

## **Schools**

- Access to cyber education to equalize resources and provide assistance to kids with special needs.
- Individual testing, not group testing for improvements (9 votes)
- Local volunteer- extreme makeover of schools (2 votes)
  - Example: Habitat for Humanity type actions to re-do poor schools
- Make sure all schools are technologically integrates (1 vote)
- Do away with social promotion
- Development of a specialized sexual abuse case management program (3 votes)
  - Multi-disciplinary
- Standards and accountability for school facilities and services (4 votes)
- Teachers should gain control over their union to make educating children their primary goal (3 votes)
- Timely reporting of test scores and better utilization of scores to identify each child's needs
- School lunches
  - Low calories, natural vs. processed, balanced
- Improvement of school facilities
  - "Habitat for Humanity" for schools
  - Community service project for juvenile offenders (19 votes)
- Smaller class size (23 votes)
  - Universal standards 15 to 1 in elementary grades
- Financial incentives for teachers in low-income urban areas (3 votes)
- Teachers want:
  - Smaller classes and control over their curriculum

## **Training**

- Create cultural, social, economic, gender, and competencies standards for custody evaluations, judges, court personnel, probation, juvenile courts, CYS, and GALS. (2 votes)
- Five regional focus groups (11 votes)
  - Children who "survive" custody conflicts
  - Audience- sharing their experiences with the disciplines who provide support for children in PA
  - Court education, social service, mental health, medical, legal, parents, etc.
- Mandatory education for judges (15 votes)
  - Domestic violence
  - Drug addiction
  - Expand mental health courts
  - Sexual abuse
  - Cultural awareness
  - Diversity training
- Educate (1 vote)
  - Teachers: to better understand system so they can educate
  - Students: so they know when to get help (so they can educate parents)

- \*Bring professionals into the classrooms regularly
- Cross training on family violence, special needs, etc. (8 votes)
  - With judges, police, attorneys, psychologists to identify issues early and learn the impact on children of violence, acting out, etc.
- Education of parents upon pregnancy (6 votes)
- Violence training education
- Shortage of quality, highly trained MH professionals to work with children (2 votes)
- Connect professional mentors to kid when they are very young (4-11) in low-income communities
- Mentoring- every conference attendee must commit to reach one and mentor one at risk student and child's family (1 vote)
- Education and recruitment of healthy foster families (1 vote)
- Training- coping with emotionally and mentally disturbed kids
  - Awareness
  - General education teachers not equipped
  - Redirecting negative energy of kids
  - Training for judges in mental health
- Teach (15 votes)
  - Parenting in school
  - Regional centers for abused children
  - Evidence based child welfare practices
- Teach nutrition/life skills for all kids
  - Check books, credit, paying bills, child's support, etc.
  - What to do if you get pregnant?
  - Public schools prepare kids for college/SATs, application process, and job interviewing skills
- Outreach program
  - Educate families on resources and educate providers
- Support and educate parents and students in computer technology using community resources

## Law

- Enforce the laws and regulations already in place (2 votes)
- Mobility confidentiality laws to allow easier coordination between education and behavioral health systems (1 vote)
- Pro-bono, legal, clinical- programs working with children's hospitals/clinics
  - Nurses and doctors identify poverty legal issues
  - Referral site to legal services
  - Pro-bono clinical- panel meets periodically to discuss and resolve legal issues (1 vote)
- Legal program- mentoring for foster kids aging out (8 votes)
  - Attorneys do pro-bono work to help kids prepare for adulthood by obtaining various legal documents, health insurance, and help with college application process
- The executive and legislative branches must obey court decisions (1 vote)

- Improve child advocacy and parent advocacy
- Create “youth court” in your community (4 votes)
- The Department of Public Education and the Parent Training Institutes (PTI’s) must disseminate information throughout the Commonwealth to inform parents with disabilities of their right to accommodations and training under federal law (IDEA, Rehabilitation Act, and ADA) to understand the needs of their children with disabilities and to received training in their child’s disability and in meeting the child’s needs for an appropriate education (1 vote)
- Start volunteer lawyer program for children (6 votes)
- Appoint child advocates (lawyer) in child abuse cases
- Multidisciplinary approach to child welfare- dependency advocacy (11 votes)
- To achieve permanency (2 votes)
  - Faster appeals- expedite/appellate panel earmarked for custody/TPR/adoption of child relates issues
  - Funding- preventative services
- Improve custody statutes to more specifically designated factors to be used
  - Assistance of Department of Education, medical community, public welfare (in determining factors) (3 votes)

### **Early Intervention**

- Child as whole- preventative approach (4 votes)
  - Early identification and intervention
- Refer all babies in child welfare system for early intervention screening (15 votes)
- Front load the services and attention to kids (and families) who enter the system (2 votes)
- Involvement of education, CYS, and judiciary at early stages of truancy cases (6 votes)

### **Individual Action**

- Help 1 child at a time, and teach that child to pay it forward (5 votes)
- Being a mentor- schools, shelters, homes (9 votes)
- Mentoring- every attendee of this summit commits to mentor a child in need (5 votes)
- Create safe, appropriate, and fun activities for kids outside school and for support those that exist
  - Example: boys and girls clubs
- Embrace your “discomfort” from J. Kozol’s talk and use to inform and direct your actions every day (5 votes)
- Every person make an individual (whole-hearted) commitment
  - Mentor a child; start an educational foundation for low-income school
    - make it your new hobby
- Create awareness of what opportunities are available to children in child welfare system
- Faith based involvement
  - Services, resources, social services, coordination
- It really does “take a village”- HRC (1 vote)

## Unified Courts

- Supervised (non-CY/CYS) visitation facilities where a child is at hands of one/both parents (1 vote)
- Communication! (1 vote)
  - Parties in custody/family cases (DHS/CYS)
  - Pre-trial conferencing
  - Comprehensive plan
  - Unified-system
- Therapeutic justice via 1 judge 1 family (3 votes)
- Schools: center for all services (2 votes)
- Turn our schools into community centers in the community (20 votes)
  - Tutoring, therapists, medical services, training, GED
  - Use the building
- One judge/One family (6 votes)
- Full focus on child advocacy for a child, a real live, breathing, feeling human being, even at the earliest age (1 vote)
- Pretrial conferences with conciliator that includes the mental health professionals involved with the family

## Health

- Help young parents to preserve families by providing universal day care and health care (13 votes)
- Legal and psych- more study and attention to multiple moves by a child
- Pro-bono or county funded custody evaluation for ongoing therapy (4 votes)
- Free dental screening for all elementary children k-5 with pro-bono services provided by dentists in the community (2 votes)
- Explore ways for civic organizations to provide mentoring to parents and children (7 votes)
- Find a way to get better healthier food served in the public schools (2 votes)
  - “A well fed body....is a well fed mind”
  - National mandate to provides balanced nutritious meals to all public school children
- Every child shall have an annual health assessment at the beginning of each school year (with follow up through) (14 votes)
- Regions to provide mental health services
- The Department of Public Welfare mandate their contractors to provide behavioral health care in the schools and use these services to provide through the parents and staff to intervene early (2 votes)
- Regions to provide holistic care and support
  - Social services
  - Mental health
- Focus on pre-toddler health care
- Emergency drop-in day care for court and medical appointments

- 30-day homeless shelter for women and children (1 vote)

## Collaboration

- Accountability for service providers (6 votes)
- School center of community and services hub of life (6 votes)
  - Services in school: children and parents
  - After school program: children and parents
  - Linkage programs with families
  - Mentoring
  - Empower community/families
  - Community involvement
  - Parent/Truant officer/Mentor
- Resources
  - “Move the Mountain” program
  - Put resources-equalize in areas
- People in community identify problems in their community- empowerment
- Establish a coalition of doctors, lawyers, educators, mental health professionals to form a lobbying group to jointly request educational reform (9 votes)
- Children’s collaborative (state and local) to focus on coordinating plans for kids (2 votes)
- Develop multiple ways to put a face on the statistics for people in power:
  - Bridging the gap
  - Finding ways to reach and connect hearts
    - Ex. Round table conventions bringing diverse people/constituencies together
    - Virtual recording of students exploring that legislative, lawyers, judges are about
- Implement interagency collaboration- get county stakeholders (at local level) together (C&Y, MHMR, Juvenile Probation, Legal services, domestic violence, schools and courts)
  - Commitment to doing something to improve the lives of children-develop program to address needs of particular families
  - Stakeholder- use alternative dispute resolution process
  - Thinking outside the box of agency limits
- Money- schools and teachers invest in communities
  - Service projects
  - Clean-up neighborhood
  - Work with people who are at a disadvantage in other ways (ex. Disabilities)
- Interdisciplinary resource teams in the schools (mental health, legal, court) (10 votes)
- Sustained multidisciplinary
  1. Collaboration (1 vote)
  2. Reverse societal/judicial model perception of family law disputes and problems
  3. Increase input from affected individuals, especially children themselves
  4. Mentorship by professionals from all disciplines (4 votes)

#### 5. Avenue for children to up information to court in family law litigation

- Find a way to incorporate the culture of the community to the educational institutions and create models (2 votes)
- Identify who can take the lead and run with these ideas
- Professionals from various fields of strategic planning event
- School supplies- up-to-date text books
- Nutritionally balanced meals while at school
- Interdisciplinary/inter-systems
  - Cross-training by the way of pediatricians, MH professionals, educators, lawyers, and judges, child welfare professionals (6 votes)
- Lawyers and judges can't fix myriad of non-legal problems that children have alone. Need collaborative team of experts who know and can work with children
- Link between truancy and dependent systems- can't just force kids to go to inadequate violent schools or face removal from parents custody (2 votes)
- Integrate the business community to the education process- the "for profit) sector must see the benefit to them- joint pro-bono efforts (4 votes)
- Create information management system for accountability and communication

#### **Political**

- Improve access to treatment when evaluations ordered by court require treatment (10 votes)
- Evaluation cannot be expected to solve funding issues (12 votes)
  - Pressure must be put on the community and political system
- Invite-broaden our definition of "stakeholders" to bring more people to the table
- Children are out country's ultimate second class citizens: a societal change is needed (1 vote)
- Recognize the connection between proto-military school's and increased criminal behavior and incarceration rates (10 votes)

#### **Funding**

- Loan forgiveness and scholarship assistance for college students majoring in psychology and education (undergraduate) (2 votes)
- Pay the parents the money we used to fund court/juvenile detention- attorney assistance (1 vote)
- State has to find the schools (constitutional mandate)
- Reduce the number of school districts (1 vote)
  - 501 to 67
  - Put savings into teachers and buildings
- Reduce funding per student for cyber schools
  - Drastically reallocate funds
- County based system of education to reduce administrative costs and have all schools receive funding at the highest per/pupil rate
- Funding improvement for the whole human services system and medical system

- All funding to schools for services and resources located in schools as hub
  - Save money- eliminate transportation cost and time- schedule problems
- Less charter schools, more money spent on public schools
- Reallocation of tax dollars fund public transportations (2 votes)
- One pay of Iraq money will solve this (5 votes)
- Make funding available for innovative educational ideas without the necessity to demonstrate immediate results so you could experiment
- Level playing field of distributing tax dollars for education- seize the moment with the legislature
- More equitable distribution of tax dollars for school funding
  - State distribution instead of local distribution based on population of school (11 votes)
- Fund schools equally not based on property taxes (55 votes)
- Put public education funds where it's needed- in the schools that need it most (3 votes)
- Reform has funding formula to provide equitable funding for schools (9 votes)
- Expand funding and opportunities for communities in schools model (schools also offering medical, social services, adult education, child care, after school programs, etc.) (2 votes)
- Eliminate categorical funding for children's services
- School financing restructure allocation to ensure poverty area resources
- Statewide housing- trust fund- to develop and maintain affordable housing
- College scholarships
- Community schools
- Pre-K-12 equitable education funding
- Restructure of funding system for schools to equalize school systems
- Pull money from dependency/delinquency to put money in prevention (6 votes)
  - Treat whole family, school, and community