



**State of Connecticut**  
Judicial Branch  
Department of Children and Families



**Joint Juvenile Justice Strategic Plan  
Education Ad Hoc Sub-Committee  
October 18, 2010  
Meeting Summary**

1. **Attendees:** Terri DeFrancis, Amy D'Amaddio, Anne Marie DeGraffenreidt, Martha Stone, Hal Gibber
2. **Educational legislative initiatives**
  - a. Information sharing/ Confidentiality
    - i. CSSD will plan to propose a legislative proposal relating to information exchange, that if adopted, will allow for the state of CT to benefit from the JJ exception in the federal FERPA law.
  - b. Joint CSSD/ SDE educational legislative proposals
    - i. The topics below will be included in the SDE legislative proposals
      1. Responsibility for educating juveniles in detention
      2. Immediate re-enrollment of individuals who may have been previous expelled, suspended, withdrawn or otherwise off the district rolls
      3. Accepting credit for work and attendance
      4. Provide grant money to reimburse districts for any shift in the State Agency Grant funding as related to the JJ placements
    - ii. The draft version of the proposal is being circulated through the CSSD/SDE workgroup for revision.
    - iii. CSSD is not in support of the community residential facilities being included in the provision to mandate the town/ city where the facility is located to be responsible for educating the children. This will provide a significant barrier to future efforts to site community based facilities. CSSD is proposing that the current system that allows for the CSSD contracted providers to sub-contract with the educational provider remain. This will require SDE to revise the current regulations to allow for these programs to under the auspice of SDE oversight.
    - iv. Once all comments are received, the proposal will be forwarded to the EIT
  - c. DCF legislative agenda
    - i. There is no known DCF educational legislation being introduced
  - d. CCA legislative agenda
    - i. Martha discussed several proposals that CCA and the Public Defenders are prepared to introduce and there was significant overlap between the SDE/CSSD and CCA proposals. She believes that her proposed bills would receive a much more favorable response from the legislature if supported by the SDE, which may include testimony, and/or be included in a joint CSSD/SDE proposal.
      1. Martha requested additional language be added to the above mentioned "immediate re-enrollment..." provision to include students who are returning to a school district after a stay in detention, residential, CJTS, Manson and/or York. She has asked that these students be allowed immediate access to the school program where they were previously enrolled unless the parent/child objects.

2. She asked that USD #1 and USD #2 be added to the language above about "Accepting credit..." in the joint CSSD/SDE proposal.
3. CCA has drafted language that would mandate that the juveniles in detention, residential and/or on probation from "choice districts" be provided an opportunity to complete the application forms with a designated person in detention, probation and/or a parole officer. Discussion ensued about the Hartford STEP program's efforts to ensure every juvenile from Hartford, whether in CJTS or residential have an application to a magnet and/or charter school regardless of when the juvenile is expected to be returned to the community.
- e. FAVOR legislative agenda
  - i. Favor does not introduce legislation but partners with other organizations who do, such as Keep the Promise and CTJJA. Initiatives they are supporting this year include:
    1. the provision that would allow for the transfer of funds to support community based programming when community based efforts are successful in avoiding a more expensive higher level of care
    2. Language that would assign SDE oversight for kids on the autism spectrum
3. Review long term goals of work group
  - a. Dissemination of information
    - i. Terri is the Ed Ad Hoc subcommittee liaison to the EIT and she is responsible for reporting about the work being done in this work group..
4. Education Training Initiatives -Updates
  - a. CSSD
    - i. A comprehensive FSC educational advocate training plan was developed and is being implemented at this time
  - b. DCF Bureau of Juvenile Services
  - c. USD II
  - d. Center for Children's Advocacy
  - e. Development of Joint Training curriculum
    - ii. DCF, CSSD and SDE are continuing to develop the cross training
    - iii. Though previously invited, Dorothy from FAVOR will be invited to subsequent meetings so the parent advocate perspective will be helping to guide the development of this training.
5. Review of JJ-related Education Initiatives
  - a. LIST agenda- education topics
    - i. A proposal was made to forward the Ed Ad Hoc meeting minutes to CTJJA and request that they act as a liaison to the LIST and report the relevant information at the LIST meetings
  - b. Additional Opportunities for Collaboration
6. Update on DCF-CSSD Coordination regarding use of:
  - a. CSSD Education Support Specialists
  - b. DCF Independent Educational Consultants
    - i. A CSSD/DCF Independent Educational Consultant referral form was developed. This form would allow for the JPOs and DCF SW to request the services of the DCF Independent Educational Consultants by filling out a referral form. A protocol would be introduced to the JPOs and Ed Consultants that would require the DCF Ed Consultants to submit a report when completing

the requested service as well as monthly updates and a discharge summary if the services provided were ongoing. The referral form is awaiting final approval.

7. Ongoing listening sessions

- a. Urban Superintendents
- b. ConnCase – Directors of Special Education
- c. CAGE – Local Board of Education Collaborative
- d. CAPSS – Principals of Secondary Schools Collaborative
  - i. Efforts will be made to get on the January agenda for ConnCase
  - ii. The power point and questions will be revised prior to our next listening sessions

8. Other Items for Discussion

- a. Favor has specially trained parent advocates who are part of a mental health family advocacy project that would be able to aid with educational advocacy of children involved in the pilot in both Waterford and Willimantic.
- b. The upcoming Hartford Public School Choice Information Fairs are to begin this month. Applications are due March 31, 2011. If a child from Hartford wants to be considered for a Choice School then the parent must attend the Information Fair and an application must be completed and submitted by March 31, 2011.
  - i. Martha requested that all detention staff and probation be made aware of the upcoming fairs, encourage parents/children to attend and submit an application. She has requested that the JPOs take an active roll in ensuring all Hartford students are provided the opportunity to attend the fairs and provide assistance to parents in filling out the application and submitting it.