



# University of New Haven

HENRY C. LEE COLLEGE OF  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND FORENSIC SCIENCES

Tow Youth Justice Institute

## JJPOC Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2015

LOB 1E

2:00-3:30PM

### Attendance:

Rep. Toni Walker	Sec. Ben Barnes	Loel Meckel	Kendell Coker, Ph.D
Sen. Gary Winfield	Martha Stone	Derrick Gordon	Renee LaMark Muir
Sen. Eric Coleman	Judge Bernadette Conway	Mickey Kramer	Frank Olive, III Ph.D
Dean Esserman	Stephen Grant	William Carbone	Kelly Tea
Sen. John Kissel	Joseph D'Alesio	Kitty Tyrol	
Erica Bromley	Christine Rapillo	Jeanne Milstein	
	Linda Dixon	Lara Herscovitch	

Rep. Toni Walker called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded and the minutes from June were unanimously accepted.

### **Presentation: TYJI Progress Report**

Jeanne Milstein introduced the July 1, 2015 JJPOC Report, including the sections of the new legislation, the current projects, short medium and long term target goals with strategies, and new and other projects. She explained that new work groups on diversion, data, incarceration, and recidivism will replace the old work groups and will incorporate the work done by prior work groups.

Bill Carbone summarized current projects required by PA 14-217 Sec 79:

- Common definition of recidivism has been determined and recommendations will be included in the report scheduled to be completed in early fall, 2015.
- Impact of Raise the Age project: average age and types of delinquency have been studied and service outcomes and gaps in services will be completed in September, 2015.
- Strengths and barriers in Education study will be completed in September, 2015.
- Evaluation of Diversion programs will begin in January, 2016.
- Evaluation of Community-Based services study will begin in January, 2016. Dr. Coker has already begun to scope out this project.
- Evaluation of Congregate Care Settings is underway with a report due in January, 2016.
- Examination of DMC will begin December, 2015.

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- Plan for Results Based Accountability will be complete August, 2015.
- Assessment of Overlap between Juvenile Justice and Mental Health report is due in September, 2015. Dr. Jeffrey Vanderploeg from CHDI is also examining the extent to which youth in the juvenile justice system have prior access to mental health programs in the community.

Discussion opened with Rep. Toni Walker asking about the success of youth served by Juvenile Review Boards and if the TYJI will review how youth connect with services. Bill Carbone responded that the report will look at what the outcomes are depending on access to services and compare those to the JRBs where these arrangements are not in place.

Rep. Walker stated that it is important that youth are diverted into community-based services and wants information on how the cost savings are being used for support services.

Fran Carino suggested that it is important to identify youth at risk before they enter the system. Additionally, Chris Rapillo suggested that funding is explored to pay for services wants to explore funding to follow the suggestion.

Bill Carbone explained that Youth Stat, an initiative led by Mayor Toni Harp, New Haven, is identifying youth in New Haven who are not succeeding in school, have experienced trauma and other risk factors and helping connect the youth to services. Youth Stat responds by wrapping services around them and uses family engagement in efforts of early identification.

Jeanne Milstein explained that, in conjunction with the Pew Center, an inventory of diversion services will be developed. In addition, she has requested that the Department of Correction, Children and Families and Court Support Services Division submit copies of their contracts with agencies providing mental health services to TYJI in order to review outcomes that are required in accordance with Rep. Walker's request at the previous JJPOC meeting.

Jeanne Milstein summarized new projects:

- Implementation of the strategic plan will begin in September, 2015 and the first status report will be completed in January, 2016
- Recommendations for training on youth development, brain research and Raise the Age will begin in April, 2016 for municipal and state police
- Recommendations on vocational education opportunities for youth up to the age of 21 will start in April, 2016
- Examination of uses of restraint, seclusion and room confinement and recommendations of research informed strategies for reduction will start in January, 2016

Jeanne Milstein indicated that TYJI would be reviewing Medicaid and private insurance reimbursement for services and determining ways to maximize reimbursement. Bill Carbone discussed the proposed target goals of diversion, recidivism, and incarceration, as well as the action steps to increase diversion, reduce recidivism and reduce incarceration. He explained that work groups would be created around these goals.

Renee LaMark Muir reviewed the proposed changes in target goals. The proposed goal for decreasing incarceration will be 30% instead of 20%. She reviewed the data from the facilities from Calendar Year 2014 and the target rate for FY 2017-18 using the initial 20% incarceration reduction and then the new proposed 30% incarceration reduction and what it would look like in the future regarding numbers of admissions to the facilities. The JJPOC agreed that a 20% decrease was not ambitious enough.

Sen. Winfield asked about the goal percentage that was originally established and stressed that it is critical that policy, not numbers, drive the goals. Chief Dean Esserman agreed and stated that children do not belong in jail, and that policies that promote a decrease in incarceration are critical.

Lara Herscovitch agreed and asked that TYJI also include (girls' facilities) Journey House and Touchstone in any review.

Dr. Gordon followed by suggesting we look at the review from a gender specific perspective rather than just an overall number. Bill Carbone explained that this is a starting point and the goals may change in a year.

Hector Glynn discussed the importance of having an overarching goal statement rather than numerical targets. He recommended that a goal of reducing and perhaps eliminating incarceration of all juveniles be the goal. Hector Glynn stressed that downsizing the congregate care should be the goal. Sen. Winfield agreed and other JJPOC members indicated favoring the idea of adding "downsizing congregate care" as the goal.

Upon conclusion of discussion, the target goals were accepted by the JJPOC with possible revisions in October.

The next meeting was announced for Thursday, September 17, 2015.

Meeting adjourned.