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## Place Matters

### Community Reintegration Work Group

Notes

December 11, 2020, 1pm

#### **Attended:**

Erica King (USM), Jill Ward (MCJPAL), Jess Mizzi (MCJPAL), Kim Deering (DOC), Sue Nee (DOC), Casey Benner (USM), Helen Hemminger (Maine Children's Alliance), Rich Meserve (DOE), Robyn Thurber (VocRehab DOL), Bonnie Porta (JJAG), Linda Barry-Potter (JJ Specialist and Compliance Coordinator), Jesse Pettengill (YAP), Margaret Micolichuk (Restorative Justice Project Maine).

#### **Introductions/Check-in Discussion:**

**Please share one reflection from the last 9 months.**

- Erica King: Notice the urgency with which we are able to get expedited results. All time low detention rate in LCYDC. Covid has put an urgency and we haven't changed policy and law, but we've changed practice/how we've worked together.
- Casey Benner: Listening and learning a lot.
- Sue Nee: Seeing some of the continuum built out has been amazing. But also partnering with local providers and enhancing what they are doing.
- Helen Hemminger: One of the great things about this group is how close you are to the people you serve.
- Bonnie Porta: Coming together with the state and community organizations. What's startling is that so few of the public know what's going on. I look forward to more and more awareness of the great work that is getting done.
- Linda Barry-Potter: "What a long strange crazy trip it's been" - Grateful Dead. Got to be in an RCT yesterday and the level of creativity and thought that went into the recommendations was amazing. People are letting their barriers down to work together.
- Jesse Pettengill: My reflection on 2020 is a personal one. Been thinking a lot about how it's one thing to serve people that we serve that are "on the margins," and it's another thing to experience kinship with them. And how it relates to my personal faith life and how to maintain barriers while in this work.
- Margaret Micolichuk: So much collaboration, zoom allows so many more meetings in a day (no travel time)! Glad to see restorative justice practices at LCYDC. Seeing things the task force recommended actually being talked about and not just shelved for another day.
- Rich Meserve: The level of collaboration has been quicker over this time. Especially across agencies.
- Robyn Thurber: I have loved the process of collaborating and to meet and learn what other people do and to see all the great work.
- Jill Ward: Excited to be a part of the cross-agency collaboration. It is gratifying to see it in this Covid moment; all of the collaboration to help make transitions for youth better.

**Looking Forward: Going into 2021, what are your major initiatives, programs, etc. for the next 6-9 months that you can share to strengthen our alignment together.**

- Jill: JJAG is working on finalizing the 3-year plan which guides how the federal JJDPa grant is used in the state. Plan has four main goals: 1) Resourcing community-based alternatives to strengthen the continuum of care. 2) Working with marginalized populations (BIPOC, LGBTQ/GNC, youth with disabilities) 3) Improve systems in line with Assessment recommendations 4) Strengthen youth voice and youth engagement in this state and in the JJAG.
- Sue: All 3 DOC Regions have been working with OCFS regional coordinators to create some substance use programming. Looking at IOP programs that can be done with local providers. In Regions 1 & 2, we got 2 TLP beds at New Beginnings. Hoping we can expand this in the future. Also working more on the credible messenger program. Anwar has been working with youth at LCYDC and Tree Street. Partnering with Tree Street to get a family engagement coordinator up and running. Also working with Vera around the girls' decarceration project. Developing an LGBTQ+ field policy and training.
- Robyn: Trying to do some pilot employment work in LCYDC, creating jobs within the facility for residents. Covid and other circumstances have prevented this from happening. Will hopefully try to get it up and running. Trying to work on keeping contact with residents when they transition back to the community.
- Margaret M: Recently took the coordinator position for the restorative justice centers as part of the October 2019 grant. Really make sure that youth have places to go before they are too deep in the system and facing circumstances that are too hard to overcome. Just at the roll out phase of this part of the Reentry Center that is working with families and community members. Getting community buy-in and support.
- Jesse: YAP will be concentrating on solidifying its best practices here in Maine. Working on bringing on more advocates on across the state to serve more youth. Also federal Second Chance Opportunity grant that we've been working on with Erica. Colin has asked that YAP think about being involved in the step-down facility from LC. Thinking about reintegration and a gender lens.
- Bonnie: Racial & Ethnic Disparity (RED) committee for JJAG. Thinking about doing something with youth and police.
- Rich: Helping coordinate contact tracing for schools. But looking to push out more social-emotional learning and trauma informed work in the schools. Joint statement just came out by DOE and Ed orgs, around diversity and equity in Maine schools. You can find that here: <https://mainedoenews.net/2020/12/11/joint-statement-of-commitment-and-support-for-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-in-maine-schools/>
- Helen: Working on a social-emotional learning. Still figuring out what our priorities are and who we are working with at the legislature. Our board is putting racial equity front and center. Also prevention of system involvement in early childhood.

**Closing & Next Steps:**

Next Meetings: 1pm on January 15, February 12, and March 12.