

Connecticut Juvenile Training School
Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes, 6/2/14

Present: Karl Alston, Deputy Director, CSSD; Abby Anderson, Executive Director, Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance; Debra Bond, CJTS Clinical Director; Francis Carino, Supervising Assistant State's Attorney; James Connolly, Esq., Director of Juvenile Post Conviction and Reentry Unit; John DiPilla, CJTS Assistant Superintendent; Robert Francis, RYASAP/Catalyst for Community Change; Kristy Ramsey, CJTS Assistant Superintendent; Christine Rapillo, Director of Juvenile Delinquency Defense and Child Protection, Public Defender's Office; William Rosenbeck, CJTS Superintendent; Ann Smith, JD, MBA, Executive Director, AFCAMP

The board members met at the Pueblo Girls Unit and began with a tour of the facility.

Establishing a Quorum

Atty. Connolly acknowledged that with the members present a quorum is established.

Girls Program

Assistant Superintendent Ramsey gave an overview of the residents. MDF FREE programs are matched with the girls prior to discharge and they receive two home passes prior to discharge. Within the first week of admission a team meeting is convened to develop a discharge plan. Atty. Rapillo offered to help identify the CPS attorneys to ensure they too participate in the discussions. Families visit with residents either in person or by phone.

Minutes

All are asked to submit their corrections by Thursday otherwise minutes will be accepted as written.

Membership

One of the recommendations is to pursue a current resident / ex-resident to be a voting member of this board. Atty. Connolly would prefer a current resident and was looking for ideas of how to identify the selection criteria. A current resident will provide this group with their perspective on transition into the community, their struggles and issues at CJTS. If we wait for a past resident then we miss their immediate impression. Mr. Rosenbeck stated that the best option is a former resident. He had conversations with Parole and they can provide us with names of former residents that have been in the community for three months. Atty. Rapillo stated she would be open to have a current resident participate in every other meeting and Ms. Anderson also agreed that a current

resident would be best. We could also look into switching between having a boy or a girl participate. It was suggested that a representative for the board be selected by the Student Council as well as topics for discussions. Mr. Rosenbeck agreed that their perspective is valuable, but having them be voting members of the board is not ideal. Atty. Connolly will bring this to the next Student Council meeting for their feedback.

Atty. Connolly reported there is no progress of getting a parent for the board and all agree this is very difficult to do. Ideally, someone from the Middletown area would be the best choice. It was suggested that perhaps Parole can identify a parent for the board.

Atty. Connolly is also looking to appoint a line staff as ex-officio member of the board. Mr. Rosenbeck reported that the Commissioner does not object to this.

The group discussed the duration of board membership and 2 or 3 year terms were suggested. This would allow members to be staggered so some would finish in 2015 and other in 2016.

Atty. Connolly again asked if any one is interested in the Vice-Chairperson post. If so, please let him know.

Christine Whitten has been voted in as a member of the board but has been unable to join any meetings. Atty. Connolly will reach out to her and see if she is still interested and if not perhaps she can offer a recommendation.

Old Business

Atty. Connolly followed up on posting of minutes and meeting agenda and clarified that he wants them posted on the DCF webpage. Mr. Rosenbeck clarified that minutes have been posted on the internal webpage. He will follow up with Central Office on how we can go about posting them on the external webpage.

By-Laws

Atty. Connolly will make sure all get a fresh copy of all revisions to the by-laws to members for review.

New Business

Mr. Rosenbeck shared a draft copy of the Operational Strategies that the Department is trying to put together around outcome measures. Although juvenile justice kids were never part of the Juan F. litigation the Commissioner asked that they be aligned to the performance outcomes. A lot of this is connecting to the regions we are just adding the

juvenile justice piece to this. Ms. Anderson asked to review it further and will get some thoughts to Mr. Rosenbeck by the end of the week.

Superintendent's Update

- Building 4 construction will be completed by August and the displaced unit will be able to move in by mid August. Building 2 renovations are completed. One of the units in building 4 will have the capacity to go up to 18 beds. It will have common space and a medical area for boys who come in with significant injuries where they can recover before returning to general population. We will gain some bed space but in the meantime there is a lot of shuffling.
- The new school construction is still on target with a mid October completion.
- We had very few incidents in the month of May with 82% of kids who went without any interventions. 52% of kids are 17 and older and we do not have that many incidents with the older kids. Average stay is 6.2 months. We are relooking at data and we will have numbers for next time. We have 12 boys graduating next week. We are finding that we keep the boys here a bit longer in order to finish up the school year. This is something we need to plan for in January, as in fairness to the kids it is hard for them to transition into the community with three weeks left of the school year.
- Mr. Rosenbeck reported on a recent meeting he had with the Commissioner and the Director of CJR about their program. The program would identify 8 young men who are admitted to CJTS and assessed and identified for their program. The 8 young men are admitted at the same time. Once they are discharged, another group of 8 would be admitted. The program is pretty rigid and utilizes MDFT to work with the young men and their families. The Therapeutic Respite Assessment Center (TRAC) is a three month program. The feedback is that this is a good program.
- We are seeing boys coming in with significant charges. They come in and try to create their identity while at CJTS which is the cause of many of the fights here. Dr. D'Amico is taking a more global look at our data and we are hopeful that we will have a greater capacity to get better data and share it with the group prior to meetings.
- We were able to do some hiring recently. We hired a pupil services specialist, building and grounds staff and an associate chaplain.
- Mr. Rosenbeck shared pictures of three of your young boys who participated in the Husky day on 4/30. We received an invitation from Senator Coleman to participate in this event. We bought the boys shirts and ties and they had a great time.
- On June 10th we are sending a few boys to the State House as CJTS is being recognized for a Citizenship Award for our football Program.

- Graduation is this Friday and Mr. Rosenbeck extended an invitation to the board members.
- Mr. Rosenbeck shared a write up about our Health and Wellness Initiative and provided an update. We look at the boys' body mass and implement a goal. More kids are making healthy meal choices. Some of the complaints to the Ombudsman have been around food as we try to make a balance around portion control.
- We work with the boys returning to the community to get their Medicaid programs in place.

Recommendations to the Commissioner

Atty. Connolly prepared a list of recommendations to be submitted to the Commissioner along with a CJTS Advisory Board Letterhead. All were asked to review and offer feedback. Atty. Smith provided some feedback around the wording and the tone of the recommendations and suggested we write it in a more advisory tone. She offered we remove "should" and replace with "consider" or "suggest". Atty. Connolly will amend the recommendations as suggested.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Next Meeting Date

Next meeting date is July 28th at 3:00 p.m. at CJTS. Board agreed to not meet in August and resume in September.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Irene Yanaros