

# Washtenaw Equity Partnership (WEP) Youth Justice & Schools Subcommittee Meeting

October 3, 2022, 6:00-8:00 pm

## Meeting Notes

- Participants
  - S. Joy Gaines (Co-chair)
  - Peri Stone-Palmquist (Co-chair)
  - Nicholette Hoard - virtual
  - Jason Smith - virtual
  - Simone Strong - virtual
  - Jamall Buford – virtual
  - Jeanette Hadden
  - Brittani Parham
  - Stacy Shaw
  - Angie Carpio (Vera)
  - Shahd Ebushra (Vera)
  - Ashley Demyan (Vera)
  - Alex Roth (Vera) - virtual
- Hybrid meeting – in person and Zoom
- Everyone introduces themselves
- Question about whether people who aren't at meeting will have chance to weigh in.
  - Vera staff explains will share recording, ask people for input, maybe have an additional meeting
- Vera staff goes over what the meeting will cover, explains the need to be strict about time to be able to get through everything
- Open for questions about research sent
  - Clarification about (program?) – for foster youth aging out, not dual wards
  - Explain about what term “crossover youth” means – kids involved in child welfare system previously and now in juvenile system (contrast to dual wards – kids actively in foster care and also in juvenile system at the same time).
  - Discussion about what “complete” diversion means, whether cases can only be deferred with person on probation once on formal docket. Prosecutor's Office can divert cases before filing. Police department's may also have their own diversion programs.
  - Confusion about what diversion means and different forms – member points out need to make this clearer/more specific in report so people understand what we're talking about.
- Vera will create Google doc for people to submit corrections/clarifications or edit the research document.
- Review of quantitative findings
  - Analysis of data from prosecutor's office by UM School of Social Work's Child and Adolescent Data Lab.

- Explanation of what data was included, how data was cleaned and analyzed. Limitations on data: Not much on ethnicity. Detailed data mostly on cases referred to court because prosecutor's office doesn't track cases once they've made decision to deny or authorize petition. Allegation-level file needs to be collapsed down to person level.
- Goes through some of specific findings (see presentation).
- Discussion about what other types of analysis would be useful – e.g. type of charge by age.
- Discussion about what other data could help supplement the analysis.
- Discussion of draft recommendations
  - Probably won't have time to get to all recommendations today, maybe need another meeting.
  - Request that recommendations also be put online as Google doc so people can add/edit. Vera will do this.
- 1. Use “complete diversion” – with no formal charge or probation – in as many cases as possible, except for only the most serious cases.
  - Recommendation should be considered but need to clarify language.
  - Remove “complete” and just explain that diversion should be without court involvement.
  - Members agree recommendation would be impactful and feasible; could be mostly done at local level, might need to coordinate with statewide juvenile reform efforts (e.g. task force recommendation that changes state reimbursement could help expand diversion); funding would be required; not sure about political will – might depend on types of cases being considered for diversion.
- 2. For cases for which formal probation applies, shift toward lower caseloads and practices that support longer term behavior change and positive relationships, rather than compliance metrics.
  - Recommendation should say something about having more individualized supervision.
  - Not sure if there is enough data to support including this recommendation over others.
  - Recommendation should not involve giving more money to the court/probation.
  - Some potential, but recommendation needs to be reframed?
  - Subcommittee decides to come back to this one later.
- 3. For cases for which juvenile detention applies, seek options to shift youth to formal probation. Reserve detention only as a last resort, for short periods of time.
  - Not sure if this is the right recommendation. Think people are already trying to do this. Also, kids in detention are mostly already on probation. Should this be more about other placements as alternatives to detention (e.g. group foster care)? Limited options for community-based placements in Washtenaw (and state?). Discussion about different types of placements and how people end up there.
  - Suggestion to change “detention” to “residential placement” and talk about community-based treatment instead of probation.

- Run out of time and people need to leave. Decide to have another meeting next week.