

Kristie Oliver

From: Michael, Steve [DHR] <STEVE.MICHAEL@iowa.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 5:17 PM
To: Mmitchell@fouroaks.org; ryan.santi@sequelyouthservices.com; janicel@cfiowa.org; galvarez@orchardplace.org; Karen Jones; Kristie Oliver
Subject: Council of State Governments - Statewide Juvenile Justice Improvement Initiative
Attachments: Statewide Juvenile Justice Improvement Initiative Summary.pdf; Agenda for the Council of State Governments Site Visit 3-11-16.docx

Importance: High

Thank you for participating during last week's site visit from the Council of State Governments (CSG). The attached agenda lists all of the groups that had meetings with CSG. Also attached is a summary of the initiative and the commitments required by us to request the intensive technical assistance from CSG to develop a comprehensive statewide plan to improve outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system.

Some common themes and growth potential identified from the meetings are:

- Structure of the juvenile court system is unique with court personnel being part of the Judicial Branch, funding for services from Department of Human Services (DHS), each of the Judicial District Juvenile Court Services offices determining the services purchased, and the Boys State Training School operated by DHS. There is a need to standardize practice and policies across the eight judicial districts. How can we improve coordination and aligning the multiple processes; from case mapping, appropriate community-based service delivery/availability, residential treatment, to reentry; across agencies and branches of government?
- Iowa is using a validated risk and needs assessment – Would additional assessments be beneficial (e.g. Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI))?
- Iowa collects a wealth of data through the Iowa Courts Information System (ICIS) and the Justice Data Warehouse (JDW). Are there ways to enhance the analysis of the data?

The technical assistance, if Iowa is selected, will provide information and resources to guide us to respond to these questions and address other issues that are identified.

To be considered to receive the technical assistance through this initiative, we must commit to do the following:

- Establish and participate in a bipartisan, interbranch leadership task force to guide this effort
- Share available juvenile justice and other service systems data
- Work together to improve policy and practice across the juvenile justice continuum, from diversion to reentry

Senator Sodders, David Boyd, Chad Jensen, and I will be preparing a draft commitment letter informing CSG of our interest. We will be asking the Chief Justice, Governor, and legislative leaders to sign the letter of commitment. The letter must be submitted by March 31, 2016. If Iowa is selected, the technical assistance will begin in May 2016.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Kristie – Please share with Martha. Thank you.

Steve Michael
Division Administrator
Department of Human Rights
Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning