

SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS FOR SMART LEADERSHIP TEAM

PART 1: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM NATIONAL PARTNERS (CSG, NYSAP, CJJR)

Establish consistent statewide policies and practices for use of screening & assessment tools

1. Hire Administrator of Juvenile Court Services in Court Administration
2. Develop more formal, statewide opportunities for pre-charge diversion (i.e. civil citations)
3. Establish statewide screening, diversion, and assessment policies through Court Rules
4. Establish eligibility for diversion, informal supervision, and detention through Court Rules
5. Finalize Detention Screening Tool (DST) to ensure correct scoring and statewide usage
6. Improve data collection (i.e. start/end dates, technical violations, service codes)
7. Adopt behavioral health screening tool
8. Offer ongoing trainings for use of decision-making tools (DST, IDA, Matrix)

Ensure effective use of limited resources to improve service delivery and outcomes for youth

1. Provide SCA with direct authority and responsibility for Graduated Sanctions funding, and require it be used for moderate/high risk youth and evidenced-based programs/practices
2. SCA and DHS develop a joint written strategic plan for improving procurement, delivery, and oversight of community and residential services (including expansion of mental health services)
3. Establish centralized service procurement, performance based contracting, quality assurance, and oversight process and standards across Court districts
4. Explore redirection of existing resources to develop a quality assurance unit to partner with CJP and DHS on expanding/strengthening the SPEP and service data collection/analysis
5. Establish a distinct procurement process, standards, contracts, performance measures, training requirements, and oversight process for residential services for youth in the JJ system

Reduce Racial, Ethnic, and Gender Disparities

1. Work with OJJDP and national organizations with demonstrated reductions in racial and ethnic disparities to engage in an intensive process to address disparities in one or two pilot districts
2. Continue/strengthen quantitative and qualitative data collection, and utilize data to conduct root cause analyses to identify practices and factors leading to disparities
3. Support/require training on implicit/explicit bias for attorneys, judges, and service providers
4. Support/require training on gender responsiveness and trauma-informed care for JCOs and service providers; conduct gap analysis on programming for female youth; allocate funding accordingly

PART 2: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CHIEF JUVENILE COURT OFFICERS

1. Support the creation of a strong statewide child mental health system
2. Improve Data Collection by:
 - a. Supporting funding for a Judicial Branch data person
 - b. Supporting ICIS enhancements which will improve data reliability
 - c. Streamlining data codes and entry to increase the value of the reports
 - d. Creating reports to ensure consistent data entry across the state
3. Revise the Detention Screening Tool (DST) to ensure correct scoring and consistent use across the state. Once fully implemented, validate the tool and improve accuracy as needed
4. Offer Implicit Bias Training for judges, attorneys, service providers, and others

PART 3: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL

1. Support the use of a screening tool (i.e. MAYSI, SASSI, ACEs) to assess mental health needs, substance abuse problems, and trauma
2. Support the creation and use of a Service Inventory to effectively capture and provide accurate information about available services for a youth in a district

PART 4: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SMART TEAM AND CJJP STAFF

1. Create a more accessible and comprehensive mental health care system for youth in Iowa
2. Improve communication and coordination between JCS and DHS for crossover youth
3. Support and continue work on Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP)
4. Support development and implementation of the Decision Matrix
5. Examine Adult Court Waivers
6. Address the lack of available services for deep-end girls
7. Thoughtfully and deliberately include DMC planning in all areas of the comprehensive plan

PROJECT TIMELINE

