

Office of the Child Advocate

Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board - CBI Subcommittee Meeting

November 12, 2019

**Members and Designees in Attendance:**

- Michael Glennon (Suffolk County DA Office)
- Sana Fadel (CfJJ)
- Nokuthula Sibanda (DYS)
- Barbara Wilson (CLM)
- Kimberly Lawrence (Probation)
- Rebecca Brink (DCF)
- Gretchen Carlson (DCF) (called in)
- Colleen O'Donnell (Probation)
- Marlies Spanjaard (CPCS)

**Other Attendees:**

- Melissa Threadgill (OCA)
- Lindsay Morgia (OCA)
- Kristi Polizzano (OCA)
- Jen Franklin (MDAA)
- Other members of the public

**Meeting Commenced: 1:10PM**

Ms. Threadgill welcomed everyone and explained the goal of this meeting it to review the CBI Diversion report. If there is time after reviewing the report, the group would discuss the work plan moving forward.

**Report Review**

Executive Summary & Findings:

Ms. Threadgill mentioned that a few edits came in earlier today including: an edit to page 7 to read “programs that use cognitive- behavioral practices and family-focused” not “and/or;” on page 9 the recommendation was to change “is needed” to “necessary; and on page 10 the recommendation was to pull the paragraph on trauma from the full report to the Executive Summary. There were no other edits for this section brought to the group.

Recommendations Section:

## MEETING MINUTES APPROVED BY JJPAD CBI SUBCOMMITTEE—2/10/2020

Ms. Threadgill went over the edits she received ahead of time for this section of the report to add in “advocacy support” to one of the tasks of a Diversion coordinator to “connect youth and their family with community-based services and advocacy support” and change the word “data” to “information” in Recommendation #5. Ms. Lawrence suggested changing “case” to “legal matters” in recommendation #5 as well. Finally, there was an edit to include “Multisystemic Family Therapy” to Recommendation #7. No other edits were brought up at this time.

Ms. Threadgill brought to the group’s attention that education was brought up, but not discussed with the full group yet. She suggested adding this to “Next steps” as a focus for next year.

### Full Report

Ms. Threadgill continued to review each section of the report with the group. The group made the following edits:

- Background: Ms. Lawrence asked if “probation” was part of “other juvenile justice practitioners” on page 19. Ms. Threadgill said that it was, but we could name probation specifically.
- Finding 1: Ms. Wilson asked if it is stronger to say “is” compared to “can be” in this finding. Ms. Lawrence thought “can be” was better. Ms. Threadgill asked if it is okay to keep “for many youth” and eliminate the phrase “can be” to not double qualify. Ms. Lawrence agreed.
- Finding 3: Ms. Threadgill mentioned a prior edit to the “spotlight on Suffolk county” section. The edit removed parentheses after “informally diverted.”

Ms. Threadgill moved on to the Recommendations portion of the report. She mentioned to the group that she looked into getting Administrative data for probation based on previous comments, and data was unable to be provided, so the report notes that. The group made the following edits:

- Recommendation 2: Adding “and local schools as well as local community providers” to this section.
- Recommendation 5: Ms. Threadgill mentioned that the edits made to the Executive Summary would be listed here as well.

The group also had a discussion regarding information sharing concerns, particular with regards to mandated reporting, as well as the necessary qualifications for a Diversion Coordinator (e.g. educational background, professional licensing).

## MEETING MINUTES APPROVED BY JJPAD CBI SUBCOMMITTEE—2/10/2020

- Recommendation 6: The group had a discussion about how the grant program would work in practice, including who would be eligible to apply, how strict the requirements around evidence-based for services would be, and who would administer the grant program and make decisions on funding.

The group also had a discussion regarding who this funding would be targeted to, particularly with regards to what is meant by “moderate” or “high” risk youth and whether or not high risk youth would truly be appropriate for diversion. The group decided to add language throughout the report to focus more on youth with higher needs rather than higher risk per se.

The group also decided to add language to this section “take into consideration geographic needs and equity.”

Next Steps: Ms. Threadgill reiterated her point from earlier that education and schools would be discussed in “next steps.”

Ms. Fadel expressed concern that this was a race neutral document. Ms. Threadgill suggested adding language re: making sure “we’re applying a race equity lens when making these decisions.”

Ms. Threadgill summarized the changes suggested in this meeting and asked for a motion to move forward to the full JJPAD Board vote, notwithstanding technical edits, formatting, citations.

All subcommittee members present agreed that the report should advance to the full Board for consideration. The group noted that this did not constitute an endorsement of the recommendations per se (as representatives from some state agencies would be abstaining from a vote on recommendations at the full Board), but an agreement that the report was suitable for submitting to the full Board.

### **Next Steps:**

Ms. Threadgill explained that we would take a break in December and replace that meeting with one-on-one with each representative organization. This will serve as a check on the past year and re-visit if the right people are in the right room for the next phase of program implementation, and provide an opportunity to discuss ideas for the 2002 work plan.

**Meeting Adjourned: 2:08PM**