

Office of the Child Advocate
Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board
Community Based Interventions Subcommittee
Thursday, October 20, 2022
1:00PM-2:30PM
Meeting held virtually

Subcommittee Members or Designees Present:

Amy Ponte (CAFL)
Karin Orr (DMH)
Susan Gill-Hickey (DMH)
Leon Smith (CfJJ)
Brian Jenney (DPH)
Rachel Gwaltney (CLM)
Brian Blakeslee (CPSC)
Migdalia Nalls (CPCS)
Kimberly Lawrence (Probation)
Dawn Christie (Parent)
Rebecca Brink (DCF)
Migdalia Nalls (CPCS)

OCA Staff:

Melissa Threadgill
Kristi Polizzano
Alix Rivière
Jessica Seabrook
Morgan Byrnes

Other Attendees:

Kathleen Bitetti (SAO)
Krystyna Boisjolie (RFK Community Alliance)
Becky Harrington (JRI)
Kathleen Bitetti (SAO)
Jenyka Spitz-Gassnola (DYS)
Other Members of the public

Meeting Commenced: 1:02 PM

Welcome and Introductions:

Ms. Polizzano welcomed the attendees to the Community Based Interventions (CBI) Subcommittee virtual meeting. She then presented the agenda, explaining the group would review the CRA report and vote to send it the JJPAD Board, after reviewing and voting on the September meeting minutes.

Review and Approval of Minutes from the September Meeting:

Ms. Polizzano held a formal vote on the approval of the previous Community Based

Interventions meeting minutes. Susan Gill-Hickey, Karin Orr, Amy Ponte, Brian Jenney, Kimberly Lawrence, Dawn Christie, Brian Blakeslee and Leon Smith voted to approve the minutes. No one abstained or opposed.

The meeting minutes for September 15, 2022 were approved.

CRA Legislative Report Draft: Review & Vote to Submit to the Board:

Ms. Polizzano asked if members had any questions regarding the updated draft of the CRA report that was sent to members. Hearing none, Ms. Polizzano then welcomed members to submit any further edits. One member noted that when discussing the current CRA court process, language should be added to make it clear that both youth and their parents have the right to counsel if DCF placement is a dispositional option for the case. Members agreed, and the edit was made. No further edits were suggested.

A member asked for a description of next steps. The Board will hear the recommendations from this Subcommittee during their next meeting. Any edits suggested will then be incorporated into an updated draft, which will be reviewed and voted on at the Board's November meeting. It was also explained that the Board has been continuously updated on the status of the CRA study at their quarterly meetings. It was explained that CBI members would vote today to send the report to the JJPAD Board for final review.

Ms. Polizzano then held a formal vote to send the report to the JJPAD Board:

Amy Ponte (CAFL) – Yes
Karin Orr (DMH) -Yes
Susan Gill-Hickey (DMH) – Yes
Leon Smith (CfJJ) – Yes
Brian Jenney (DPH) – Yes
Rachel Gwaltney (CLM) – Yes
Brian Blakeslee (CPSC) – Yes
Migdalia Nalls (CPCS) – Yes
Kimberly Lawrence (Probation) – Yes
Dawn Christie (Parent) – Yes
Rebecca Brink (DCF) – Yes
Migdalia Nalls (CPCS) – Yes

No one abstained or voted no.

The report was approved to send to the JJPAD Board by the Subcommittee.

Ms. Polizzano thanked members for their hard work on this report. She noted that at next month's meeting, the group will be joined by colleagues from the Department of Youth Services (DYS) who will be presenting on the Diversion Learning Labs.

Closing Comments:

Ms. Polizzano thanked the members for their participation and informed the group that the next meeting will take place on November 17, 2022.

Meeting adjourned: 1:19 PM