

JUVENILE CONTINUITY OF CARE TASK FORCE
FINAL RECOMMENDATION PRESENTED TO THE
COLORADO COMMISSION ON CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE
JULY 14, 2017

FY17-JCC #02. Utilize existing funds for local crossover youth plans and services.

Recommendation FY17-JCC #02

Authorize the utilization of existing marijuana tax revenue distributed to Senate Bill 1991-94 entities to allow these funds to be used to support the development and implementation of local crossover youth plans and services.

Discussion

Crossover youth¹ are particularly vulnerable to negative outcomes, including recidivism. Specifically, they tend to have significant educational problems, high rates of placement changes, and high rates of substance abuse and mental health problems; when they enter the juvenile justice system, they are more likely to stay longer and penetrate deeper into the system than their delinquent-only counterparts (see Footnote 1). To address these special needs, it is necessary to expand resources available to local jurisdictions for the purpose of providing effective services to crossover youth.

Currently, funding is provided to the Division of Youth Services for services and activities as outlined in Senate Bill 1991-94.² Additionally, Senate Bill 2014-215 (C.R.S. 12-43.3-501) provides funds to serve adolescents with substance abuse problems. However, there are restrictions on how these funds may be used (services must address marijuana and treatment), and available funds are not always completely spent by local jurisdictions.³

Because crossover youth are at an elevated risk for substance use and abuse, this recommendation expands the use of these funds to serve this population. Although the current purpose of SB 2014-215 includes providing support for efforts outlined in SB 1991-94, this proposal would allow the Juvenile Services Planning Committees (JSPCs) to use these funds to assist in the development and implementation of the crossover youth case plans to be developed pursuant to C.R.S. 19-2-211.5, including specialized services that benefit the crossover youth population.

¹ Crossover youth, sometimes referred to as “dually involved” or “multisystem” youth, are youth who are involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. In Colorado, Division of Youth Services researchers found that 25% of the detention population is waiting for a Department of Human Services decision or action, and that these youth stay in detention, on average, nearly twice the duration of non-DHS youth. Research has found these youth to be at higher risk for poor developmental outcomes (see Haight, et al. (2016) for a review) and to have higher recidivism rates compared to those involved only in the juvenile justice system (Huang, et al. (2015)). Crossover youth are described as higher risk by juvenile justice decision-makers and receive harsher dispositions than their non-crossover counterparts (Ryan, Hertz, Hernandez, & Marshall, 2017; Morris & Freundlich, 2005; Conger & Ross, 2001; Jonson-Reid & Barth, 2000). Research reflects importance of designing comprehensive, integrated approaches for improving the outcomes of crossover youth (e.g., Cusick, Goerge, & Bell, 2009; Munson & Freundlich, 2005). Such approaches typically involve multisystem collaborations, minimally between child welfare and juvenile justice professionals, but also law enforcement, education, behavioral health, and court personnel (Wiig & Tuell, 2004; Siegel & Lord, 2004; Halemba & Lord, 2005; American Bar Association, 2008; Herz & Ryan, 2008; Nash & Bilchik, 2009). Without integrated and comprehensive efforts—including coordinated case assignment, joint assessment processes, coordinated case plans and coordinated supervision—crossover youth are less likely to receive the appropriate services and placements they need to improve their outcomes in both the short- and long-term (Widom & Maxfield, 2001; Cusick, Goerge, & Bell, 2009).

² Senate Bill 1991-94 established the Juvenile Services Fund to provide resources to local jurisdictions to fund alternative to incarceration services described in local juvenile services plans developed by each jurisdiction. These plans are developed by each judicial district’s Juvenile Services Planning Committees (JSPCs).

³ Of the \$2M annual authorization, \$1.2M was allocated in FY2015, \$1.7M in FY2016, and \$1.4M as of June 5, 2017.

[As Approved]

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Further, the expanded use of these funds would allow local JSPCs to request training and technical assistance from the Colorado Department of Human Services/Office of Children, Youth and Families, in developing and implementing their crossover youth plans.