

Regionalization Task Force Meeting Notes
November 18th and 19th 2015

I. Welcome and opening remarks

Opening remarks were made by Chelsea Buchholtz and included an overview of the agenda.

II. Target Population Definition and Review of SB1630 Diversion Checklist

- Discussion of the Target Population Definition: Feedback received from stakeholders was discussed and several task force members reported that the questions and comments they have received often centered on the issue of placement and its proximity to a youth's home. The group discussed the need to balance proximity to home with the need to ensure that youth are placed in programs that best fit their individual risks and needs.
- The group worked to revise the language in the definition of the target population and concluded with a final version.

SB 1630 Diversion Checklist

- The group discussed the option of scoring the checklist but agreed that for the beginning phases of diversion there will not be a scoring system. Flexibility needs to be allowed in the early phases of regional diversion to ensure that youth are not being inadvertently prohibited from inclusion in the process.
- Items on the checklist were reviewed including the need for referral and misdemeanor history, prior participation in treatment, and supporting documentation such as psychological and psychiatric evaluations.
- Agenda item concluded with revisions as agreed upon by the group; additional items to be discussed were identified and will be worked on between the November and January meetings.

III. Tentative Regionalization Funding Protocols

Mike Meyer presented an initial proposal for regionalization funding based on feedback from the task force and other stakeholders. Program funding, start-up funds, use of remaining funds, and data tracking issues were discussed.

IV. Regional County Program Administrators

James Williams provided the group with an update on the hiring process for the new positions.

V. YES Waiver Overview

Rebecca Marquez with the Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health from the University of Texas School of Social Work presented the group with an overview of the YES-waiver system. She discussed the roll-out process, service the program offers, and ways in which services may be accessed for youth in their home counties.

VI. Regional Plans

James Williams and Lori Robinson reviewed feedback received on the Juvenile Probation Department Resource Inventory and the Regional Resource Inventory. The group discussed the documents and made final changes. The process for completion of these two documents was also discussed along with the timeline for submission of the plans. **The JPD Resource Inventory is due to the presidents of the regional associations and James Williams on December 21, 2015; the Regional Resource Inventory is due on January 31st to the Regional County Program Administrators (if hired), electronic copies should be sent to James Williams and Lori Robinson.**

VII. Aftercare Services

A general discussion was held regarding the importance of ensuring aftercare services be provided for youth upon return to their communities. Homer Flores, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer from Nueces County, and Lynne Wilkerson, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer from Bexar County, discussed the programs and services offered in their departments to assist youth in the transition and reintegration process.

VIII. Conclusion

The meeting was adjourned after agreement that the next task force meeting will occur on **January 13th and 14th, 2016 at the Travis County Juvenile Probation Department: 2515 South Congress Ave., Austin TX 78704 in the Main Building 2nd Floor Training Room; beginning at 9:00 a.m. each day.**