



Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
SAG Chair Recommendations
October 29, 2020
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m

- It's imperative that in all of our recommendations and proposed outcomes we keep as a consideration how to mitigate racial and ethnic disparities. As a state, we have not made significant progress in this area. It's one of the ways we remain in compliance with the JJRA federal statute and keep federal funding flowing into the state.
- The Department of Juvenile Services should adopt the 7 hallmarks of a developmental approach to juvenile justice as a tool to reform practices. The State Advisory Group encourages their use when awarding grants. **(Implementing Juvenile Justice Reform)**
 1. Accountability Without Criminalization
 2. Alternatives to Justice System Involvement
 3. Individualized Response Based on Assessment of Needs and Risks
 4. Confinement Only When Necessary for Public Safety
 5. A Genuine Commitment to Fairness
 6. Sensitivity to Disparate Treatment
 7. Family Engagement
- Reduce the use of confinement and out of home placements. Youth who are considered for commitments/placements should be reviewed by a support team that includes clinicians, family, educators, social workers and legal representation. This team will review each case and prioritize safe community supports or ensure mental health supports if placement is necessary. (#3,#4 above) **(Juvenile Justice Reform in Connecticut)**
- By reducing the number of youth in detention facilities and out of home placements, the state would experience savings that could be reinvested in community based alternatives. The facilities could be repurposed for job training and workforce development. DJS should consider a "continuum of care" model to meet the needs of young people. **(Promoting New Direction for Youth Justice)**
- DJS Case managers should change their deficit based approach to offer more strengths based support and less surveillance. This should include a reduction in lengthy probation orders, excessive fines and fees and more reliance on familial support and partnerships with community based organizations. **(Transforming Juvenile Probation, A Vision for Getting It Right)**