

Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee

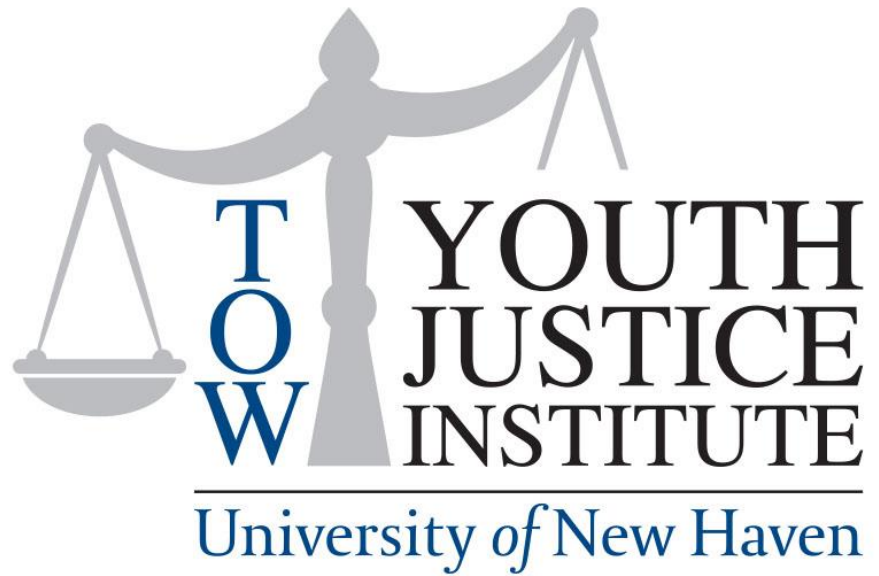
July 19th, 2018

Legislative Office Building

2pm Room 2D

Progress Report

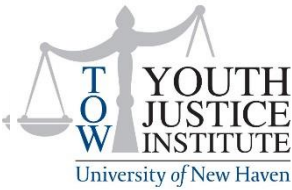
- Presentation:
 - *By Dr. Danielle Cooper, TYJI Director of Research on*
 - *Recommendations and Findings from the Study of Multi-Agency Data (2005-2015)*
 - *By Lael Chester and JJPOC Workgroup Co-chairs*
 - *Achieving Positive Youth Outcomes for Safer and Healthier Communities: A Shared Vision for Connecticut's Juvenile Justice System*



***Recommendations and Findings
from the Study of Multi-Agency
Data (2005-2015)***

7/19/18

Purpose of Study



Overall, the purpose of this study is to address the legislative mandate pursuant to **Public Act 14-217, Section 79**, which requires an assessment of state-run facilities that house children and youths involved in the juvenile justice system.

Facilities included in study:

- **JB-CSSD:** Bridgeport, Hartford, and New Haven Detention Centers
- **DCF:** Connecticut Juvenile Training School and Pueblo Unit
- **DOC:** Manson Youth Institute and York Correctional Institution

Focus of Discussion

- Study includes 2005 to 2015
 - Time frame for Discussion:
 - 2013 to 2015 (*post-Raise the Age to 18*)
- State-run facilities that currently house youth
 - JB-CSSD (*presented in June*)
 - DOC (*presented today*)
 - *Male minors housed in Manson Youth Institute (n=175)*
- Relevant Findings
- Recommendations to JJPOC

Information/Data Reviewed:

- Characteristics about the youth
- Additional predictive analyses for the outcomes:
 - Length of stay
 - Rearrests after 12 months

Relevant Findings

- **Most commonly youth admitted were:**
 - 17 years old Black males
 - Black youth represented around 65.7% of the sample
 - Residing (almost 50%) or offending (40%) in the major cities:
 - Bridgeport, Waterbury, New Haven, and Hartford
 - Arrested eight or more times prior to placement at MYI
 - Around 50% of youth received their first arrest at age 12 or younger
 - Data show youth were arrested as young as 8 years old at first arrest

Relevant Findings (cont.)

- **Most commonly youth admitted were:**
 - Committing offenses categorized as property offenses (40%)
 - followed by other offenses (35%) and violent offenses (25%)
 - In pre-trial juvenile detention previously for other charges (100%)
 - Housed at MYI for 20 months or more (50%)
 - Rearrested (*for any offense*) within 1 year of leaving the facility (64%)

Overview of Recommendations to JJPOC



RECOMMENDATION 1:

- Additional considerations should be given to the **age of onset** at which youth experience arrest that lead to court referrals and how that age plays into future penetration into the juvenile and criminal justice systems.
 - It is recommended that a **deliberate case management approach** be developed to incorporate a multi-agency response for youth who are 12 years or younger, as well as their families. In addition to the juvenile and adult justice systems, this approach should **engage families, communities, schools, behavioral health services, and child protective services.**

Overview of Recommendations to JJPOC



RECOMMENDATION 2:

- For youth who have engaged in persistent delinquent or criminal offenses, **access to developmental services is of the utmost importance**, yet services vary between the adult and juvenile systems.
 - It is recommended that juvenile justice professionals assess the **appropriateness of the level of services** available for youth who have been transferred, examine the **purpose of housing youth in adult facilities** where developmental services are not easily provided to their age group, and continue **services throughout the reentry process** and transition into the community.

Overview of Recommendations to JJPOC



RECOMMENDATION 3:

- Due to the multi-agency approach required to influence the policies and practices that affect justice-involved youth, it is necessary that justice professionals working with adults and children **learn about the role that system involvement plays** in the behavior of minors, as well as adults.
 - It is recommended that juvenile justice professionals work **to inform each other and other system professionals** about how contact with the justice system can influence future engagement in delinquent and criminal behaviors. The information shared should include initial and refresher **training opportunities**, as well as a centralized **hub of reports** on juvenile justice research.

Overview of Recommendations to JJPOC



RECOMMENDATION 4:

- It should be considered that the prevention of youths' **contact with the criminal justice system has overlap** with the prevention of youths' contact with pre-trial juvenile detention.

Therefore, the following juvenile justice recommendations also apply:

- Identifying and diverting youth from pre-trial detention by targeting the third or more arrest for a differential response
- Implementing a decentralized approach to address RED in order to reduce the percentage of Black male youth housed in state-run facilities
- Better identifying who are youth charged with drug offenses and/or youths' drug use behaviors

Summary of Recommendations



The recommendations focus on:

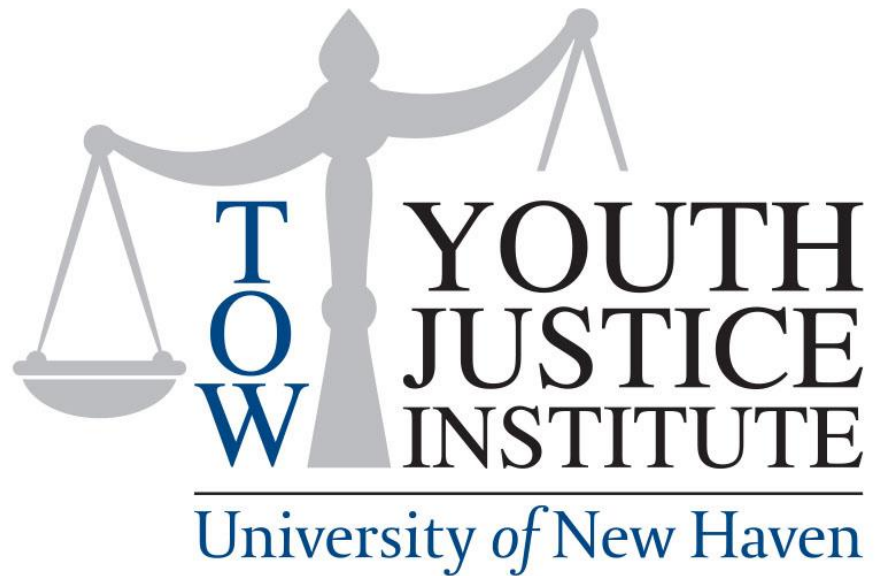
- Identifying and better understanding youth who are referred to the court at ages 12 or younger
- Providing the appropriate level of services to youth while they are housed for extended periods of time, as well as examining where they are most likely to get those services and making sure that there are services available in the community to assist with reentry.
- Informing system professionals about juveniles experiences and the impact on their adult lives.
- Reduce contact with the adult justice system by examining contact with the juvenile justice system

Actions for Next Steps:

- Move discussions back into workgroups for integration into strategic planning process
- Identify additional areas of study based on workgroup planning

Final Thoughts?





***“Achieving Positive
Youth Outcomes for
Safer and Healthier
Communities: A Shared
Vision for Connecticut’s
Juvenile Justice
System”***

Process for Drafting the JJPOC Strategic Plan

1-year process:

- Discussions at full JJPOC meetings
- Development and distribution of a survey via Survey Monkey
- Meetings with the co-chairs of the workgroups (including meeting w/ JJPOC co-chairs Rep. Walker and Sec. Barnes)
- Discussions and coordination with the TYJI at the University of New Haven
- Feedback and edits provided by the co-chairs on working drafts

Key Elements of the JJPOC Strategic Plan

- Shared vision
- Highlighting key activities
 - Integrating Community Expertise
 - Conducting Research
 - Enhancing workforce specialization in youth services
- Goals and objectives
- Structure and process

~ A LIVING DOCUMENT ~

Goal 1: Limit Youth Entry Into the Justice System

Connecticut is committed to preventing youth from entering the formal justice system by appropriately serving them by alternative means or systems (e.g., community-based diversion, restorative justice approaches, mental/behavioral health services, etc.) in order to achieve better outcomes for youth.

Goal 1: Objectives

- Increase and assess both the quality and availability of diversion programming
- Ensure that youth have appropriate supports from youth-serving agencies (schools, Department of Children and Families, etc.) as viable alternatives to the formal juvenile justice system, including but limited to;
 - Substance use services
 - Mental and behavioral health services
 - Child protection and welfare services
 - Educational services, including special education
 - Other services for youth with disabilities
- Identify sustainable funding for the Community-Based Diversion Plan through a variety of resources.
- Reduce inappropriate referrals to the juvenile justice system.
- Apply restorative practices and principles in diversion programming.

Goal 2: Reduce Incarceration

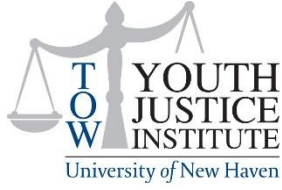
Connecticut is committed to ensuring that youth who are committed to confinement are held accountable through individualized rehabilitative services, treated with fairness and dignity, and offered the support needed to mature into healthy and productive members of our communities.

Goal 2: Objectives



- Support efforts to create and operate developmentally appropriate, small, residential settings (in lieu of formal, adult-like correctional settings) that can provide therapeutic care for Connecticut's youth who cannot succeed in less restrictive environments (regardless of whether the youth was prosecuted in the juvenile or adult systems).
- Improve the quality and availability of behavioral health care services and education and vocational training provided to juvenile justice system-involved youth placed out of home.
- Remove youth from adult prisons pre- and post-trial.
- Achieve safe and humane conditions of confinement that are culturally responsive, conducive to healthy development and responsive to special populations (e.g., gender/sexual orientation).
- Increase and improve re-entry support and services for youth.
- Ensure that probation violations are handled in a developmentally appropriate manner.
- Provide evidence-based, developmentally appropriate responses as well as positive incentives to youth in the justice system.

Goal 3: Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities of Youth in Connecticut's Juvenile Justice System

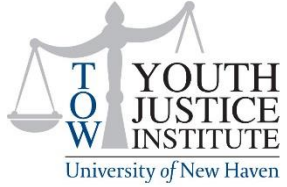


Connecticut is committed to eliminating racial and ethnic disparities of justice-involved youth to ensure fairness and equity for all youth.

Goal 3: Objectives

- Ensure that race and ethnicity data and the strategies to address disparities are interpreted and developed in true partnership with communities of color.
- Ensure the collection, review, and public reporting of race and ethnicity data at each important point of contact in the juvenile justice system
- Enhance and support opportunities for localized review (community oversight) of school and police practices.

Goal 4: “Right-size” the Juvenile Justice System by Setting Appropriate Lower and Upper Age Limits



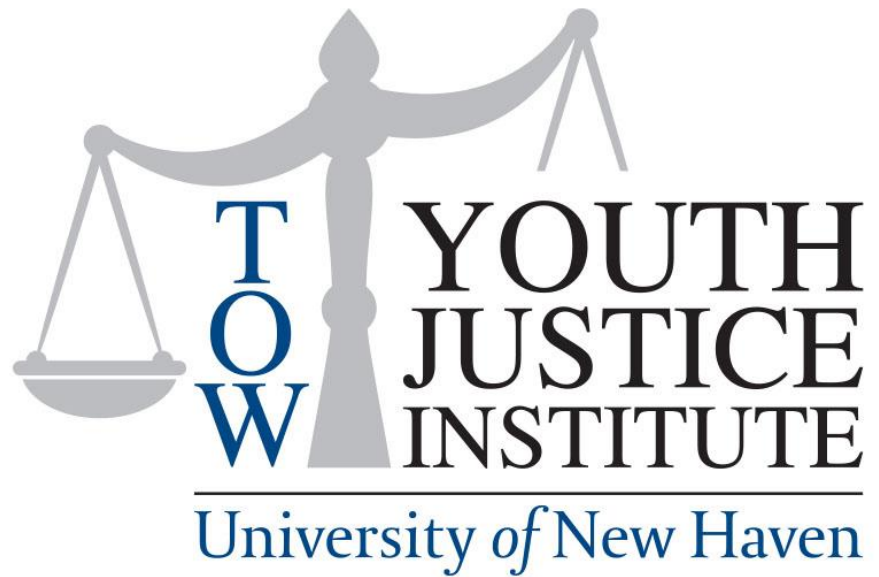
Connecticut is committed to focusing its juvenile justice system to the appropriate age range of youth to provide developmentally appropriate and effective services for both the youngest youth (lower age of jurisdiction) and the older youth (including emerging adults) in order to improve individual outcomes and increase public safety.

Goal 4: Objectives

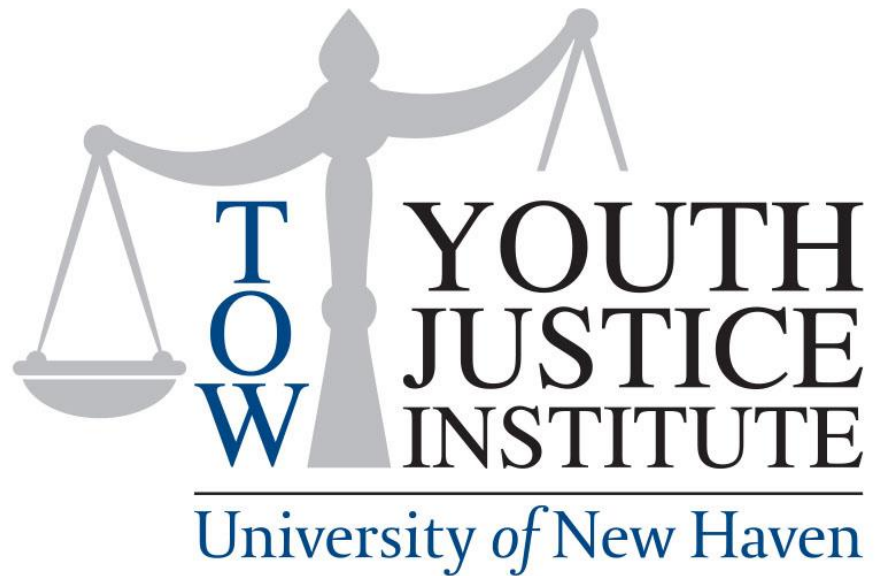
- Eliminate or reduce the barriers in the justice system that prevent or hinder youth in their ability to mature and “age out of crime” and lead productive, healthy, law-abiding lives.
- Review research and develop recommendations on developmentally appropriate lower and upper age limits of juvenile justice jurisdiction

Next Steps:

- Over a 4-month period (July – November 2018), *each* JJPOC workgroup will:
 - Identify 1 or 2 objectives that will be made a priority for a one-year period year;
 - Develop strategies that the workgroup believes will be most effective in achieving the priority objective/s; and
 - Identify specific measurements to assess the progress of the work (e.g., recidivism rates) and, if possible, establish targets (e.g., % reduction in recidivism rates) that JJPOC should aim to achieve over time.
- Final plan to be presented to JJPOC at the November meeting.



Discussion



***Next JJPOC Meeting
September 20th, 2018
2:00-3:30 PM***

*****NO AUGUST MEETING*****