

REIMBURSEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

OF THE JJOC

Minutes

October 29, 2018 at 1:00 pm
Judicial Center, Fatzer Court Room

Members Present:

Judge Delia York, Megan Milner, Melody Pappan, Max Mendoza

Members via Phone:

Former Sen. Greg Smith, Kevin Emerson, Lara Blake Bors

Member Designee:

Randy Bowman for Megan Milner (after 3:40 pm)

Members Absent:

Kathy Armstrong

Visitors:

Mike Fonkert from Kansas Appleseed

Committee Support:

Jennifer Christie, CJI

Karyl-Ann Roehl

The meeting began at 1:17 pm. Attendance was taken and the results are shown above.

Evidence-Based Fund Summary

Megan went over a handout showing the funds available for this group to work with. There is a one-time balance of \$20 million, with \$3.2 million available FY19. This may increase as unexpended FY18 Reinvestment Grant funds are being returned to KDOC.

There is conflicting information regarding whether or not the \$6 million taken for youth crisis centers is a one-time draw or if this will repeat in future fiscal years. The next meeting of the Corrections Interim Committee is in El Dorado on November 14, 2018. Greg Smith will attend. He gave a brief recap of how the testimony went on 10/22/2018. He said the committee was upset the money was moved, and was unaware it had happened. The money was never vetted in committee; there was only conference committee discussions. Further, the transfer of money was not apparent when legislators signed off on the budget. The transferred money is not tied to an MOU. He hopes to learn more about this while at the El Dorado meeting.

Family Engagement Work Plan Recommendations

Melody submitted a Parent Engagement Program/Practice Plan. This plan recognizes eleven (11) steps for implementing a family engagement program:

- 1. Define common terms for family engagement and involvement.**
Melody thought a focus group would be good for this step
- 2. Develop a basic guide for families that can be tailored and expanded for use by each judicial district.**
Melody has several guides from other states as examples. This guide should be available to families in several languages and at a lot of places, such as in waiting rooms and online. It may be helpful to produce a video for those who lack reading skills. We will need families

and family advocates involved. We might be able to get a video done for free if we partner with a school to do it.

3. *Create a training curriculum for all juvenile justice system professionals regarding how to interact with families.*

This training would be rolled out statewide. We should have a parent in the trainings, and they should be multi-cultural. We will look in to grants for this.

4. *Review and improve current policy, procedures, and standards to identify where opportunity for family engagement can be strengthened.*

A standards committee, and others, review the existing standards, asking how they affect families and/or create bias. For example, families are easily disconnected from youth in the JCF due to rules. In terms of visitation, many parents are single heads of household, working multiple jobs, and are unable to visit when allowed. Transportation is always an issue too. All juvenile justice programs need to be reviewed.

5. *Develop standards on family engagement for use by juvenile correctional facilities and all state funded programs.*

This step would primarily fall to KDOC.

6. *Provide evidence-based parent education program training for use in local jurisdictions.*

The Parent Project curriculum is evidence based. They offer two (2) programs; one for ages 10 – 17 and another for youth under age 10. It is a sixteen-week program, where a trained facilitator leads for ten (10) weeks, followed by parents leading for the remaining six (6) weeks. A class is typically in groups of five (5) parents, and each class has fifteen (15) parents present. The facilitator gives parents assignments that must be completed to get through the program. This helps parents develop their skills.

The Parent Project was created for parents of youth with behavior problems. It is activity based and each session is three (3) hours. Facilitators must complete a forty-hour training prior to leading a class. Melody has one (1) facilitator employed. Out of the first fifteen (15) referrals, eleven (11) parents showed up. Once parents go to the program, they seem to be sold on it, because they keep returning.

Transportation and incentives are offered. Some places in the community donate snacks or food. It was said soliciting donations may work well in small towns, yet may be looked down upon in an urban area. Mike said his organization solicits free donations and it seems to help with community buy-in. Max said the meals he serves are funded through his grant. As a facilitator, he has observed a tension between the community and government agencies. Parents tend to distrust state agencies. He feels success depends heavily on the relationships we are able to establish in our programs. Megan suggested asking parents what they would like, and incentivize from there.

7. *Every community supervision agency should have a dedicated staff person to coordinate family engagement efforts and activities.*

Melody calls the facilitator position the Family Collaboration Coordinator. She hired someone with experience in the courts.

It is Megan's experience parents are at a loss about what to do with their delinquent child. The Parent Project provides a space for parents to be alone and to learn new strategies for dealing with their youth. Max would like to see the end of the "Us vs. Them" mentality by

getting parents to *want* to support the juvenile justice process. Probationers fight with their families. While parents cannot control their youth's behavior, they can control their response to it, and that is what they need to learn. This program would provide a respite and safe place for parents to do this.

Melody observes police protective custody of a youth takes away parental control. Parents continually learn what they can and cannot do. In the Parent Project program, parents learn to de-escalate instead of escalate and they make relationships with other parents and support one another. The Parent Project is a licensed program.

Megan said Central Office (CO) is looking in to family engagement programming. CO would establish the desired outcomes. In family engagement, the probation officer or judge can refer families to the program.

Melody finds parents are 'sponges' when it comes to learning how to deal with difficult behaviors. They really do want to help their children; the juvenile justice system just is not family friendly in that way. Max says parents seem to open up to him once they learn he is not with the courts. He has parents ask him what they are doing wrong. Parents do not know about the court system and they feel like they have to give up control. They feel intimidated. Jen noted the importance of relationship building. We must establish trust and report before invoking change.

Judge York knows going to court is an adversarial process. The DA's office and defense attorneys spend little time talking to the youth and the family. Lawyers represent their 'client' – the youth – not the family. This is one reason why Melody supports the idea of a family advocate position within each judicial district; that is, one person to handle the families. Melody said she has family engagement principles incorporated in her standards.

It would be ideal to have a family specialist position in Central Office. Maybe this person would oversee the implementation statewide. Melody reported training costs are low; \$30,000 to train six (6) people. Megan envisions training people from court services, community supervision, SROs, schools, and other community partners. Jen noted this plan could be implemented at the regional, state, and/or local levels. Megan says the costs should be separated from the Reinvestment Grant monies and come from another funding stream. Jen observed the start-up costs are what is the most expensive. We have \$20 million to get this started, and about \$3 million a year after that. Local areas may need to do their own focus groups. Judge York said she thinks we would need to start out with at least five (5) people to handle a statewide implementation.

We asked Melody if she would give a presentation on family engagement to the JJOC at our next meeting. She will put together a 30-minute presentation for the meeting.

- 8. *Continue research-based best practice models that integrate cross-disciplinary and intensive family focused approaches to addressing violence prevention among youth.***
- 9. *Establish a Juvenile Justice Family Peer Advocate Project.***
- 10. *Develop performance measures to evaluate the effectiveness of family engagement after implementing the standards, training, policy, etc.***
- 11. *Develop fiscal strategies to fund family engagement.***

JCAB Improvements and the Data Needed

How do we help JCABs improve their reports and get us the information we need? JCABs need to feel important and part of the process. Judge York believes the JCABs would appreciate the help. Community Corrections tends to drive the agenda, to the detriment of other juvenile justice stakeholders. Megan mentioned Central Office used to have a staff person who worked only with the JCABs, but that position does not exist any longer. Jen felt having someone in-house to keep JCABs motivated is a good idea. It needs to be someone who can focus and get buy-in.

Melody said a contractor came to her district to help them with a comprehensive plan. Other agencies were involved, and participants felt needed. People bonded and their processes between agencies have greatly improved.

Judge York asked if there is a way to use data to come up with what is needed in each judicial district. We have talked about using YLS risk levels/scores for this, maybe even looking at the domains. We are not sure the YLS Family domain is the best indicator, as people are reluctant to talk about their family relationships. Mike said his telephone interviews show better parental programming and family engagement are needed in communities. We can use research to support parent strategies, as this is an evidence-based practice.

Judge York thought asking Community Corrections and Court Services staff about the barriers to programs and probation completion they experience could be done via a survey of some kind. Jen noted we have a list of all YLS users in Kansas. We could draft a survey and send it to them to complete anonymously. We could ask them what the top three (3) hurdles to successful probation completion are. Program topics could be presented and/or rated. This could go out as an email in lieu of a survey. Judge York feels youth do a minimal amount of work to be considered 'successful' with probation. If they get the assignments done, they are 'successful'; if they do not get them done, they are 'unsuccessful'. Jen will ask Amy Raymond if she has a list of line staff and/or court services people we can send these questions to.

Mike reported the top six (6) topics he is seeing as a result of his interviews are:

1. The need for family engagement and parenting programs
2. Expanding various drug and alcohol counseling programs
3. Increasing the number of slots available in YAPs
4. Making programming available to lower risk youth
5. Defense attorneys and courts need educated about the use of IIP
6. Ambiguity in the rules/standards associated with IIP

He has also observed less populated areas have distinctly different concerns than larger populated areas. Mike said the practice guide to SB367 for defense attorneys was very well received.

Jen announced a visitor will be at our next JJOC meeting. Her name is Rachael Bingham from the administrative office of the courts in Kentucky. She is coming to discuss three (3) topics in particular:

1. Collaboration across agencies
2. Increased/improved data capability and quality
3. How to do something with nothing

Everyone is looking forward to hearing from Rachael.

Max wants to know which programs are working well and if there are trends associated with successful programs. Mentoring is a big need. Megan will look at YLS data to determine how helpful it might be to us. She will also ask for information on KDOC outcomes.

Mike has been asking questions in his interviews about what an ideal outcome(s) would look like. There is a list of various concerns, yet three (3) are common answers:

1. More programs
2. Technical changes to the reform law
3. Process problems, such as earned discharge and programming; meaning, through earned discharge days, youth come up on their end date prior to completing the programming.

Also through interviews, Mike is getting the perspective of justice involved youth. In telling Mike what they believe would have been beneficial for them, they said:

1. Addressing the lack of housing and homelessness youth may face upon release
2. EBP for teens
3. 24/7 access to programs

Jen recapped the discussion. In terms of a recommendation from this group, we like Melody's work plan for family engagement and using JCAB reports, YLS scores, and Mike's interview results, we want to find ways to determine statewide needs. Former Sen. Smith pointed out if programs are not working, we might seek changes to legislation. He also thinks we need to educate JCABs about evidence-based programs.

Judge York believes we need advisory boards at the local level. There is no training for JCABs. Technical assistance for JCABs should be looked in to.

This committee will move forward with two (2) recommendations for the JJOC to consider:

- First, this committee would like to adopt Melody's Work Plan for starting the implementation of family engagement services statewide.
- Second, this committee would like to see technical assistance of some kind for the JCABs, in an effort to re-energize them and get better information from them through their reports.

Max motioned we move forward with the recommendations, and Melody seconded the motion. All agreed and the motion passed.

This group's next meeting will be the morning of December 3, 2018. K-A will send out the meeting invitation. The meeting adjourned at 4:16 pm.

Assignments:

1. Melody will prepare a 30-minute presentation on family engagement for our next JJOC meeting.
2. Megan will take a look at YLS risk level data to see what can be gleaned from it. She will also ask for KDOC-JS program outcomes data.
3. Jen will ask Amy for an emailing list for OJA line staff and court services staff.
4. Mike is continuing with his interviews.

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