
Place Matters

Community Reintegration Work Group

Notes

February 12, 2021, 1pm

Attendees:

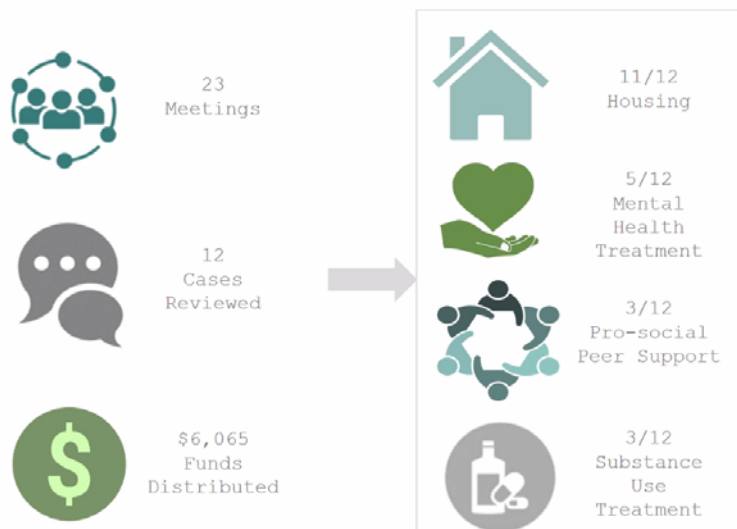
Erica King (USM), Mara Sanchez (USM), Galan Williamson (DOC, R3), John Coyne (DOC, R1), Autumn Rose (Youth Advocate Programs), Stephanie Netto (Volunteer Office Longcreek), Margaret Micolichuk (RJP, Belfast), Meg West (RJIM), Casey Benner (USM), Kim Deering (Long Creek), Jill Ward (MCJPL/JJAG), Samantha Fenderson (Voc Rehab, DOL), Jesse Pettengil (Youth Advocate Programs), Bonnie Porta (JJAG), Bruce King (Maine Inside Out), Helen Hemminger (Maine Children's Alliance)

Introductions & Updates:

Regional Care Teams

Erica: Presented and talked through data snapshot:

All Regions RCTs – 2020 Data



Galan: RCTs meeting monthly, doing some follow-up with cases presented in the past. Challenging cases with lots of dynamics and it's been great to have so many folks come together to bring knowledge and experience to the process.

John: It's created more community connections. Because of RCT, we haven't had to bring some youth to the RCTs because JCCOs have learned about programming in the community. There's been better outcomes without as many gaps.

Community process has been better for staff. Some have been about housing, but we've had some officers get into programs with youth because of the RCTs.

Linda: To John or Galan, do you have any information on how these resources have been received by the youth and/or their family?

Galan: We have a voluntary transport, we're going to kick in some flex funds for the family to help them have a last family experience before out of state placement. We've had a family with DHHS involvement and we've been able to use flex funds to support them with getting the required documentation in order. We had a client who needed some clothing so we were able to provide them with funding. These are some of the things I'm doing just this week, and it's pretty cool to see how appreciative these people are for some support.

John: We had a family with significant medical needs and we were able to support them with rental assistance to get them through some tough times.

Erica: We can couple and uncouple the RCT and flex funds. We had a youth join us for region 3 which was really neat, and it was a nice support for this young person who has been homeless for a while.

Second Chance Reentry Grant & Housing

Erica: Work continues through this grant to invest in YAP, Opportunity Pathways to post-secondary education or employment opportunities. Will be able to help young people returning from long creek, up to 10 youth per year. Also working through the grant to develop inclusive supportive housing options in the community. Maine Housing is putting out an RFP, possibly this afternoon or Tuesday, with federal funds available to agencies and community organizations, through the youth homelessness demonstration project, around 3.4 million dollars. There is one for host homes, ones for open table, and one for coordinated re-entry. Here's the link:

https://www.mainehousing.org/docs/default-source/rfps/rfp-maine-youth-homelessness-demonstration-program.pdf?sfvrsn=f2528a15_0

JJAG Update

Jill: JJAG meets next Friday. Working on a new website for the JJAG so info about the work and meetings will be more accessible. Three-year planning process is nearly done; now honing in on priorities for year one of the three year plan, which include youth engagement/youth voice, crisis response, supportive transitional housing. There is a whole separate line of funding for racial disparity work as well. Next step is determining what JJAG will resource and hoping to start distributing funds late spring / early summer in support of the first year priorities.

Discussion

What are the legislative priorities around youth and supporting the continuum of care are you/your org following? Discussion of various proposals. Jill will share legislative tracker the JJAG is putting together. Maine Children's Alliance is also following many bills.

Closing & Next Steps:

Next Meeting Date: March 12 at 1pm.