

WEP Youth Justice and Schools Subcommittee

May 10, 2022

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- Maisie will step in while Peri takes some time off this summer
- Minutes approved
- Research Priorities
 - Member: Questions don't touch on prevention – what needs to be resourced to prevent youth from entering the system in the first place?
 - Member: What about the backend of the system?
 - Member: Diversion is a separate question from the four. Hard to address in these 4 priorities.
 - Member: Lack of diversion is a barrier in itself.
 - Member: WEP is looking at different decision points, but we are tasked with looking at the entire system for us. We don't have the same capacity. Real question for our team.
 - Member: What do we mean by “the system” in #2?
 - Member: Entering school is entering the system.
 - Member: Need to define diversion. Before petition or getting to court.
 - Member: The system starts in the neighborhood. This is bigger than just the school and judicial system.
 - Member: Disparities happen early on. So have to look upstream.
 - Member: In schools, refer to diversion as intervention. Diversion is after you exhaust interventions. Monitoring attendance, digital footprint of students. Gives us better context. Looking at truancy, root causes of attendance issues. If not engaged in school, engaged in something else.
 - Attendance
 - Behavior
 - Don't provide enough emotional support around what happens online
 - Diversion is a big word. Intervention is to mitigate.

- Member: Diversion means avoiding formal charges. But would like to think about prearrest.
- Member: It starts in schools. Priorities focus more on court than school. Need to reframe.
- Member: I worry about calling the school a part of the system. Talk about interventions with schools differently than diversion in the criminal legal system.
- Member: Could we ask Diversion subcommittee to take on the question of diversion?
- Member: Not squarely in their areas of focus.
- Mentions in chat that this subcommittee has expertise in youth, and youth need to be prioritized.

- Priority #2 Breakout
 - Diversion: look at charges and eligibility; what options are available through Prosecutor, through court?
 - Deferred adjudication
 - More informal options, too
 - Question of definition
 - Should we look at formal and informal?
 - Include intervention as well?
 - Divide up by school-based intervention and diversion that are connected to the courts?

- Create a separate template for diversion?