

Community Reintegration Zoom Meeting 4/10/20, 10am

Attended:

Mike Freysinger (Maine Youth Court), Bonnie Porta (JJAG), Samantha Fenderson (DOL), Atlee Riley (DRM), Margot Fine (MIO), Hailey Virusso (Opportunity Alliance), Lindsay Rosenthal (Vera), Erica King (USM), Mara Sanchez (USM), Jill Ward (MCJPAL), Mike Whitney (YAP), Victoria Morales (Maine Legislature), Christine Thibeault (Cumberland County DA Office), Kelsey Park (RJ), Julia Sleeper (Tree St), Margaret McCollichick (RJPM), Anwar Whiting (DOC), Autumn Magee (YAP), Richard Meserve (DOE), Kathy Durgin-Leighton (Restorative Justice Project), Jesse Pettengill (ACAP), Missy Cormier (Day One), Ned Chester (JJAG), Mary Bonauto (GLAD), Anne Sedlack (MCJPAL), Jon Ruterbories (YAP/Maine Law), Malory Shaughnessy, Rachel Talbot Ross (Maine Legislature), Abdulkadir Ali (MYJ/USM)

Notes

Introductions, Updates & Accountability to Action Steps

- Hailey Virusso mentioned OA wraparound was going to take more Region 1 and 2 cases
- Atlee Reilly reached out to DOE for point person who was on call
- Jill Ward stated that she reached out to Ana Hicks - Children's Cabinet want to be kept in the loop on the regional care teams
- Lindsay Rosenthal sent an example of a service tracking document after previous weeks' meeting
- Christine Thibeault explained JJAG composition and funding availability. Have money that they need to get out the door by September, so hoping that in this time people who have immediate needs can feel comfortable coming forward. Christine will be on a call with CJJ members to discuss funding restrictions, hoping those will loosen given the current crisis and will report back to this group and interested folks. Christine reported that Rachel Talbot Ross is working to expand access to technology for kids and will be reaching out to Colin O'Neill to see if there is a need for additional technology resources for kids inside Long Creek.
- Autumn Magee restated that getting kids hooked up with cell phones and laptops is a top priority. Finding a vendor that can provide 8 laptops or phones at a time with a plan that YAP can pay directly. Erica King asked Autumn if she had connected with Rachel directly and she had not, she connected with Julia Sleeper who provided her a connection with a vendor that might be able to help. Julia offered to reach out to Rachel. Action step is to create a subgroup to connect these dots.
- Victoria Morales reported that there are two landlords in the Portland area who are interested in housing people who have been system involved, with supports.
- Erica asked Mike Whitney to send the template for YAP, Autumn said she would do it.
- Erica updated the group on proposed regional care teams that emerged from the last call. Erica recapped that Colin stated at the previous meeting that he will let his leadership team know about this call and will develop a template to present those cases to a wider range of folks for input and feedback. Erica reported that he did this, and Colin has specifically directed three RCAs to develop community care teams. He envisions these as regional stakeholder meetings that would be cross-disciplinary, similar to old Children Cabinet family care team structure. Colin needs more time to share a de-identified list of young people for these teams, so the goal of this group is to figure out who else needs to be on these regional teams. Regional care teams would do case conferencing, resource development, cross-agency and cross community communication and development. Erica asked for feedback from the group on this proposals

- Chrstine asked how cases would come to the attention of the regional care team. In her experience, involvement varies, and wouldn't want to see a system that relies on just one source of referral. **Christine proposed that multiple people beyond DOC could refer a case for care team review.**
- Missy Cormier stated in the chat: "DayOne serves statewide, so we would love to be involved in all regional work."
- Margaret Micilohek proposed that social workers be involved to share contact information and parent/guardian information.
- Margot Fine asked in the chat how resources will be diverted to support kids in the community through community based work and community based people, beyond increasing DOC reach into the community? Margot proposed a subcommittee to design this. A lot of energy in chat around this. Kelsey stated in the chat that RJIM is planning to build some community coalitions down the road around RJ.
- Atlee stated in the chat: "This is where the DHHS input can come in too, a rep from DHHS with a good understanding of resources available through family first would be important for these conversations"
- Autumn stated that she tries to gather all the points of contact at intake and including all JCCOs. Need a list by region of young people, specific to the youth of who wants to be kept in the loop on a daily, weekly, monthly basis for each youth.
- Ned Chester stated that each young person in LC now has a lawyer assigned to them and they should be a part of the process. Ned stated in the chat: "I just sent an email to the RCA's reminding them that the post-disposition program is up and running and that they should include the attorneys assigned to the resident in their process."
- Margot proposed a resource diversion proposal subcommittee in the chat
- Christine stated in the chat: "Each of the CBHS/OCFS liaisons need to be included. Luc Nya in Region 1, Rick Meaghar in Region 2, but not sure who is in R3. Maybe Anita Hood. Galan will know."
- Bonnie Porta stated in the chat: "Jay Pennell will have names for the Tribes and other folks in Region 3 in particular"
- Hailey stated that many services are able to become involved with that young person weeks or even months prior to release date so they can be involved and develop that relationship with that young person, the better the outcome when they are released.
- Abdulkadir Ali stated in the chat the need for "MYJ organizers as mentors, or youth on the ground working with prev incarcerated youth on the teams ."
- Atlee stated in the chat: "DRM is going to have a team of 4 people participating in the regional community of care teams. This may evolve, but maybe to start is a DRM spot at the table."
- Missy Cormier stated that young people are being released to community without support for family or young person to support the mental health or stability of the parent/guardian.
- Autumn restated the need for a plan B to be in place.

Regional Community Care Teams: Proposed Group Composition Discussion

- Discussion of how regions break out in Maine and call for people to make recommendations for who should be included in each regional care team. Next step: everyone to send their ideas for contacts for each team to Mara. Agreement among the group to do this as the next action step.

- Ned Chester stated in chat: “The Regional Care teams are important to address the current crisis. They should become permanent fixtures that can also address 1) individual difficult cases as they arise at any point in the jj process, and 2) begin to look at the system as a whole and work on system-related issues.”
- Margaret stated in chat: “Goodwill industries does job preparation and placement at LC and follows youth into community. Think they should be here too.” Samantha stated in chat that she will connect with Goodwill.
- Questions about how this would work, demonstration of Place Matters contact tracking spreadsheet as possible template for how to track resources and contacts for regional care teams.

Regional Community Care Teams: Proposed Data Development Agenda

- Erica asked group what data people would like to know. Autumn stated that she needs to know, beyond demographics, what each young person wants to focus on.
- Bonnie stated that she would like to know where kids can't get internet service.
- Julia suggested anyone curious to know broadband should reach out to Page at DOE since they have been doing extensive work to map that. Richard stated in the chat: “Page Nichols is working on getting technology to students across the state when schools aren't able to do so. Please reach out to her if she can be of assistance in helping with technology - page.nichols@maine.gov”
- Erica lifted up need for youth voice to be included, coming from the chat.
- Hailey stated that there are multiple challenges with parents getting basics. Hailey responded to discussions of youth voice and OA's model of putting youth voice in the center of the process.
- Jill stated that the work right now is getting the needs met on the ground, as well as documenting it and improving it to make sure we can have best outcomes and ensuring young people feel a part of the process.
- Ali stated Maine Youth Justice is connected to a lot of young people who are previously incarcerated. Have shifted funding to help those young people. Have noticed that these young people are hesitant to fully share their needs and need to connect with organizations like Maine Youth Justice.
- Autumn stated there is a need for youth to have a list with everyone they can reach out to organize into basic needs.
- Erica summarized the group's convergence: a resource guide is what is needed, based on where youth are (location) and by sector/contributions/continuum of care. Bonnie stated in chat: “Another area for regional resource guides is reproductive health.”
- Margot asked in chat: “What are the connections in this group or DOC to local PD's? Should we coordinate with regional PD's as well? Not my wheelhouse but think it is important to loop local PD's somehow. Thoughts?”
- Jesse Pettengill stated in chat: “I think some of this work (at least in Aroostook) is being done through what we call Community Justice Collaboratives. We already do deidentified case reviews. We created these collaboratives using a model offered us by RJIM.” Erica lifted this up to group and responded that this work is already being done in many places, like Region 3 with these Community Justice Centers. Erica stated that community care teams would not replace that work but augment it and for example, Galan who will be the DOC person heading up the Region 3 care team would be connected to the Region 3 Community Justice Center work.
- Hailey asked whether the DOC will be reaching out to contacts or whether contacts would need to reach in to these care teams.

- Jill suggested as a next step to circle back with Colin and DOC about this conversation to move it forward and have an operational conversation about timeline and process. Collecting resources, cutting it up by geography, Place Matters work is all great, but it needs to be concretized regarding when and who to call.
- Bonnie stated in chat: "I will connect with other members from JJAG to get their input"
- **Jill to add names of anyone not on the Task Force listserve to make sure they are getting the emails** - several folks requests they or their colleagues be added, including anwar.whiting@maine.gov, Robyn.c.Thurber@maine.gov, jpettengill@acap-me.org, amagee@yapinc.org, kathy@rjpmidcoast.org and ali@maineyouthjustice.org.

Closing & Next Steps

- Meet again next Friday at 10
- Some work groups/subgroups that have emerged in the chat and otherwise:
 - "C in Community" Work Group
 - Margot, Hailey, Kelsey, Rachel, Samantha, Missy expressed interest. Samantha recommended Robyn Thurber for Region 1. Samantha would be for Region 2 and 3.
 - Gender Responsive (Vera) Work Group - Evolution of current work group through Vera End Girls Incarceration Task Force- no need to duplicate
 - Legal/Policy Issues Work Group: Issues pertaining to guardianship for unaccompanied minors and what could be some viable solutions
 - Mary, Atlee, Christine, Jon expressed interest
 - Supportive Housing in Youth Justice Work Group - what is supportive housing for juvenile justice youth?
 - Victoria, Hailey, Bonnie expressed interest
 - Technology Work Group - Provide tech resources (laptop, tablet, phone, hot spots) for youth reintegration
 - DOE folks, Rep Talbot-Ross, YAP folks
- Next meeting we will come back together with clarification from DOC around structure and an update on these five areas.