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Minutes of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee
Oct. 27, 2017
Holland & Knight, 50 N. Laura St., Jacksonville, Florida

Present

Chairman Buddy Schulz, the Honorable Suzanne Bass, Pamela Davis, Rory Diamond, Kevin Gay, Dr. Jeffrey Goldhagen, Shelley Grant, Marcus Haile, Gretchen Hamm, Elder Lee Harris, Bill Hodges, Alan Louder, Michael Meyers, Lara Nezami, Deloris Patterson, the Honorable Jack Schemer, Anthony Stinton, Vicki Waytowich, Donna Webb.

Committee is called to order at 9:02 am.

Meeting

Juvenile Director Laura Lothman Lambert welcomes the room and invites members Goldhagen and Gay, who were absent at first meeting, to introduce themselves.

JJAC Chairman Buddy Schulz makes introductory comments, discussing the use of civil citations in Duval, Pinellas, and Polk counties. He introduces presenters from the State Attorney's Office, Lisa Page, Director of Attorney and Community Development, and Alan Louder, Director of Juvenile Diversion.

Page and Louder present an overview of current State Attorney's Office diversion programming. See PowerPoint presentation for additional information.

Dr. Mikah Owen presents on Juvenile Brain Development and Trauma-Informed Care. Owen is Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Community and Societal Pediatrics, University of Florida. See PowerPoint presentation for additional information. Owen first has committee members read and fill out an ACE Assessment, then discusses the physiological impact stress has on the human body. Closes by emphasizing the importance of utilizing and coordinating community service providers and resources.

Mark Greenwald next presents on risk factors for and assessment of juveniles. Greenwald is Director of Community and Societal Pediatrics, University of Florida. See PowerPoint presentation for additional information. Greenwald stresses that aftercare solutions are important and addressing where juveniles are going upon their release from commitment ensures the care and support continues without interruption. He ends by highlighting how crucial it is to match the right juveniles with the right type and intensity of services.

Daniel Montgomery, Assistant State Attorney, presents several emerging programs. See PowerPoint presentation for additional information. Programs discussed were: Choose 180, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD), and Enhanced Pre-Arrest Screening Unit (EPASU). Time expired, preventing complete discussion of this program.

Committee Discussion

- Waytowich asks why parents refuse diversion and if there is any kind of survey to ascertain why kids are not participating.
 - Louder answers the \$100 diversion fee is frequently waived. The diversion case hearing serves as the survey. It is at this survey that they examine, in-depth, the barriers the family faces. If there are barriers, common solutions are SAO clothing store, bus passes, and appointments.
- Elder Harris asks about juvenile non-participation and whether it usually attributes to systemic issues and the parents.
 - Owen answers that typically system-involved juveniles were raised by parents who were exposed to some type of trauma. It is important to understand that parents who experienced trauma and have not dealt with the effects often do not have the capacity to provide necessary care.
- Hodges asks what JDAP's relation is to BAYS, how many juveniles participate, and how the youth are picked for JDAP instead of YOP.
 - Louder answers that YOP is independent of JDAP and BAYS, but the programs have a great partnership and share constant communication. Youth are chosen based on assessment, and are generally kids who have interacted with the system before. Lambert points out that another distinction between YOP and JDAP is that BAYS is capable of offering in-home services, whereas YOP is not. Page offers that the SAO does allow juveniles to participate in YOP up to three times.
- Diamond inquires about assessments done at the SAO and JAC.
 - Louder answers that yes, different assessments are done at both the SAO and the JAC. The SAO Diversion assessment is more in-depth than the JAC's, because the family situation, home life, and background are taken into consideration. The JAC does not have this capability.
- Diamond follows up by asking if the juvenile is at home during this assessment period.
 - Louder answers that some background information is collected prior to the case hearing, but the majority of assessment is done in-person at the SAO.
- Meyers asks about services for LGBTQ youth.
 - Louder admits that services were not offered at first, but after case managers realized services were needed, individualized care is provided. Meyers cites research stating that this group is overrepresented in the population. Suggests a partnership with JASMYN. Lambert emphasizes that this is the exact feedback needed from this committee. The ultimate goal would be no kids rejected from diversion.
- Gay addresses data on the adult side of the system. There is a need for quantitative assessment that leads to individualized care. The starting point is to look at who is doing the assessment. If there is not a connection with the youth, not much information will be learned. Youth and/or LGBTQ need to be able to connect. Once that information is collected, there has to be an organization that coordinates participating organizations and transitions. Operation New Hope uses a collective data system called Efforts 2 Outcomes.
- Goldhagen states we have the science, programs, commitment, resources, and experience so what is preventing us from putting all these pieces together into a system that works? He asks what needs to be done over the next year in order to actually put this system into place.
 - Louder states that one of his frustrations is getting service providers together in one place and cooperating. Diamond states that a City grant, the Safe & Thriving Communities project, is examining the system and its current inefficiencies. Judge Bass agrees that many services exist but that they seem to exist in silos. Nezami reiterates that prevention is key. Offers that Hendricks Elementary is piloting a 7 Habits of Highly Effective People for Children program called The Leader in Me. It targets character development in elementary kids, and can be expanded to any child. Would be fantastic to get this program implemented in all Duval County Public Schools.
- Grant asks if developmental damage is permanent or can be fixed with therapy and attention.
 - Dr. Owen answers that the change in brain development is permanent, but children can be taught to cope with those physiological responses (anxiety, etc.). Reactions to the anxiety and trauma can be learned.

Public Comment

Andrew Busch- Helping Hands Ministry

- Inquires if the 39% referred to diversion is a rate higher or lower compared to the Florida average.
 - Goldhagen answers that the 39% is about average for the state. He offers that some circuits have “air traffic control” systems, Miami as an example, whose circuit is very serious about diversion. Louder expresses his desire to see more community involvement and partnerships.

Another commenter:

- With regard to over-age ESE students. How is the Circuit meeting their IEP?
 - Davis answers that DCPS employs a team of ESE staff dedicated to helping those students as they transition into diversion or back into school, and ensure that the arrangement is the most socially and academically appropriate option.

Laura Lambert closes the meeting by thanking participants and announcing the date for the next meeting, on Dec. 1.

Meeting is adjourned at 11:12 am.