Juvenile Justice in NM

NMSC Juvenile Committee Update 2020 to Present

Cindy Aragon, Juvenile Committee Chair

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CYFD

- Youth Services Division – Scott Patterson
- EMS program
- Transition Services
- Youth Mentoring
- Juvenile Continuum Grants Fund Program

Juvenile Justice System - Discussion Points

After Petition Filed -

- Forensic evaluations for competency & amenability -Dr. Neeser presentation –overview of issues (April 3, 2024).
- Travel to and from court from juvenile detention centers

Youth Services Center / Juvenile Detention Centers

- Use of suboxone at detention centers
- Medication-Assisted Treatment for detainees

CYFD Facilities

- August 30, 2023 – 88 clients held in juvenile facilities
- August 20,2024 – 75 clients at YDDC. (13 girls)
  - Approximately 60% of the population under age 18.
  -Approximately 40% of the population age 18 or older.
    -4 Native American Youth
- John Paul Taylor Center (Aug. 20, 2024)
    -Approximately 38 clients

Supervision and Release Discussion Points

- Mandatory Supervised Release limited to 90 days

  -includes Youthful and SYO adjudicated as delinquent youth

- August 2023 – 1,073 youth on probation supervision (formal probation, informal supervision and conditional release supervision).
- Top 5 types of Delinquent offenses (FY23)

  -battery, battery on a household member, possession of cannabis, affray and the status offense – truancy

- Lack of community programs for juveniles

Juvenile Committee Workgroups

- Youthful and Serious Youthful Offenders
- Fines and Fees
- Education of State Legislators
- Amenability

Legislative Work

- Fines and Fees
- Attempt to expand Juvenile Community Corrections Grant Act fund to include “non-adjudicated youth”
- SB 2

Impacts

- COVID
- Governor's Public Health Order on guns

Visits & Participation

- Tour of Youth Services Center 11/2023
- Tour of CYFD's Youth Diagnostic Development Center 8/2024
- Listening Tour input – Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center. 11/2024

What do we need?

- **Data –Emphasis on the need for improved data collection**

  -What types of delinquent acts are occurring statewide?

  -What programs and services are available pre & post adjudication?

  - Is longer sentences the solution?

  - Review of AOC data for juvenile filings and adjudications.

  - Specialty Court Data

  - Number of commitments.

  - Literacy data for juvenile justice youth

  -Ethnic & geographic disparities

Juvenile Committee Priorities – Resources/Services

- Challenges faced by youth involved in the juvenile justice system who come from troubled homes
- Examining where the system is broken re: services & how to get service providers to connect & pool resources.
- Importance of piloting policies before implementation
- Helping law enforcement understand what services exist for children whose behavior does not rise to the level of a delinquent act
- Whether the NMSC crime reduction grants program can consider juvenile programs?
- Access to college, trade schools, jobs and CNM (certificates) & use of non-profit and community organizations for experience and training
- Look at available programming statewide
- Better use of risk & needs assessments & emphasis on a bottom-up implementation
- Potential collaboration between the JJAC an the NMSC Juvenile Committee

Juvenile Committee Priorities (Cont.)

Statutory Review

- Families in Need of Court Ordered Services
- Sealing of Juvenile Records
- Confidentiality
- Competency

Incarceration and Detention Issues

- Incarceration far from home and families (detention placement process)
- Need for places for incarcerated juveniles to conduct confidential zoom calls.

Juvenile Justice Data & Informed Process (Research)

- Addressing problems & issues of data collection re: children in our juvenile justice system (CYFD, Courts, LOPD, DA's offices)
- Learning from other states
- NMSC research –revisit the 1998 Gun Violence Study
- Juvenile competency restoration
- Dual-involved juveniles (PS system)
- Comparison of adult & juvenile consequences for committing the same criminal offense

Next Steps?

Thank You!