

RJ Case Planning Meeting

June 11, 2009

CH, student

The RJ case planning meeting for CH was convened in the (high school) library on Thursday, June 11, 2009, at 4 PM. The plan was for the meeting to last for no more than an hour, but we had a brief delay prior to the meeting being convened and then there was much to be said and done. The meeting was over by about 5:20 PM.

The participants included:

CH
Mother
Step-father
Assistant Principal
Middle School Director
School Resource Officer
Guidance Counselor
Self-Help Coordinator
Drug & Alcohol Counselor
Facilitator

The incident that led to this meeting occurred on Friday 5/29/09, when CH boarded the school bus with, consumed and then brought to school an alcoholic beverage. He also shared the alcohol with a number of younger students. CH voluntarily blew a BAC of .048 later in the morning. The SRO will cite CH into Family Court as this is a criminal issue and CH has not yet turned 16 years old. As for (the high school's) response, this meeting represents a restorative practice employed as an alternative to 10 days of suspension, etc., that could have been imposed under other policy guidelines.

CH was initially given the opportunity to respond to some open questions re: what happened, who was affected and how. The professionals noted above and then (the mother and step-father) were then given a similar opportunity to give their perspective on the situation, how they and the greater (high school) community have been affected and what CH might be expected to do now to address what he did.

The group came up with the following four "next steps" that CH will be expected to take in order to be fully welcomed back into the school community:

- Prepare a written letter of apology to the (high school) community that will include specific reference to the younger students provided with alcohol. CH was encouraged to share drafts of this letter with his parents and any of the professionals in the group for input. Left open was how exactly the letter will be shared, but the administration is likely to limit the number of teachers and students that will hear or receive a copy of the letter. The final draft of this letter will be due to the administration by the end of the day on Monday 6/15 in order that it might be read (or distributed) to designated recipients by Tuesday 6/16.
- Undergo an alcohol / drug assessment within 10 days (by 6/21) and participate in a treatment / counseling program if warranted by the assessment. The results of this assessment will be provided to the administration by no later than 6/22. Chris will provide (the mother and step-father) with a list of providers in (the area).
- Perform 60 hours of community service by the end of the summer overseen by a mentor who is a recovering alcoholic. (The LDAC present) will provide some suggestions re: who may fill this mentor role. The amount of time was determined based on the fact that 60 hours is the approximate amount of time that CH would have been suspended from school had the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Policy been employed instead of this restorative alternative.
- Attend and actively participate in a reconvened group (mostly the same participants but possibly others as well) driven by the Family Court / Criminal Justice process. The timing of this will be dependent upon external factors. (The SRO) will work with... the State's Attorney's Office... to stay on top of this process.

Re-convened RJ Case Planning Meeting

September 3, 2009

[REDACTED] student

An RJ case planning meeting / conference in the [REDACTED] case was re-convened in the [REDACTED] guidance conference room on Thursday, September 3, 2009, at 2:30 PM and was completed by 3:30 PM.

The participants included:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Shannon Stone, mother
[REDACTED] Trevor Stone, step-father
[REDACTED] Craig Shappy, Assistant Principal
[REDACTED] Katherine Fogg, Middle School Director
[REDACTED] Sergeant J.J. Bixby, School Resource Officer
[REDACTED] Thecla Clarke, Self-Help Coordinator
[REDACTED] Tom MacCarty, Drug & Alcohol Counselor
[REDACTED] Kyle Ritterman, Student Assistance Professional
[REDACTED] Chris Dinnan, Facilitator

The incident that led to this meeting occurred on Friday 5/29/09, when [REDACTED] boarded the school bus with, consumed and then brought to school an alcoholic beverage. He also shared the alcohol with a number of younger students. [REDACTED] voluntarily blew a BAC of .048 later in the morning. [REDACTED] Sergeant Bixby cited [REDACTED] into Family Court as this was a criminal issue and [REDACTED] had not yet turned 16 years old.

After introductions, [REDACTED] was given the initial opportunity to respond to some open questions re: what initially happened, what has happened since and what needs to happen now. The professionals noted above and then [REDACTED] Shannon and [REDACTED] Trevor were given a similar opportunity to share their perspective on the situation.

All agreed that [REDACTED] has done all that was expected of him. He is facing the upcoming school year with a new attitude, sense of optimism and commitment. He is playing football and is determined to stay out of trouble. Specifically, since the June 11 conference, he has:

- Prepared and submitted a written letter of apology that included specific reference to the younger students provided with alcohol. This was shared with faculty and some of the affected students.

- Undergone an alcohol / drug assessment and has been attending weekly counseling sessions (with his parents in attendance) since that assessment.
- Performed 60 hours of community service. 50 of these hours were completed through [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED] Program. 10 hours were completed through a local church. He and his parents also met with a recovering alcoholic in [REDACTED].

There was some discussion in the group re: whether what was required of and accomplished by [REDACTED] should be somehow shared (with the necessary release, etc.) with the greater [REDACTED] community. There have been lingering questions as to why he was not automatically suspended for [REDACTED] days as directed by Policy # [REDACTED] and what the consequences for his actions were. In fact, the alternative restorative response supported by Policy # [REDACTED] has not been widely exercised. It was quickly agreed that the specifics of any response need to be held strictly confidential. It was also suggested that a protocol / procedure needs to be developed in order to assure that this option is initially considered and then provided equitably (when deemed appropriate) to students in the future.

There was also discussion about what services may be provided through [REDACTED] to continue to support [REDACTED]. It is expected by the family that there will ultimately be a transition from the current LADC provider. [REDACTED] and his parents will remain in touch with SAP [REDACTED] and CDAC [REDACTED] to address this specific issue. All other professionals in attendance also extended their offer of support to [REDACTED] and his parents.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] shared with the group their response at home with [REDACTED] since the incident. This response includes restrictions that will extend through the school year. For instance, [REDACTED] remains formally "grounded" and will not be allowed to get his license until after the end of the school year and only then based upon whether he has earned that privilege.

It was noted that [REDACTED] has been held accountable for his actions on three levels – home, school, and the juvenile justice system. All in attendance agreed that further action through the juvenile justice system (presumably leading to Court Diversion or DCF / juvenile probation) would serve no real purpose at this point. The group agreed that, given [REDACTED]'s response since the incident and the support of his family and the [REDACTED] community, the pending charge in Family Court should be dismissed.