

North Carolina's Juvenile Reentry Reform Task Force

MEETING MINUTES

OPENING

The fourth meeting of North Carolina's Juvenile Reentry Reform Task Force was called to order at 9:30am on August 24, 2015 at 3010 Hammond Business Place, Room 144, Raleigh, NC 27603 by Billy Lassiter, Deputy Commissioner for Juvenile Justice.

PRESENT

Task Force Members Present: Joy Innis, Angela Smith (representing Dave Hardesty), Buddy Howell, Representative Pat B. Hurley, Ann-Marie Iselin, Billy Lassiter, Mary Murray, Martin Pharr, Cindy Porterfield, Mike Rieder, Jean Steinberg, and Dave Edwards (for Nicole Sullivan)

Other Attendees/Guests: Regina Arrowood, Art Beeler, Kenya Beyah-Murphy, Carol Burroughs, Venecia Carr, Duane Cogdell, Kevin Daniels, Debbie Dawes, Tamara Flinchum, Cynthia Floyd, Dale Floyd, Linda Graney, Felicia Gray-Watson, Ginny Hevener, Megan Howell, Kim Howes, Rachel Johnson, Diana Kees, Tom Kilby, Toni Lockley, Chuck Mallonee, Voris McBurnette, Paulette Pearce, Diana Rodriguez, Richard Semancik, Rich Smith, Angela Taylor, Kristen Tettener, Teneisha Towe, Cindy Trickel, Toshina Wiggins, and Eric Zogry

OPEN ISSUES

After reviewing the agenda, Deputy Commissioner Billy Lassiter opened the meeting with project updates. Mr. Lassiter reported that the proposal to implement the reentry reform strategic plan developed by the Task Force and its subgroups was successfully submitted to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) at the end of June. Grant awards are expected to be announced in September for an October 1 project start date. In the meantime, Mr. Lassiter noted that the subgroups will continue to work and receive feedback on the details of the proposed implementation plan; the Task Force will vote on the final plan at its next meeting. Deputy Commissioner Lassiter turned the meeting over to Dr. Jean Steinberg to review the implementation plan.

Dr. Steinberg opened her remarks by reviewing the goals of the reentry reform implementation plan. The goals of the grant were to develop a reform initiative that (1) improves assessment policies and practices, (2) develops a more integrated approach to pre-release services and planning, as well as post-release services and supervision that reflects what research demonstrates improves outcomes, (3) enhances program/policy monitoring, quality assessment, implementation supports, and accountability practices, and (4) enhances youth outcome data collection, analysis, reporting, and decision-making. The target population for the proposed initiative is medium to high risk incarcerated youth under age 18, including those admitted to short-term residential facilities. Dr. Steinberg reviewed the mandatory requirements of the reentry program that were set out by OJJDP in the planning grant RFP, and confirmed that NC's proposed reentry initiative met each of the requirements. Dr. Steinberg noted that the technical assistance provider, the Council of State Governments (CSG), endorsed NC's system-wide

reform approach which envisions policy, practice, and programming innovations along the juvenile justice continuum, not just reentry. As required, the reform will be evaluated by looking at recidivism outcomes, including measures of juvenile and criminal justice involvement, and positive youth outcomes (e.g., education, employment). Deliverables under the planning grant included the development of a task force, an outcome measurement and evaluation plan, a strategic plan, an implementation plan, and a sustainability plan.

Dr. Steinberg reviewed the objectives laid out in the strategic plan which include (1) the delivery of risk and needs-driven case planning and service linkage, and employ effective supervision practices, (2) the delivery of effective and developmentally appropriate programming, including education and workforce development services that target criminogenic needs, (3) the development of approaches to engage and strengthen families of youth involved along the juvenile justice continuum, including reentry, and (4) the documentation of the effect of the reentry reform strategy on recidivism, education, employment and behavioral health outcomes. She also reviewed the 6 key tasks and related subtasks to be completed to meet the project's objectives, the responsible party, resources required, deadline, and performance measures for each task/subtask, and the project's management structure. Chief among these tasks is re-norming the risk assessment instrument, the implementation of the comprehensive service plan, and the development and implementation of a service matching tool. Dr. Steinberg noted that the Government Data Analytics Center (GDAC) and SAS will be critical partners in the development of the comprehensive service plan and service matching tool. Dr. Steinberg concluded her remarks by identifying next steps which include enhancing the details of the implementation plan through the continuing work of the subgroups, starting preliminary work on subtasks in anticipation of funding, and identifying future plans for the Task Force (e.g., addition of members).

Task Force members inquired about the impact of raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction on the proposed plan. Mr. Lassiter and Dr. Steinberg noted that enhancing workforce development strategies is a component of the plan, which will place DACJJ in a strong position to meet the needs of older youths.

Leaders of each of the subgroups gave brief updates. Mr. Mike Rieder, facilitator for the Comprehensive Service Plan Subgroup, noted that the service plan is being piloted in four districts. Lessons learned from the pilot include the need to improve the usability of the tool (e.g., pre-populate the service plan with data stored in NC-JOIN), expand the list of presenting problems, and integrate the service plan with NC ALLIES. Ms. Cindy Porterfield reported that the Increasing Family Involvement Subgroup has met a total of seven times since its inception. The subgroup has been actively working on ways to obtain feedback from parents about their experiences with the juvenile justice system (e.g., designing and administering parent questionnaires), inform and engage parents in the juvenile justice process (e.g., Parents Bill of Rights, providing training to staff on how to better engage parents), and use technology to better connect families and youth during placement (e.g., the use of teleconferencing). Dr. Martin Pharr reported that the Workforce Development and Education Subgroup will continue to meet and plans to expand the group to include representatives from the Departments of Commerce, Labor, and Public Instruction, as well as individuals from private businesses. Of particular interest to the subgroup moving forward is developing a way to connect with local Workforce Development Boards, as new federal legislation directs them to focus on juvenile justice-involved youths and youths in foster care. Dr. Steinberg

reported on the progress of the Data Subgroup. Working with the GDAC and RTI, a plan is being developed to track process measures and grant-required performance measures. The group has also started to develop the scope and details of the baseline impact evaluation.

NEW BUSINESS

Carol Burroughs, Program Manager of the GDAC, presented an overview of the GDAC. Ms. Burroughs reported that the GDAC was initiated by legislative mandate in 2007. Among other projects, the GDAC developed NCLEADS, which integrates data across NC's criminal justice system, and NC FACTS, an automated fraud detection and alerting tool. The desired outcomes of the GDAC include more informed decision making, improved citizen interaction, and improved government efficiency. In addition to developing tools, the GDAC provides business intelligence through reporting and analytics using longitudinal data from various state government agencies.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

In preparation for the next meeting, Dr. Steinberg requested that Task Force members email her within two weeks of today's meeting if they have any suggestions related to the reentry reform implementation plan. The plan will be finalized and distributed to Task Force members a week before the next meeting. The Task Force will review and vote on the final plan at its next meeting. Other agenda items for the next meeting include a presentation from staff of the Oregon Youth Authority who will present information about the development and use of their risk and needs assessment tools.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm by Billy Lassiter. The next general meeting is planned for October 5, 2015, but may be re-scheduled depending on guest speakers' availability. The meeting will be held at 3010 Hammond Business Place, Room 144, Raleigh, NC 27603. Note: Future meetings will be scheduled on Mondays.

Minutes submitted by: Debbie Dawes, MPA

Approved by: _____