



Community Transition Services Stakeholder Group

Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2021 – 9:00 am-12:00 pm
Virtual Meeting

Welcome, Virtual Meeting Protocols, and Introductions

DCYF’s Deputy Director of Community Engagement Deanna Stewart welcomed attendees, walked through virtual meeting protocols, and led the group in a word cloud activity. DCYF’s Community Engagement Manager Erin Kerrigan initiated introductions.

Group Purpose & Scope

DCYF’s Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) Assistant Secretary Felice Upton shared the current state of the system, goals of the work moving forward, and grounded the group in scope and intent of time spent together.

- [Group Purpose & Scope Presentation](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to talk about the trauma that has occurred in entering into the system for youth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Absolutely. This will be a part of our conversation. • Can you define wraparound care? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensuring the 12 domains used in the risk needs assessment (<i>Aggression, Alcohol and Drugs, Attitudes/Behavior, Criminal History, Employment, Family, Living Arrangements, Mental Health, Relationships, School, Skills, Use of Free Time</i>) are focused on and assessing those needs of the youth. • Will we be asked to look at services available to troubled youth without the arrest happening first? We need to address the trauma experienced by the youth leading up to the arrest so we can provide services they need outside of the arrest. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are planning and looking at early intervention services for youth before they enter into the system or are arrested. • Do you assist youth who are involved in gangs? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes. In all of our institutions there are people who have been involved in a gang or incarcerated in the past that come talk with and mentor youth who are currently in JR on how to get out of a gang and life beyond JR. • There is a lot of patriarchy and rape culture with gang affiliates. One gang ends but turns into another and it still traumatizes individuals who are involved. We need to be honest about these things and need to be prepared to undo this conditioning which becomes problematic behavior once released. • What would it look like to get more information from communities to get the stamp of approval on things involving JR? What communities should we be reaching out to? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strengthening Families local network is a great place to start and building those trusting relationships. The community based organizations are the ones who are doing the work on the ground and that would be the place to vet.
-------------------	---

Office of Innovation, Alignment, and Accountability (OIAA) Data Share

DCYF’s Research and Data Administrator Sarah Veele shared aggregated information on JR clients, characteristics of their time in JR and their needs upon re-entry in to the community.

- [OIAA Data Share Presentation](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When we are talking about treatment services, when you look at the Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9), the black community tests the highest but have the lowest referral rate. We are looking at moving towards culturally responsive models of care and moving past the Eurocentric model of care. Also, if people aren’t getting the supportive
-------------------	--



	<p>services they need in the moment, we need to recognize that and identify what needs and services they truly need.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any numbers about how long they are maintaining Medicaid upon release? I've known many young people that get connected and then struggle to maintain access with all of the paperwork. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We do not have that information right now, but we will put that on our list. We would need to get that information from the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and it takes a while. • If we are going to look at the peer model, we need to look at access to training for people. • If we don't have representatives of the cultures we are serving, then that still keeps the stigma there. • I am interested in the sorts of jobs young people are going in to upon re-entry, if that is possible to track. • I am interested if there are young people and families preparing to exit/who have in the past couple of years, what they say would have looked like help, perhaps that's coming.
--	--

Assumption Activity and Next Steps

Felice led members in an individual assumption activity, reviewed the 12 youth risk and protective factor domains, and prioritized domains as topics for upcoming meetings.

- [12 Youth Risk and Protective Factor Domains](#)
- [Composite Profile Case Study Activity - Esperanza](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group walked through a case study and reviewed the 12 youth risk and protective factor domains and build upon what this young person, Esperanza, will need to be successful in the community after exiting JR. • There needs to be a path for incarcerated youth for them to feel in control. What if Esperanza doesn't want to go home? Or fear of falling back into old patterns. I need to meet with Esperanza to talk to her about her own life at 17.5 years old to get a better understanding of what she needs to be successful. • There has to be one person helping the individual navigate all of it and help advocate with each service provider. • It also feels like some of the more "fun" opportunities are hesitant to work with young people that have this sort of lived experience. • If we were to pick a couple of these domains to dig deeper, can you talk a little bit about how some are different from one another? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Seeing lower levels of impulsivity from the youth when it comes to attitude and behavior. For alcohol and drugs, trying to provide education about drugs to all people and how it affects them and calling out behaviors that go with addiction patterns. Much of the assessment with these domains are self-report. Some come from police reports but mostly self-report from the individual. With mental health, family supports are very important and so is acknowledging the transition to moving back home and into the community. • I think it would be foundational to focus on the relationship's youth have when going into JR, when exiting JR, and entering back into the community. • Use of free time and relationships are important because some relationships can be negative and as a young person it is hard to be equipped for those complexities. Looking at how we can help them be equipped. • Reputation barring from engaging in new places to find meaning and purpose. • What does the transition process look like? What does the case plan look like and the intensive transition conversation look like?
-------------------	---



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ We start reentry planning hopefully from the first day and it is required for the last 60 days' the youth is in JR. Parent community providers and institution staff are involved in these planning meetings. The youth would leave with a reentry plan and only 26% of our population goes to intensive parole. Many of our young people go to facilities where there are treatment beds and work every day typically for 6 months and then back into the community fully. They are expected to come home at night.● Children are our future and JR has been pushed under the rug for a long time and erasing that stigma around it.● Attitudes and behavior, very interested in these domains. Once youth leaves JR there are a lot of challenges that come up involving their attitude and behavior and how the youth can maintain what they have learned during their time in JR.● We should talk about criminal history and the driving factors behind that.● How we fill our free time is going to determine what your results are. Filling one's time with something meaningful. If you had someone who previously filled their time with drugs and alcohol and to sit around with nothing to do during their free time is not good.● Trying to develop community services and nonprofits around destigmatizing and helping youth handle the challenges they face after reentering into the community.● Thinking of the priorities that Esperanza will want once she transitions back into the community, practicing those with her family and thinking through some of the challenges she may face and strategies to handle those.● Alcohol, drugs, family, and mental health. Family dynamic is very important.● Curious to hear from youth currently at JR and impacted youth and see data on these domains and look at ones that may be more of a hold up than others.
Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The next meeting will be focused on the two domains of Family Relationships and Use of Free Time.

Closing Remarks/Adjourn

Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The next Community Transition Services Stakeholder Group meeting will be on October 12, 2021 from 9:00am-12:00pm.
-----------------------------	---