



# University of New Haven

HENRY C. LEE COLLEGE OF  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND FORENSIC SCIENCES

Tow Youth Justice Institute

## JJPOC Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2014

LOB, Room 1E, Hartford CT

2:00-3:30 PM

### Attendance:

Rep. Toni Walker	Sen. Beth Bye	Abby Anderson	Erica Bromley
Hectory Glynn	Pam Salamone	Martha Stone	Joe D'Alesio
Christine Rاپillo	Francis Carino	Linda Dixon	John Frassinelli
Loel Meckel	Derrick Gordon	Kary Strickland	Mark Zeck
Sarah Eagan	Warden John Alves	Judge Bernadette Conway	
Brian Hill (Repr Stephen Grant)		Jiacheng Yu (Repr Lisa Wexler)	
William Carbone	Kitty Tyrol	Jeanne Milstein	Kendall Coker

State Rep. Toni Walker called the meeting to order at 2:06 PM

- She reminded the JJPOC that there is one month left before the legislative session begins
- Urge committees to get connected
- Rep. Walker asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes
- Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously

William Carbone, TYJI, presented the agenda for the meeting and indicated that all 4 Work groups will report on progress.

Jeanne Milstein presented on the Recidivism Work Group; having accomplished agreement upon a common definition and having identified a reliable process for matching youth with subsequent criminal activity to ensure uniformity in definition, data collection, measurement, and reporting across all JJ agencies.

Brian Hill can provide an overview that judicial branch has been using for detection and reporting on recidivism:

Two components

- Matching client cohorts (supervision, probation, residential treatment, parole, family)
- Identifying and classifying as recidivism

Match and Search Process:

- Necessary to build a database of juvenile and adult arrest records
- Able to track every entry into the system
- Placements in services; e.g. treatment, family therapy, etc.
- Identifying and documenting the criteria for the various types of recidivism measurements
- Transfer of data between agencies
- Implications of diversionary dismissal on adult charges on any conviction measurement

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During cohort selection:

- Ensuring uniform exposure periods
- Providing all available identifiers
- Considering the data quality of the identifiers

Discussion included the need for the definition to be tailored to particular research and performance evaluation while maintaining flexibility in the use of the definition to include diversion programs; costs associated with recidivism, probation, and prevention, and performance.

Next Steps for the Recidivism Work Group:

- Determine how to transfer Judicial data system to other agencies to ensure uniform capabilities
- Develop a coordinated approach for the use of data as a means of informing policy and practice
- Recommend strategies to reduce recidivism

State Rep. Toni Walker asked that all information be available on (CGA) website; which will be updated by December 19, 2014.

Kitty Tyrol reported on the Goals Work Group: having completed the review of reports and plans and with input from the work groups, five Strategic Goals were identified in the areas of:

- Diversion – To increase the diversion of youth from the juvenile justice system and for court-involved youth at all points in the juvenile justice system in order to reduce the systematic impact of stigma and to reduce recidivism
- Education- To increase the educational achievement of youth in the juvenile justice system by addressing their unique needs in order to improve opportunities for successful transition into adulthood and reduce recidivism
- Treatment – To improve access to appropriate and quality treatment, intervention, and support services, including mental health and substance abuse treatment, for youth in the juvenile justice system in order to enhance well-being, improve family dynamics, and reduce recidivism
- Disproportionate Minority Contact – To reduce disproportionate minority contact at all phases of the juvenile justice system in order to ensure fairness and equality in juvenile justice process, treatment programs and services, and community response

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- Data – To increase the timely and efficient collection, sharing, and analysis of data among all public and private agencies involved in and with the juvenile justice system in order to ensure effective service delivery to juveniles and their families to improve policy and practice

Jeanne Milstein shared next steps for the Goals Work Group, to:

- Identify the top 3 strategic goals from submissions
- Identify short, medium, and long term objectives, strategies, and measures of effectiveness
- Develop a work plan for the implementation as well as the creation of an inventory of diversion practices and programs

Dr. Kendell Coker presented on the Impact Study of Raise the Age with regard to the:

- Change in the average age of children and youth before and after RtA
- Types of delinquent acts or criminal offenses that children and youth have been charged with since RtA
- Types of services used by different age groups and the outcomes of those services
- Gaps in services to include those over 18 after involvement in the juvenile justice system with recommendations for improvement

To date, TYJI has:

- Completed study on the average age
- Completed study of the types of criminal offenses
- Completed study on the trends between arrests and age over time

Research Conclusions:

- Average age increased slightly more than one year between 2006 and present
- The same four types of offenses make up approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all offenses for youth in the system both before and after RtA
- Total arrests of juvenile has decreased by over 20% (2006-2014)
- The overall percentage of arrests of under 16 year olds has dropped from 91% of the total for the period between 2006 and 2009 to approximately 60% of the total for the period since RtA began in 2010 to 2014
- The overall percentage of arrests of the 16 and over group has increased from 9% of the total for the period between 2006 and 2009 to approximately 40% of the total for the period since RtA began in 2010 and 2014

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Next Steps:

- Study and report by age groups on services and outcomes
- Study and report on gaps in services to include juvenile offenders over age 18

Additional remarks included:

- Of the 141,841 youth arrested, the average age in 2006 was 14.1, today it is 15.2 (increase of 1.1 to 1.2 years) which shows only slight increase in terms of average post RtA.

The top four criminal offenses are family offenses, public breach of peace, assault, and larceny, and the rank order from frequent to less frequent. This pattern stays the same regardless of if they are under sixteen or over sixteen; with a 23% drop in arrests since 2006.

Year	Total Arrests	Arrests under 16
2006	20,115	18,455
2013	15,411	7,996

\*23% drop – As of a few days ago 6,616

State Rep. Toni Walker replied that the drop is very impressive and thanked the many people who were involved in reducing numbers of children and youth in the system; impressing that the amount of children being taken out of system is phenomenal.

William Carbone suggested that part of the shift is more likely a result of people looking differently at the system and the diversionary opportunities that are now available. Lower recidivism rates in general may be due to how status offenders are handled and the investment in home based services. When RtA was first being discussed, it was believed that the numbers of sixteen and seventeen year olds expected to enter the system would double. In fact, the numbers have been significantly reduced with implications that costs savings have been achieved by the 23% reduction in arrests.

State Rep. Toni Walker indicated a need to make sure we do a reinvestment to allocate funds and asked that a review be done to look at race and ethnicity in terms of arrests, convictions, who got services, how many got services; (data which is currently being collected by OPM).

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Jeanne Milstein reported on the establishment of Law Enforcement Work Group which has made recommendations for training for police to better understand youth development and needs and about RtA; as well as potential collaboration between police, courts, schools, mental health, and juvenile justice providers. Next steps for the Work Group are to increase the number of police on the Work Group, research a “Juvenile Justice Leadership Institute” for Police; identify a curriculum in cooperation with police; and research the efficacy of “community conversations” between youth and police. William Carbone added the need for training in neuroscience and best practices at all levels of police departments to engage in conversations toward a better understanding what youth are thinking. RtA legislation has largely prompted this.

Fran Carino interjected his hope that the work groups also protect the rights of the juveniles involved and Rep. Toni Walker agreed.

Kitty Tyrol added information that the JJPOC Progress Report is due January 1, 2015 per PA 14-217, Sec. 79 which will include information about: the statute history, the implementation process, conclusions to date, and the work remaining with any recommendations to the JJPOC.

The next meeting will be at 2:00 PM on January 15, 2015 at LOB, Room 1E, Hartford CT.