

Community Reintegration Meeting

5/15/2020, 1pm

Attending:

Erica King (USM), Mara Sanchez (USM), Megan Dvilinsky (DOC), Atlee Reilly (DRM), Anne Sedlack (MCJPAL), Galan Williamson (DOC), John Coyne (DOC), Sue Nee (DOC), Kim Deering (DOC), Christine Thibeault (JJAG), Autumn Magee (YAP), Jennifer Christian (Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services), Sonja Morse (DOC), Jay Pennell (JJAG), Bonnie Porta (JJAG), Jill Ward (MCJPAL), Hailey Virusso (OA), Osgood (Portland Outright), Julia Sleeper (Tree Street Youth), Betsy Boardman (Maine Judicial Branch), Anwar Whiting (DOC), Missy Cormier (Day One), Kelsey Park (RJIM), Abdulkadir Ali (USM), Rachel Talbot Ross (Legislature), Andrew Kirkman (YAP), Robyn Thurber (Voc Rehab), Margot Fine (MIO),

Discussion:

Jill – this is an opportunity to pull together multiple efforts that are ongoing to check in, respond to opportunities, and keep the dialogue open for those who are interested coming off the Task Force assessment process.

Erica – We are collecting ideas that come to us and many in the group may be involved in other efforts that they want to share.

Introductions around the group. *Did not take complete notes but instead tracked information shared or thoughts that generated conversation.*

Christine – while we are all looking for best practices in getting kids out of long creek, we don't want to lose sight of the kids who are on the street and need resources

Rachel – want to think about the economic recovery in our state especially given that the Governor has not put one person of color on a 40-person task force

Hailey – we have moved through our waitlist at the Opportunity Alliance and serving a lot of young people

Erica – This table is about strengthening the scope and scale of support in the community. You all represent the community continuum of care and all have a role in helping to strengthen it

Atlee – Two weeks ago JJAG set aside 62K that needs to be spent by the end of September and got approval from the OJJDP to designate it as an emergency response fund. We had the criteria that we didn't want to disperse or administer it. What has resulted seems to be that the DOC is working with existing providers with hi-fi wrap to supplement existing contracts and ask them to do additional work that would focus on managing these response funds for the purpose of keeping kids out of LC or helping kids in LC get out at the direction of the regional teams. In the absence of other ideas coming forward, the JJAG voted to move forward with that plan. There is some question about whether this money could be spent by the end of September and the hope is that it can and people will get creative about addressing needs in a creative way. And if we have success there may be more money. Interested in seeing how this money could be used to solve tricky problems in creative ways.

Christine – Colin convinced us that the folks that do hi-fi wrap are adept in flex funds and they are less restrictive than DOC so it made sense to do it this way to get this money out as quickly

as possible to kids. Going to utilize existing structure with the hi-fi agencies. September 30 is not that far away and we want to make sure that money can benefit kids and not go back to DC. Erica – if another agency on this call is working with a youth that needed to access those funds, could they refer?

Christine – the hope is that those agencies, Wings and the Opportunity Alliance, would be a part of those care teams so that when cases are brought to the care teams those agencies will be at the table and there won't be a lot of bureaucracy to get that money distributed. So to answer your question, yes, if people are working with youth and identify a particular need they can reach out to the agencies or wait for the care team process.

Jill – to underscore what Atlee said, this is the approach with this particular pot of money but longer term there may be a more accessible structure.

Kelsey asked in chat: "Does the young person have to be referred to hi-fi wrap?"

Atlee answered in chat "No they do not"

Margot asked in chat: "Is the criteria to access funds for now: young person in LC or on DOC aftercare?"

Christine – the funds would have to be use for the designated purpose of keeping kids out of confinement and be a COVID 19 related response.

Atlee responded in chat: "The JJAG criteria is that funds must be used to either: help get a youth out of LCYDC; or keep a youth out of LCYDC at risk of going."

Ali asked in chat: "Is there an age limit for the youth they are requesting the support in funds? What if this "youth" has been to LC but have been transferred to jail, got out and needs support?"

Christine answered in chat: "Ali - The individual would have to be still involved in the juvenile justice system. If the person is at an adult jail but also on community reintegration, the funds could benefit them. If the person no longer has any juvenile system involvement, the funds wouldn't reach them. So, practically, the maximum age is 21 as that's when juvenile system involvement must end."

Jill – We had a conversation with the goal of having an initial meeting the third week in June and are coming up with a timeline. Each region is different and has different relationships with local collaboratives and folks on the ground so this is just big picture.

Galan – We met on Tuesday and this is trying to put a plan into action around the development of each team. Region 3 is unique because we have such large geography and so many local collaboratives already in existence in each one of the counties. We want to have one regional review team in region 3 with technical going out into all the different counties being driven by different collaboratives. Looks like an octopus in my head with a centralized review team and a number of local collaboratives that we are sharing the work with. Our goal is to do a dry run mid-June and start presenting cases. Trying to develop the bench for these team and making great progress on that. Figuring out how to market it, how to promote it in the different counties and how to structure it so that folks know how to use the system. We mentioned last time that years ago we had the Children's Cabinet so folks up here are excited to get it going again.

Sue – For region 2 we meet weekly with the dream team. For us, region 2 is less geographically challenged than 3 but it's still geographically challenged. Part of the task force was that there was a huge deficit in Kennebec County so I wanted to focus on the Kennebec county area but

with this review team we will have a core group of people but be able to pull in from resources from each county as needed. Really excited, have a lot of ideas and can't wait to put them into action.

John – The three of us are excited to put this into practice so that we have the best outcomes for youth with a lot of problem solvers and community stakeholders. With some of the data that was involved in the report, detentions was an area where Cumberland and York was higher. With COVID 19 detentions have really gone down we can see that it can be achieved. That's one of the areas we are going to be looking at. Looking forward to getting it kicked off. Thoughtfulness around this has been excellent.

Jill – We are going to try to put this in a document that goes out to everyone so that the values and principles are out there with the timeline for people to see. There has been a desire by a bunch of people to start to put some of this on paper so that everyone can be speaking from the same thing of what we are trying to achieve. As soon as that is done that will be shared. Mara shared the resource data base tracking spreadsheets and made a call for all to share more contacts if they haven't already.

Sonja – Back in October 2019 Muskie and DOC wrote a grant for second chance reentry. The goal of that grant was to connect youth with a reentry process. As a result of that grant we funded Opportunity Scholars and Youth Advocacy Programs. The funding is not going to the Credible Messenger program that Anwar is working on – wanted to clear that up.

Implementation will be in September. Federal grant timelines are slow. Second grant is the girls grant that we are working on to reduce risk factors. DOC will be the main applicant for that with Muskie assisting in the grant writing process. We will be using ROSES as a guiding program for that, since it was named in a number of recommendations. We are working diligently on that to submit that.

Rachel – we are trying to address the deepening digital divide in the age of COVID especially for those who are coming out of incarceration and unsheltered. We've developed an initiative that centered around several different needs: connectivity, software, hardware, and digital literacy. We have distributed several chromebooks to adult ed, Maine youth justice, individuals released from prison. I am a part of a reentry group with Bruce Noddin and the Maine Prisoner Reentry Network. Solidified a partnership with the national digital equity center and they are going to write a few grants to help fund our technology fund and train our fellows as well as support classes inside facilities. Working on ordering the next group of smart phones and laptops to give away. If anyone knows anyone who is in need contact me.

Kelsey asked in chat: "Does the OJJDP grant include language around LGBTQIA+ youth?"

Mara answered: "The solicitation is here:

<https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh176/files/media/document/ojjdp-2020-17412.pdf>

The proposal hasn't been written yet"

The next meeting date is May 29th at 1pm