



JJPOC R.E.D. Work Group

November 13, 2019

9:30-11:30AM

The Consultation Center, 389 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT

Meeting Summary:

- Dr. Derrick Gordon and Keisha April gave an Overview of Research on Restorative Practices, Public Health, and Ecology Overlap. This presentation will help the work group conceptualize juvenile justice reform with each of the theories. The goals of this presentation include having a conversation for feedback on current practices and future integration.
 - Model 1: Public Health Model
 - Intersection of multiple risk efforts & keeping youth in the community. Intersecting systems that a youth is already coming in contact with and how to manage these relationships
 - 3 tiers: universal (reducing occurrence of new cases), selective (targets youth identified at risk), indicated (targets youth requiring more intensive treatment)
 - Discussion: Public Health Model
 - Emphasis on Public Health (mentally, emotionally, and physically) and Community Safety Who is in selective group/ where does selective intervention happen?
 - How do you measure effectiveness?
 - Definition/consistency of arrest: is there a police report? Where is the paper trail? Who is making the decision on how to continue?
 - Unclear of how to separate between selective and indicated tiers. Possible solution: could base on pattern of behavior
 - Strengths: reach youth far before they are considered at risk
 - Weakness: doesn't integrate public safety within the community
 - Model 2: Social Ecological Model
 - Youth are shaped by multiples levels of influence, operating concurrently
 - Intervention: increase identity development to shape youths' actions/behaviors and focus on positive development to strengthen youths' competence, character, connection, confidence and caring
 - Discussion
 - How to measure success of this model?
 - Expanded public health model; takes all different organizations into account
 - Doesn't address development of individualism. There is a clear urban and suburban divide in CT
 - Barrier: agencies can't talk to each other due to confidentiality laws
 - Strength: Focuses on youth's strengths to promote positive development

- Weakness: How would youth be held accountable for their actions, but also hold adults responsible for their youth's actions? There are challenges to confidentiality and interoperability
 - Look into 3 generation homes (extra set of hands able to address needs)
 - Look into other states and how the systems work together around the federal HIPPA laws
- Model 3: Restorative Justice Model
 - Community based approaches focusing on accountability, public safety, and community healing (restoration of damaged relationships)
 - Discussion
 - Center Children's Advocacy currently focuses on care reconciliation and offender responsibility overlap- however, difficult because it is practiced in a setting that isn't community focused/restorative by nature (i.e detention centers, MYI). How will youth learn if there is buy-in, culture in facilities, etc.?
 - Shift to "best" practices will take time, most people want immediate results- will have to wait and stick to it for a while
 - No integration on how all sections function together- how to repair harms and relationships
 - Such a strong relationship model, how can we work it into communities where relationship isn't a priority? How do we implement this in policies and practices, especially as a preventative model rather than responsive?
 - Weakness: Look at the children who are not directly impacted (in the classroom)- do not have the capacity to process what they are seeing, navigating ego strength with adults to hear feedback from youth and not take advantage of the power dynamics in their role
- Integrating the 3 models:
 - All have strengths that can be combined for a more comprehensive approach
 - Layer the 3 models to target youth at all stages
 - Hold youth accountable by understanding how their actions affect the community. Youth offending does not simply reflect the individual youth but the interaction with the community and environment
 - Take pieces of public health model and integrate the social ecological model into each tier with restorative justice practices
 - Example provided on how to handle juvenile car theft
 - Discussion
 - Stressed importance of family involvement and giving them techniques to have conversations
 - Asking youth questions instead of telling
 - Look at safe communities and what resources they have that others do not
 - Paradigm shift to prevention rather than identifying, punishing, and incapacitating
 - Requires a lot of time to educate others on the theories and model

- Accessible Tools: review legislation, list of data collection points, YSB/JRB systems, ask data agencies (i.e. SDE), public scrutiny, can talk to DCF about mental health approaches

Next Meeting- Wednesday, December 11th, 2019 9:30am-11:00, The Village, 1680 Albany Ave, Hartford CT

**Meetings will be held the 2nd Wednesday of every month, alternating between Hartford and New Haven