

#### Questions:

- Do parents have the ability to voluntarily terminate services for their family?
  - o Senator Spilka responded that the system itself is voluntary so yes.
- How do CSAs move beyond behavioral health services (example: after school programs)?
  - o Senator Spilka responded that as CSAs develop, they will have a listing of other services available to create a service referral system.
- Can people go to court faster if they feel that the CSA process is not working?
  - o Yes, since the services are voluntary the parent/child may enter the court system at any time.
- Who will address respite care with this legislation?
  - o Senator responded that this situation would need to be more carefully considered.
- At what point should an attorney be appointed if a child is removed from the home?
  - o Senator Spilka said that this should continue to be discussed to find the best solution
- Between gathering information and appointing an attorney, who is checking on this collaboration? Where is the supervision to court clinics?
- Whose responsibility is it to educate the parents and when would this education take place?
  - o Senator Spilka responded that it was likely that the CSA would educate and perhaps even before then. **\*elaborate\***
- If a parent wanted to continue through the process, who would inform the parents of their rights since attorneys often only represent the children and not the parents?
  - o The Senator believes that the idea is to have the whole family involved in the new process and the new bill gives the parents a right to counsel.

#### Suggestions/Feedback:

- The bill should be examined to determine whether families should progress based on progress or based on the suggested time frame provided.
- The underlying principle of CHINS reform needs to be looking for a non-coercive **(diversionary)** process.
- The system needs more “teeth” in order to service providers to give services to kids as there are no “teeth” in the court process.
- There is a need to boost confidentiality so people feel more comfortable receiving the most amount of information possible.
- Should thoroughly define truancy and have schools more deeply assess why students are not succeeding (perhaps include a provision that prevention needs to include a core evaluation).
- Children should not be tried as adults.
- The boxes in the flow chart (under Court Process Begins) should be flipped so that kids get probation officers before a hearing date is set since it will be less coercive.
  - o It was further suggested that the boxes were fine in the order that they are currently in, but if they are switched, confidentiality needs to be bolstered.
- This is a first step toward reforming the entire juvenile justice system in the future.
- Recommendation for a court of Restorative Justice

- There was concern that this bill could prohibit families from accessing the court and would make the process more cumbersome. If parents have to go back and forth through the CSA and the court, it further hurts the families by delaying help. The court would support allowing the court to take the family when they come in the door rather than referring them back to the CSA.
  - o Senator Spilka responded that families are able to bypass the court and the new system would make it easier for them to do so.
- Burden of proof concerns over “preponderance of evidence” (changed from beyond reasonable doubt).