



University of New Haven

HENRY C. LEE COLLEGE OF
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND FORENSIC SCIENCES



JJPOC Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2024

2:00-3:30 PM

LOB – 300 Capitol Avenue Hartford, Room 2C

Virtual Option Available

Attendance

Amy Marracino	Gavin Roane	Sharmese Walcott	TYJI Staff
Curtis Eller	Heriberto Cajigas	Tais Ericson	Brittany LaMarr
Daniel Karpowitz	Martha Stone	Tammy Nguyen O’Dowd	Erika Nowakowski
Derrick Gordon	Michael Pierce	Thea Montanez	
Elizabeth Bozzuto	Miriam Miller	Véron Beaulieu	
Erica Bromley	Renee Cimino	Vin Duva	
Gary Roberge	Robyn Porter	Vincent Russo	

Welcome and Introductions

Erika Nowakowski, the Executive Director of the Tow Youth Justice Institute, began the meeting by explaining the absence of some legislative JJPOC members due to the end of legislative session. Daniel Karpowitz, the Undersecretary of the Division of Criminal Justice, Policy and Planning, and co-chair of the JJPOC, will be facilitating the meeting along with Erika Nowakowski and Brittany LaMarr, the JJPOC Senior Project Manager.

Acceptance of JJPOC Meeting Minutes

Erika Nowakowski sought a motion for the approval of the March 2024 meeting minutes. The motion was moved, seconded and approved.

Overview of Meeting and Announcements

Erika Nowakowski announced that on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, the Tow Youth Justice Institute will be holding their second Pathways to Success: Trailblazers and Innovators in Youth Justice Annual Conference which will be at the Hartford Convention Center. The conference will be focusing on all youth who encounter systems such as the behavioral health and juvenile justice system.

Today’s meeting includes a presentation by the Department of Social Services (DSS) on the Medicaid 1115 Justice-Involved Waiver, a presentation by the Community Expertise Workgroup (CEW), and an update from JJPOC Workgroup co-chairs on their established workplans for 2024.



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Department of Social Services; Medicaid Waiver Presentation

The Medicaid Waiver Presentation is presented by William Halsey, the Deputy Director of Medicaid and Division Health Services and Alexis Mohammed, Integrated Care Unit.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has provided states with a pathway to waive the Inmate Exclusion Clause to allow for care transitions for individuals leaving carceral settings. This is known as the 1115 demonstration authority. California and Washington are the first two states to submit and receive approval for their application. Currently there are 84 applications submitted to CMS.

Connecticut submitted its 1115 application on March 27, 2024. The “reentry demonstration” is designed to provide Medicaid coverage for eligible individuals in state correctional systems, including all correctional centers (jails and courthouses), correctional institutions (prisons), and juvenile facilities.

Eligible individuals include those with behavioral health needs, such as mental health disorders and substance use disorders (SUD), certain other health conditions, and detained youth. Coverage is to be provided up to 90 days prior to release from a correctional system. Coverage provided includes case management services, medication assisted treatment for SUB, a 30-day supply of medication upon release, and certain other supportive services which would be implemented through subsequent phase-ins.

Goals for Connecticut’s application include (a) increasing coverage, continuity of coverage, and appropriate service uptake through assessment of eligibility and availability of coverage for benefits in carceral settings, (b) improved access to services prior to release to improve transitions into communities, (c) improved coordination and communication between correctional systems, Medicaid systems, and community-based providers, (d) increased investment in health care and related services, (e) improved connections between carceral settings and community services upon release to address physical health, behavioral health, and health-related social needs (HRSN), (f) reduced deaths in near-term post release, and (g) reduced number of emergency department visits and inpatient hospitalizations among recently incarcerated Medicaid beneficiaries through increased receipt of preventive and routine physical and behavioral health care.

Three core services that must be operational at the start of the waiver include transition case management, medication assisted treatment for substance use disorder, and a 30-day supply of medication upon release. Additional services that would be implemented during subsequent phase-ins include physical and behavioral health clinical consultations, laboratory and radiology services, family planning services, increased medication administration, and more.



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Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) is being requested by Connecticut to cover certain housing related services and supports for justice-involved individuals upon reentry to their community. These services include a one-time transition and moving costs, housing deposits to secure housing, medically necessary air conditioners, heaters, humidifiers, air filtration devices, and more, and medically necessary home accessibility modifications.

The target population include all detained youth under the age of 19 who are Medicaid eligible. No demonstrated health care need is required. Eligible adults include those who meet at least one of the following health care need criteria: (a) mental illness, (b) substance use disorder, (c) chronic conditions and/or significant clinical condition, (d) intellectual or developmental disability, (e) acquired brain injury including a traumatic brain injury (TBI), (f) HIV/AIDS, and (g) pregnant/postpartum.

Approximately 12,000 adults are released from correctional facilities each year. It is estimated that 85% of these adults will meet the waivers medical needs criteria. Additionally, approximately 650 adolescents are released from juvenile and community residential centers per year. According to a 2023 Connecticut Sentencing Commission data report, 95.5% of the incarcerated population had at least one or more of the following: a history of mental health disorders, an active mental health disorder requiring treatment, a history of substance use disorder, or an active substance use problem requiring treatment. 80.8% of the incarcerated population had either an active mental health disorder requiring treatment, or an active substance use disorder requiring treatment; 24.5% of the population had both.

Currently, Connecticut is working on an implementation plan with various state agencies to guarantee success once the application is approved. The Implementation team meets on a weekly basis to discuss the status of current service delivery as well as the plan for future service delivery.

As part of an 1115 demonstration waiver, the federal government has a budget neutrality requirement. This means, the federal government does not wish to spend any more money than what is currently being spent. However, hypothetical costs are allowed to be included in the budget as if Connecticut is already covering the services they intend to cover, in order to achieve budget neutrality. This hypothetical cost inclusion applies to the federal budget. Currently, DSS is working with state agencies to achieve state budget neutrality. This 1115 demonstration waiver, if approved, will bring in approximately \$40 million of new federal dollars which must be reinvested into the service delivery system.

On a parallel track to the Justice-Involved Waiver, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 included sections 5121 and 5122 to address Medicaid and CHIP requirements for certain beneficiaries who are incarcerated. Eligible individuals include Medicaid eligible individuals who are under the age of 21 and individuals between the ages of 18 and 26 who are eligible for Medicaid under the mandatory former foster care children group.



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Section 5121 requires state Medicaid and CHIP programs to have in place the following services: (a) certain screening and diagnostic services available in the 30-days prior to release or within one week or as soon as practicable after release, and (b) targeted case management services for Medicaid in the 30-days prior to release and for at least 30-days following release, and case management services for CHIP in the 30-days prior to release. Section 5121 also aligns CHIP rules with existing Medicaid rules regarding suspension rather than termination of coverage while a child is an inmate of a public institution and related requirements regarding redetermination of coverage.

Under Section 5122, states will have the option to provide Medicaid coverage to eligible juveniles who are inmates of a public institution during the initial period pending disposition of charges and receive federal financial participation under Medicaid for such services that are provided. Additionally, in CHIP, states will have the option to consider children who are inmates pending disposition of charges as eligible for CHIP.

As it relates to the Connecticut Reentry Success Plan, DSS believes it will be able to meet 5 of the 10 recommendations through the approval of the 1115 waiver demonstration. These recommendations include: (a) coordinate and expand reentry supports, (b) address mental health services gaps and substance use treatment and recovery supports, (c) increase and expand transition supports, (d) expand access to housing, and (e) develop a quality assurance system and identify key funding sources for the Reentry Success Plan.

Three public hearings about the Justice-Involved Waiver were held between January 12, 2024, and February 6, 2024. Written comments were received between January 9, 2024, and February 8, 2024. In total, Connecticut received 38 comments from 10 separate parties between the three public hearings and written comments from the public. All the public comments and responses were posted to the 1115 Justice-Involved Demonstration Waiver website.

Questions regarding the timeline of subsequent phase-in services were raised following the presentation. Until Connecticut's approval is finalized, and negotiation of services is held between DSS and CMS, there can be no definite timeline for future phase-in services. Additionally, questions regarding the utilization of funding were discussed with it being indicated that any future funding that is provided to the state from the federal government must be provided to the corresponding agency and used for its intended purpose while that agency continues to maintain its current programmatic spending.

Community Expertise Workgroup (CEW) Spotlight Presentation

Janeen Reid, Executive Director of Full Circle Youth Empowerment and Iliana Pujols, Policy Director for the Connecticut Justice Alliance, the co-chairs of the Community Expertise Workgroup, presented the Spotlight Presentation on behalf of the workgroup. The CEW was designed and created to inform the overall work of the JJPOC by supporting the youth, parents, and community members to build capacity, skills, and confidence to engage in the ongoing work



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of the JJPOC. The overall goal of the CEW is to elevate the voice of youth and parents within their communities. Continued partnership with various JJPOC workgroups and subgroups is of the utmost importance to the CEW to promote better outcomes.

CEW membership is comprised of four organizations: the Connecticut Justice Alliance, Full Circle Youth Empowerment, Center for Children's Advocacy, and AFCAMP Advocacy for Children. Partnership with youth, parents, and credible messengers is ongoing to inform communities on the progress that has been made. There are currently 26 active members of the CEW who perform work in various capacities all with aligned interest areas that include removing youth from DOC, investing in mental health services, raising the minimum age of arrest, developing effective diversionary programs, supporting families of incarcerated youth, and more.

The CEW's goals for 2024-2025 are to (a) appoint youth to fill the newly created voting seats passed in last year's legislation, (b) build leadership capacity for directly impacted youth, families, and community members, and (c) engage incarcerated youth and directly impacted families and community members in the ongoing work of the JJPOC. In order to achieve these goals, the CEW is working to engage the legislators responsible for filling the JJPOC youth voting seats, supporting youth to participate in JJPOC meetings, accessing youth in facilities for programming and informational pipeline, leading youth-led community-based advocacy projects, developing strong youth-adult partnership models that prepare young leaders to participate in spaces similar to the JJPOC, engaging youth in the legislative session, hosting ongoing discussions with incarcerated youth to inform the ongoing work of the JJPOC, recruiting directly impacted members to support and engage the work, and working with Laura Furr, a JJPOC consultant, to develop a strong CEW framework.

The JJPOC has the capacity to support the CEW's three previously stated goals. As it relates to goal #1, "appointing youth to fill the newly created voting seats passed in last year's legislation," the JJPOC can facilitate communication with Representative Fishbein and Stafstrom to appoint youth recommended by the CEW to fill the vacant member seats and work with the CEW to identify preferred criteria for nominated youth. Pertaining to goal #2, "building leadership capacity for directly impacted youth, families, and community members," the JJPOC can work with DOC, JBCSSD, and the CEW to maintain consistent access to facilities and programs where youth are held and support CEW members with ad-hoc training on JJPOC workgroup priorities and related topics. The JJPOC can aid the CEW in working towards goal #3, "engaging incarcerated youth and directly impacted families and community members in the ongoing work of the JJPOC" by having JJPOC members continue to serve youth partners to support the engagement of youth currently attending the JJPOC, working with DOC, JBCSSD, and the CEW to get incarcerated youth virtually engaged in the JJPOC and its workgroups, and supporting CEW members to train and prepare incarcerated youth to engage in the JJPOC and its workgroups.



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In closing, CEW co-chairs shared with the JJPOC a quote that aids in guiding the practice of the CEW which was “nothing about us without us.” This quote communicates the idea that no policies should be decided upon without full and direct participation of members of the groups who would be affected by that policy.

JJPOC 2024 Workgroup Workplans

Incarceration Workgroup

The Incarceration Workgroup, which is co-chaired by Sharmese Walcott and Tammy Nguyen-O’Dowd, shared the strategic priorities for the upcoming year. This included (a) regular review of DOC Chemical Agent Report, (b) overseeing and monitoring the Connecticut Reentry Success Plan, including expansion of the credible messenger’s program and creating workforce alignment recommendations, and (c) status updates of the JBCSSD Implementation Plan.

The Incarceration Workgroup oversees the Commissary Subgroup and Reentry Subgroup. To continue the success of these Subgroups, the Incarceration workgroup has created the following plan for the Commissary Subgroup: (a) acquire updates on the PBIS implementation and (b) status updates on the increase in indigent threshold and implementation of comparable JBCSSD quantity and quality hygiene care packages. For the Reentry Subgroup, the Incarceration Workgroup intends on (a) developing quality assurance framework and funding section development.

Upcoming deadlines for the Incarceration Workgroup and its Subgroup include the Reentry Subgroup fiscal and quality assurance framework that is due November 1, 2024.

Education Workgroup

The Education Workgroup, which is co-chaired by Amy Vatner and Robyn Porter provided the following strategic priorities. They intend to obtain regular updates from DCF-JJEU, follow up on the 2018 legislation involving C-TECS, receive regular updates from 119K Commission and School Discipline Collaborative, and gain updates from CSDE on the Alternative Education Opportunities report and 2022 legislation.

The Education Workgroup oversees the Truancy Subgroup and the Suspension and Expulsion Subgroup. For the Truancy Subgroup, the Education Workgroup intends to review past legislation and redesign measuring success. For the Suspension and Expulsion Subgroup, the Education Workgroup plans on gathering and update on SB 380, reviewing the Violent and Sexual Nature Statute for Pre-K through grade 2, and update the standards for interventions during in-school suspension.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities Workgroup



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The Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Workgroup, which is co-chaired by Hector Glynn and Derrick Gordon, provided the following strategic priorities. To ensure success, they intend on partnering with the Education Workgroup regarding JJEU oversight, partnering with the Diversion Workgroup on reimaging diversion, receive updates from CCA's local RED workgroup meeting updates, and continue to develop the Equity Dashboard.

The RED Workgroup intends to create and deliver the Equity Dashboard Guidebook, which is developed in partnership with the Center for Children's Law and Policy (CCLP).

Diversion Workgroup

The Diversion Workgroup, which is co-chaired by Lisa Simone and Thea Montanez shared the following strategic priorities. They intend to build off work to date with an emphasis on infrastructure and standardization, expand stakeholder engagement, and develop near term, tangible resources for cities and towns.

The Diversion Workgroup oversees the Alternatives to Arrest Subgroup, Raise the Age Subgroup, and Truancy Subgroup. To ensure continued success, the Diversion Workgroup plans to provide the Pre-arrest Diversion Plan, in partnership with the Alternatives to Arrest Subgroup, by the deadline of July 1, 2024. For the Raise the Age Subgroup, the Diversion Workgroup intends to identify data collection points to understand the impact of raising the age from 7 to 10 years old. It is planned for the Truancy Subgroup plans to transition to the Education Workgroup and receive continued participation from Diversion Workgroup members.

There are multiple planned projects that the Diversion Workgroup intends to deliver on this year. They include the Diversion Playbook, which is developed in partnership with the Center for Children's Law and Policy (CCLP), CYSA's JRB pilot update, which will be presented at the July JJPOC meeting, and CYSA's JRB and YSB outcome data, which will also be presented at the July JJPOC Meeting.

Cross Agency Data Sharing Workgroup

The Cross Agency Data Sharing Workgroup, which is co-chaired by Brian Hill and Maurice Reaves, shared the following strategic priorities for the Workgroup: supporting workgroups with agency data requests, supporting agencies with JJPOC spotlight presentations, and discussing P20WIN and Equity Dashboard projects and capacities.

Next Meeting

Hybrid Model Option (In-person and available over Zoom)

May 16, 2024

2:00-3:30PM