



## JJPOC Meeting Minutes

July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

2:00PM

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### Attendance:

Erica Bromley	Eulalia Garcia	Derrick Molden	<b>TYJI Staff:</b>
Francis Carino	Hector Glynn	Ken Mysogland	William Carbone
Hon. Judge Patrick Carroll	Derrick Gordon	Marc Pelka	Danielle Cooper
Hon. Judge Bernadette Conway	Susan Hamilton	Christine Rapillo	Susan Cusano
Rollin Cook	Steven Hernandez	Janeen Reid	Rashanda McCollum
Sarah Eagan	John Holland	Gary Roberge	Erika Nowakowski
Astread Ferron-Poole	Tasha Hunt	Stacy Schulman	Kelly Orts
John Frassinelli	Eleanor Michael	Sen. Gary Winfield	Alex Scranton

Senator Gary Winfield called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Undersecretary Marc Pelka asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes of June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The motion to accept the meeting minutes was seconded and passed unanimously.

Undersecretary Pelka and Senator Winfield welcomed the youth and families who were in the audience for the meeting and recapped their personal experiences of the June Meet and Greet event.

### Update on Progress

William Carbone, Executive Director of the Tow Youth Justice Institute (TYJI) at the University of New Haven, informed the members of the JJPOC that House Bill - 7389 has been signed into law as Public Act 19-187 by Governor Lamont. Mr. Carbone thanked the members of the JJPOC who were involved in the process.

Marc Pelka shared with the members of the JJPOC that Secretary Melissa McCaw had selected Maria Pirro-Simmons, Superintendent of Unified School District #1, to fill an open spot and serve as a member of the JJPOC.

Erika Nowakowski, Director of Youth Justice Initiatives at the TYJI, reviewed how the JJPOC workgroups and subgroups have consolidated their work in order to progress more efficiently with fewer meetings through CY 2019. Also discussed was the coordinated effort between the Council of State Governments, Center for Children’s Law & Policy and Peter Leone to schedule



future visits in a manner that respects the valuable time of all parties involved to minimize duplication of focus groups and data requests. These efforts at consolidation and coordination serve to reduce the burden on the various members of the JJPOC and other employees at their respective agencies.

### **Update: State Department of Education**

Mr. Carbone introduced John Frassinelli, Bureau Chief of Health & Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education at the State Department of Education (SDE) for an update on the statutory requirements of Public Act 18-31, a bill that contains the recommendations of the JJPOC.

The first requirement was to identify an individual in each school district with more than 6,000 students (20 districts meet this criteria) to serve as a juvenile justice liaison. The responsibilities of the liaison include evaluating youth in juvenile justice custody for eligibility to receive special education services, making sure that youth in custody are promptly enrolled in school when they return to their respective districts, ensuring that youth who are returning to school are receiving appropriate credits for the work they completed while in custody and working with the school district to provide them with access to all educational records for the youth during their time in an out of home placement.

Some of the larger districts including Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven and Waterbury have created a position within their district for the juvenile justice liaison while some of the smaller districts have assigned liaison duties to another staff member.

The second set of requirements involved the CT Technical Education and Career System (CTECS). Mr. Frassinelli introduced Jeffrey Wihbey, Superintendent of CTECS, to provide this update to the members of the JJPOC. The legislation called for a shared curriculum between CTECS and SDE. Mr. Wihbey reported that the curriculum of the CTECS schools should be completed and shared by the start of the new school year in August. In addition to the shared curriculum, CTECS has been working on implementing an education, training and work experience service delivery model. This year, CTECS has set up 2 pilot sites in Stamford and Groton for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to participate in technical education and work experience in the afternoons. The trades and training offered would be mindful of the geographic locations within the state in regard to needs of the workforce. CTECS hopes to expand this to an additional 2 or 3 more sites for the following year. The program has no educational or strict behavioral requirements as students would be participating in their required courses in the morning at their home schools. Several members of the JJPOC expressed their hopes that CTECS is mindful when choosing locations for next year that there are locations where youth from the bigger cities can participate.

Lastly, the final requirement was that SDE set up a statewide information technology platform for sharing educational records. Mr. Frassinelli informed the JJPOC that the program is already in place and is called EdSight Secure. It allows authorized users with access to student level longitudinal data including but not limited to; demographics, attendance, course performance, and



behavioral data. A key part of the program is that the Department of Correction, through USD#1, has access to the information as well.

### **Update: Families with Service Needs (FWSN)**

Senator Winfield introduced Erica Bromley, Co-Chair of the Diversion Workgroup, for her update on Families with Service Needs. The data given represented years 2010-2019, however due to improvements and changes in data collection in the state, some charts only had accurate data available from 2014 forward. It was noted that prior to August of 2017, truancy and defiance of school rules were criteria for a FWSN referral, but state law changes removed these criteria post August 2017.

FWSN court referrals dropped from a 10-year high of 4,109 in 2015 to only 152 to date in 2019. During 2018, some of the cities with the most FWSN referrals included Bridgeport (49), Hartford (29), and New Britain (25).

Excluding truancy and defiance of school rules, from 2010-2019 the most common FWSN referrals are for beyond control of the parents/guardian, followed by runaways, and problem sexual behaviors. The most common dispositions from these referrals were supervision, dismissals, not prosecuted and not accepted.

Common reasons for FWSN referrals to be dismissed or not prosecuted include withdrawals from the parents or a nolle from the prosecutor. Common reasons for FWSN referrals to be not accepted include return to parent/guardian, need for additional information, return to school and return to police.

The most common treatment referrals from 2015-2018 were to Child Youth Family Support Centers (CYFSC). Those centers changed in 2019 to become Linking Youth to Natural Communities (LYNC) and remained the most common treatment referral. At the CYFSC and LYNC programs, the most common treatments received were individual service plans, educational advocacy, crisis intervention, prosocial activities, and life skills.

The 12-month re-referral data shows that a majority of kids who go through FWSN referrals remain arrest free and the number who have remained arrest free has increased slightly over time from 2010-2019.

Some of the discussion following the presentation included the possibility of the data being able to be broken down by race at the various points (dispositions, treatments, etc.)

### **Update: Department of Correction on Progress Made Following Release of the Child Advocate's Report**

Marc Pelka introduced Emily Stowell and Anne Trimachi, Counselor Supervisors at Manson Youth Institution (MYI) for their presentation on Programs and Addiction Services at the facility.



At the date of the meeting, there were 43 juveniles incarcerated at MYI, 13 of which are sentenced. Upon sentencing, offenders complete an Offender Accountability Plan (OAP) with the Unit Counselor. The OAP is used to recommend programs for the offender based on criminal history and classification scores. OAP requirements are reviewed every 6-12 months or when new information is received, such as a police report.

Some of the programs currently available at MYI include VOICES, which focuses on victim impact, understanding and sensitivity, Anger Management, Domestic Violence and Unlock Your Thinking, which is designed for offenders to understand the difference between what they are thinking and feeling as well as improving communication skills and addressing avoidance of personal responsibility.

Other programs include Embracing Fatherhood for incarcerated fathers and Life Skills, a juvenile-specific program which provides basic information about hygiene, nutrition, managing money, leisure time and connecting with their community. In addition, there are programs designed to help offenders re-enter the community which involve helping the youth obtain ID's, birth certificates and Social Security cards as well as assisting them in resume writing, interview techniques, and housing and education options. Juveniles also have the ability to participate in volunteer-run programs such as the Mentoring Program pairs the youth with an individual mentor to discuss re-entry into the community. Yale students lead groups on current events and tutoring and certain juveniles have the opportunity to earn college credits through Yale which include basic drawing and painting and a writing course.

The Addiction Services provided at MYI are separated by tiers. Tier 1 is a 9-week program that provides substance use education and information on healthy decision making. Tier 2 is a 10-week program for juveniles who have been identified as having used substances in the past and it led to significant problems in their life. The Tier 3 program is called 7 Challenges. It is 6 months long and is a more in-depth program for the juveniles with the most intense addiction service needs. Through grants, MYI is implementing a SMART program for additional youth as well as family and friends affected by the youth's addiction. There are also opportunities to participate in volunteered 12 Step programming.

Following the presentation, the members of the JJPOC thanked the presenters and engaged in a discussion. One of the topics discussed was the availability of the above programming for the juvenile specific population of MYI.

**Next Meeting:** September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 2:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.

\*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_Juvenile%20Justice%20Policy%20and%20Oversight%20Committee)