



Community Transition Services Stakeholder Group

Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2022 – 9:00am to 12:00pm
Virtual Meeting

Welcome, Virtual Meeting Protocols, and Introductions

DCYF Community Engagement Manager Erin Kerrigan welcomed attendees and initiated introductions.

Recommendation Review

DCYF’s Assistant Secretary of Juvenile Rehabilitation Felice Upton lead members in a conversation to review the draft recommendations.

- Report and Recommendations to Address Race in Washington’s Juvenile Legal System: 2021 Report to the Washington Supreme Court can be found [here](#).
- [Feedback Discussion Question](#)

Discussion	<p><u>Employment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern for living wage jobs for youth and what job skills are in demand prior to exiting Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR). • JR youth have limited employment options due to lack of training opportunities and previous history that led them to JR. • Need to focus on the desire and goals of the young person. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I appreciate highlighting the importance of gathering the interest inventory of the youth. It is also important to understand if the skills the youth are being taught match potential jobs in their community that they can pursue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It would also be helpful to have the youth set up with a job that can start immediately once released from JR, if they are interested in doing so. • Youth would benefit from having the option of an Employment or Career Coach that could help support them in looking into college, technical school, or finding a sustainable job. • It is important to gather the youth’s interest and hearing their voice when identifying needs and supports. • It would be helpful to have a list of jobs in their community they can pursue. • Community Facilities (CF) are the minimum-security facilities that allow youth to engage in work, school, and have longer connection times with family. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does every youth in a JR facility go to a CF? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is a capacity of 116 beds total in the state, so about 20% of youth have the potential for eligibility. ▪ With Nasal Youth Camp closing, eligibility will look different. <p><u>Education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been continuous enrollment concerns for JR youth who have to re-enroll when transitioning back home. Would be nice to see a dual district enrollment to help with this transition. • The 1295 workgroup has been a great program; however, there is also a concern with self-limiting belief of what youth can have. Staff need to be better about pushing JR youth to dream bigger for themselves. • Youth have expressed having a difficult time filling out financial aid forms and feel that it would be helpful to have additional supports for this process. <p><u>Family</u></p>
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- Would like to look into who assumes responsibility for wraparound services for the JR youth and their entire family. It would also be beneficial to hear from families what they identify their needs as when supporting a JR youth.
- Curious how we could broaden the conversation to include a culturally relevant family approach and family engagement strategy, and whether this would fall on one entity or several agencies.
 - Using the peer model can be naturally more culturally responsive, while valuing their experience.
- It is extremely important to include the youth's identified supports to help reduce recidivism.

Living Arrangements

- Having a housing plan prior to the youth being released is important.
- Important for youth to have education around paying bills, managing money, etc.
- Housing vouchers typically last six months, however, a youth could be involved with the CTS program for up to 18 months. We need to question what living arrangements for the youth will look like long term.

Mental Health

- Need to be cognizant when connecting youth to services, making sure they are culturally competent.
- Wrap Around Intensive Services (WISE) was focused on helping JR youth transition back to the community but there have been eligibility issues; this is being addressed.
- Resource mapping and hearing from families about what services worked vs. did not work is beneficial.

Relationships

- Important to help youth understand and maintain boundaries.

Skills

- Youth should be allowed to recognize and use the skills they already have.
- Allow youth to try new things.
- Many individuals who were incarcerated are pushed to give back in a way that is not fair to them, such as volunteering. How do we help youth set appropriate boundaries so they are not taken advantage of?
 - That would be a good conversation to have with organizations, where the value of individuals with lived experience can be emphasized.
- How can youth be appropriately compensated for giving their time, regarding lived experience, that is sustainable for them.

Use of Free Time

- Are youth in JR or on parole going to be able to look at these recommendations before they are final? Can youth be compensated for doing this?
 - Compensation is a challenge legally, however, we could ask some of the youth voice groups to see if they feel it is relevant.
- Young people might identify topics as important that adults do not
- They might say "you should say this a little different so it covers my experience."
- Would be helpful to receive input from youth with lived experience to add to the recommendation
- It might be helpful to inquire about compensating Neeners' young folks to look at the document and provide feedback.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ I love that idea of a youth group looking at it.● Would love to add quotes from the youth to add to report as well. <p><u>Alcohol and Drugs, Aggression, Attitudes/Behavior, Criminal History</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Allowing room for grace when mistakes are made. <p><u>Overarching Recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reducing the amount of youth going to the highest level of incarceration, such as youth going to group homes instead, would be beneficially in reducing their trauma.● Youth going to group homes would also help in reducing the flow of incarceration numbers.● The further in the system youth progress, the harder the trauma is to repair.
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2022 Meetings, Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The next meeting will be scheduled for early May 2022. Calendar invites will be sent with the meeting details.
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