



JJPOC Meeting Minutes  
January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
2PM  
1C

**Attendance:**

Rep. Toni Walker  
Sec. Ben  
Barnes

Chief Dean Esserman  
Joette Katz, *Commissioner of DCF*  
Art Petty, *Dep. Of Labor*  
Sen. Gary Winfield  
Sen. Eric Coleman  
Lara Herscovitch  
Sen. John Kissel  
Sen. Danté Bartolomeo  
Erica Bromley

Hector Glynn  
Martha Stone, JD  
Hon. Patrick Carroll  
Hon. Bernadette Conway  
Deborah Fuller  
Joseph D’Alesio  
Christine Rاپillo  
Francis Carino  
Linda Dixon, PhD  
Warden John Alves  
John Frassinelli  
Chief Eric Osanitsch  
Dr. Derrick Gordon  
Sarah Eagan

Sec. Ben Barnes  
Rep. Robyn Porter  
Shawn Rutchick  
Cheryl Jacques  
John T. Finkle  
Attorney Deborah Stevenson

*TYJI Staff:*  
William Carbone  
Kitty Tyrol  
Jeanne Milstein  
Kendell Coker, PhD  
Danielle Cooper, PhD  
Laura Downs

Rep. Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes from the January 21, 2016 meeting were voted on and unanimously accepted.

Bill Carbone began his progress report by telling the JJPOC what will be presented in the meeting. The goal of the meeting was to have the recommendations acted upon so we could move forward with the next step to start the implementation plan. The recommendations from the two reports the JJPOC commissioned from Center for Children’s Advocacy (CCA) and The Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut (CHDI) will be presented today. The CCA report on educational barriers and CHDI report on the overlap between mental health and juvenile justice were both presented in previous JJPOC meetings and their full reports were emailed to the JJPOC members last Friday, January 22, 2016. The summary recommendations were also emailed and provided as handouts at the meeting.

**PRESENTATION: Students First: Ensuring Excellence and Opportunity for Students in Connecticut’s Juvenile Justice System**

Laura Downs, TYJI Consultant, introduced Attorney Martha Stone to present the recommendations of the CCA. Attorney Stone first emphasized that the name of the report, “Students First”, which was to highlight the importance that kids in the system are still students first, despite their during

their juvenile court involvement. Secondly, the three recommendations were narrowed down from the original eleven pages of recommendations but all of which were important. These recommendations were directly aligned with the strategic goals of the JJPOC. Attorney Stone presented her three recommendations and discussed how they dovetail with the JJPOC work groups and goals of the committee. Attorney Stone thanked CSSD, DCF, the Education Work Group of the JJPOC, and the staff at CCA for their assistance with this final report.

In response to the aforementioned, John Frassinelli from Connecticut's State Department of Education (SDE) shared concerns on behalf of his department; citing fiscal considerations and potential duplicative efforts. Regarding the needs of all students, especially the most vulnerable students, Mr. Frassinelli indicated that the department can philosophically support many of the components and many of these recommendations with the understanding that there are potentially some significant fiscal concerns in the area of implementation during an already difficult budget climate. There are policy issues in some of the aforementioned areas that are already being implemented by SDE, areas of ongoing interagency collaboration that meet some of the needs outlined in CCA recommendations but the SDE welcomed further dialogue on the issues. On the idea of working collaboratively. Mr. Frassinelli stated, "Our commitment is there, interagency collaboration is there. I just wanted it on record."

Rep. Walker suspended the discussion on the educational barrier recommendations in order to introduce Governor Dannel Malloy to the JJPOC.

#### **PRESENTATION – Governor Malloy**

Governor Malloy expressed that "the JJPOC has made a truly significant contribution to the success of Connecticut's previous Raise the Age initiative" and looks forward to work further with the committee on raising the age with particular focus on those ages 18-21. Governor Malloy proposed the following and requested that the JJPOC prepare recommendations for appropriate legislation necessary to implement these changes by January 1, 2017 (as listed in his fact sheet):

- Raise the Age of the juvenile justice system's jurisdiction through age 18 on July 2017, through age 19 on July 1, 2018, and through age 20 on July 1, 2019
- Allow low-risk offenders aged 18-20 to be tried as young adults within the juvenile justice system rather than the adult system
- Bail reform efforts
- Study the expansion of youthful offender status further to including 21-25 year olds in the juvenile justice system
- Close CJTS by July 1, 2018 and advise DCF to develop a plan to meet that goal

Governor Malloy believes this proposal will help reduce crime while giving these older youth opportunities to avoid lifelong stigma their exposure to the system. Governor Malloy thanked the JJPOC for their partnership.

Governor Malloy introduced Karen Buffkin, General Counsel from the Office of the Governor and Michael Lawlor, Under Secretary from Criminal Justice OPM, to further present and answer any questions regarding his proposals and left the JJPOC meeting.

### **PRESENTATION – Governor Malloy’s Juvenile Justice Reform Proposals**

Attorney Karen Buffkin began the presentation by explaining the importance of time in order to make this a successful implementation. She suggested that this effort mirrored the successful process of Raise the Age 2012. Attorney Michael Lawlor provided supporting statistical data and explained that this proposal is driven by numbers. He explained that the goal was to put slightly older offenders in a system that will assist them toward future success. This goal was consistent with numerous states enacting a similar transformation, which contributes to Connecticut being on the “leading edge.”

Attorney Buffkin explained that raising the minimum age will not be in the Governor’s specific recommendation plan but asked the JJPOC to look at the plan and recommend what age, minimally, should a police officer be allowed to bring a child to juvenile court. In order to meet the needs of this additional group of youths, there would be a reallocation of services rather than additions of services. The Governor and his team were looking for these recommendations from JJPOC at the end of 2016.

Rep. Walker thanked them for their presentation and opened the meeting for discussion. Concerns were raised regarding the constitutionality of the proposed changes, including: secret/open courts, raising the minimum age, and how the youth currently in the adult system will be considered.

Mr. Carbone said that the Department of Justice is very interested in what is happening in Connecticut and that additional funds have been received to begin to address some of the Governor’s recommendations.

The materials will be emailed to TYJI by Attorney Buffkin and will then be distributed to JJPOC. Rep. Walker thanked Attorney Buffkin and Attorney Lawlor for the presentation.

### **DISCUSSION – Recommendations on Education**

Rep. Walker returned to the JJPOC agenda and resumed discussion on the recommendations by CCA. There was a discussion pertaining to holding schools accountable. Sen. Kissel expressed his support for Attorney Stone and the proposals.

Rep. Walker suggested further discussion happen within the specific committee meetings with supportive documentation provided so that more information be shared and presented again to the JJPOC.

Rep. Walker initiated a vote by voice on each individual recommendation:

**CCA Report on Educational Barriers:**

Recommendation #1- passes, 1 abstention

Recommendation #2- passes unanimously

Recommendation #3-passes, 1 abstention

**PRESENTATION – Improving Coordination between the Juvenile Justice and Behavioral Health Systems in Connecticut**

Dr. Jeffrey Vanderploeg of CHDI began his presentation by reminding the committee of the data on the overlap of mental health and juvenile justice systems. Dr. Vanderploeg presented two recommendations and their relation to the goals set by the JJPOC. Rep. Walker thanked him for his presentation. There was a discussion on services available for at-risk children, the legality of data sharing, privacy concerns, and the wording of the recommendations.

Rep. Walker initiated a vote by voice on each individual recommendation:

**CHDI Report on Mental Health and Juvenile Justice Systems**

Recommendation #1- passes unanimously

Recommendation #2- passes unanimously

Rep Walker asked the committee if there were any additional recommendations or suggestions on the items passed during the January 21, 2016 JJPOC meeting. During the January 21, 2016 meeting, Sec. Barnes made several suggestions but did not feel a need to offer them as amendments at this time.

Laura Downs presented the next steps for the JJPOC now that the JJPOC work group recommendations have been adopted.

Mr. Carbone explained that the implementation plan will be formed so that the actions taken by the JJPOC during this week's January 28, 2016 and last week's January 21, 2016 meetings will be fully considered by the legislature. Subcommittees will resume and some already have meetings scheduled.

The next JJPOC meeting is February 18, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. with a 10:00 a.m. informational session co-sponsored by the legislature and the JJPOC on "Recidivism and Juvenile Justice" and "Adolescent Brain Development" by nationally recognized leaders in both fields, Dr. Edward Latessa and Elizabeth Cauffman.

Rep. Walker suggested that members plan for more lengthy meetings in the future and there should be more discussion in subcommittees.

The meeting was adjourned.