



# University of New Haven

HENRY C. LEE COLLEGE OF  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND FORENSIC SCIENCES

---

Tow Youth Justice Institute

## JJPOC Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2015

Legislative Office Building, Hartford CT

2:00pm – 3:30pm

### Attendance:

Rep. Toni Walker	Sen. Rob Kane	Dr. Linda Dixon	Kitty Tyrol
Abby Anderson	Judge Patrick Carroll	Warden John Alves	Jeanne Milstein
Erica Bromley	Stephen Grant	John Frassinelli	Kendell Coker
Hector Glynn	Joseph D'Alesio	Sarah Eagan	Sara Dudeck
Martha Stone	Christine Rapillo	Secretary Ben Barnes	
Kary Strickland	Francis Carino	Bill Carbone	

Presentations to include JJPOC Progress Report of January 1, 2015 by UNH-Tow Institute, Office of the Child Advocate, and State Dept. of Education

Rep. Toni Walker opened the meeting with a welcome and recognition of birthday of Martin Luther King. Rep. Walker stated that Connecticut has reached people from around the world with our work in Juvenile Justice. She invited Brian Hill to introduce guests from Japan who are visiting the Judicial Branch to learn more about Connecticut's juvenile justice system. Meeting minutes moved and seconded were passed unanimously.

Bill Carbone from the Tow Youth Justice Institute, University of New Haven, gave a progress report update, indicating that the JJPOC is required to file a progress report in January 2015 according to the statute. Mr. Carbone recognized the excellent job done by the Work Groups in the areas of recidivism, goals, education and law enforcement. He also thanked staff for work on reviewing of reports and the impact of Raise the Age. Secondly, UNH is immensely grateful to everyone involved in the work groups. Finally, the statute additionally requires a report in July (2015) on eight areas of research, which is an enormous undertaking. Mr. Carbone suggested the deadline (July 2015) is not realistic given the magnitude of the work involved.

Jeanne Milstein briefly outlined the progress report beginning with the Recidivism Work Group and the work done over the last three months including agreement on the definition of recidivism by the involved state agencies as well as the State Department of Education. A small work group has been established to develop an implementation plan to replicate the data system used by the Judicial Branch for the Department of Children and Families to more effectively coordinate and share data on youth. When asked by Rep. Walker about the data collection process, Ms. Milstein explained that everyone is on board with the plan to implement.

---

**JJPOC Meeting Minutes**  
**January 15, 2015**  
**Page 2 of 5**

Kitty Tyrol shared the progress of the Goals Work Group over the last three months with their focus on the goals of Diversion and Treatment, as well as DMC and Data. Members submitted short, medium, and long-term objectives for each of the goals; their recommendations will be streamlined and organized by emerging themes to prioritize for consideration. Bill Carbone added that there was no lack of ideas.

Kendell Coker, PhD, shared his continuing review of the impact of Raise the Age (RtA) legislation with next steps to identify types of services and outcomes and gaps. TYJI is in contact with Dr. Megan Kurlychek, SUNY Albany, who conducted an initial study on RtA in CT. Dr. Kurlychek will attend the February meeting to share the results of her study, specifically addressing recidivism and disproportionate minority contact.

Kitty Tyrol reported on the progress of the Education Work Group; acknowledging the contributions and support of Dr. Amanda Bozak from the UNH Masters of Education program. In the group's first meeting, strengths were identified, including court-based educational advocacy, MOUs with schools regarding discipline, how RtA has promoted an increase in sharing records, and Raise the Grade pilot in three major cities. Barriers were also identified including the need for more effective reentry plans, timely transfer of records and data, lack of reliable data, the need for more Educational Advocates, Surrogates, and lawyers, as well as the need for training in diversion and behavior management for teachers and School Resource Officers. Ms. Tyrol reported that the Education Work Group used a similar format and template as did the Goals Work Group to submit objectives and recommendations, and that the Education Work Group would benefit from expanding membership to include school administrators and that outreach is underway.

Jim Isenberg shared the progress of the Law Enforcement Work Group and acknowledged the positive collaboration within the group. Dr. Isenberg identified two challenges; training and building on the collaboration between police, juvenile justice organizations, mental health providers and schools. He indicated that the work group supports more training on youth and brain development and ways to enhance collaboration with Juvenile Review Boards, and educating police about diversion opportunities. Mr. Isenberg added that a police leadership institute is in development at UNH through the work of the Tow Institute.

**Presentation by Office of Child Advocate (OCA), Sarah Eagan**

Sarah Eagan briefly discussed the role of OCA and their activities in 2014 in their work across systems. She indicated that the OCA is charged with a very broad statutory mandate (CGS 46a-13k et seq) and that their role is not just to point out where things can be better, but also to highlight what is working in agencies.

---

**JJPOC Meeting Minutes**  
**January 15, 2015**  
**Page 3 of 5**

The OCA:

- Meets with children and youth in state-run facilities
- Responds to citizen concerns regarding youth or conditions of confinement
- Conducts child-specific advocacy
- Meets with staff and administrators at facilities
- Investigates conditions of confinement
- Recommends system change and collaborates for system improvement

Ms. Eagan highlighted the importance of a thorough and accurate needs assessment for youth involved with the juvenile justice; robust strategic planning; measurement outcomes of the adolescent population; reducing the number of minors referred to the adult system and ongoing support for staff. Ms. Eagan raised numerous concerns regarding youth who are committed, reporting that up to 70% of youth who are confined have been diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder. Ms. Eagan emphasized the negative impact of room confinement, specifically resulting in suicidal tendencies and self-harming behaviors and suggested reforms in 2014 by JDAI (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative) (Annie E. Casey) standards and advisement from DOJ guidelines.

Ms. Eagan suggested remedies and reforms including use of PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support), Performance Based Standards, CQI (Continuous Quality Improvement), alternatives to incarceration, and improved data collection on recidivism. She informed the JJPOC that it costs \$130,000 for a 6-month stay in confinement per youth, as compared to \$130,000 for 22,000 youth for a diversion program (SBDI) per year.

Linda Dixon from DCF briefly explained that the length-of-stay guidelines ensure they take into account treatment and not just a punitive approach. She asked the JJPOC if it would be helpful to ask a clinical expert to make a presentation to the JJPOC. An expert has been hired by DCF to review CJTS and Pueblo.

Rep. Walker requested that he present at the next meeting of the JJPOC, commenting on the presentation and stating that we need to nurture children and not confine them. Rep. Walker indicated that there would likely be some legislation proposed this session related to the issue of confinement. A question was raised about the data and whether the format used by DCF allows for identification as to which youth are most often put in restraints and seclusion. Ms. Eagan responded that it has been a challenge to obtain this data.

Rep Walker discussed the need for transparency and collaboration, indicating that sharing data amongst all the agencies is a primary need.

---

**JJPOC Meeting Minutes**  
**January 15, 2015**  
**Page 4 of 5**

Abby Anderson asked if there is a way for the JJPOC to be able to circle back to discussions that take place during these sessions. Jeanne Milstein indicated that the TYJI is keeping a running tab of everything that has been suggested.

**Presentation by CT State Dept. of Education – Suspensions and Expulsions in Connecticut**  
Ajit Gopalakrishnan and Angela Gambaccini-May, PhD, Bureau of Data Collection, Research and Evaluation, Connecticut State Department of Education.

Mr. Gopalakrishnan provided definitions of removal, in-school and out-of-school suspensions, and expulsions per CGS 10-233a and subsection (g) of 10-233c. He explained that there is a decreasing trend of sanctions from 2009 – 2014, about a 17% reduction over 5 years. In-school suspensions (ISS) have decreased while out-of-school suspensions (OSS) have remained about the same. He indicated the importance of reviewing duplicated counts and unduplicated counts together. Mr. Gopalakrishnan reported that there is a decline in suspensions for middle and high school, but consistent rates for elementary grades from 2011-2014. Black and Hispanic males are 2-3 times more likely to be suspended or expelled than white males and the same for females although females are less likely than males to be suspended or expelled. DMC exists in all types of districts and is extremely high in all areas of education.

Mr. Gopalakrishnan reported that 66% of students are suspended for school policy violations and that in-school suspensions last on average 1.31 days, out-of-school suspensions last on average 3.11 days and statewide expulsion is 119.94. Bill Carbone linked the issue of DMC in juvenile justice. He asked what education occurs when a youth is expelled for 119 days (or approximately five months); indicating that if they are out of school they would likely begin assimilating with other youth in the same situation. John Frassinelli from SDE indicated that SDE does not collect data on the type of education that happens during expulsion.

Rep. Walker discussed the need for legislation to require the collection of data on alternate education during expulsion, indicating that schools are still getting money for youth who are expelled.

Dr. Coker asked about DMC data regarding suspension and expulsion rates, suggesting that bias may be built within the system; schools may be more likely to suspend black and Latino youth for committing the same infractions as other students.

Mr. Gopalakrishnan reported that there is funding for two studies:

- 1) Trends in Juvenile Criminal Case Processing and Education (Yale) – Longitudinal study to analyze the impact of Raise the Age legislation; and
  - 2) Foundation for Alliance for Education – improve both the education process and outcomes of court-involved juveniles (Yale)
-

**JJPOC Meeting Minutes**  
**January 15, 2015**  
**Page 5 of 5**

He further reported that the SDE is now able to share data with DCF and does so on a monthly basis.

Cathy Foley-Geib of Judicial reported that the second phase of the studies would incorporate the DCF data.

Rep. Walker stated that in 2007, Missouri was able to share data amongst agencies and expects CT to do the same.

Chris Rapillo cautioned not to violate confidentiality laws, which protect children and, noting that one of the issues of sharing information is the timing of when the information gets shared. Children and youth are under the pretext of being innocent and have the right to keep their information private.

Bill Carbone noted that 7% (40,000) of school kids experience some sort of suspension/expulsion. He shared the success of the School Based Diversion Initiative (SBDI) from the Children's Health and Development Institute in twenty-two schools. Mr. Carbone raised the question as to who decides whether a youth should be suspended or expelled, noting that the decision is generally made by a teacher and principal together; and suggested exploring restorative practices at work in our state.

Martha Stone stated that most of the juvenile arrests are happening during the day when youth are in school and suggested that the JJPOC review data on (school) suspension with regard to age and race.

Rep. Walker adjourned the meeting, thanking everyone and noted that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 not the original date of February 19, 2015.

---