

Chins questions for 4/30

All subcommittees

What is the population to be served - age limitations and definitions of behavior triggers
Remember that the legislation is not meant to micromanage the executive or judicial departments. Many services and procedures which will be needed are not specified.

DATA

Does MassCOURTS help us ensure information tracking

Do we need additional language to address confidentiality issues

Should we create some sort of data consortium/ advisory council to offer advice and comment to the Chief Justice, the Secretary and the Chief of Probation?

Have we successfully stayed out of the CORI system

Research / Best Practices

BP – should we provide additional detail on the truancy and runaway pilots

- Should we specify an intake tool that describes the model we are looking for or even actually name several tools to choose from?

R – What do other states do to enforce court orders?

- Can we give the courts the power to order agencies to provide services with a statutory change?

Court Process

1. We need a broad review of the structure we have put in place in this version of the legislation. The Court Process subcommittee never gave us detailed suggestions for change so now might be a good time to review the proposal in great detail and note, where needed or helpful, how it compares to the existing process. This would be a good topic for a meeting with several judges.
2. Confidentiality: Review language on use of statements and records from the front end process.
3. Have we succeeded in staying out of the CORI system?
4. Can we make parental behavior / needs a criteria for ‘requesting assistance’?

5. WHO can File --- DSS? Child? is the rest of the list correct
6. Review the preliminary inquiry process
7. Review evidentiary standards – when change of custody, for adjudication
8. Enforcement : If a ‘family is referred to services and declines to participate what actions ma the court take
9. Review custody changes – emergency, temporary, placement upon adjudication
10. Review adjudication and possible dispositions
11. Court enforcement powers – over service providers, over parents over children
12. Can we construct a system where the ‘family’ can be adjudicated /deemed in need of services? If so what are the disposition options
13. Duration of court involvement

Front End

1. Review the list of minimum services
 - Should we define specialized services for truancy cases
 - Does the language need to more specifically state which services should be provided by the grantee directly and which may be referred.
 - Should the bill state which behaviors/ age ranges receive priority for services (and funding)
 - Should minimum services list include recreational programs, metoring
2. Is the legislation still too child focused, can we envision a family requiring assistance category, defined with enough specificity to let some families access the front end but not all.
 - Consider whether we should be more expansive in population served.
3. Technical questions about administration
 - Family payments for services – do we need to give explicit authority for fee waiver, do we need more language around establishing the sliding scale?

- Confirm that 3month/3months is the right length of time for services?
 - How can the Rosie D community structures help us?
 - Examine carefully who is not eligible for services
 - Consider the phrase ‘complex medical needs’ (line 135)
 - Are we confident that DYS kids are not automatically excluded
 - Are we sure DSS kids in out of home placement should use this – are their needs covered by Family networks program?
 - There are 3 front end options – levels of intensity
 - 1 no services offered just information
 - 2 case manager assigned to work with family
 - 3 Case management team works with family and case manager

Consider language around screening and assessment in light of these distinctions
 - Disposition meetings - What is the ‘next step’ after the various dispositions? Do we specify in this section (lines 249-258) when a family can go to court on the same facts? Should we?
4. Consent issues
- Can children apply for respite care without parental consent or in face of parental opposition.
5. Confidentiality issues