

Juvenile Justice Reform Committee (JJRC)
MEETING MINUTES
June 25, 2019

2nd Floor Conference Room
710 Kipling St, Lakewood CO 80215

Committee Members Attending: Michelle Barnes, Carl Blake, Bob Booth, Allison Boyd, Kirsta Britton, Shawn Cohn, Stacie Colling, Shari Danz, Hon. Beth Elliot-Dumler, Sarah Ericson, Senator Gardner, Anders Jacobson, Laurie Klith, Senator Lee, Elise Logemann, Dan Makelky, Representative McKean, Chris Ryan, Tariq Sheikh, Sara Strufing, Joe Thome, Hon. Douglas Walker, Tobin Wright, Adam Zarrin,

Staff: Anna Lopez, Nina Salomon, Shanelle Johnson, Kate Ferebee, Yaël Coley-Greene

Guests: Glenn Tapia, Debbie Oldenettel, Ersaleen Hope, Shelley Siman, Raechel Alderete

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Joe Thome welcomed guests and said he is encouraged that juvenile justice seems much more top-of-mind than it has been in the past. He looks forward to the changes that can come out of the work of this Committee, since it is comprised of many key stakeholders committed to the various systems that make up the juvenile justice system in Colorado.

Senator Lee also welcomed the group and expressed his desire for the success of this committee and its effects on the juvenile justice system in Colorado. Representative McKean echoed Senator Lee's comments and expressed his own personal reasoning behind wanting juvenile justice reform in Colorado. Both acknowledged the amount of work to be done by this Committee.

OVERVIEW OF SB19-108

Nina Salomon, Council of State Governments (CSG), presented a background and overview of the data assessment that led to SB19-108. She handed out an overview of the tasks outlined in the legislation and the timeline (ranging from September 1, 2019-January 1, 2021) associated with those tasks.

The timeline for the validated risk and needs assessment tool(s) is aggressive (September 1, 2019) so that any required budget requests can be put forward for State fiscal year 20-21.

When asked if the legislation specifies that all systems use the same tool, Salomon said it does not and that decision will be part of the considerations made in the Risk Assessment Tool Working Group.

Committee members discussed some of the challenges that may present themselves in determining a standardized risk/mental health assessment tool, including how legislation like Family First Prevention Services Act passed in 2018 might impact the funding of mental health placements in Colorado. The group was reminded that there are places in SB19-108 where the language also requires alignment with the Child Welfare Services Task Force, established to address the impact of the Family First Act. Another issue that will need to be addressed is the degree to which data can be shared among systems.

Joe Thome recommended that this Committee's tasks may be best addressed by looking at the operational matters that lie underneath these and other fundamental issues in the juvenile justice system, including those presented by State and Federal legislation that has been passed recently.

COMMITTEE PROCESS

A lot of the JJRC's structure is spelled out in SB19-108. Most of the "heavy lifting," i.e. task management, will be turned over to the Committee's subject matter experts via working groups. While these groups will also include stakeholders and experts from other local and state agencies as well as communities, the Committee decided that a member(s) of the JJRC chair/co-chair each working group.

A web site will be established for the JJRC, which will house resource materials, membership lists, minutes, agendas and meeting dates. Operating norms will be captured in the meeting minutes so that bylaws are not needed. The Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) staff will keep minutes. Meeting scheduling and facilitation will be handled by a contractor, with this first meeting being facilitated by staff of The Council of State Governments (CSG), namely Nina Salomon, along with Anna Lopez of DCJ. The contractor will be selected by early July.

Statute declares that a Chair and Vice Chair be named and selected via majority vote. In order to keep the committee inclusive, committee members were encouraged to bring nominations to the next Committee meeting. Committee members can nominate themselves or someone else. Duties of the Chair will include meeting facilitation, agenda design, possible visits to attend working groups, helping guide the group toward consensus and calling for a majority vote of committee members present once a quorum has been established.

Due to some quick turnaround times for established tasks of the Committee, three working groups were formed at the meeting. In middle July there will be a working meeting of the Risk/Assessment group and the August JJRC meeting will be when the Committee provides its first deliverable (the risk and needs assessment tool selection).

- **Risk Assessment Working Group** (Sept 1 deadline for selection of risk/assessment tool(s))
 - o Tasks:
 - Research and bring back whether a combined tool or multiple tools are the way to go.
 - Determine what data system would align well with a diversion tool (TBD) and how they would integrate
 - Provide a recommendation of the tool(s) to the JJRC at the August meeting
 - Members: Adam Zarrin, Laurie Klith, Hon. Beth Elliott-Dumler, Kirsta Britton, Carl Blake (co-chair), Shawn Cohn (co-chair), Lanie Meyers-Mireless
- **Shared Outcomes/Performance Measures Working Group**
 - o Tasks:
 - Gain consensus with input from providers (e.g. Savio House) and other community partners to recommend performance measures to full Committee
 - Determine how data can be shared across systems (review bill ran by Reps. McKean and Weissman last year)
 - Members: Joe Thome, Adam Zarrin, Elise Logemann, Dan Makelky

Diversions Working Group

While allocation of juvenile diversion funds is not given by statute to this Committee, Joe Thome expressed his desire that the Committee inform the decision to the extent possible. The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJ) Council will determine the formula by which diversion grants will be dispersed to all 22 judicial districts. The JJRC will provide its insight via liaisons from the working group and DCJ and possible collaborative meetings. Some issues the Diversions Working Group may need to discuss are: what components would make up an inclusive, equitable formula for diversion funding; and what could be the costs to District Attorney's offices, as outlined in the legislation. It was recommended that the group consider a funding model that takes into consideration a minimum percentage of people served rather than a strict formula. In addition, it was determined that since this group will not make final decisions on the formula or on the funding for any specific agency, there is no conflict of interest for anyone who might work in a diversion program to sit on the working group.

o Tasks:

- Work with Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Council to determine allocation formula/percentage for juvenile diversion funding
- Members: Sarah Ericson, Laurie Klith, Kirsta Britton, Stacie Colling (liaison to JJ Council)

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.