

**Juvenile Justice Collaborative
Leadership Meeting
March 4, 2009**

Minutes

In attendance: Jim Adams, Patricia Dailey-Lewis, Lisa DiBuo, Carlyse Giddins, David Jones, Chandlee Kuhn, Alison McGonigal, Evelyn Mendez, Andrea Mills, Lisa Minutola, Jack O'Connell, Vivian Rapposelli.

The meeting began with introductions and a brief overview of progress made through JDAI. The purpose of the meeting was to establish a structure for moving forward and determining priorities for 2009.

Chandlee Kuhn and Vivian Rapposelli volunteered to chair the Collaborative.

The Collaborative will be the umbrella for statewide juvenile justice reform. A Leadership Committee will be established and will meet every other month. A proposed participant list is attached for review. Collaborative meetings will be held quarterly and will include time for subcommittees to meet. The Collaborative participant list will also be reviewed and updated.

Eleven focus areas were identified and project leads assigned.

Legislation -10 Del Code § 1007 Lead: Mills, McGonigal, Davis

Focus will be on amending the current statute to meet the realities of the system. Legislation has been drafted by Judge Nicholas. The Department of Justice has also drafted legislation to amend constitutional bail requirements for juveniles. The intent is to allow the court and other juvenile justice experts to act in the best interest of the community and the child. The group will need to consider including the Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) in the legislation. Concerns regarding the unintended consequences of change and the possibility of net-widening will also need to be addressed.

HB85 Lead: Dailey-Lewis

HB85 is not being followed as intended and is often misinterpreted, resulting in unnecessary arrests and the system being inundated with school offense cases. The Department of Education and school districts will need to be involved.

Risk Assessment Data Lead: McGonigal, Kuhn

A plan needs to be developed and implemented to effectively collect and analyze data from the RAI. Reliable data is necessary to support the use of the RAI and to illustrate the effectiveness of alternative to detention programs.

Other data needs will also need to be addressed. The Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) does not have the personnel resources to keep up with the increase in requests for data

analysis. Chandlee Kuhn and Vivian Rapposelli will explore options regarding graduate school internships.

Superior Court

Lead: Minutola

Superior Court youth continue to account for nearly one-third of the detention populations. Case processing delays need to be examined as well as delays in transferring youth to the Department of Corrections.

Truancy

Lead: Davis

The truancy process should be reviewed to address issues that initiate in the school system through barriers that arise during the court process.

Young Offender Program

Lead: Rapposelli, Giddins

There is a gap in the system in appropriately addressing the service needs of very young offenders. An effective program should be developed to meet the needs of this population in an effort to reduce further delinquent behavior and the need for deep-end services.

Community Programs

Lead: Rapposelli, Giddins

An assessment should be completed to review the current capacity of pre- and post-adjudication community programs as well as to determine the efficacy of these programs.

Gun Court

Lead: Kuhn

A juvenile Gun Court is scheduled to begin April 1. Youth charged with specific offenses involving a firearm will be referred to the Gun Court. Treatment and program components that may be required as a condition of bail or adjudication will need to be outlined. The system will also need to determine the data elements that will need to be tracked and analyzed.

Internal Training

Lead: McGonigal

Training and education regarding the work of the Juvenile Justice Collaborative and related systems issues and changes will need to be presented to all system stakeholders and community partners.

Stimulus Plan

Although the \$6.6M stimulus did not include the juvenile system, the team will submit proposals to the Criminal Justice Council. The team agreed that we need to be purposeful in dealing with current budget restraints and that we should look at ways to re-allocate current dollars to more efficient programs and processes.

Alternative Schools

Issues with alternative schools will need to be addressed in coordination with efforts around HB85 and the Truancy Court once the Department of Education and district representatives are a part of the collaborative effort.