



University of New Haven

HENRY C. LEE COLLEGE OF
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND FORENSIC SCIENCES

Tow Youth Justice Institute



JJPOC Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2015
LOB, 2D
2:00-3:30PM

Attendance

Rep. Toni Walker
Sec. Ben Barnes
Abby Anderson
Sen. John Kissel
Erica Bromley
Lisa Wexler
Hector Glynn
Martha Stone
Sen. Beth Bye
Judge Patrick Carroll

Judge Bernadette Conway
Stephen Grant
Joseph D'Alesio
Christine rapillo
Dr. Linda Dixon
Warden John Alves
John Frassinelli
Derrick Gordon
Sarah Eagan
Shawn Rutchick

Loel Meckel
John Finkle
Terrie Wood

TYJI Staff:
Kitty Tyrol
Jeanne Milstein
Dr. Kendell Coker
William Carbone

Rep. Toni Walker welcomed everyone to the November Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee meeting. Sec. Ben Barnes shared a letter from Governor Dannel Malloy written to the JJPOC, which requested that JJPOC work with him to engage conversation about his proposal to raise the age of criminal jurisdiction for youth to age 21. Rep. Walker thanked Governor Malloy for his insights and beliefs that youth need services designed with an understanding that age does not define developmental stages. Rep. Walker indicated that the JJPOC is looking forward to working with the Governor on this critical matter.

Rep. Walker asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the October 15, 2015 meeting of the JJPOC. The motion passed unanimously.

Bill Carbone began his presentation by indicating that the RtA study that was presented by Dr. Kendell Coker from the University of New Haven included a descriptive analysis on outcomes for juveniles since the beginning of RtA. Mr. Carbone stated that the presentation stirred some rich discussion and added that discussion on the topic will continue at the December JJPOC meeting. The Judicial Branch was also invited to present information at the December meeting and the Judicial and researchers at the University of New Haven will develop a new scope for further study.

Mr. Carbone spoke about a two-day national juvenile justice conference that was attended by a small group of JJPOC members. The "Improving Outcomes for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System: A 50 State Forum" was held in Austin, Texas and taught the attending JJPOC members a great deal about initiatives in juvenile justice throughout the country. According to The Pew Charitable



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Trusts, Connecticut continues to be a leader in juvenile justice. Mr. Carbone indicated that the challenges in juvenile justice are similar to those experienced in Connecticut. As a result of this, the JJPOC has focused their Work Groups on the four main challenged areas: diversion, mass incarceration, recidivism, and data.

Mr. Carbone indicated Connecticut and many other states are coming together to make the juvenile justice system better through strong partnerships with communities, parents and policymaker strategic goals, and developing robust databases. Mr. Carbone shared his optimism. Mr. Carbone indicated that the School-Based Diversion Initiative implemented in Connecticut was mentioned as a national model for diversion. Mr. Carbone distributed a handout from the Pew Charitable Trusts showing that Connecticut is the number one state in reducing incarceration of youth. He concluded by saying that the work is not complete but we are continuing to move forward on a very solid foundation.

Martha Stone, Executive Director, Center for Children's Advocacy began a presentation on the strengths and barriers that support or impede educational needs of youth in the juvenile justice system (PA 14-217 sec 27)(f5) and examine ways state agencies and local boards of education can collaborate to reduce the number of children who enter the juvenile justice system (PA 14-217 sec 27)(g4). This presentation supplemented her presentation from the June JJPOC meeting. Attorney Stone explained that "Students First" is the title of her presentation because youth are first and foremost students, similar to any other adolescents in our state.

Leon Smith, Attorney, Center for Children's Advocacy, data presented from the June meeting. Alex Dufresne, Attorney, Center for Children's Advocacy, analyzed the top three areas of proposed action steps: chronic absenteeism, special education, and academic supports. Attorney Dufresne spoke about the facts of chronic absenteeism and how this might affect the future of the kids. Additionally, the data demonstrated that there is a strong association between chronic absenteeism and the number of referrals to court a juvenile receives. Attorney Dufresne presented ideas on how to reduce chronic absenteeism and evaluate the Connecticut truancy reduction models. Attorney Dufresne reviewed the national models with evidentiary support and strong independent evaluation and identified aspects of the programs that were most helpful.

Secondly, Attorney Stone explained that unmet special education needs continue to be a significant problem in Connecticut. Attorney Stone presented information on national models that have proven to be effective in better addressing special education needs.



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Lastly, Attorney Smith presented information on national models that have been implemented to address the issue of academic achievement and recommended that the JJPOC review the action steps to provide better academic supports.

Attorney Stone stressed the importance of collaboration between the State Department of Education, the Department of Children and Families and the Court Services Division of the Judicial Branch to resolve these large issues in education. Attorney Stone mentioned the importance of data sharing and improving the electronic information sharing. Discussion focused on the need for more educational advocates and the importance of including parents and youth in the process. Dr. Derrick Gordon believed that we should teach the students and the parents how to advocate for themselves as well.

Rep. Walker thanked Attorneys Stone, Smith and Dufresne for their presentation and work. Rep. Walker asked to receive recommendations and action steps from JJPOC Work Groups, which also includes how progress will be measured and evaluated. Rep. Walker asked that the Work Groups be a little more directed and specific in their recommendations and steps to achieve the goals. Rep. Walker requested that at least three specific action steps and how those three goals will be achieved be presented at the December JJPOC meeting. Rep. Walker thanked everyone for their time and their efforts.

The next meeting will be Thursday, December 17th, 1:30 to 3:00PM.