On November 20, 2017 the Utah Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC) convened for the seventh time. The meeting took place in the Juvenile Justice Services (JJS) facility in Springville. The meeting was led by Representative Lowry Snow, chair of the JJOC. The purpose of the meeting was to provide Committee Working Group updates; learn about programs offered through JJS; and tour the JJS facility.

Chair’s Update

Representative Snow emphasized the responsibility of JJOC members to share information learned and discussed at the JJOC meetings with their colleagues. It is important that there is a continuous flow of information to and from the JJOC and the community and other stakeholder groups. Representative Snow also provided an update on the anticipated technical changes to H.B. 239. The changes will address points of clarification needed related law enforcement and school-based offenses as well as clarification on the nonjudicial adjustment process. Amendment language is being drafted for introduction in the upcoming legislative session.

Juvenile Justice Services Overview

Susan Burke, Director of Juvenile Justice Services (JJS), Annette Garcia, Assistant Program Director, Early Intervention, Richard Rawle, Assistant Program Director, Adult Living Transition Alternative (ALTA), and Eli Valenzuela, Supervisor for ALTA and Day Skills Intervention, delivered a presentation outlining program and service expansion offered by JJS, and community partners, for juvenile justice-involved youth. The presentation included descriptions of day reporting centers, placement options, skill-development interventions, mental health services, substance abuse services and assessment protocols.

Meeting attendees had the opportunity to tour the JJS Springville Facility, and speak to youth participants of the Day Skills Intervention (DSI) and the Adult Living for Transitional Achievement (ALTA) programs. The DSI program involves a daily schedule for youth, including educational and vocational programming. ALTA provides temporary residential care for youth reentering into the community. Both programs emphasize the importance of evidence based approaches to drive support services and skill development and the involvement of families throughout the time youth are participating in the programs. Youth shared their stories and achievements, and discussed what aspects of the programs were the most influential to their development and progress. The youth participants also expressed their appreciation of the program staff and the relationships they have built with them.

Committee Working Group Updates

Education Working Group

The Education Working Group has not held a meeting since October. A handout was distributed identifying schools supported by the Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs). According to the handout 33 districts, including 313 schools, and five charter schools have access to behavioral-health services provided by LMHAs.

Communications Working Group & Roadshow Presentations

Jackie Chamberlain, chair of the Communications Working Group provided an update on recently completed roadshows, and distributed a handout with meeting attendees the common questions and concerns that arose among the various audiences.
Ms. Chamberlain also shared that the HB 239 website has been updated with a narrative, and that the working group is discussing a format for the annual report, once it is finalized for release.

Ms. Chamberlain informed members about the workshop held at CCJJ on best practices in communications within criminal and juvenile justice. This event was facilitated by the National Governor’s Association, the Pew Charitable Trusts, and Kivvit. In the upcoming weeks a crisis plan and communications toolkit will be developed.

The Communications working group is in the process of confirming dates for upcoming presentations in Heber, Price and Tooele. The next Communications working group meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2017.

Data Working Group

The Data Working Group met on November 20, 2017 to review preliminary data collection related to HB 239. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Juvenile Justice Services and the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) are working on providing baseline data. Juvenile Justice Services delivered a brief presentation of initial data collections, and members of the working group were able to review and provide feedback. At the next meeting AOC and DCFS plan to provide a presentation on preliminary data on HB 239 performance measures.

The next Data Working Group meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2017.

System Mapping Working Group

The system mapping working group is in the process of drafting a flow chart which describes the different paths for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The working group will share the draft with the Committee when it is completed.

The next System Mapping working group meeting is planned for January 2018.

Nonjudicial Adjustment Sliding Fee Scale Ad-Hoc Committee

No update provided. The committee is working to reschedule the November 8th meeting that had was canceled due to a scheduling conflict with the communications workshop held at CCJJ on the same day.

Juvenile Justice System Services and Gaps Working Group Proposal

A motion was proposed to create a subcommittee, chaired by Hon. Mary Noonan, to identify gaps in youth services. Meeting attendees voted in favor of the subcommittee, unanimously. Hon. Noonan will work with Ann Williamson, Director of the Department of Human Services and JJOC member, to identify working group members.

Next Steps

The next JJOC meeting will take place on December 18, 2017 at 1 p.m. at Matheson Courthouse, 450 South State Street, Conference Room A. The Committee working groups will continue meeting and provide updates on their activities at the next JJOC meeting.