



## JJPOC Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2016

2:00PM

2C

### Attendance:

Rep. Toni Walker	Linda Dixon, Ph.D.	Sarah Eagan
Abby Anderson	Judge Lisa Wexler	Eddie Cajigas
Erica Bromley	Francis Carino	Natasha Pierre
Hector Glynn	Brian Hill	<b>TYJ Staff:</b>
Martha Stone, JD	Shawn Rutchick	William Carbone
Hon. Judge Patrick Carroll	Joette Katz	Erika Nowakowski
Stephen Grant	Gary Winfield	Kitty Tyrol
Christine Rapillo	Eric Coleman	Donna Pfrommer
Robyn Porter	Hon. Judge Bernadette Conway	Susan Cusano
	John Finkle	Laura Downs

Rep. Toni Walker called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Rep. Walker asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes of November 17, 2016. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### Update on Progress

William Carbone, from the Tow Youth Justice Institute at the University of New Haven, reviewed the agenda for today’s meeting which will include the Incarceration workgroup report which will be delivered by Judge Conway, and a presentation by the Harvard Kennedy School. Last January, Governor Malloy asked JJPOC to study the impact and implications of raising the age of jurisdiction to 21. Harvard Kennedy School has completed their study and will be giving their recommendations.

Mr. Carbone acknowledged and thanked Laura Downs, TYJI consultant for the past year. She will be ending her term with us at the end of December. Laura has helped formulate recommendations, present them to JJPOC and get them into legislative. Ms. Downs has been a tremendous asset to the JJPOC and projects. Rep Walker also thanked Laura for her hard work and dedication.

### Workgroup Updates:

#### Incarceration

Mr. Carbone introduced Judge Bernadette Conway to present an update on the Incarceration workgroup. Judge Conway noted one of the three overarching goals of the workgroup is to reduce the rate at which we detain children by 30%. PA16-147 section 4, which go into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, narrow the grounds under which a child may be detained pre-adjudication for an alleged commission of a delinquent act.



The implementation of a detention risk screening tool to determine youth eligibility into incarceration, will assist decision makers in determining, based on risk level, if a child will pose a risk to public safety if released back into the community prior to the court hearing or disposition; or if there is a need to hold the child in order to insure the child's appearance before the court as demonstrated by the child's previous failure to respond to court process.

The detention risk screen tool, which meets the statutory requirements of PA 16-147, has been developed and will be ready for implementation on January 1, 2017. Probation and detention staff who will be administering the screen, will be trained on the tool and a training video is being developed to assist judicial staff and judges with its use. Judge Conway thanked members of the sub group, and judges for their invaluable help in the workgroup.

Judge Conway acknowledged Attorneys Rapillo and Carino for arranging to have juvenile public defenders and juvenile prosecutors come together to hear Dr. Kaufman and Dr. Latessa's recorded presentations last week at the LOB.

Rep. Walker thanked the Incarceration workgroup for the detention risk screen tool. She asked that all the members of the JJPOC be invited to the training session. Judge Conway stated they will all have the video available to watch.

Mr. Carbone noted this instrument is being implemented the same time as the criteria change for admission to juvenile detention which goes into effect on January 1, 2017. The change in criteria alone holds the promise of having a major impact on reducing the number of children who get admitted to juvenile detention centers in Connecticut. When the three criteria were applied to 2014-15, the conclusion was about half the kids would not be admitted to detention. The judicial branch has applied objective criteria as to how this decision would be made in regards to public safety. It will assure more uniformity and standardization and who is admitted across the state to juvenile detention and will move us further beyond the goal of reaching a 30% reduction in incarceration. Mr. Carbone thanked all for their extraordinary job.

Judge Lisa Wexler questioned how the tool will be used for evaluation of public safety. Judge Conway explained it is a complicated scientifically based process. There are many factors. It is an objective data adding system – 10 different points are looked at and added up. Kids are then categorized into level, 1, 2 or 3. Dr. Cox will speak more about this at a later date.

John Finkle inquired about the process of a child that will or will not go through detention. Steve Grant explained this assessment tool would be a supplement to the current tools used on how to map out the correct intervention that would change the behavior that brought the client to court.

Rep Walker suggested an abbreviation of the video be shown at the January JJPOC meeting.

Chris Rapillo noted there is still a process that takes place every time a child is in court and there is an issue of detention. The tool will be something the detention center and the judge will use, it will not substitute the process that we now have. It is something that is being added in to the process.



Mr. Carbone opened the conversation on the executive summary titled “Public Safety and Emerging Adults in Connecticut: Providing Effective and Developmentally Appropriate Responses for Youth Under Age 21” which was emailed to JJPOC earlier. In January of this year, Governor Malloy attended a meeting of the committee and informed us of his intention to ask the legislature to raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction but wanted to have a study done on its impact and asked that the study be presented to him by the end of 2016. During the spring, the University of New Haven was able to obtain some federal funds to support the cost of this study and contracted with the Harvard Kennedy School. Both Vincent Schriladi and Lael Chester have analyzed the issues associated with raising the age.

**Public Safety & Emerging Adults in Connecticut: Providing Effective and Developmentally Appropriate Responses for Youth Under Age 21 – Vincent Schriladi & Lael Chester**

Bill introduced Vincent Schriladi and Lael Chester. Mr. Schriladi is a senior research fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School for Criminal Justice and Ms. Lael Chester is a research fellow.

Lael began the presentation noting the goal of this project was to provide guidance to Connecticut on the implementation of the governor’s proposal to include 18, 19 and 20 year olds in the Connecticut juvenile justice system.

Upon completion of the presentation, Rep. Walker thanked Vinnie and Lael. She asked chairs of the committee to come to the January 19th meeting with suggestions. Rep. Walker stated “This saves lives and families; incarceration tears apart families.”

Abby Anderson referred to last month’s JJPOC presentation on elimination of youth prisons, stating there were no action steps given. She asked the Harvard Kennedy School to assist; Mr. Schriladi agreed to work with the JJPOC to look at how his experience and knowledge can be utilized. Conversations will continue at a later date. Their report can be found on the website.

Governor Malloy stopped in to thank the committee, the University of New Haven and the Harvard Kennedy School for all their hard work. He will look further into the report but also wanted to highlight some details of the report:

- Since 2011, crime rate has been lowered, making our community safer and reducing the number of repeat offenses. This is the lowest crime rate in CT in 50 years and the lowest prison population in 22 years.
- Since July 2009, the number of inmates ages 18-21 in our prison population, is down 54%. In 2009 there were more than 2,000 inmates in the 18-21 age group. Today the number is less than 900.
- For those inmates under the age of 18, the population has dropped from 332 in 2009 to approx. 75 today.
- These decreases can be largely attributed to the raising the age of juvenile offenders to 18 which took effect in 2012.
- The number of older inmates, over the age of 40, has remained constant during the same period of time.

Governor Malloy will review and analyze the report over the next few weeks. He noted we will have better outcomes for our youth, make our state stronger, lower crime and save money. All are being accomplished at the same time.

Rep. Walker thanked Governor Malloy for his leadership.



Fran Carino commented on an article he saw in the Washington Post titled "Washington D.C. Second Chance Law". He noted it was unsuccessful and wanted to be sure Connecticut doesn't do the same. Mr. Schriladi is aware of the article and explained this is very different. Those kids were tried as adults. The analysis was flawed. CT law is different than D.C. law, much more liberal.

TYJI will work with the JJPOC workgroup co-chairs, Lael Chester, and Vincent Schriladi review the report. ". For purposes of addressing some of the issues concerning alternatives to CJTS a meeting with Vincent and the incarceration workgroup, Senator Winfield and Judge Conway, will be coordinated by TYJI.

The January 19th JJPOC meeting will be entirely devoted to recommendations from the four workgroups. They are in the process now of working with each workgroup on the drafting of those recommendations. The goal is to have them out to the JJPOC members at least one week prior to the next meeting.

Rep. Walker thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting.

**Next Meeting:** January 19, 2017, 2:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.