

**Connecticut Judicial Branch
Commission on Access to Justice
Subcommittee on Criminal Issues and Child Protection**

April 23, 2012 – 1:00 p.m.
225 Spring Street, 4th Floor, Room 4B
Wethersfield, CT

Present:

Chair – Chief Public Defender Susan Storey

Members – Johanna Greenfield, Caseflow Management Specialist, Court Operations; Aileen Keays, Research and Policy Specialist, CCSU

Guests - Patricia Kaplan (New Haven Legal Assistance); Christine Rapillo (Office of the Chief Public Defender)

Absent:

Members – Nora Dannehy, Deputy Attorney General; John Russotto, Deputy Chief State's Attorney; Yanira Rodriguez, Community Court

The members of the Subcommittee began discussion at 1:10 – there was no quorum and no votes were taken.

1. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on January 23, 2012 was postponed to a later meeting.

2. Updates from Last Meeting

Computer Access in Correctional Facilities

Attorney Storey will contact Commissioner Arnone to discuss his views and to try to arrange a site visit with a federal correctional facility that has such program.

Barriers in Juvenile Delinquency and Child Protection Proceedings

Barriers were discussed in delinquency and child protection proceedings. Parents sometimes have trouble accessing information and understanding how the process works. The child has a lawyer, but the parent does not in delinquency matters, and sometimes there is a parent/child conflict. Incarcerated parents involved in child protection proceedings can be very disconnected and have little or no access to information. Multiple agency professionals involved in cases that involve both delinquency /criminal and child protection matters often do not communicate resulting in outcomes that are not optimal for children and families.

Collateral Consequences

Attorney Storey is waiting for input from the Division of Criminal Justice regarding the DRAFT Collateral Consequences of Conviction for the adult population information sheet that has been proposed.

It was noted that the ABA has a project regarding juvenile collateral consequences that Attorney Rapillo is looking at. Additionally, something will be added by the Office of the Chief Public Defender to the draft of the “adult” version regarding potential collateral consequences of conviction for foster care providers.

Possibilities for dissemination of the information include posting on the OCPD web-site and/or a pamphlet that can be provided by court information centers or public defender offices and /or prosecutors to pro-se individuals.

It would be helpful to have it in English and Spanish (perhaps English on one side, Spanish on the other).

3. Further action plan assignments

Attorney Storey will contact Commissioner Arnone with regard to inmate computer access.

She will also check on the status of the New York Poverty Simulation program.

Johanna Greenfield will contact Support Enforcement Services to obtain information about their outreach efforts with regard to incarcerated parents.

4. Such other matters as may come before the subcommittee

Attorney Storey reported that the OCPD family impact statement legislative proposal did not pass this year, but there was interest in it. The Division of Public Defender Services is contemplating a pilot site for this program.

It was suggested that representatives from DOC and DCF would be helpful to the Subcommittee.

The DCF/Judicial Joint Strategic Plan Executive Implementation Team efforts were mentioned. It was pointed out that they have been doing extensive planning. A concern was raised that the 14 to 19 year old incarcerated population have a high risk of recidivism with fewer services offered. This creates the probability that they could get lost in a gap with regard to implementation of “raise the age” as they are already in the system. It was estimated that there are approximately 200 young men and women at the Manson and York Correctional facilities.

5. Next meeting

The next meeting of the subcommittee will be June 25th at 1:00 PM in room 4B at 225 Spring Street in Wethersfield.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 PM.

DRAFT