



JJPOC Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2018

2:00PM

2D

Attendance:

Ram Aberasturia

Abby Anderson

Sec. Ben Barnes

Kenneth Butricks

Francis Carino

Patrick Carroll

Hon. Judge Bernadette Conway

Linda Dixon

Sarah Eagan

Tais Ericson

Hector Glynn

Derrick Gordon

Susan Hamilton

Steven Hernandez

Brian Hill

John Holland

Elanor Michael

Glen Peterson

Marshall Porter

Robyn Porter

Janeen Reid

Gary Roberge

Martha Stone

Len Suzio

Rep. Toni Walker

TYJI Staff:

William Carbone

Danielle Cooper

Susan Cusano

Gabriela Brito

Rashanda McCollum

Devon McCormick

Erika Nowakowski

Representative Toni Walker called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Rep. Toni Walker asked for a motion to accept the May 17, 2018 meeting minutes. Francis Carino noted that there should be edits made to better articulate what Gary Roberge previously explained in regard to the Judicial Branch’s per diem beds. Gary Roberge provided clarifying language. Edits will be made to the May 17, 2018 meeting minutes to reflect this change. A motion was made by Rep. Toni Walker to accept the meeting minutes and was seconded and passed unanimously as long as the corrections are made.

Update on Progress

William Carbone, from the TYJI at the University of New Haven, introduced Janeen Reid, Steven Hernandez, Chief Marshall Porter, and Ram Aberasturia who have been appointed to the JJPOC as new members. Rep. Toni Walker greeted and thanked the new members for their participation.

William Carbone reviewed the agenda for this meeting.

William Carbone introduced Sarah Eagan, Office of the Child Advocate, to provide an update to Public Act 18-31, Section 7(2): “report on the current conditions of confinement of youth and available services of those detained or incarcerated in correctional facilities, juvenile secure facilities, and other out-of-home placements in juvenile justice and criminal justice systems.” Sarah Eagan explained the process of creating and that report will be released to the JJPOC. Discussion followed regarding this update by the Office of the Child Advocate.



Presentation: Recommendations and Findings from the Study of Multi-Agency Data (2005-2015)

William Carbone introduced Dr. Danielle Cooper from the University of New Haven to present on her presentation, titled “Recommendations and Findings from the Study of Multi-Agency Data (2005-2015)”.

Dr. Danielle Cooper explained that the purpose of this study being discussed was to address the legislative mandate pursuant to Public Act 14-217, Section 79. Dr. Danielle Cooper’s presentation focused on the timeframe of 2013 through 2015 for youth in state-run facilities currently housing youth (Judicial Branch’s Court Support Services Division).

Dr. Danielle Cooper explained the findings of the study. Most commonly, youth admitted were fifteen year old black males. These youth most commonly resided in Bridgeport, Hartford, and New Haven. In addition, offending behavior most commonly occurred in Bridgeport, Waterbury, and Hartford. By the time youth were admitted into pre-trial detention they had been arrested five or more times and most commonly charged with robbery 1st degree, larceny 1st degree, and assault 1st degree.

Based on these findings, Dr. Danielle Cooper presented the following recommendations to the JJPOC. It is recommended that:

...juvenile justice professionals be engaged in a planning process to target youth who have received three or more arrests.

...juvenile justice professionals specifically focus on identifying and implementing responses within communities to reduce system contact for Black male youth.

...facility staff should ensure that demographic information on the youth is up to date and accurate during the intake process.

...juvenile justice professionals continue to identify youth who use drugs versus youth who commit drug offenses but do not use drugs.

...vocational education be expanded to provide economic opportunities that may prevent further system contact.

...potential employers should be engaged so that the benefits and risks of providing job opportunities to justice-involve youth can be better understood.

...data capture more about drugs of choice and drug use habits.

Discussion followed Dr. Danielle Cooper’s presentation, regarding the above recommendations and findings from the study.



Update on OPM Juvenile Justice Recidivism Report

William Carbone introduced Hector Glynn and Abby Anderson, co-chairs of the Recidivism Workgroup. Hector Glynn inquired as to the annual report by Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to measure the effectiveness of the juvenile justice system in Connecticut. Hector Glynn noted that due to Connecticut's budget issues and capacity issues at OPM, this report will not be completed. Hector Glynn questioned the ramifications for JJPOC and the state for not being able to fulfill reports that were mandated by this statute.

Discussion followed regarding the juvenile justice recidivism report.

Update Regarding Transfer of Juvenile Justice Functions from DCF to Judicial Branch

Gary Roberge, from the Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division (CSSD), provided an update regarding the transfer of juvenile justice functions from DCF to the Judicial Branch. Gary Roberge noted CSSD is currently rebidding on secure facilities. Gary Roberge explained that in the meantime, CSSD will be using their detention centers. Due to time restraints during the meeting, Cathy Foley Geib was unable to present. Gary Roberge noted that her presentation would have included an explanation of what CSSD has done to the detention centers in order to prepare for the July 1, 2018 deadline. CSSD is currently finalizing awards for three bids for staff secure facilities in the community.

Gary Roberge thanked everyone at CSSD and Court Operations for all of their help over the last few months in order to prepare for the July 1, 2018 deadline. In addition, Gary Roberge thanked the JJPOC members and the audience for their support.

Rep. Toni Walker thanked Gary Roberge for his update.

Closing Comments

Rep. Toni Walker announced that a subcommittee was developed regarding education. Rep. Robyn Porter and Josh Perry will be the new co-chairs of the education subcommittee of the JJPOC.

Next Meeting: July 19, 2018, 2:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 3:34pm.



*Audio and/or video of the meeting can be found on
[https://www.cga.ct.gov/app/taskforce.asp?TF=20141215 Juvenile%20Justice%20Policy%20and%20Oversight%20Committee](https://www.cga.ct.gov/app/taskforce.asp?TF=20141215%20Juvenile%20Justice%20Policy%20and%20Oversight%20Committee)