

# ***Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee***

***Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020***

***Legislative Office Building***

***2pm Room 2E***

# Progress Report

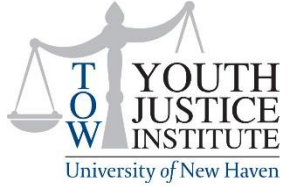
- Recap of January 16<sup>th</sup> 2020 meeting & Recommendations Adopted
- Recommendation from the Work Group to Integrate Community Voice
- Recommendations from the Education Committee
- Update on Recommendation from the Incarceration Work Group

# January 16, 2020 Meeting Review



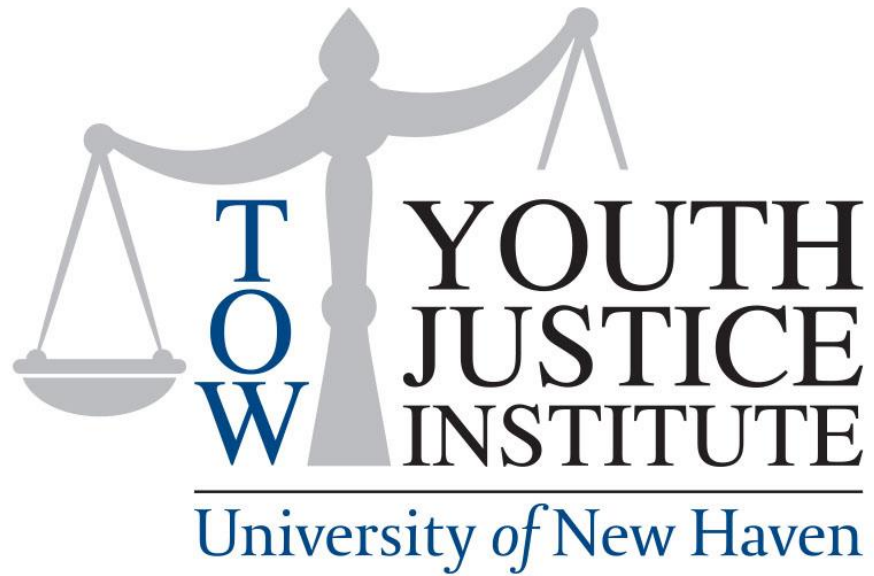
- *Diversion Recommendations Passed:*
  - Legislation for raising the minimum age of juvenile court jurisdiction from seven years to twelve years on July 1, 2021. The development of a plan for ensuring that a child who would have been referred to the juvenile court system will instead be referred to the Children's Behavioral Health System (DCF), the Community-Based Diversion system, and/or other community-based services.
  - Beginning July 1, 2020, the legislature and the Governor fund implementation of the community-based diversion system.
  - The development and implementation of a funded statewide data-base system within the Youth Service Bureau System

# January 16, 2020 Meeting Review (cont.)



- *Incarceration Recommendations Passed:*

- The laws on juvenile transfer be amended to limit both the number of cases eligible for mandatory and discretionary transfer in order to decrease the population of youth in the adult criminal justice system.
- A “second look” provision be adopted for all youth transferred to adult court who receive sentences of incarceration. This “second look” will require a sentence review within 50% of their sentence, or by their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday (whichever comes first) to determine the need for continued incarceration.
- Legislation be proposed to provide the automatic erasure of certain juvenile records, and elimination of the petition requirement that exists in current law which youth and families rarely avail themselves of.
- Beginning July 1, 2020, telephone services or any other telecommunications services provided to a child confined in a correctional facility or transferred to DOC shall be provided free of charge. Beginning July 1, 2020, a committee be established to study phone call rates and commissary needs for all youth, 18-21 years of age, confined in Connecticut correctional facilities, and such committee shall make recommendations to the General Assembly and Department of Administrative Services prior to the renegotiation of the current prison phone services contract set to expire March 1, 2021.

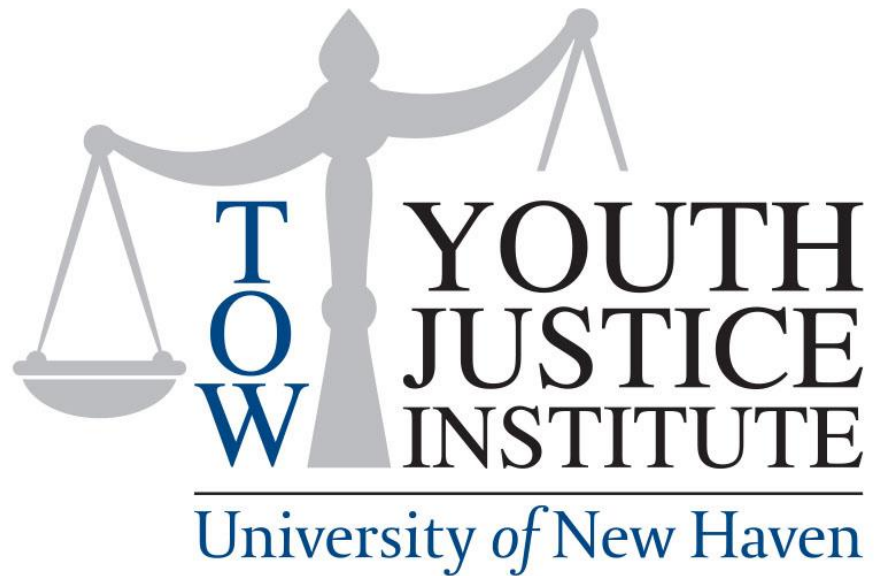


***The Work Group to Integrate  
Community Voice Proposed  
2020 Recommendations***

# The Work Group to Integrate Community Voice



- Recommendation:
  - A. The General Statutes be amended to increase the membership of JJPOC by two community members and two youth (must be under 26 years of age) with first or second-hand justice system involvement. Funding should be provided for stipends, transportation, and childcare to enable member attendance.



***Education Committee  
Proposed 2020  
Recommendations***

# Look Back

- 2016: PA. 16-147 Sec. 14 “An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the JJPOC”
  - “DOE, DCF, DOC, JB-CSSD to develop a plan no later than August 2017 for assessing and addressing the individual educational needs and deficiency of children in the JJ and those re-entering the community...”
- 2017 Recidivism Workgroup
- 2018 Report was produced and submitted to JJPOC “Transforming Education for Youth in CT’s Justice System, by Josh Perry Jan. 2018.
- PA 18-31 (q): “[D]evelop a detailed plan...**identification of a single state agency**”

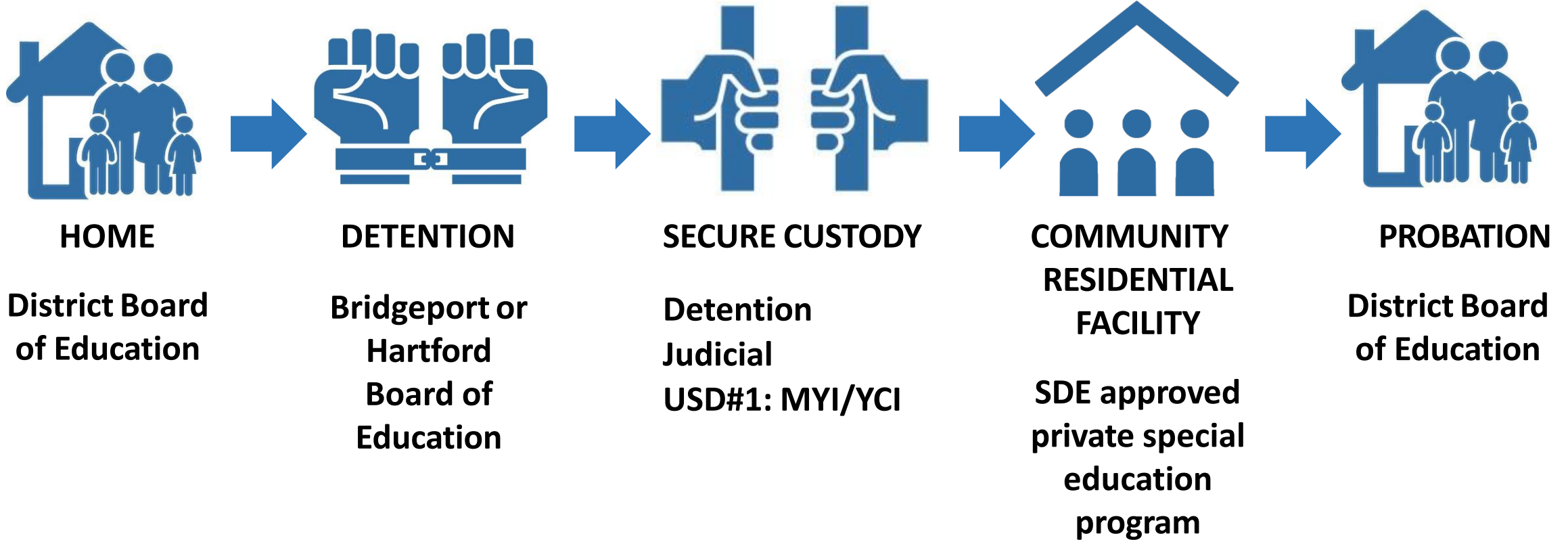


# Education Committee Timeline



- July 2018 Education Committee formed:
  - Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch designee
  - Bridgeport School District designee
  - Hartford School District designee
  - Department of Correction designee
  - An expert in state budgeting expert- Office of Policy and Management
  - Experts in education in justice-system settings- Juvenile Justice Policy & Oversight Committee
  - Advocates
- Education Committee Chairs: Rep. Robyn Porter and Amy Vatner
- TYJI subcontracted with Dr. Peter Leone

# JJ Out-of-Home Placement: Fragmentation in Education



# Education Providers at JJ Out-of-Home Placements

- DOC (Incarcerated Youth)
  - Manson Youth Institution and York Correctional Institution
  - USD#1 provides education
- Juvenile Detention Centers
  - Bridgeport Board of Ed. & DOMUS (through Hartford Board of Ed.) provide education
- CSSD-Placement at Private Residential Facilities
  - SDE-approved private special education schools

# Education Committee Proposed 2020 Recommendations



- Recommendation 1

- A. Current legislation be amended to expand USD #2 (DCF school district) and authorize it to provide for the education of youth in all juvenile justice out-of-home placements including incarcerated youth.
  1. The expanded USD#2 may hire its own personnel, and/or subcontract to private providers and/or other school districts for the provision of services.
  2. The expanded USD#2 will create an advisory board of interested parties including, but not limited to, members from:
    - Judicial Branch CSSD
    - DOC
    - SDE
    - the community; including, but not limited to, members with expertise in provision of education, mental and behavioral health services, social work services, and advocacy.

# Education Committee Proposed 2020 Recommendations



- Recommendation 1 (cont.)
  3. USD#2 is authorized to operate as other school districts function within the state.
  4. USD #2 will be adequately funded and resourced to accommodate for its expansion.
  5. USD#2 administration will develop and review quarterly reports on academic performance, school discipline, attendance, etc.
  6. USD#2 administration will require subcontracted education providers (no less than semi-annually) to provide student performance data to ensure that reporting measures are tailored to experiences of students in short and long-term placements.
  7. USD#2 administration will require education providers to develop partnerships and programs with local education agencies, non-profit cultural groups, local industries, and businesses.

# Education Committee Proposed 2020 Recommendations



- Recommendation 1 (cont.)
  8. In all instances where there is a nexus, local LEAs will retain responsibility for the cost of educating their pupils within USD#2 and will reimburse USD#2 for such costs.
  9. USD#2 will be required to report student performance data, attendance, and rates of participation for all education programs. They will also be required to document transition activities and outcomes, collaborations with community service providers, and parents.
  10. USD#2 will ensure that students earn credits toward high school graduation, have access to arts and career and technical education (CTE) courses, statewide and college prep testing, and provide alternative options for HS equivalency certificates for students who are overage and under credits.
  11. USD #2 will enable students to have access to web-based content including credit recovery programs.

# Reasoning Behind Recommendation to Expand USD#2



- Primary goal to identify one agency responsible for education of all youth in JJ placements (avoid inconsistency, obey mandate of PA 18-31)
- Secondary concern to build on existing capacities/frameworks for a small total student population (less than 200 students)
- USD#2 = one agency with existing education district framework AND...
  - Natural philosophical alignment with DCF youth welfare mandate
  - DCF experience in educating youth in Solnit

# Education Committee Proposed 2020 Recommendations



- Recommendation 2
  - A. USD #2 *employ transition specialists* whose primary responsibility is to facilitate the successful transition of youth from secure facilities back to the communities. These transition specialists shall:
    1. Collaborate with receiving schools, youth serving agencies, employers, and other community supports to plan and manage successful transition.
    2. Manage to track educational credits of youth while in out-of-home placement and document the success of placements following youths' reentry into their communities.
    3. Be responsible for communicating with the reentry coordinators. This information will be used in reporting by the receiving district LEA or the district of nexus, if applicable.



# Education Committee Proposed 2020 Recommendations



- Recommendation 2 (cont.)
  - B. Reentry coordinators (established per PA 18-31 Sec. 7(q)) shall be responsible for obtaining records of youth in juvenile justice out-of-home placement and assisting in transfer of the records to the facility.
    - The list of reentry coordinators shall be distributed to system stakeholders, including DOC, DCF, CSSD and parents of students. This list should also be made public and displayed on the SDE website.
    - SDE should implement and maintain a current list of reentry coordinators. This list should be reviewed and updated concurrently with the August 1<sup>st</sup> statutory guideline. In districts under enrollment of 6,000, an alternate will be identified to coordinate the reentry process.

# Education Committee Proposed 2020 Recommendations



- Recommendation 2 (cont.)
  - C. An amendment to C.G.S § 10-253 (g)(7) & (g)(8) be made to read, “(7) When a child is not enrolled in a school district at the time of a juvenile justice out-of-home placement, or upon discharge does not return to the same school where the child was previously enrolled,” “(8) Upon learning that a child is to be discharged, the educational services provider for the facility shall immediately notify the jurisdiction in which the child will continue his or her education after discharge. A child shall have the right to enroll in such school district immediately upon discharge into the community, as provided in subsection (7).”

# Education Committee Proposed 2020 Recommendations



- Recommendation 2 (cont.)
  - D. Legislation to require special education students in juvenile justice out-of-home placements, when at all possible, be provided PPT meetings upon entry and in advance of their discharge to plan for their program and placement in their receiving school district.
    - For youth who are sentenced or given an order of probation supervision with residential placement, a transition PPT meeting should be held 30 days in advance of the youth's known date of discharge. Both the discharging and receiving school district shall participate in this PPT meeting and a person knowledgeable about the continuum of programmatic offerings available in the receiving district shall participate in the meeting.

# Education Committee Proposed 2020 Recommendations



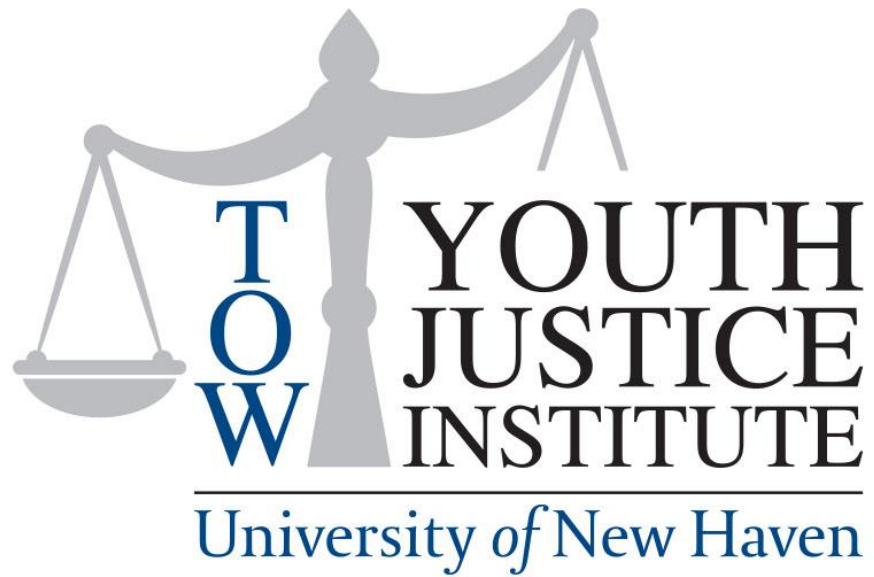
- Recommendation 3

- A. USD#2 ensure that sending and receiving schools and programs provide services and supports that maximize student's success.
  - 1. Use a uniform system of state-wide electronic record transfers (i.e. PowerSchool, PSIS) for maintaining and sharing educational records for all students, including court-placed youth in educational programs, to be overseen by a Directory Manager as designated by USD#2 and align with the IEP Task Force.
- B. A student's home district should be mandated to offer home district diplomas earned by students 17 and above graduating while in educational programs for court-placed youth who meet the statutory graduation requirements. If no nexus district can be determined, DCF will participate in the determination of credits and facilitate in the issuance of a diploma. There should be flexibility and collaboration in this process with the student's home district and special school districts.

# Education Committee Proposed 2020 Recommendations



- Recommendation 3 (cont.)
  - C. State-wide expectations should be established for ensuring credit transfers/partial credit transfers.
    1. Classroom hour-to-credit conversion should be standardized within USD #2
    2. Credits should be awarded as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days of the transfer to the home district.
    3. At intake, it is recommended that a review be done of the student's transcript and attendance records to determine educational requirements up to graduation. Credits should be transferred from the home district within 5 school days of students' placement.
  - D. A timeframe should be established for updating educational records pre-discharge.
    1. At a minimum, educational records should be up-to-date per marking period, as well as immediately upon discharge.

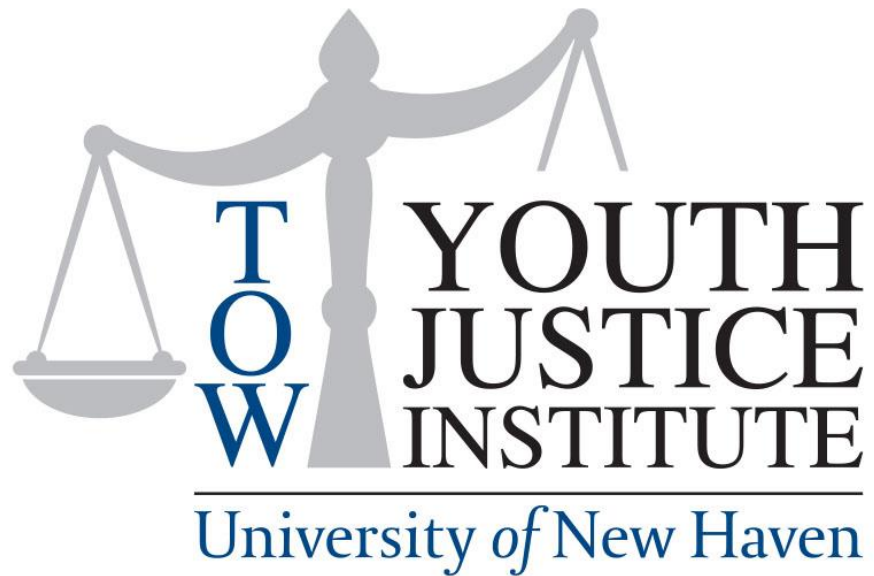


***Update:  
Incarceration Workgroup***

# Incarceration Work Group Amended Language

- Christine Rapillo, Chief Public Defender
- Judge Bernadette Conway

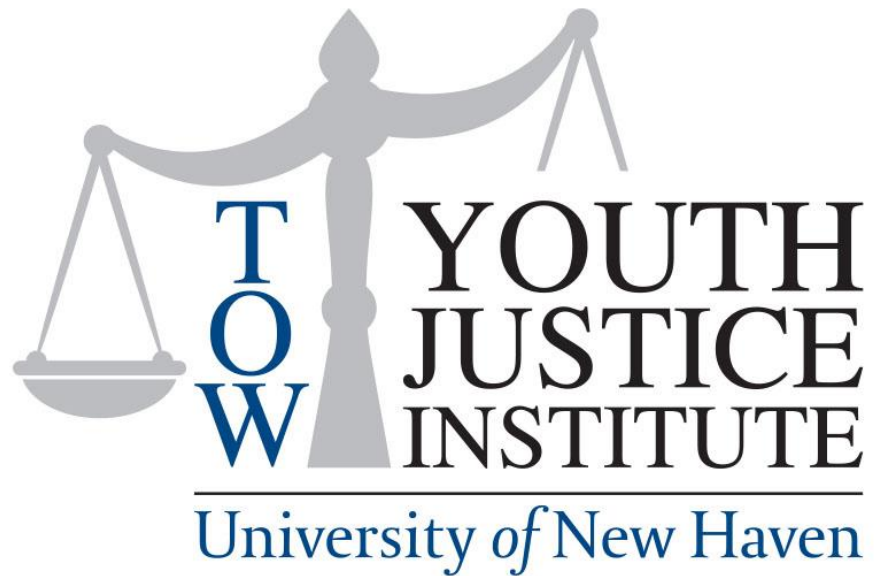
\* See DRAFT handout in folder\*



***Discussion***  
***Next Steps for Legislation***

***Rep. Toni Walker***





***Next JJPOC Meeting***  
***March 19, 2020***  
***2:00-3:30 PM***