

## Michigan Juvenile Justice Reform Task Force

### Diversion Working Group

#### Juvenile Court Jurisdiction

- General support for removing status offenses from juvenile court jurisdiction in a phased-in approach, and the discussion focused most intently on developing a process to address youth who are truant –
  - o Define truancy in statute, and establish a process/procedure that schools must engage in before referring a young person to probation on a truancy “referral”
  - o Referrals to probation from schools for truancy shall be in the form of a “referral” but there would be no petition formally filed.
  - o Probation would conduct an “intake” for the youth, and serve as a referral source for that youth/family to get access to services without court intervention. A plan should also be developed to build a community-based infrastructure to support these youth.
  - o Statewide policies would be established to guide service provision and to ensure that no/minimal formal court supervision is provided to these youth
- General support for establishing 12 as the minimum age for court jurisdiction so that younger youth could no longer be referred to the delinquency system, absent committing the most violent offenses.

#### *Concerns:*

- The lack of DHHS moving on educational neglect cases
- How to support runaways in the absence of respite/shelter care options
- Identifying alternative pathways to address needs of younger youth and families and identifying other service systems that can be leveraged
- Avoiding overcharging