



FY2019 RECOMMENDATION/FY19-AD01 Develop a Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan [Statutory]

Status: Implementation Unknown

Actions/Updates

2023 UPDATE (JUNE)

During the FY 2023 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 2023-158 to reauthorize the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) was postponed indefinitely on May 7, 2023. Therefore, with the sunset of the Commission, all activities of the CCJJ ceased on June 30, 2023.

No further monitoring of CCJJ recommendations will occur.

2019 UPDATE

This recommendation requires statutory change. The recommendation was approved by the Commission on March 8, 2019 and is first applicable for action during the FY 2020 legislative session.

Description

Develop a data-driven, cross-disciplinary, comprehensive juvenile services plan addressing the full juvenile justice continuum in each judicial district by undertaking the following:

- In §19-2-211, C.R.S., expand the local Juvenile Services Planning Committee (JSPC) responsibilities to include the development of a data-driven three-year plan, with annual updates, targeting the full juvenile justice continuum in each judicial district;
- In §19-2-212, C.R.S., require the state Working Group defined therein to identify the specific components of the data-driven plan; and
- In §39-28.8-501, C.R.S., authorize the use of existing marijuana tax revenue distributed to Senate Bill 1991-94 to support data-driven plan development and implementation by judicial districts.

Agencies Responsible

Judicial Districts, Local Juvenile Services Planning Committees, and Working Groups (defined in 19-2-212, C.R.S., for criteria for placement of juvenile offenders)

Discussion

[The Proposed Statutory Language and additional Recommendation details may be found in the related "Recommendation Text."]

Cross-disciplinary planning is a vital first step towards identifying the risks and needs of the state's juvenile justice population, allowing for a deeper understanding of the service needs of youth penetrating local juvenile justice systems. A Juvenile Services Planning Committee (JSPC)[Footnote 1] exists in each judicial district. The primary role of the JSPC is to develop a plan for the allocation of juvenile services resources within the judicial district. Currently each JSPC develops a plan solely for the allocation of funds related to the Colorado Youth Detention Continuum (CYDC) as described in §19-2-310, C.R.S.[Footnote 2] This proposal changes the focus of the plan to include the entire juvenile justice continuum, and requires the use of data to describe the service needs and gaps in the judicial district.

Currently, every year, each judicial district may develop and submit as many as three, and sometimes more, separate "plans" to address juvenile justice issues, according to requirements related to the CYDC, the Collaborative Management Program (CMP) and the state juvenile diversion program. Despite these efforts, there is no comprehensive, cross-disciplinary review of local data that identify trends and gaps in services in counties within a judicial district. Rather, multiple professionals work independently in the development of juvenile justice related plans. This proposal replaces the current JSPC plan with a comprehensive data-driven review across the juvenile justice continuum with goals of reducing duplication of services and addressing gaps in services across the judicial district.

This proposal does not remove the decision making authority from the respective planning committees but serves to create a foundation for comprehensive planning efforts that address the needs of each judicial district. The plan will serve as the basis of information for local applications for state funding from, at a minimum, juvenile diversion, collaborative management programs, the detention continuum, and other funding sources that may be available to address the needs of the juvenile justice population.

This recommendation builds on an existing cross-disciplinary local board, the judicial district's JSPC, expanding its membership to ensure the inclusion of key professionals necessary for the development of a comprehensive, local, data-driven plan.

The three-year plan with annual updates, once approved by the local JSPC, is submitted every March 1 for review by the CYDC Advisory Board[Footnote 3] as well as other state funding entities. Because of its increased scope, the plan can be used in decision making regarding resources and funding needs, along with promoting collaboration and cost sharing.

Additionally, the specific components of the plan must be clearly specified by the Working Group defined in §19-2-212, C.R.S. [Footnote 4] to ensure consistency across judicial districts and to emphasize the use of empirical data. This plan will profile the population at each stage of the juvenile justice system, the interventions available, and the processes by which information is shared. It will also describe efforts to reduce or eliminate gaps in services and address disproportionate minority contact within the judicial district. The plan will describe current services and funding sources, and gaps in services, and use the most recent information available to identify trends across the juvenile justice continuum.

Footnotes

[1] Juvenile Services Planning Committees (JSPCs) are located in each of the 22 judicial districts and assist local officials in developing a continuum of services for delinquent youth and their families, including planning for each local Colorado Youth Detention Continuum (CYDC) programming (formerly labeled, “Senate Bill 94”). These committees develop plans for the allocation of resources for local juvenile services within the judicial district for the fiscal year.

[2] These funds are intended to be used for services to juveniles that prevent detention/commitment.

[3] The Colorado Youth Detention Continuum (CYDC) state advisory board assists the Division of Youth Services in oversight of the Colorado Youth Detention Continuum funding (formerly labeled, “Senate Bill 94”) which is allocated to the 22 judicial districts to develop a detention continuum.

[4] The Working Group establishes criteria for detention and commitment for adoption by Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) and the Judicial Department and determines the formula for allocating funds for alternative services for placement of juveniles in the custody of CDHS.