

Community Reintegration Meeting

7/10/2020, 1pm

Attendees:

Erica King (USM), Mara Sanchez (USM), Jill Ward (MCJPAL), Jess Mizzi (MCJPAL), Betsy Boardman (Courts), Margaret Micolichuk (RJP), Bonnie Porta (JJAG), Galan Williamson (DOC), Christine Thibeault (JJAG), Andrew Kirkman (YAP), Kelsey Park (RJIM), Amanda Morais (RJIM), Helen Hemminger (Maine Children's Alliance), Malory Shaughnessy (MASAP), Jesse Pettengill (ACAP)

Discussion

Erica - Welcome & Overview of agenda

Brief Introductions

Bonnie – JJAG has almost a full group who have been appointed, with the exception of a someone representing the tribes

Margaret – Excited that work of RJ will be continuing with Long Creek with Megan Dvlinsky heading and able to support youth into reentry, provide a more restorative culture in LC

Kelsey – have been in hiring process for new positions, building more capacity in org

Jesse – had one person on reentry who had to reenter their program.

Mara – here is the one-page info sheet that will be going out today to each regional network's listserv. All that is going out today.

Jill – we envisioned a network where people can be connected to what's going on by email and be brought in when needed for these case consultations when needed, but also to follow along to address systemic changes. The one pager is for you to have written down what we have done, share, invite others into this process. It will feel familiar to the regional children's cabinet structure, and the CPPC structure that has been used for deidentified case consultation. It has the point of contact for anyone who has a kid whose needs aren't being met, they can make a referral. We are making the RCA managers as the point for that until we can get into a better flow with that. We want to give you all some structure in which to plug into.

Erica – we have been having these meetings to keep you informed, but we also can discontinue or change

Andrew – I like having these meetings because we have become a community continuum of care right here.

Jill – we do need to hold space for people who are on the task force listserv, so that's another reason why for the next couple months we would like to hang on to a monthly check in.

Jesse – I have a question that I would like to seek the group's wisdom on. We were supposed to create three justice collaboratives in Aroostook county. Those groups are operating right now. I am curious how you see them interacting with this process. We do this kind of work locally with deidentified cases.

Galan- Our vision is to link with county collaboratives. Our next goal is outreach to the different collaboratives. I have been reserved about approaching to make sure that we do our organizational part, and then we are going to be connecting to collaboratives from all different counties.

Erica – Please give us an update on the region 3 first meeting, Galan

Galan – We had a meeting; it wasn't a dry run. We had all the state agencies represented and a number of providers that were invited and were excited about restarting some of the old concepts of the cabinet that we used to have. Our next step is to figure out how to outreach to the different collaboratives in the different counties. Our challenge is how to make sure we are inclusive but also with a sense of urgency. Do not want to get bogged down in bureaucracies. We did have an urgent request that came from Long Creek to meet a need for a youth transitioning into the community and I thought the participants did a great job. We brought long creek in and they did a deidentified presentation of the need. The group responded to a Zoom invite from the evening before and were there at 9am the next morning. I was so pleased at the response. Ultimately they found grant money to support the need but it was a process that we can learn from. Questions came up about maximum amount, how to approve funds, do we get involved with the case prior to the funds being requested, we are flying the plane and we are building the plane. It was a learning exercise. We have another meeting on the 22nd and are going to debrief and put some more structure to what we are doing around the funding piece. One of my goals is to keep lowering that number of youth detained when that is possible and safe. I am trying to figure out how to engage the JCCOs and clients into this process so they will have that AHA moment where they say, this is what Galan is talking about.

Mara – similar process to Region 3, system leadership showed up and had good conversations. Looking forward to building the networks so we can have more people involved who can give input and make things happen for kids.

Jill – Same in Region 1. There is a culture shift that is encouraging this collaboration that hasn't been there previously. Everyone showed up. DRM was there because they have a statewide program around dealing with kids who have special needs. We had two providers who are the fiscal holders of the JJAG funds who participated to, to understand what the group decisions would be and how the money goes out. I think the July meetings will have more case review and the referral process is open. We want you to reach out to the care team, we are trying to broaden the net with all of this, and we are hoping this is an opportunity for not the usual suspects to bring needs to the attention of the system who can resource them.

Erica – Trish from Wings and Hailey from OA were not able to be here today but they have been incredible partners. While they have been receiving the funds, that hasn't been to support any administration and they have put in a lot of time helping us figure this out. Before we wrap up, we did want to provide space for anyone who wants to discuss the subgroup work that came out of this call. I will lift up the housing work, since before COVID there have been challenging situations on both the adult and juvenile side in terms of releases. We are woefully inadequate at working at the intersection of housing and justice and I want to give Victoria Morales a shout out for working on that group. She is out of state but otherwise would have been here to give that update. That group will be reconvening in the next couple of weeks. Its not just about housing its about the landscape of support. We are trying to build what the housing security could look like, and there's a lot to be done. Maine Housing and Portland Housing and Community Housing of Maine want to partner. Anyone else have updates on any of those other subgroups?

Helen (in chat) - Can you confirm one and only one kid tested Covid 19 positive at Long Creek? Update around that?

Jill – Yes, all other tests were negative and that was in the press.

Erica – any other updates from others or questions?

Jill – We are putting together a resource that we will share with this group, which is a transition tool – a resource of questions to be asking during transition planning. If you are an attorney or a parent or some other adult, we are putting together this resources of questions that should be asked around housing, healthcare, education, clearinghouse of all types of questions that should come up. We thought it might be useful for people to draw from and add to their own forms or process. We are working with national groups to integrate it and once that's done we will share it. If folks have input, it's just a resource. As soon as that is ready to be shared we will.

Christine – Will this document include questions for kids who are transitioning out of foster care?

Jill – It should because that was the genesis. It started out as a tool for kids transitioning out of foster care that we expanded and reflected Maine law in it.

Next meeting: Friday, August 7th at 1pm. Please email Mara if you would like a calendar invite to that meeting.

Following dates: September 11, October 9, November 13, December 11