Activating Education and Justice Communities to Support Youth in Crisis

Presentation to the League of Education Voters

June 20, 2017

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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
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!

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