



## JJPOC Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2016

2PM

Hearing Room 1C

### Attendance:

Representative Toni Walker  
Secretary Ben Barnes  
Representative Robyn Porter  
Senator Gary Winfield  
Senator Eric Coleman  
Lara Herosvitch  
Erica Bromley  
Hector Glynn  
Martha Stone, J.D.  
Elliot Soloman  
Joseph D'Alesio

Honorable Bernadette Conway  
Stephen Grant  
Christine Rapillo  
Francis Carino,  
Honorable Patrick Carroll,  
Linda Dixon, Ph.D.  
Commissioner Joette Katz  
John Frassinelli  
Derrick Gordon, Ph.D.  
Sarah Eagan  
Shawn Rutchick  
Astread Ferron-Poole  
Deborah Stevenson, J.D.

John Holland  
John T. Finkle  
Abby Anderson

### TYJI Staff:

Kitty Tyrol  
Jeanne Milstein  
Kendell Coker, Ph.D.  
William Carbone  
Jim Isenberg, Ph.D.  
Sara Jeffries  
Danielle Cooper, Ph.D.  
Renee LaMark Muir  
Aissa Lugo

Representative Toni Walker called the meeting to order and motioned to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded by Representative Robyn Porter and passed unanimously.

Rep. Walker began by discussing Dr. Elizabeth Cauffman and Dr. Edward J. Latessa's presentations that were held at an informational hearing on the morning of February 18, 2016. Rep. Walker thanked Dr. Cauffman and Dr. Latessa for their informative presentations on youth justice and child neurology. Rep. Walker stated that she found the information presented to be monumental in addressing and moving forward with some of the reforms that the State of Connecticut and JJPOC are trying to work on.

Following Rep. Walker's remarks regarding the aforementioned presentations, William Carbone emphasized that the presentations on brain development and reducing recidivism served as underpinnings for the number of recommendations that were approved during the January 21, 2016 and January 28, 2016 JJPOC meetings. Mr. Carbone, Dr. Cauffman and Dr. Latessa discussed the three primary goals of reducing recidivism, reducing incarceration, and increasing diversion "in order to have a better juvenile justice system."

### PRESENTATION: JJPOC Update on Progress by Tow Youth Justice Institute (TYJI)

Mr. Carbone gave an update on the recommendations that were made and accepted on January 21, 2016 and January 28, 2016. He informed committee members that a bill was raised and submitted



by Rep. Walker, Sen. Winfield, and Rep. Porter to implement the recommendations of the JJPOC and the legislative commissioner's office has assigned an attorney to draft the bill that will then be reviewed by representatives of different agencies and completed by the end of next week for the legislative process.

Rep. Walker asked the legislative commissioner's office if it would be possible to get the draft of the bill by the close of February 18, 2016.

Members of the JJPOC will be notified when the bill is scheduled for public hearings and when the bill is ready for review.

Consultant Laura Downs, has been retained by the TYJI to assist in implementation plans.

Mr. Carbone informed the committee that additional funds have been received from the federal government so that the TYJI can partner with the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Specifically, the TYJI will be working with Vincent Schiraldi who has been the head of both juvenile and adult probation in some of the largest cities across the country.

**Transforming Youth Justice: A Leadership Development Program:**

Mr. Carbone discussed the TYJI's new Leadership Development Program, Transforming Youth Justice that would operate every year, bringing mid-level individuals together from public agencies that are involved in youth justice and child welfare, as well as private agencies, advocacy groups and parents. For nine months each year, the program would focus on reform efforts, best practices and leadership development. The idea of the program is to build a work force for the future that will always consist of reformers. The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven provided a grant of \$45,000 for the institute beginning in April.

Kitty Tyrol elaborated on the leadership program focus on evidence-based treatment, topics regarding the reform movement, historical development of reform efforts in the State of Connecticut, adolescent development, family engagement, community engagement and data driven decisions. Dr. Frank Olive, III., of the University of New Haven and TYJI will serve as the evaluator of the program.

**Connecticut Police Executive Juvenile Justice Conference:**

Mr. Carbone discussed the recommendation regarding the training of police officers as an annual event in the State of Connecticut to share what we know about juvenile justice. With the help of Chief Eric Osanitsch, the Connecticut Police Chief Association, and the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council, funding has been obtained to hold the conference for between 30 and 40 police chiefs in the State of Connecticut. The conference will be held on April 7 and April 8, 2016 at the University of New Haven. Dr. Steve Marans from the Yale Child Study Center will discuss adolescent brain development.



Dr. Jim Isenberg explained that the conference will look at the impact of trauma and violence on youth and underscore the importance of diversion while focusing on what is working to reduce recidivism and on building trust between communities and police. Overall, the police chiefs will gain a better understanding of the importance of juvenile justice reform in Connecticut. The police chiefs will be asked how they will take forward what they have learned and apply it in their own departments. Ideally, the police chiefs would be brought back after three months to discuss and learn what is working. Dr. Isenberg described this conference as “groundbreaking” in bringing police chiefs and juvenile justice leaders together. Mr. Carbone added that this conference is fundamental in accomplishing the goal of increasing diversion by 20%.

### **PRESENTATION: Research Studies Scopes**

Mr. Carbone introduced two research project proposals as well as Dr. Kendell Coker, Dr. Danielle Cooper, and Dr. Kento Yasuhara from the University of New Haven and contracted researcher, Renee LaMark-Muir.

#### **A. Mental Health and Trauma among Youth in Secure Confinement**

The TYJI research team presented the scopes of two research project proposals. The goals of the first proposal, “Mental Health and Trauma among Youth in Secure Confinement,” consist of:

- 1) Identifying assessments specific to the mental health, recent traumatic events, and head trauma of youthful offenders;
- 2) Proposing assessments for agency approval that could be included in the existing entry and exit processes at each agency; and
- 3) Waiting until after the proposed multi-year period has elapsed for researchers to assess mental health and trauma amongst youth in secure confinement in Connecticut.

The overall purpose of the proposal is to “assess the mental health and trauma among Connecticut’s youth who are in secure confinement under the supervision of CSSD, DCF, and DOC.” The primary focus of the study would be “youth in confinement combined with the frequent use of isolation, seclusion and restrains within juvenile facilities.”

Dr. Coker shared that ideally, researchers “want to have mental health assessments at all facilities,” which would be a part of the intake process and then again upon discharge. Dr. Coker explained the details of the research study proposals, which were distributed to all committee members.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Sec. Barnes asked if the study would include a peer control group for individuals who are not incarcerated. Dr. Coker stated that there would not be a peer control group but those who recidivate would be similar to a comparison group.

Concerns pertaining to self-reporting tools, parental consent, the adverse effects of incarceration, and the general data obtained in this study were discussed by the JJPOC.



While it was stated that data collected would be used for research only, Dr. Derrick Gordon emphasized that agencies should be trained to use the data they obtain beneficially in treatment planning. Additional concerns included: confidentiality, privacy, gathering of data, and research design.

Rep. Walker stated that by the next JJPOC meeting, which will be held on March 17, 2016, everyone should have a full understanding of the “Mental Health and Trauma Among Youth in Secure Confinement” proposed study and research design.

**B. Pre- and Post-Assessment of Community Based Programs and Recidivism Outcomes:**

The goals of the second study proposal include:

- 1) Requesting multi-agency data;
- 2) Identifying the most commonly used community-based programs for youth under the community supervision of CSSD, DCF, and DOC;
- 3) Identifying agency practices for determining program eligibility versus determining program selection for youths; and
- 4) Assessing program-specific objectives, program completion, and recidivism.

The focus of this study consists of “youths and young adults who are involved with the juvenile justice system and/or the adult criminal justice system in Connecticut from 2005 to [the] present” and will only include “youth who have received community-based services.”

**DISCUSSION:**

Concerns pertaining to redundancy of the study and programs were discussed by the JJPOC.

Rep. Walker emphasized that it is “critical” for the aforementioned research study to go forward.

**DISCUSSION on Next Steps:**

Sec. Barnes proposed the idea of setting aside a subcommittee to work specifically on the Raise the Age legislation and implementation throughout the next year. Individuals interested in serving on the subcommittee can reach out to Sec. Barnes between now and the next meeting on March 17, 2016.

Rep. Walker stressed that a solution is needed for data collection. Conversations regarding concerns of confidentiality and/or privacy need to happen prior to the next meeting on March 17, 2016.

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Carbone thanked Jeanne Milstein for the work she has done with and for the TYJI, child protection, and juvenile justice. Ms. Milstein will be leaving the TYJI and beginning a new job opportunity in New London.

The meeting was adjourned.