



**JJPOC Meeting Minutes**

November 23, 2023

2:00-4:00 PM

LOB – 300 Capitol Avenue Hartford, Room 1E

Virtual Option Available

**Attendance:**

Amy Marracino	Hector Glynn	Sharmese Walcott	<b>TYJI Staff</b>
Anthony Nolan	Jillian Gilchrest	Talitha Coggins	Bill Carbone
Betty Ann MacDonald	John Frassinelli	Tammy Nguyen O’Dowd	Brittany LaMarr
Derrick M. Gordon	Joshua Bernegger	Tais Ericson	Danielle Cooper
Erika Bromley	Lisa Sementilli	Thea Montanez	Erika Nowakowski
Elizabeth Bozzuto	Marc Pelka	Toni Walker	Hunter Clark
Gary Roberge	Michael Pierce	Vanessa Dorantes	Paul Klee
		Veron Beaulieu	Shelby Henderson

**Welcome and Introductions**

Undersecretary Marc Pelka welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that Representative Toni Walker is unable to attend the meeting in person today. Representative Nolan, filling in as co-chair for this meeting, welcomed everyone to the meeting as well.

**Acceptance of JJPOC Meeting Minutes**

A motion to accept the October 19, 2023, meeting minutes was made. The motion was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

**Overview of Meeting and Announcements**

Undersecretary Marc Pelka announced that today’s meeting would include a presentation by State of Connecticut Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (JBCSSD) about order to detain policies and the juvenile delinquency flow chart, followed by a presentation by the Cross Agency Data Sharing Workgroup regarding their annual report and an Equity Dashboard update, and then ending with a presentation about the P20WIN initiative.

In the October 2023 meeting, there was a call for co-chair applications for the JJPOC Incarceration workgroup. Rep. Walker and Marc Pelka have interviewed and excited to announce the new co-chair will be Ms. Sharmese Walcott. Ms. Walcott has vast experience in



working with young people in various stages of the system, work with ROCA, and continued involvement with the Incarceration Workgroup and JJPOC.

Erika Nowakowski of the Tow Youth Justice Institute reminded the committee about using the QR code for attendance keeping for JJPOC members or designees only. JJPOC legislative recommendations will be presented to members in November for a vote to take place in December. These recommendations spanned various workgroups, including Incarceration, Gender Responsiveness, and Education. Members were reminded that feedback on these recommendations was due by Monday, December 4. The finalized package of recommendations is to be sent out on Monday, December 11, with a voting meeting for the finalized package of recommendations scheduled for Thursday, December 14.

## **JJPOC Legislative Recommendation Timeline**

- JJPOC 2023 Recommendations Released- Monday, November 20, 2023
- JJPOC Member Feedback Due by Monday, December 4, 2023
- JJPOC Final Package of Recommendations Sent Out Monday, December 11, 2023
- JJPOC Voting Meeting, Thursday, December 14, 2023

## **JBCSSD Order to Detain Policies**

The Justice and Behavioral Support for Juvenile Services and Detention (JBCSSD) presented a procedure for obtaining an Order to Detain a juvenile in Hartford or Bridgeport. An Order to Detain is an application or affidavit that law enforcement will seek to obtain from a judge subsequent to a custodial arrest to detain a juvenile they have in custody. Once an Order to Detain is granted, they will take the juvenile to the residential center within their jurisdiction. The process, formalized in 2021 pursuant to general statutes, implemented formal procedures for providing law enforcement officials with juvenile delinquency and adult court records for purposes of obtaining an Order to Detain for a juvenile taken into custody. The law enforcement procedures begin with the arresting officer taking the child into custody and completing the Order to Detain and the Law Enforcement Request for Court History for Purposes of an Order to Detain. The police officer then is responsible for notifying the local Juvenile Probation Supervisor or the Residential Center directly for the request of records and emails the Law

Enforcement Request for Court History for Purposes of an Order to Detain for completion by Juvenile Probation. Juvenile Probation Supervisor may then verify the request for information, obtain adult court records, and complete the adult and delinquency court information section, then email the completed form back to the arresting officer. Once these forms are completed by



the appropriate parties, the police officer submits these forms to a judge alongside the Order to Detain affidavit.

There have been statutory changes related to access to real-time juvenile records that have required JBCSSD to add search/display of juvenile case records to municipal agency employees and their authorized agents. This change has resulted in 344 record searches by 41 unique law enforcement agencies.

In the 2022 Calendar Year, there were 362 total filed Order to Detains. This resulted in 354 granted, with 8 requests being denied. As of October 2023, for the 2023 Calendar Year there had been 296 total requests for Order to Detain- all 296 were granted.

### **JBCSSD Juvenile Delinquency Flow Chart**

The meeting delved into the Juvenile Delinquency Flowchart, illustrating the various stages from law enforcement contact to adjudication. Emphasis was placed on best practices around diversion, including risk-based case handling, engagement with families, and validated risk assessment tools. The flowchart outlined diversion, nonjudicial handling, and judicial handling, with insights into the transfer to adult court and the adjudication process. There are a variety of different places within the flowchart where there are opportunities for exiting the system for treatment or diversion. Youth are also screened for risk, mental health, as well as trauma assessments that can be useful in case management.

There were requests for this flowchart to be made accessible online, to which JBCSSD said they would work on making it accessible to the public. This flowchart can also be found in the JJPOC orientation manual, today's presentation slides, and on the CGA website.

### **Cross Agency Data Sharing Workgroup Annual**

A presentation on cross-agency data sharing provided insights from the annual report, showcasing trends in the juvenile justice system- specifically describing changes to the size of the juvenile justice system over time through delinquent referrals to juvenile court, admission to pre-disposition residential centers, and juvenile probation population data. The purpose of sharing this information is to help to provide context to stakeholders. It is important to acknowledge that some metrics may have narrower date ranges than the ideal 2010- Q3 2023 data- this is due to some metrics not having certain data availability. More than three years after the COVID-19 pandemic began, annual referral volume remains lower than pre-pandemic periods; 2023 is estimated to close out at roughly 6,350 referrals. Reductions in referral volume have averaged a 6% decrease since 2013. The proportion of delinquent referrals for Non-Hispanic White and Non-Hispanic Black clients have increased slightly, while the proportion of Hispanic clients has been decreasing- through the end of Q3 in 2023, 39.5% of total Delinquent



Referrals have been Non-Hispanic, Black youth, with 36.3% identifying as Non-Hispanic White and 22.2% identifying as Hispanic. In terms of gender, the proportion of referrals between males and females has remained steady, remaining approximately around 70% male and 30% female since 2023.

While looking at the data surrounding charge types, much of the reduction in volume is seen among Misdemeanor referrals, with a 56% reduction from 2013 to 2022. However, the result of fewer Misdemeanor referrals is that there are proportionally more Felony referrals in the system. The top charges and the most common court referrals continue to be conduct-based misdemeanor offenses, but Larceny 1 and Larceny 2 (felony offenses) have risen on this list as other, less severe, offenses are less prevalent. Larceny of Motor Vehicle – 1<sup>st</sup> offense has seen high prevalence so far in 2023 since being put into effect on October 1, 2022, with 379 referrals thus far in 2023; this makes it the third most common charge but is still nearly half the number of referrals as the Misdemeanors preceding the charge in prevalence (Breach of Peace- 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree – 656 referrals; Assault- 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree- 602 referrals). Juvenile Probation Supervisors flag court referrals as being motor vehicle theft-involved at the time of case handling, as well as whether the youth was a driver or a passenger. In 2023, there has been an increase in auto-theft related charges for passengers in auto-theft events, with all quarters in 2023 reporting more passenger related charges than driver charges. The number of court referrals for drivers of stolen vehicles has remained somewhat even with prior quarters. These increases in court referrals for passengers is more prevalent in larger cities, such as New Haven, Hartford, Bridgeport, and Waterbury.

School-Related Referrals to Juvenile Court has showed that in the 2023 school years, there have been 17% fewer school-related referrals compared to the 2022 school year. It is important to remember when looking at referrals that COVID-19 had an impact on the amount of referrals received, especially when looking at the 2021 school year.

Pre-disposition detention admissions continue to contract on an annual basis. In the Calendar Year 2023, there is an estimated admission total of 850 (as of October there were 673) and this estimated admission total represents a 65% decrease from 2013. The average number of children in the juvenile probation population can be broken down by pre-disposition (intake) and post-disposition (supervision) cases. In Q3 of 2023, there were 862 in post-disposition cases and 834 in pre-disposition cases. Trends indicate that there are fewer youth present in the system on any given day.

The risk of youth on probation supervision has changed, due primarily to algorithmic changes to the PrediCT assessment. A larger proportion of children on probation present higher levels of risk than previously. In 2018 (Q3 and Q4) approximately 45%-60% of youth were indicated to be a Tier III or higher. In Q3 of 2023, this number has drastically increased, with roughly 90% of



children being assessed at Tier III or higher- 61.8% of which presenting at a Tier III. Lower risk youth are being diverted to community programs that may be more appropriate for their risk and needs.

Dispositions to Probation with Residential Placement (REGIONS) have remained below pre-pandemic levels, with 52 court ordered events in 2023 (Q1-Q3), compared to 108 in 2019 (Q1-Q4). The majority of placements are to a REGIONS hardware-Secure facility, with this being the court ordered placement type 67.3% of the time in 2023. There are a variety of programs a youth may be referred to, including Linking Youth to Natural Community, Educational Support Services, and Multisystemic Therapy, which have remained the top 3 most common programs to receive referrals in both 2019 and 2023, but the length of stay has decreased substantially. In 2019, Linking Youth to Natural Community had an average stay of 134 days, whereas in 2023 the average length of stay is 96 days. This change is also represented in Educational Support Services (218 day average in 2019 to 81 day average in 2023) and Multisystemic Therapy (111 day average stay in 2019 to 53 day average in 2023). The percentage of children who remain arrest-free throughout probation supervision has remained relatively stable since 2018 and can also be disaggregated by supervision/risk level per the PrediCT assessment. Tier II youth have seen the most substantial decrease in re-arrests, going from 50.2% in 2019 to 27.7% in 2023. Adjudication rates in the year following supervision start remain below 50% for all risk levels.

## **Connecticut's Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard**

The Equity Dashboard, launched publicly in April, offers a point of comparison for racial, ethnic, and gender disparities in the juvenile justice system. It has seen about 200 engagements/views per month and underwent improvements for better visibility and navigation.

The Equity Dashboard highlighted significant advancements in the Delinquent Referrals site design, demonstrating a commitment to enhancing user experience and data accessibility. Key accomplishments included the addition of Delinquent Referral data for 2023 Q1-Q3, showcasing the commitment to keeping information current. The development of streamlined procedures enabled swift updates with new quarterly data, ensuring the site's relevance. Visual elements and color coding were improved to bolster site accessibility, while enhancements in site elements facilitated simpler navigation of supporting text.

Furthermore, a notable achievement was the creation of a second site dedicated to displaying data on case dispositions involving first-time felonies. This involved the development of scripts to incorporate Judicial Branch extract data, the calculation and development of supporting documentation for a Relative Rate Index, and the creation of additional visual layers for in-depth analysis. Rigorous quality control checks were conducted on both data and supporting calculations, ensuring accuracy and reliability. A demonstration version of this measure was



shared with key project stakeholders in early October 2023, marking a proactive approach to transparency and collaboration.

In early November 2023, the dashboard project team recently launched the second measure examining dispositions of juvenile cases involving a first-time felony. This measure includes data on case dispositions involving a first-time felony between 2019 and 2022. 2023 data on case dispositions involving a first-time felony will be available in early 2024. The team also developed a supplemental page to provide more understanding of Relative Rate Index calculations.

Upcoming the Equity Dashboard Development includes a third and fourth measure, expected in the beginning of 2024, with future site expansion to include additional measures in late 2024 and onward.

## **P20 WIN**

The P20 WIN initiative, the Preschool through 20 Workforce Information Network, is Connecticut's state longitudinal data system. P20 WIN is codified in the Connecticut General Statutes and establishes decision-making processes while giving the P20 WIN Executive Board the ability to establish committees as needed; it is administered by the Office of Policy and Management which provides program management to support the continued operation and improvement of P20 WIN as a resource for the participating agencies and the State. Operating for nearly a decade, P20 WIN links data across 14 agencies to track individuals' movement through childhood and various systems. This network is used to answer policy questions, fulfill federal and state reporting requirements, support program review, inform school districts of postsecondary outcomes, provide employment and wage outcome data, and support research and analysis on a variety of topics.

The P20 WIN Learning Agenda reflects the priority issues and burning questions of the State of Connecticut and P20 WIN Participating Agencies. The learning agenda for 2023 addressed topics such as at-risk and disconnected youth, postsecondary outcomes, manufacturing skills, and college and career readiness. The agenda for 2024 includes questions about crossover youth, interactions between homelessness and other systems, outcomes of workforce training programs, and dual enrollment between K-12 and postsecondary institutions. The network accepts data request from policy makers, researchers, evaluators, or other data users who need data from two or more of the P20 WIN Participating Agencies. Data requests should align with either a participating agency's individual research agenda or P20 WIN research agenda, which are summarized in the Learning Agenda. Requesters should submit a short proposal that summarizes the scope and purpose of the data request, submit a formal data request form (including the requested data elements from each agency). The Data Governing Board can approve, approve



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with modifications, or reject data requests. If approved, a data sharing agreement is signed by all parties in the data request. Once the data match is completed, the data recipient will receive analytic data files and a generic ID crosswalk for analysis.

**Next Meeting:**

**Voting Meeting**

Hybrid Model Option (In person and available over zoom)

December 14, 2023

2:00-4:00 PM