

Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee

June 17th, 2021

2pm-3:30pm

Zoom Meeting

Opening Remarks

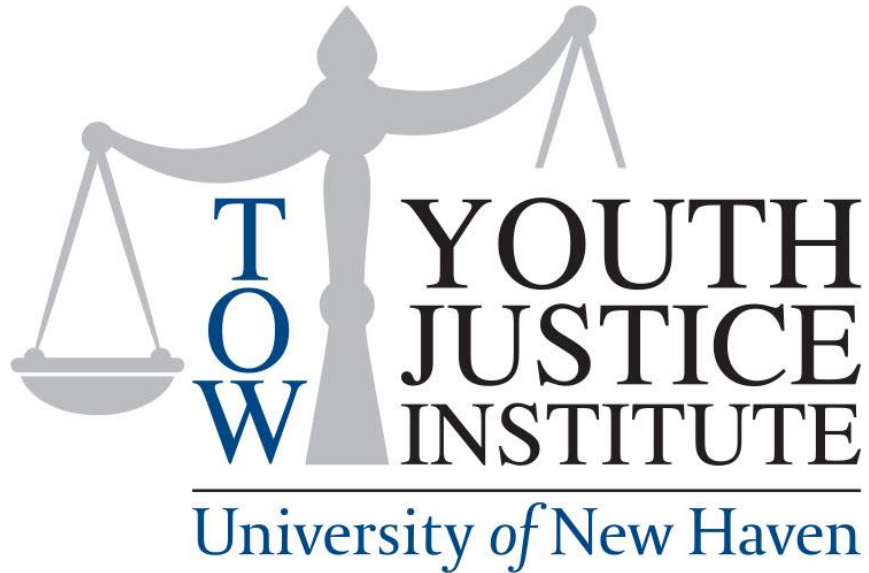
- Meeting facilitation
 - Meeting is being recorded
 - Remain “muted” on Zoom, unless speaking
 - Refrain from interrupting with comments or questions until each presenter is finished speaking
 - Questions and Comments will be limited to JJPOC members
 - Use the “Chat” and “Hand Raising” feature so TYJI can help monitor and facilitate the meeting

Meeting Overview

- Acceptance of the May 2021 Meeting Minutes
- Final Update on the IOYouth Project
- Presentation on the Youth Employment Program
- Recap of the Youth-Led Vision Session with the Executive Committee
- Discussion on the JJPOC Bill



The Council
of State
Governments



Connecticut IO Youth Recommendations Status Update

Nina Salomon, Program Director,
Juvenile Justice
Council of State Governments

Recommendations resulting from the IOYouth process were organized into four key “implementation” buckets.



JJPOC Legislation

- Expand pre-arrest diversion
- Shift pre-trial detention responsibility

CSSD Implementation

- Increase diversion of low-risk youth
- Establish QC processes/policies to reduce use of detention
- Ensure probation with placement decisions are made in a data-driven, equitable way
- Strengthen case management and family engagement
- Strengthen service processes

Equity

- Develop equity dashboard to ensure a data-driven focus on system inequities

JRBs/YSBs

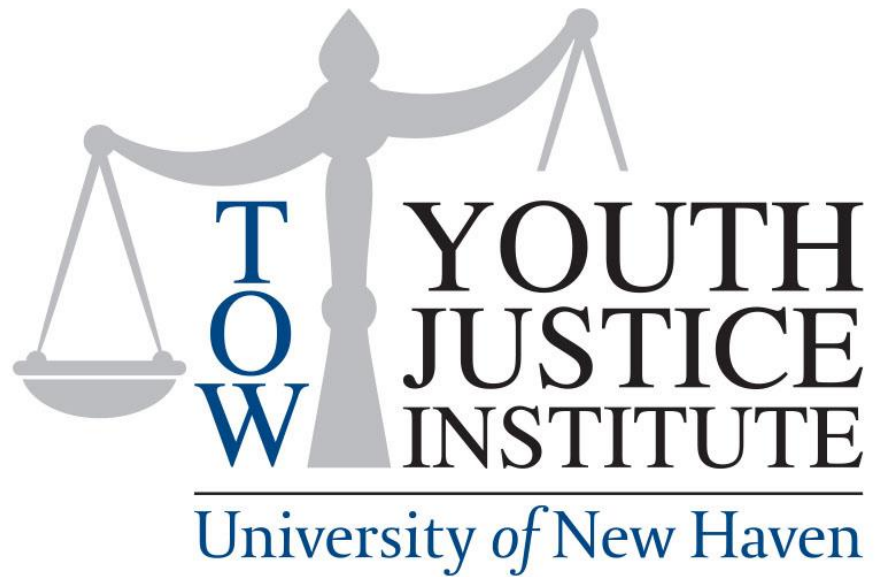
- Examine YSB/JRB model and determine if best/most efficient use of resources
 - Pilot best practices
 - Conduct landscape analysis

Progress on the YSB/JRB recommendations has stalled since January.

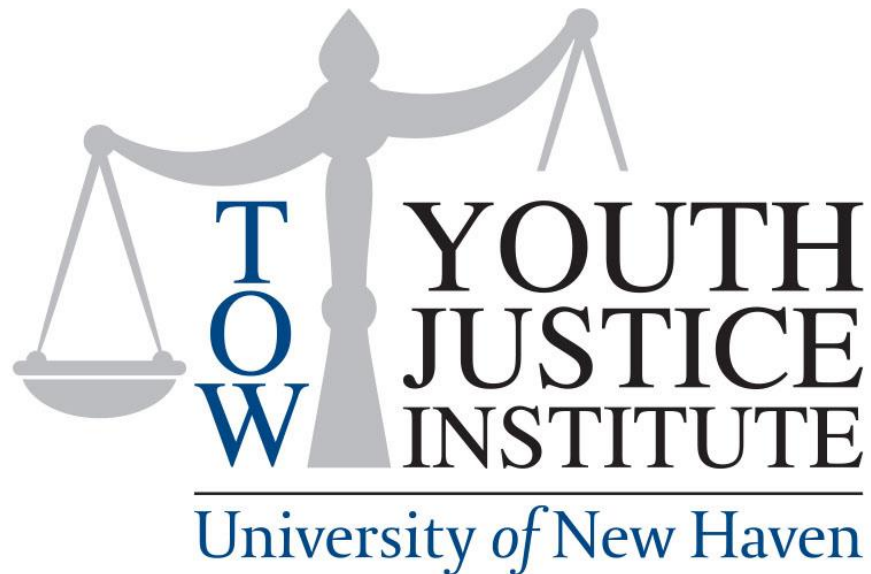
- Since the recommendations were approved in July, a small implementation team (DCF, TYJI, OPM, CYSA) has met multiple times with the support of CSG to discuss implementation of a pilot and next steps in conducting a landscape analysis.
- The team stopped meeting in January, due to a need for clear direction on next steps, priorities, available resources, and timeline.
- Questions that need to be addressed in order to move forward:
 - Should CT prioritize the pilot or conduct the landscape analysis? Can both be done simultaneously? How should these two pieces be sequenced?
 - What capacity and resources exist to support these activities?
 - What is the timeline for these activities?

CSG recommendations....

- Given all of the previous assessments and analyses that have been conducted to date, including IOYouth, Connecticut has a good understanding of what is working and where there are gaps with regards to the YSBs/JRBs.
- Connecticut should prioritize the implementation of the pilot, in order to assess the capacity of JRBs to take on an expanded and strengthened diversion role and consistently adopt research-based policy and practice standards.
- The JJPOC diversion working group can help DCF and others develop the parameters of the pilot and use the information gleaned to make recommendations to the JJPOC for policy change on how to move forward with the JRB/YSB system.



Questions?



Summer Youth Employment Program

Mark Polzella, Employment Program
Director of Work Force Development
Administration

Lisa P. Sementilli, Grants and Contracts
Specialist
Department of Labor

Outline

- **Overview of Connecticut's Workforce Structure**
- **Connecticut youth program overview**
- **Current services**
- **Youth Voice, Youth Survey**
- **COVID adaptations**
- **State Partnerships...Mental health innovations**
- **Successes**



Youth Employment Funding

~ \$5M state general fund

~ \$500-700K DCF-DOL Youth Employment & Training, using Chafee and state funds

+funds from DADs, CARES, ARPA for subsidized wages, career awareness and exploration, training, job readiness and supports like bus passes

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
– federal youth program funds: \$7.5M



Expanding Partnerships

- Direct referrals to/from DMHAS Young Adult Services/youth providers. YASBIZ is helps young people develop businesses
- CT DOL direct marketing to employers & youth via social media
- Collaborations w/ DADs & CSSD to increase the numbers of justice-involved youth & w/ disabilities
- “ w/ DEEP to recruit seasonal workers
- Enhanced partnerships, supports, trauma-informed trainings for providers build in more equity for marginalized youth

Training: Building in Equity

- Youth Mental Health First Aid for providers and WDBs designed to teach parents, family members, school staff, peers, and others how to help adolescents experiencing mental health/addiction challenges
- This year: mobile crisis services, suicide prevention, Turning Point.Org, racialized trauma + for providers
- Direct training support for YOUTH on mental health, self-care and racialized trauma

Success Stories, Innovations

- EWIB partnerships with AHEC and DEEP
- COVID responsive
- Career pathway oriented; links to WIOA Youth programs
- CWP partnerships with local youth agencies such as Our Piece of the Pie, Ebony Horsewomen, local arts organizations and community mental health agencies



Career Pathway Example: Health Care



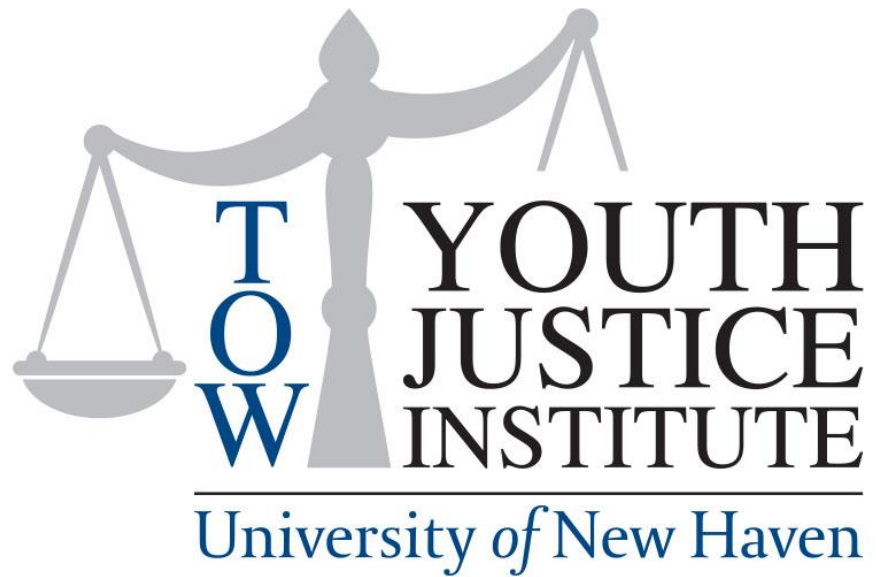
What's Next...

- Collaborations with other state agencies
- Career pathways
- Continued research on best practices across US
- More emphasis and funding for in-demand sector training, mentorship, employer engagement, support for food security

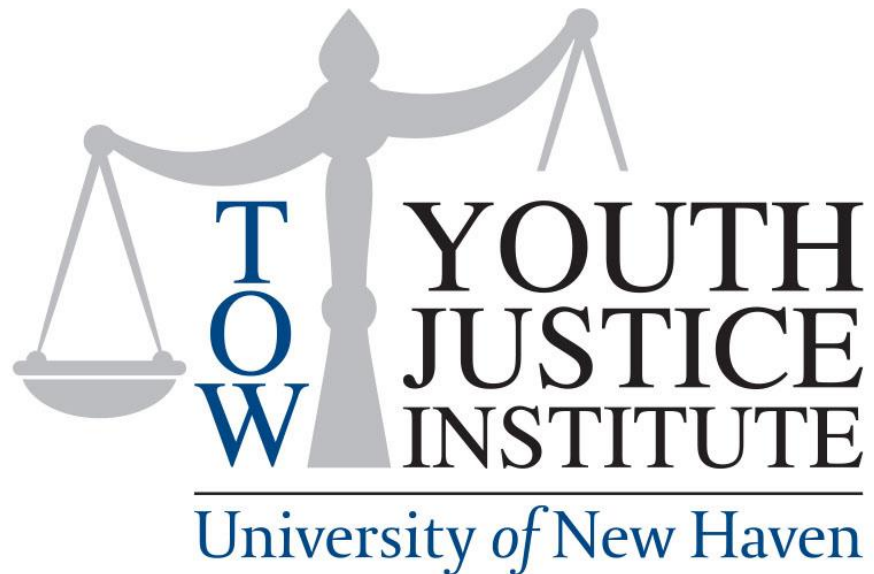
Questions

Mark.Polzella@ct.gov

Lisa.Sementilli@ct.gov



Questions?



***Recap of the Youth-Led Vision
Session with the JJPOC
Executive Committee***

Iliana Pujols, Co-Chair of the Community
Expertise Workgroup

Questions Discussed

1. In what way do you think the JJPOC can do better at working with directly impacted youth, parents, and community?
2. Workgroups work year-round to create strong recommendations for the entire JJPOC. Editing/not approving the recommendation can be easily done. How can this approach be more mindful of the work that the groups have done?
3. What do you think are some of the barriers to creating juvenile legal policies that are focused on addressing root issues and less focused on punitive approaches?

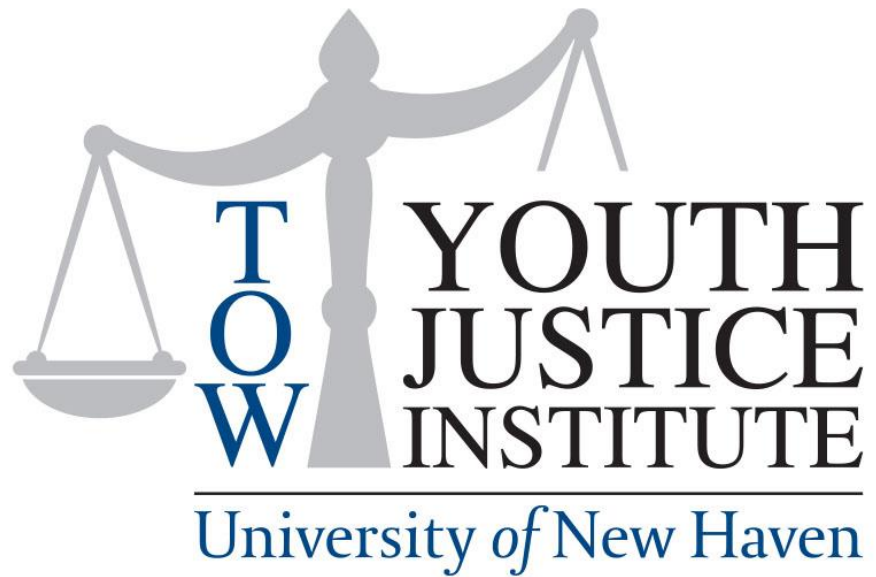
Questions Sent for Written Response After Session

1. How did the removal of section 2 make you feel as we are trying to ensure the leadership and inclusion of directly impacted voices?
2. In what ways do you think the current juvenile justice system that exists may be doing more harm than good (or vice versa) for young people?
3. How do you think racial and ethnic disparities impact communities?

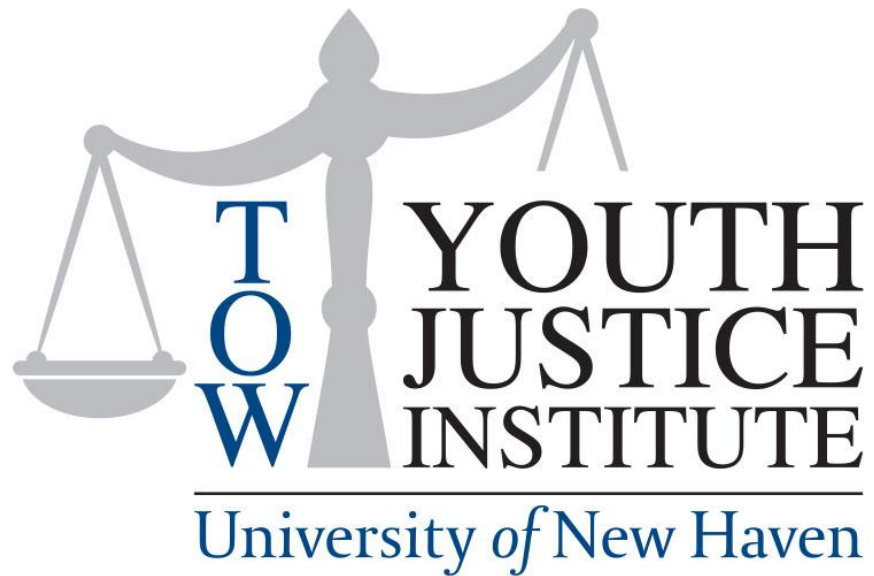
You can email Iliana with your responses: Iliana@ctja.org

Next Steps

1. CEW will review feedback to identifying recommendations to help guide the work of the CEW for the rest of 2021 (As we just recently merged the youth and parent group)
2. Work on scheduling a part two of this discussion



Questions?



***Discussion on the
JJPOC Bill***

Rep. Anthony Nolan

Diversion Recommendations



JJPOC Recommendations	Passed Legislation
Raise the Minimum Age to 12	Raise the Minimum Age to 10
Develop plans for mandatory pre-arrest diversion of low-risk youth	Establishes an implementation team to develop two plans concerning mandatory pre-arrest diversion of low-risk children

RED Recommendation

JJPOC Recommendations	Passed Legislation
Pedestrian stop data collection	Removed

Education Recommendations

JJPOC Recommendations	Passed Legislation
Establish DCF administrative oversight for educational services of youth in juvenile justice facilities with an implementation plan	Passed as is
Recommendations on improving re-entry	Passed as is
Recommendation on standardizing credit transfers	
Phased-in ban of school suspension and expulsions	Establish a committee to study the effects of and possible alternatives to suspensions and expulsions of students in any grade and complete a report concerning the effects of and alternatives to suspension and expulsion of students

Incarceration Recommendations

JJPOC Recommendations	Passed Legislation
Limit transfer to adult court	Removed
Automatic erasure of juvenile records	Requires CSSD to provide the child and the child's parent or guardian written notice of this when the child is discharged and when the child turns 18 if the child was discharged prior to age 18.
Free phone calls for incarcerated youth	Passed through another bill
Study telephone call rates and commissary needs for 18- to 21-year-olds incarcerated in DOC facilities	Passed as is
Ban use of chemical agents on incarcerated youth in DOC	Requires the DOC to review the department's use of chemical agents on anyone under age 18 and report on the review to the Judiciary Committee by February 1, 2022.
Pre-trial youth to be housed in CSSD	Passed as it

CEW Recommendation

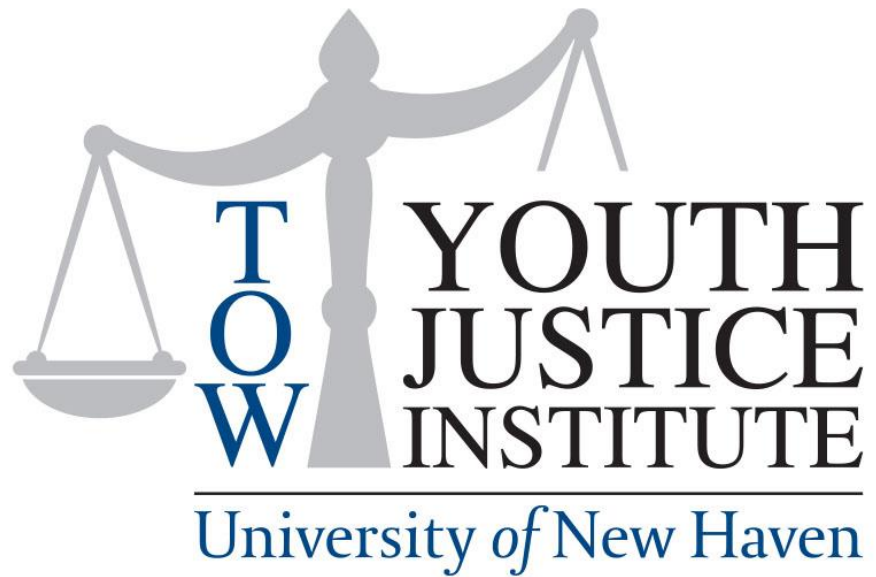


JJPOC Recommendations	Passed Legislation
Youth and Parent JJPOC Members	Removed

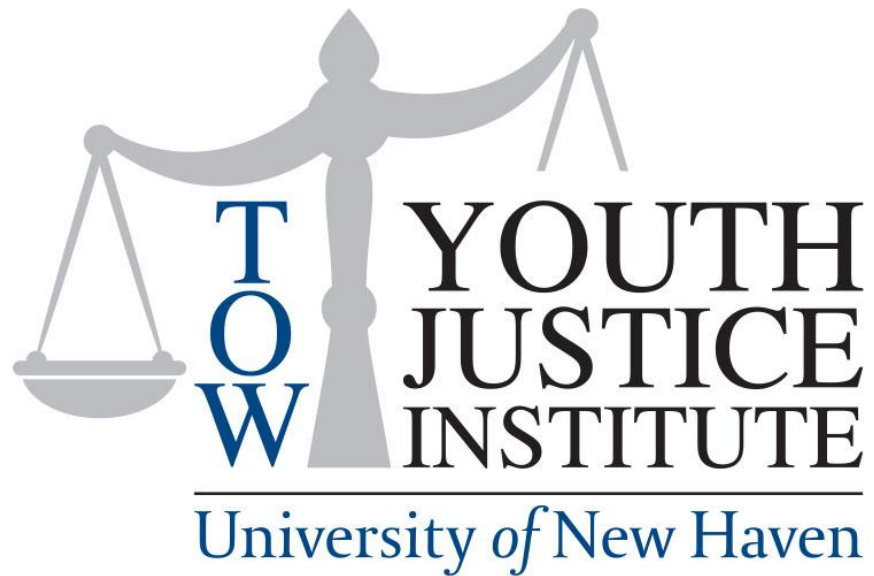
Executive Committee Recommendations



JJPOC Recommendations	Passed Legislation
Data Collection up to age 21	Removed



Questions?



Next JJPOC Meeting
July 15th, 2021
2:00-3:30 PM