

ACTIVATING EDUCATION AND JUSTICE COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT YOUTH IN CRISIS

Presentation to the League of Education Voters

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Justice Bobbe J. Bridge (ret.)
Founding President/CEO
Center for Children & Youth Justice



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The Problem

Education to Juvenile Justice

4 Year Graduation Rates

- Youth of color
 - American Indian: 53.7%
 - Black: 67.8%
- Special education: 55.7%
- Low Income: 66.4%
- Homeless: 46.1%
- Foster Care: 41.5%

Incarceration Rates

- Youth of color in JR
 - American Indian: 4.2%
 - Black: 21.6%
- Mental health: 60.8%
- Average length of stay: 143 days
- WA Graduation Rates:
 - Juveniles with Court Dispositions = 23%
 - Local Sanctions = 13%
 - JR = 16%

The Cost of Education and Incarceration

- In the 2014/2015 academic year, per-student education dollars in:
 - Washington State: \$10,325
 - National average: \$12,156
- Cost of Youth Incarceration in Washington State
 - \$262 per youth per day
 - \$47,246 per youth per 6 months
 - \$95,805 per youth per year
- Marginal Operating Cost of Juvenile Detention
 - \$20,515 per youth per year
 - \$56 per day per youth

What We Know Now

The Becca Bill

- Truancy and Compulsory Attendance Law
 - Truancy, At-Risk Youth (ARY), and Children in Need of Services (CHINS)
- Passed in 1995
 - First attempt at cross-systems collaboration
 - Intended to support the State make ample provision for the education of all students, to protect children who pose a danger to themselves through their behavior, and to provide support to parents in raising their children while keeping families together.

Becca Task Force

- Formed in 2002 by Justice Bobbe Bridge and King County Prosecuting Attorney, Norm Maleng
- Voluntary, multidisciplinary, multisystem, statewide membership
- Activities:
 - Monthly meetings for collaboration, coordination, and resource sharing
 - Annual Becca Conference
 - Legislation: HB 2449 (2015), HB 1170 (2017)

Research

- Trauma
 - Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)
 - Brain development
 - Early childhood and adolescence
- School disengagement
 - Negative outcomes beyond the classroom

What Works

Restorative Justice

- Highline Public Schools
- Lincoln High School
- Peace Circles

Basic Supports

- Coordination with Community Based Organizations (CBOs)
- Individual Education Plans (IEPs)
- Leveraging mentors and tutors

Community Truancy Boards

- The legislature finds that utilization of community truancy boards is the preferred means of intervention.
- Duties include:
 - Identifying barriers to school attendance;
 - Recommending methods for improving attendance such as connecting students and their families with community services;
 - Culturally appropriate promising practices; and
 - Referral to evidence-based services (e.g. functional family therapy, multisystemic therapy, a dropout prevention program, or recommending to the juvenile court that a juvenile be referred to a HOPE center or crisis residential center.)

Collaboration and Communication Between Systems

- Schools
- Child Welfare
- Mental Health
- Courts
- Juvenile Justice
- Parents
- Youth

New Legislation

- HB 2449 (2016)
 - Mandated establishment of Community Truancy Boards by the beginning of the 2017 school year
 - Mandatory application of risk and needs assessments before court-involvement
 - School accountability for addressing elementary school absences

New Legislation

- HB 1170 (2017)
 - Requires IEP teams to convene when considering absences for students with IEPs
 - Requires additional findings from courts before students can be detained for contempt
 - Null and void clause: If specific funding is not set aside for Becca petitions, HB 1170 is null and void

Questions?



Thank You!

- Justice Bobbe J. Bridge (ret.)
 - Phone: 206.696.7503
 - Email: bjbridge@ccyj.org
- Center for Children & Youth Justice
 - Website: <https://ccyj.org/>