

Community Reintegration Meeting

9/11/20, 1pm

Attendees: Mara Sanchez (Muskie), Sue Nee (DOC RCA 2), Erica King (Muskie), Jill Ward (MCJPAL), Jess Mizzi (MCJPAL), Hailey Virusso (Opportunity Alliance), Atlee Reilly (DRM), Autumn Rose (YAP), Helen Hemminger (Maine Children's Alliance) <https://www.mekids.org/maine-county-profiles-2020>, Robyn Thurber (VocRehab Cumberland County), Jesse Pettengill (YAP), Asia Bowman (Vera Institute), Linda Barry-Potter (JJAG), Jay Pennell (JJAG), Megan Dvilinsky (Long Creek), Margot Fine (Maine Inside Out)

Welcome, Frame Purpose of Meeting and Roles

Regional Care Teams

(RCT Referral Form & Process, Meeting Guidance, Regional Care Network updates)

- The documents have been sent around (referral form, meeting guidance, fact sheet on email network). Also available on the Maine JJ Task Force website (<https://www.mainejjtaskforce.org/our-work>)
- Talking about a youth in a de-identified manner needs to be practiced and worked on. It's been made more explicit in the meeting guidance doc.
- Referral form is live. Accessible to other agencies and community providers to make a referral. Not just limited to DOC staff referrals of youth transitioning out of LC.
- It's going well, and we are learning.
- The general spirit and the attitude has been great. Very collaborative. Lots of resource-mining has been happening. Been getting great feedback after the meetings from attendees.

Jesse: Are the referrals always coming from JCCOs?

- Answer: No. Anybody can refer. Process is described in the meeting guide and there is also now a referral form.
- Example: Region 1 just got a referral from Preble.

Megan: Is there still a deadline to when the emergency JJAG/Care funds need to be used by?

- Answer: September 30, 2021 is the new deadline from OJJDP to spend the funds.
- The goal of the RCTs is to be responsive in real time though.
- Emergency JJAG funds were part of the catalyst for the RCTs, but they are not inextricably linked. Other resources may be identified to meet needs of referral.

Megan: Also, could we consider using these funds for any program services for Bearings transitional house here at LC?

- Answer: It depends on what the request is.
- There is a briefing on the RCT project next week for Long Creek Staff, so this should become more clarified.

Erica: Colin O'Neill cannot be present today, but he is working with me and Jill to set up a meeting with the Children's Cabinet about the RCTs.

Developing reintegration resources

Supportive Housing--Alignment

- Victoria Morales has set up an ad hoc housing group.
- Between that and the OJJDP Second Chance Act, there will be a more strategic alignment around housing resources.

- DOC has been awarded one of the OJJDP Second Chance Act Reentry grants, and that will look like workforce development, stable housing. (Scatter site housing with YAP support through Second Chance Reentry).
- Open Table Model with Maine Housing/Knox County 2021
- Host Homes demonstration with Maine Housing in 2021
- If anyone wants to be involved, reach out to Erica or Victoria.

Family First update of federal funds and webinar

- OCFS did a webinar to update folks on the FFPSA application. Hoping to submit Maine's plan by the end of the year. The funds become available when the plan is approved and the state implements the plan which is anticipated to be 10/1/21 for Maine.
- With the federal dollars coming into the state, how can we maximize them and more effectively leverage them to get more youth served?
- FFPSA Candidacy definition: do need to be child welfare involved, or at risk. Trying to bring the JJ kids and the child welfare kids into better alignment (because the data shows they are often the same kids).
- Jill reached out to the Children's Cabinet with a request to pull together a matrix of all the federal grants in the state that are serving this age population. The idea is to better braid it together to more effectively leverage funds for all transition age youth.

Other

- Atlee: if anybody is running into issues with kids getting back to school (example: kid was going to be expelled in March before the pandemic, and they are continuing the expulsion hearing now), use me as a point person and a resource.
- Jill: finally going to release the transition planning document. Hopefully next week. Intended to be a resource for anybody working with transition aged youth. We are also happy to take feedback around it. We can share it around again.
- Hailey: when you have talked about housing efforts for older youth, what do you mean by older youth? 16+? 18+?
 - Answer from Erica: 16+.
 - Conversation about people falling through the gaps. Especially with OCFS not getting involved with 16+ youth because "they have nowhere to put them."
 - These big systemic conversations are being had. There is a lot of anecdotal evidence and it's part of the conversation.

Next Meeting: October 9th at 1pm.