

Education Sub-Committee for the Juvenile Re-Entry Initiative

Improving educational outcomes through collaboration



Background on the Juvenile Re-entry Initiative

The recidivism rate for delinquent boys returning from the State Training School (STS) is 71% and for all delinquent youth from group care is 48% for calendar year 2012.

The Department of Human Rights, Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) convened a Juvenile Reentry Task Force (JRTF) to develop a comprehensive statewide juvenile reentry systems reform strategic plan in Iowa.

In July 2015 Iowa submitted its plan to the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and was awarded \$735,000 in implementation funds for FFY2016 (October 2015-September 2016).

School staff play a critical role in a youth's transition to and from an out-of-home placement. Students returning from placement are at great risk of dropping out, but school success can be a reality if we establish systems to ensure the following:

- accurate and timely transfer of school records and credits in accordance with Iowa Code 280.29
- a clear transition plan, which includes educational goals in accordance with Iowa Code 232.2
- an ongoing interdisciplinary team who supports the student before, during and after placement
- clearly defined roles for all partners involved
- the collection, tracking and reporting of educational outcomes.

An education sub-committee has been formed to address the educational and career development needs of youth returning from placement. The education goal for the sub-committee is to **improve the educational outcomes of youth by collaborating with juvenile court to support transitions to and from out-of-home placement.**

For 2016 we would like to develop a network of urban schools and their respective juvenile offices to develop clear policies and protocols around transition planning. Our goal is to have a protocols developed over the summer which can be used at pilot locations for the 2016-2017 school year. Additionally, our collaboration will:

- Share information around best practices, challenges, and barriers
- Identify current data sources, and setting baseline data
- Develop opportunities for cross systems training, information sharing, and delineating roles and responsibilities of various entities
- Develop outcomes measures for educational progress, how this will be collected, how often, who is responsible

Performance measures:

- number of staff participating in cross systems training, including YTDM
- number of transition plans that include school district staff
- number of school staff who have contact with student before, during and after placement
- number of students released from placement who are enrolled within 5 days
- number of students who graduate / make progress towards graduation

Education Sub-Committee Time Line:

March 16, 2016	League of Cities Conference in Dubuque, Iowa
June and July 2016	Work group to develop transition policies and protocols, data tracking and cross-systems training
August 2016	Pilot new process at two school districts
August 2016 – June 2017	Quarterly meetings with urban districts and juvenile court to continue to develop the collaboration