

Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee

February 21, 2018 MEETING SUMMARY

On February 21, 2018 the Utah Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC) convened for the tenth time. The meeting took place at the Multi-Agency State Office Building 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 restorative justice; receive an update on the legislative audit of Juvenile Justice Services, the status of performance based contracting, the progress of the newly formed funding and services working group; and to hear feedback from rural Judges on H.B. 239. Due to a full agenda, Committee working groups were asked to provide written updates in lieu of a verbal report-out.

Chair's Update

Representative Snow commenced the meeting by introducing a new member to the JJOC – Christina Zidow of Odyssey House. Representative Snow also provided an update on the status of H.B. 132 and informed the JJOC that this bill remains a high priority, and if the bill passes in both the House and the Senate, the amendments will go into effect immediately. Access to the bill and current status can be found at <https://le.utah.gov>.

Restorative Justice

Jen Molloy, of the University of Utah, and researcher, Caroline Ross, delivered a presentation about implementing restorative justice (RJ) practices in Utah, specifically in schools. Ms. Molloy and Ms. Ross explained the RJ concept in schools is focused on building and maintaining healthy relationships, repairing harm and transforming conflict, and creating just and equitable learning environments. The presenters also share the guiding principles of RJ and how can assist in the implementation of

H.B. 239 and support schools by offering alternative supports to address school-based behaviors. At the invitation of the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice, Ms. Molloy and Ms. Ross are drafting a proposal to conduct a school-based needs assessment that will identify the needed supports in schools to successfully implement RJ practices.

Department of Human Services and Juvenile Justice Services Update

Susan Burke updated the JJOC, following the recently completed legislative audit on Juvenile Justice Services (JJS). Ms. Burke shared the findings of the audit and identified next steps that JJS will take to address the audit findings including completing a workload study and exploring the possibility of closure of two detention facilities. This information will be used to further evaluate and strengthen the allocation of JJS resources.

Ms. Williamson discussed the ongoing development of performance-based contracting. DHS is collaborating with providers to address performance measurement requirements that may be included in performance-based contracts. Three key questions that are being discussed with providers are:

1. What is the involvement of parent/caregivers in a youth's treatment?
2. Are programs implementing evidence-based practices?
3. How will recidivism reductions be measured?

Ms. Williamson also asked the JJOC for guidance on use of a standardized tool as specified in H.B. 239 to evaluate the program effectiveness and whether it is evidence-based. CCJJ in collaboration with the JJOC will follow-up with Ms. Williamson to provide this guidance.

Funding and Services Working Group

Judge Mary Noonan discussed the recent efforts to gather information from local providers and mental health authorities regarding gaps and barriers to services for youth in Utah. Judge Noonan has been working with Tessa Upin, of the Crime and Justice Institute, to synthesize the feedback received thus far. The feedback will be organized by judicial district and topic area and will be shared with working group members to further inform discussion and the direction of the group to effectively address the feedback. Judge Noonan informed the JJOC that one of the working group's goals going forward will be to identify a strategy for collecting data on an ongoing basis, in particular to help inform allocation of reinvestment funds.

Rural Judges Update

Judge Thomas Higbee (5th District), Judge Mary Manley (7th District), and Judge Ryan Evershed (8th District), joined the JJOC to share their perspectives on successes and challenges in rural communities related to changes in H.B. 239. Overall the Judges expressed support for H.B. 239 and the broader

intent of the bill to help young people and communities in Utah. In practice, the three judges shared challenges they have faced including accessing treatment services for substance abuse and mental health; providing support to schools in addressing school-based behavior; and geographic barriers to accessing services. The in-depth discussion with the judges and JJOC members coincides well with the efforts of the Funding and Services Working Group that is trying to address many of the issues raised by Judges Higbee, Manley and Evershed. The feedback from the judges as well as the additional feedback the Funding and Services Working Group is gathering will be helpful in furthering the discussion on availability and access to community-based services for youth across Utah.

Next Steps

The next JJOC meeting will take place on March 19, 2018 at 1 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the State Capitol, Senate Building, Copper Room. The Committee working groups will continue meeting and provide updates on their activities at the next JJOC meeting.