

Juvenile Services Committee Recommendations Status Update

2017 Recommendation		Update as of June 2018	Status
Priority: Legislative Reform: Promote legislative reform in line with best practices in juvenile justice.			
1	Current juvenile justice legislation must be monitored to identify gaps that prevent adoption of best practices.	Legislative review is performed regularly at meetings. A Legislative Workgroup that reconvenes each session specifically to review legislation relevant to the work of the Committee.	Ongoing
2	Best practices in sealing and expunging should be a priority in legislative reform to allow youth to thrive and reach their full potential.	LB869 (Pansing Brooks) indefinitely postponed.	Delayed
3	Legislation should encourage diversion program. Counties are encouraged to adopt the best practice of offering diversion prior to filing in juvenile court.	The committee has worked to gather data on diversion practices of the various counties.	In Progress
4	Support the Administrative Office of Probation in their implementation of the graduated response grid.	The graduated response grid has been implemented and regular updates are provided to the Committee.	Implemented
Priority: Placement and Needs Mapping: Identify the placement needs of the juvenile justice population and the resources available to these youth throughout the state			
5	The Placement and Needs Mapping Workgroup (PNMW) will continue identifying the needs of the juvenile justice population and the resources available throughout the state.	Workgroups are in progress of identifying the scope of data necessary for the PNM workgroup to map.	In Progress
6	The PNMW will create a needs assessment for decision makers to use in planning out-of-home services and placements location capacity. This will support a juvenile justice system of care where youth with out-of-home placement needs are served in their communities at the least restrictive level of care necessary.	This task is on hiatus until consensus is reached about data to be pulled.	In Progress
Priority: Evaluation and Assessment: Apply the highest standards of evaluation, assessment, and research in the social sciences to the understanding of existing needs of youth in Nebraska.			
7	A Unified and shared database should be created for agencies that assess, serve, and treat youth across the state. This database could allow for enhanced case management, as well as prediction of needs across the state and individualized data outcomes for research.	LB225 (Crawford) passed to conduct a Child and Juvenile Data Feasibility Study. Reference Nebr. Rev. Stat. 43-1306.	In Progress- Pending study outcome
8	Current emphasis on programs and actions that prevent initial contact with the juvenile justice system should continue.	Collaboration has begun with the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice whose focus is on preventative diversion efforts through Community Based Aid funded programs.	Implemented
Priority: Out-of-Home Placements and Transitions: Review and make recommendations related to best practices in the juvenile justice out-of-home continuum of care, including transition supports.			
9	The YRTC's should remain open and serve their current high risk population.	YRTC's are open and currently serving a high risk population.	Ongoing

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10	The Legislature should fund the YRTCs at a level to meet the staffing requirements of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).	Unsure if staffing is now in-line with PREA requirements.	Further Assessment is Needed
11	The YRTCs are currently the only juvenile justice no eject, no reject facility in the State. This can result in youth who should be served elsewhere being admitted to the YRTC, including youth with severe mental health, developmental disability, or substance abuse needs. The Out of Home Placement and Transitions Workgroup (chaired By Vicky Thompson-Smith) will continue working towards systemic solutions to this important issue.	This task has been broken down into time limited, task focused workgroups. The current High Utilizers of Services Workgroup is examining many of these populations and how to best meet their needs.	In Progress
Priority: Cross-System Coordination: Identify areas of potential cross-system collaboration, and promote best practices to coordinate services and program.			
12	State funded entities are encouraged to fund in a manner that boosts the use of the Collective Impact Model and encourages braided funding.	Unaware if this is being promoted at the state level.	Further Assessment is Needed
13	The State of Nebraska, in partnership with state and private entities that fund juvenile justice initiatives, should explore the use of blended funding. This collaborative process should identify necessary changes in legislation, policy, and funding requirements to support blended funding.	<i>Need additional information- there was concern about need for clarity and definition around blended vs. braided funding.</i>	
14	Encourage the use of telehealth to increase access to services across the state.	<i>Need additional information...</i>	
15	Review the data related to service gaps and outcomes gathered as part of the System of Care to assess its ability to address the treatment and non-treatment needs of youth involved in the Nebraska Juvenile Justice system.	Both the Transition Services and the High Utilizers of Services Workgroups are working on these issues.	In Progress