

# **HCTAYC JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS: FACILITIES**

## **Improve Conditions in Juvenile Hall and Regional Facility**

- Replace old and worn clothes and shoes, and ensure youth have access to appropriately sized and clean, sanitary clothes.
- Ensure bedding is clean and adequate.
- Ensure youth have access to daily changes of clean clothes and bedding is changed weekly.
- Address physical issues with JH and RF such as mold, decay, bodily excretions, plumbing, and broken communication systems.
- Ensure all meals include healthy options, fresh fruit and vegetables, and access to snacks between meals.
- Offer equitable education to youth in both RF and JH to prevent gaps in learning and increase chances of entry to college.
- Create opportunities for youth to participate in activities such as sports, arts, and holistic wellness.
- Increase visitation hours for families in JH and offer assistance in healing family relationships.
- Consult with HCTAYC to develop/identify and deliver trainings for staff on youth development, adolescent brain development, non-physical conflict de-escalation, and building empathy for youth.
- Ensure data collected includes outcomes for RF (such as entry to JH) and links to adult criminal justice data.

## **Develop Appropriate Local Alternatives to Detention and Incarceration**

- Recruit and provide training and support to develop a pool of therapeutic foster families who have expertise and interest in parenting youth with juvenile justice experience.
- Expand wrap services available to families and improve services and engagement of families so youth can remain at home whenever possible. Ensure wrap services are high fidelity, consistent, and offered to youth in all areas of the county, especially rural.
- Develop youth substance abuse treatment programs and options in partnership with behavioral health.
- Utilize current diversion programs and develop further programs as an option for more youth to avoid detention and incarceration.

## **Create Formal Mechanisms for Youth Evaluation of Placements, Programs and Services**

- Ensure JJDPC and MAJJC has at least 2 active youth members who have direct representative personal experience with the juvenile justice system. Develop clear definition of youth's role, goals and opportunities for engagement on each committee.
- Create a structured, timely, ongoing evaluation process for gathering youth feedback on secure and non-secure placements, probation officer and correctional officer interactions, and court and attorney experience.
- Create process for tracking grievances filed regarding the Juvenile Hall and Regional Facility.