



# University of New Haven

HENRY C. LEE COLLEGE OF  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND FORENSIC SCIENCES

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Tow Youth Justice Institute

## JJPOC Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2015

LOB, Room 1D, Hartford, CT

2:00-3:30 PM

### Attendance:

Rep. Toni Walker  
Rep. Robyn Porter  
Sen. Gary Winfield  
Dean Esserman  
Martha Stone  
Hector Glynn  
Erica Bromley  
Matthew Lesser\*

Jeanne Milstein  
Kendell Coker, PhD  
Sen. Beth Bye  
Judge Bernadette Conway  
Brian Hill  
Christine Rapillo  
Linda Dixon  
John Frassinelli

Mark Zeck  
Sarah Eagan  
William Carbone  
Jim Isenberg, PhD  
Sara Dudeck  
Dijonee Talley  
Renee LaMark Muir  
Lara Herskovich

(\*Appointing Authority, Speaker of the House Brendan Sharkey)

### Welcome and Introductions:

Representative Toni Walker welcomed members of the JJPOC.

**Acceptance of Minutes:** A motion to accept the minutes was passed unanimously.

### Progress Report Approval:

Ms. Milstein discussed the progress report; indicating that the report summarized the analysis and impact of Raise the Age from more than 70 reports reviewed and the activities of the four work groups: Education, Goals, Recidivism, and Law Enforcement. She further indicated that the TYJI is working on summarizing and consolidating the objectives submitted by the work groups, which included more than 70 pages.

There were no questions on the progress report.

### Progress to Date:

Mr. Carbone stated that one of the major tasks was to set forth goals and objectives for the Juvenile Justice system in order to guide legislators, policymakers and administrators for the next 3-5 years. Mr. Carbone summarized extensive reports, plans, and other documents reviewed by Dr. Coker, which had been presented to the committee at the December, 2014 meeting. He indicated that the TYJI is currently consolidating the recommendations into goals and objectives for a strategic implementation plan. The goals include diversion, treatment and education as well as the overarching goals of reducing disproportionate minority contact and data collection and sharing. He emphasized the important of enhancing treatment and reconnecting youth with the schools upon re-entry. Mr. Carbone introduced Renee LaMark Muir who is developing the plan with TYJI.

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Ms. LaMark Muir indicated that the objectives submitted by the Work Groups are being coordinated within a multiyear strategic plan and will include short, medium, and long-term goals. A cost/benefit analysis will be provided as well. The goals to address the areas of disproportionate minority contact and data collection are embedded in the goals of diversion, treatment and education and are reflected in the objectives. She emphasized the primary importance of determining where the three areas of treatment, education, and diversion intersect for the youth with the highest risk and/or need; followed by goals and projects with more specific or narrow focus in the later years. The strategic implementation plan will outline the work to be conducted over the next three to five years and will including a short, medium and long-term project for each year. A draft of the strategic implementation plan will be prepared for review and approval by the JJPOC at the April 2015 meeting.

Ms. LaMark Muir stated that all of the project recommendations came from the work groups. TYJI staff are consolidating goals by topic, process or policy area, determining the focus of each goal (e.g., research, pilot program, change in statute or administrative policy, etc.), and identifying the scope and resources needed to complete each project by outlining the timeframes for completion of each project into short-, medium- and long-term goals. The strategic implementation plan will first be submitted to the Goals Work Group for priority setting before submission for approval by the JJPOC.

Mr. Carbone indicated that it is important to look at the youth with the highest risk and find short-, medium-, and long-term goals that relate to them specifically because those are the youth that need the attention and will have the biggest impact on public safety.

Senator Bye stated that over the past 12 months, she and Rep. Walker developed a Two Generational (Policy Workgroup) approach that examines how to move families out of poverty. She asked if there is a way to consider that approach as the strategic plan is developed.

Mr. Carbone indicated the suggestion was excellent and will be reviewed. Ms. Milstein stated that it is related to outcomes under the umbrella of the diversion, education and treatment areas. She indicated that it is important to learn about the outcomes for youth and families including school performance, social connections, use of substances and other indicators of well-being.

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**Status of Studies:**

**IMRP Recidivism Study**

Ms. LaMark Muir gave a presentation on the status of the Juvenile Parole Recidivism study being conducted by the Institute of Municipal and Regional Policy, explaining that the definition of congregate care therein will include residential treatment facilities and group homes. Children confined in the Connecticut Juvenile Training School and Pueblo Unit, as well as Judicial detention centers, and Department of Correction Manson Youth Institution are not specifically included in the cohort group selection for this study. The IMRP study will include a graphic flow chart of the juvenile justice process, which prompted discussion about including explanation of how youth enter the system, and move through probation, commitment to DCF and on parole and if any changes are needed. Further discussion revealed that historically, of the 250 youth per year actually adjudicated delinquent by the court, only a fraction is committed to DCF; the majority of youth are on probation or in a treatment facility. Of the youth committed, half are at CJTS or Pueblo, and the other half are in treatment. The IMRP recidivism study limits the definition of juvenile parole to include data from residential treatment facilities and group homes. Technical violations will be included as a subset of new criminal activity and the DCF response to technical parole violations will also be reviewed; important to the study because a pattern of violations can lead to new arrests. TYJI will obtain and review data for youth committed by Judicial to DCF for violation of probation.

**TYJI Study of Congregate Care**

Ms. LaMark Muir has also begun a separate study on conditions of confinement in youth correctional facilities that will include the Connecticut Juvenile Training School and Pueblo Unit, Judicial detention centers, and DOC Mason Youth Institution (for inmates under 18 years) as required by statute in PA 14-217, Sec. 79, for the JJPOC in collaboration with TYJI. This study will focus on secure care for children and its effectiveness and will include conditions of confinement, seclusion and restraint, arrests, quality of treatment and treatment matching and also examine recidivism.

**Presentation on Evaluation of Raise the Age:**

Dr. Kendell Coker updated the JJPOC on the status of analyzing the impact of Raise the Age per the legislation: the study has been completed and the work that remains to be done involves reporting on services, outcomes, and gaps in services.

Dr. Megan Kurlychek and Mr. Eric Fowler, of SUNY Albany, gave a presentation on their study of the impact of Raise the Age.

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Dr. Kurlychek and Mr. Fowler took the entire cohort of 16 year olds who were arrested before the change in 2009 and the entire cohort after the change in 2010 and found a big decrease in the numbers of youth rearrested. Dr. Kurlychek indicated that it appears that services and programs were offered and that arrests were not the only option, indicating that there are other ways, besides arrest, to deal with kids. Dr. Kurlychek stated that every time we keep a youth out of the system that does not need to be there, it is considered a success. Mr. Fowler explained that the raw numbers show a decrease in convictions between 2009 and 2010 as well.

Discussion of the study began with Rep. Walker pointing out that this was an independent study and Mr. Brian Hill emphasized that the study was done without funding from the state out of academic motivation.

Atty. Chris Rapillo asked if the sentencing data includes the time spent in confinement prior to the sentence. Dr. Kurlychek responded that it was not included, explaining that Judges may use the sentence as a scare tactic but may suspend the sentence unless the youth reoffends. Judge Conway stated that it is important to look at pre-trial detention indicating that it is common for youth to spend time in confinement pre-trial, but that it is not included as part of an official sentence. Mr. Hill indicated that it will not officially show up in the system as an official action of the court. Dr. Kurlychek indicated many of the sentences were very short. Ms. LaMark Muir stated that it is important to look at "pre-trial time" vs. "sentence time." Judge Conway indicated that in the juvenile system there is no bail, so that it is likely that bail could impact these numbers as well. Atty. Rapillo stated that this can be significant and is pretty comparable between adult and juvenile court, and that she believes that length of stay of confinement and treatment is likely not very different.

Rep. Toni Walker stated that it is important to focus on rehabilitation in juvenile justice in order to reduce recidivism rates while youth are in state custody and that this care should be continued once they are in the community. She stressed that it is critical to try to change behavior in a young person with more than just an incarceration or confinement and is hoping that this will be discussed going forward.

Mr. Fowler referred to the presentation, and stated that the gap between the juveniles and adults grow larger as time goes on. Mr. Carbone indicated there are higher and quicker arrest rates as adults.

Mr. Fowler stated that there is the same trend between the arrest and conviction sample. Dr. Kurlychek indicated that she would like to conduct research on time served and she would like to do a more formal cost/benefit analysis. Mr. Fowler would like to conduct some qualitative interviews in order to learn more.

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Mr. Carbone pointed out that the research validates the policy that Rep. Walker and former Sen. Toni Harp hoped for in leading the efforts to Raise the Age in CT and recognized that the priority is to rehabilitate youth and increase safety in the community. He stated that that the work that is being done by SUNY Albany, Central CT, UNH and the Tow Youth Justice Institute is taking this project further. Mr. Carbone stressed the importance of understanding how the youth are doing in school, if they are employed, other social indicators and how families are functioning.

Dr. Coker observed that the data shows that recidivism for arrests is higher for Black, Hispanic and "unknown" groups and that the data for convictions is different with Black youth more likely to recidivate.

Dr. Kurlychek explained that they are working on measuring convictions. The race variable changes because the classification of race versus ethnicity was problematic. Rep. Walker stated that she looks forward to the cost/benefit analysis and additional information on race.

**Other Business:**

Rep. Walker distributed a list of proposed bills dealing with juvenile justice and will provide dates for public hearings, emphasizing the importance of expressing ideas.

Atty. Martha Stone reported that there are two important bills, SB 842 and HB 5658, which deal with Education Surrogates for youth in the juvenile justice system. These are important issues that were not included on the list; to which Rep. Walker responded, they will be added to the list.

The next meeting is March 19, 2015.

**The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.**

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