



University of New Haven

HENRY C. LEE COLLEGE OF
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND FORENSIC SCIENCES

Tow Youth Justice Institute

JJPOC Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2015
LOB, 2D
2:00-3:30PM

Attendance:

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Rep. Toni Walker | Debra Bond | Joe D'Alesio |
| Sec. Ben Barnes | John Frassinelli | Hector Glynn |
| Arthur Perry | Erica Bromley | Chris Rapillo |
| John T. Finkle | Fran Carino | Sarah Eagan |
| Shawn Rutchick | Sen. John Kissel | Sen. Melissa Ziobron |
| Rep. Henri Martin | Rep. Robyn Porter | Sen. Dante Bartolomeo |
| Bill Carbone | Sen. Gary Winfield | Loel Meckel |
| Commissioner Joette Katz | Stephen Grant | Martha Stone |
| Dr. Linda Dixon | Judge Bernadette Conway | Kitty Tyrol |
| Bill Rosenbeck | Judge Patrick Carroll | Jeanne Milstein |

Rep. Toni Walker called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Mr. Carbone introduced two new members of the Tow Youth Justice Institute (TYJI) team, Dr. Danielle T. Cooper and Consultant, Laura Downs,.

Mr. Carbone described the newly configured Work Groups that will develop strategic plans on the goals of reducing incarceration by 20% and recidivism by 10% as well as increasing diversion by 30%. Co-chairs have been appointed, all members have been notified, and a TYJI staff member has been assigned to each one. Four or five meetings will take place over the next few months with the goal of reporting strategic plans and action steps to the JJPOC by February 1, 2016.

Youth First! Initiative Presentation

Liz Ryan, Jeffrey Butts, Shaena Fazal

Liz Ryan, President of Youth First! Initiative, presented on national trends, lessons learned, and recommendations in relation to youth decarceration. She indicated that states are embracing the research of what works, what doesn't work, and how the public is strongly supporting rehabilitation over punishment and incarceration for youth. The presentation focused on successful initiatives that reduced the number of youth incarcerated without compromising public safety, while simultaneously saving millions of dollars. She recommended that closing CJTS and Pueblo Unit would likely achieve the same results.



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Jeffrey Butts, Director of Research, John Jay College in New York, explained that the focus should be on protecting the public safety and helping young people develop into law-abiding citizens; while explaining that confining youth in security-oriented congregate care facilities does not increase the chances that youth will be law abiding citizens but instead creates a lasting stigma, according to research. Youth confinement facilities work to exert control but he explained that youths' future life prospects are being harmed. Dr. Butts recommended that confinement only be used when necessary for public safety.

Shaena Fazal, National Policy Director from Youth Advocate Programs, continued the presentation by explaining that youth have different needs and therefore different options be made available to them. Data was presented on options in the communities that are successful, including the use of volunteer mentors, drop-in centers, targeted group work, individualized services and family engagement. She explained that although moving from facility-based to community based juvenile justice can be difficult, using the community resources and re-defining public safety, supporting families in need, and holding youth accountable in contexts of their families and communities can achieve success. She indicated that most youth who are high need and referred to Youth Advocate Programs Inc. remain arrest free while in the programs in their communities. Data from the Youth Advocate Program that shows that 86% of youth who participated in one program were arrest-free while in the program and that more than 87% were living in the community between six and twelve months after their discharge from the program. Attorney Fazal shared a few success stories and reiterated that services provided in a facility can also be provided in the community.

Rep. Toni Walker thanked them for their presentation and opened discussion for the committee. Rep. Walker asked about the cost differences to which Attorney Fazal responded that it costs \$75 a day for the services provided in Youth Advocate Programs Inc. versus \$750 a day in youth facilities.

DCF Presentation on Action Plan in response to Reports on CJTS/Pueblo

William Rosenbeck, Kristy Ramsey, Debra Bond

DCF continued their presentation begun in August on Action Steps. Dr. Deborah Bond described the new training for Staff that will focus on Trauma. Kristy Ramsey, of Pueblo, explained that the use of restraints has decreased and that the specific 6 core strategies (referring to Six Core Strategies to Reduce the Use of Seclusion and Restraint Planning Tool©, NTAC 2005) have been implemented. She indicated that training on restraint and seclusion prevention has been increased.



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The DCF team continued its presentation by reviewing information that was requested at the August JJPOC meeting that includes: admissions and discharges each month from July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015, USDII Cady School suspensions, arrests at CJTS in 2013 and 2014, CJTS and clinical services and the frequency of these services, and more details on the use of comfort rooms.

Discussion began with questions by Sen. Winfield asking how DCF measures outcomes and effectiveness of treatment provided. DCF described the process used including treatment planning conferences with youth, family, and team and determining which goals and which services meet their needs. Once they are in these treatment groups, the treatment team meets monthly to discuss progress in terms of participation, understanding, engagement, and meeting goals and objectives

Rep. Walker asked how DCF evaluates family engagement and what percentage has family based engagement built into plan.

Dr. Debra Bonds stated that 2/3 of the youth have family engagement and therapy on site at CJTS. The clinician is at the facility engaging with the youth and the family and the clinicians continue to work with the families when the youth return home.

Rep. Robyn Porter questioned DCF on the videos recently released by the state OCA on the CJTS and Pueblo facilities.

Bill Rosenbeck explained that the restraints and seclusion are used for safety purposes only and not for compliance.

Rep. Porter asked how the rate of attempted suicides reported by the OCA compares to national statistics. DCF does not have the information. r

Rep. Porter asked how the videos may have impacted the climate and relationships between the residents and workers at the facilities since the release of the videos.

Mr. Rosenbeck explained that they have not seen an impact operationally.

Commissioner Katz provided final remarks indicating that the videos are de-identified and are just snippets of an experience, not the whole picture. Commissioner Katz acknowledged that some mistakes were made by some staff and that staff were disciplined.

Mr. Carbone announced that the next meeting will be on October 15, 2015.
Meeting adjourned.
