

HCTAYC JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS: *GENERAL*

Improve Services to Juvenile Justice Involved Youth

- Employ social workers to work with Public Defender to offer youth case management, ensure youth and families clearly understand terms of probation, and engage families.
- Identify additional community services to support families of JJ involved youth.
- Consult with HCTAYC in the development and delivery of training to probation, mental health and facility staff on effective strength-based case planning and creating non-traditional rehabilitative plans (including sensitivity around visits).
- Consult with HCTAYC in the development and delivery of training to court stakeholders on making court more youth friendly and effective so youth have a voice in proceedings.
- Provide transportation to enable youth to attend and participate in court and explore technology options to allow alternate ways of participation.
- Work with HCTAYC, behavioral health and advocacy groups to host discussion/identify best practices for court and probation to address issues of marijuana use with youth.
- Develop resources (such as a flex fund, volunteers, and connections with community groups) and funding needed for services for youth such as transportation, employment needs, counseling and special enrichment activities/supplies.
- When youth are required to do community service volunteer hours, use as a preventative youth development strategy by expanding pool of volunteer opportunities.
- Prevent youth from “crossing over” to the juvenile justice system from child welfare, and provide additional case management, permanency and transition supports when crossing over is necessary.

Address Education Issues for JJ youth

- Work with school district, county office of education, public defender and district attorney to address the issue of suspensions and expulsions and develop appropriate protections for JJ involved/at risk youth in schools.
- Work with probation, education and advocates to provide appropriate advocacy and support to allow youth to re-enter regular comprehensive high school.
- Evaluate quality of court and community schools, and RF and JH education programs and ensure youth have the opportunity to have access to challenging, college preparatory coursework.

Expand services and supports for youth to successfully transition to adulthood

- Provide training for probation staff and courts on resources available to youth, including use of AB 12 extended foster care to maximize probation youth participation and increase higher education and vocational opportunities.
- Work with community and providers to develop housing opportunities for youth exiting probation and ensure programs such as transitional housing are serving this population.
- Offer educational support and planning by offering tutoring, planning for higher education, assistance with college and financial aid applications and access to online classes while in detention or incarcerated.
- Develop connections with local employers and job training programs for employing youth in and exiting the probation system.
- Ensure data is collected on probation referrals and the use of community and available resources.

Ensure Youth Are Informed of Rights and Understand the Juvenile Justice Court/Probation Process

- Engage youth to develop and deliver youth friendly, culturally relevant training and informational materials for youth to explain their rights in JJ system, the process, possible options and resources.
- Hire youth advocates as mentors and system “translators” for juvenile justice involved youth.
- Develop and deliver “know your rights” trainings for youth and families, with a particular focus on school discipline issues, marijuana use, and interactions with law enforcement.
- Work with public defender to identify appropriate means for youth to “tell their story” and feel heard.