



DJS State Advisory Board Fatality Review Findings and Recommendations

April 2021

The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) Fatality Review Team (FRT) presented the cases of youth who suffered a fatality while under DJS supervision. The Fatality Review Subcommittee (FRS) of the DJS State Advisory Board (SAB) also reviewed the cases with the FRT and developed recommendations which were presented to the SAB to review and finalize. Below are the key findings and recommendations proposed by the DJS SAB:

Findings:

- Restitution is a central issue impacting both intake decisions and the length of supervision for youth on probation.
- Families often lack the ability to pay restitution and youth are in school or involved in other interventions and therefore not earning an income.
- Loss of a family member/loved one is a common theme and impacts both DJS-involved youth and the family as a whole.

Recommendations:

- Establish a workgroup or subcommittee of SAB members to examine the restitution issue, work with potential partners to create a system to meet the needs of both parties: young people and those owed restitution, and make recommendations regarding implementation of changes as well as possible proposed legislation for the 2022 general assembly.
- Consider additional ways to support families who suffer the loss of a loved one, including parents and siblings who may benefit from counseling or other services or assistance.
- Make a referral for services and/or assistance whenever a young person suffers a loss.
- Develop mechanisms for referrals to services for family members following the death of a young person.