities, and other relevant stakeholders to obtain this information. The information will be synthesized and used to inform the direction of the working group.

Non-Judicial Adjustment Sliding Scale Ad-hoc Committee

Krista Airam spoke on behalf of Committee Chair, Dawn Marie Rubio, and shared that the committee has not met since the last JJOC meeting. Ms. Airam shared the Non-Judicial Adjustment process flow chart requesting approval from the JJOC for dissemination – it was approved by the JJOC.

The committee will have its next meeting on January 24, 2018.

Communications Working Group

Cuong Nguyen presented on behalf of Jackie Chamberlain, informing the JJOC that the Working Group has not held a meeting since December. The Working Group plans to review the Kivvit communication strategy, and will hold off from conducting any road shows until the legislative session has finished.

Education Working Group

Brian Olmstead from the Utah State Board of Education, on behalf of Patty Norman, shared that Patty Norman will be meeting with CCJJ to discuss the direction of the Education Working Group moving forward. The working group has not met for several months as matters relevant to the education community have been addressed through other working groups and outreach such as the roadshows taking place in 2017.

Data Working Group

Cuong Nguyen, on behalf of Ben Peterson, Chair of the Data Working Group, shared that the working group has not met since the last JJOC meeting. There was a brief discussion about using data in the coming year understand system-wide cost-savings and to help guide future JJOC recommendations for reinvestment system-wide cost savings.

The next data working group meeting will be held on February 21, 2018.

Roundtable Discussion

Clay Pearce and Aaron Peterson expressed support for the proposed amendments in H.B. 132, and requested additional information about services available to school districts for educators and school officials to connect youth to appropriate services for school-based behaviors. JJOC members discussed how this relates to the goals of the services Working Group. CCJJ also committed to setting up a local meeting in South Sanpete School District to explore this topic further.

Next Steps

The next JJOC meeting will take place on February 21, 2018 at 1 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Multi-Agency State Office Building located at 195 North 1950 West, Room 1020C. The Committee Working Groups will continue meeting and provide updates on their activities at the next JJOC meeting.