

JJPOC Meeting
September 17th, 2020
Zoom (Online)

Opening Remarks

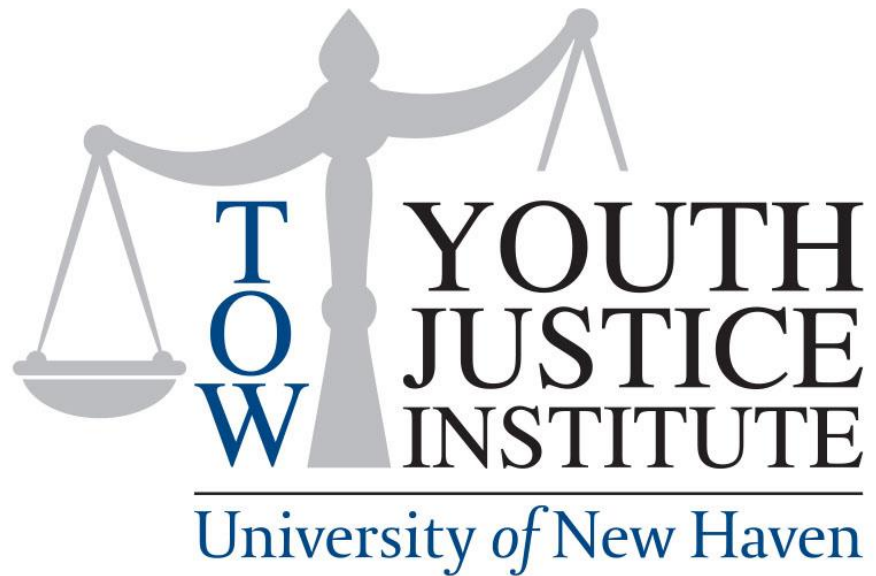
- Roll Call
- Meeting facilitation
 - Meeting is being recorded
 - Remain “muted” on Zoom, unless speaking
 - Refrain from interrupting with comments or questions until each presenter is finished speaking
 - Use the “Chat” and “Hand Raising” feature for any questions or comments so TYJI can help monitor and facilitate the meeting

Opening Remarks

- JJPOC Diversion Co-Chair
 - **Thank you** John D. Frassinelli, Division Director School Health, Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, Connecticut State Department of Education

Agenda

- Acceptance of Minutes of JJPOC
 - June 2020
 - July 2020
- Update on Approved Recommendations of the IOYouth Task Force by the Council of State Governments
- Presentation on Integrating Public Health, Social-Ecological, and Restorative Justice Models by Dr. Gordon and Dr. April



Improving Outcomes for Youth in Connecticut: Summary of Findings, Recommendations, and Next Steps

Josh Weber, Program Director

*Nina Salomon, Deputy Program Director,
Council of State Governments*

About the Council of State Governments Justice Center



Justice Center

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

National nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership association of state government officials that engages members of all three branches of state government. Provides practical, nonpartisan research-driven strategies and tools to increase public safety and strengthen communities.

Connecticut established a task force chaired by Rep. Walker and Secretary McCaw to oversee and guide the initiative.

Rep. Toni Walker, Co-chair, Appropriations Committee, Connecticut General Assembly

Melissa McCaw, Secretary, Office of Policy and Management

Abby Anderson, Executive Director, CT Juvenile Justice Alliance

Erica Bromley, Juvenile Justice Liaison, Connecticut Youth Services Association

Francis Carino, Supervisory Juvenile Prosecutor, Office of the Chief State's Attorney

Judge Bernadette Conway, Chief Administrative Judge, Juvenile Matters

John Frassinelli, State Department of Education

Deborah Fuller, Director, Family and Juvenile Services, Court Support Services Division, Judicial Branch

Eulalia Garcia, Deputy Warden, Manson Youth Institution, Department of Corrections

Hector Glynn, Senior Vice President, The Village for Children and Families

Dr. Derrick Gordon, Director, Research, Policy and Program on Male Development, The Consultation Center, Yale University

Brian Hill, Director of Human Resources, Judicial Branch

Senator George Logan, Human Services Committee, Connecticut General Assembly

Eleanor Michael, Policy Development Coordinator, Office of Policy and Management

Ken Mysogland, Bureau Chief, External Affairs, Department of Children and Families

Marc Pelka, Undersecretary for Criminal Justice, Office of Policy and Management

Rep. Robyn Porter, Appropriations & Judiciary Committees, Connecticut General Assembly

Christine Rapillo, Chief Public Defender, Connecticut Office of Chief Public Defender

Janeen Reid, Executive Director, Full Circle Youth Empowerment

Gary Roberge, Executive Director, Court Support Services Division, Judicial Branch

Fred Spagnolo, Chief of Police, Waterbury Police Department

Martha Stone, Executive Director, Center for Children's Advocacy

Data provided by state agencies informed the system assessment.

Data	Source
CSSD Detention Admissions	Center for Analytics—University of New Haven
CSSD Probation Cases	
CSSD Unified Criminal History	
Juvenile Review Boards	Connecticut State Department of Education
Youth Service Bureaus	
Survey Data	Bridgeport and Hartford Detention Facilities Pretrial Staff (n = 102)

CSG Justice Center staff conducted multiple site visits to Connecticut, and spoke with over 100 stakeholders.



CSG staff also visited detention, REGIONS, and DOC facilities to meet with youth, facility leadership, custody staff, mental health and education providers:

- Bridgeport Juvenile Detention Center
- Hartford Juvenile Detention Center
- Journey House
- Manson Youth Institution
- Boys and Girls Village
- Connecticut Junior Republic

Systems Assessment: Key Takeaways

1

Delinquent referrals to juvenile court have declined 26% since 2014, but many youth who commit low level offenses, and disproportionately youth of color, still receive some form of system supervision. Service delivery for these youth varies considerably across the state.

2

Admissions to pretrial detention have declined 51% since 2014, but disproportionality for Black and Hispanic youth has increased. Detention use is primarily driven by Warrants and Take Into Custody orders.

3

Service completion rates are low and rearrest rates for youth who participate in services are generally above 50 percent. More efforts are needed to identify the reasons for such challenges and ensure youth and families are engaged in services and receive services matched to their needs.

4

Focus group participants expressed significant concerns with placing youth in short term detention facilities for extended periods of time and effectively meeting their needs given that the facilities were designed only for short-term stays.

5

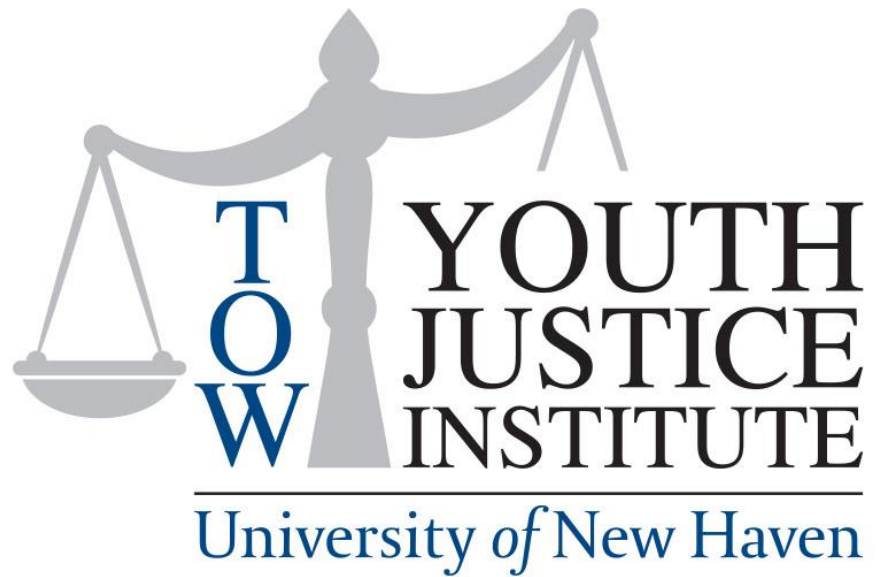
Most stakeholders do not believe that DOC facilities are the most appropriate place for youth, as these facilities need training, critical assessments and services, and revised policies to meet youths' needs.

Systems Assessment: Recommendations Approved by the IOYouth Taskforce

1. Decriminalize in statute specific adolescent behaviors; divert all low risk youth from any form of system supervision; and establish a pilot/landscape analysis process to explore the viability of strengthening the YSB/JRBs statewide to serve as a more robust, research-based diversion service system.
2. Establish family engagement/safety planning protocols to limit the automatic detention of youth on warrants/take into custody orders, and base initial detention decision from the detention screening tool.
3. Strengthen youth and family engagement policies and practices and procurement/contracting/case management partnerships with providers to improve service engagement and successful completion rates.
4. Develop an equity dashboard that monitors/compares system involvement for youth of different races/ethnicities in specific ways, based on current system disparities.
5. Eliminate the housing of youth disposed to secure treatment in state-run, short-term detention facilities, and engage in a planning process designed to facilitate the phased transfer of responsibility for youth from the DOC to CSSD through legislation enacted during the 2021 session.

IOYouth Recommendations Implementation: Next Steps

- A. Establish an IOYouth Implementation Committee, as a sub-committee of the JJPOC, co-chaired by leadership from all three branches of government and comprised primarily of the agencies/entities responsible for implementing the approved recommendations.
 - i. Develop agency and broad Committee action plans (September)
 - ii. Hold first meeting of the Implementation Committee (October)
 - iii. Advance action plans under oversight of the Implementation Committee, through leadership of identified responsible parties, in consultation/collaboration with key stakeholders, and supported by technical assistance from the CSG Justice Center (ongoing)
 - iv. Provide updates on implementation progress and challenges to the JJPOC (ongoing)



Questions?



Conceptualizing Juvenile Justice Reform: Integrating Public Health, Social-Ecological, and Restorative Justice Models

Keisha April, J.D., Ph.D.

Derrick Gordon, Ph.D.

The Consultation Center, Yale

Racial and Ethnic Disparities

- RED pervades the JJ system and occurs at every decision-making point
 - Youth of color more disproportionately represented the deeper they move within the JJ system
- Reforms in CT have effectively reduced front end and deep end justice involvement, but rates of disproportionately for youth of color remain high
 - Youth of color make up 20% of CT's population, but 80% of JJ system
- Disproportionate rates of justice system contact and involvement set youth of color up for poorer outcomes



RED Workgroup

- Established to help further the Strategic Plan goal of reducing racial and ethnic disparities within CT's JJ system
- Tasked with collecting, reviewing, and reporting RED data at each point of contact in the JJ system and developing recommendations to effectively address inequities within the JJ system
- Strives to ensure that RED data and strategies to address disparities are interpreted in partnership with communities of color



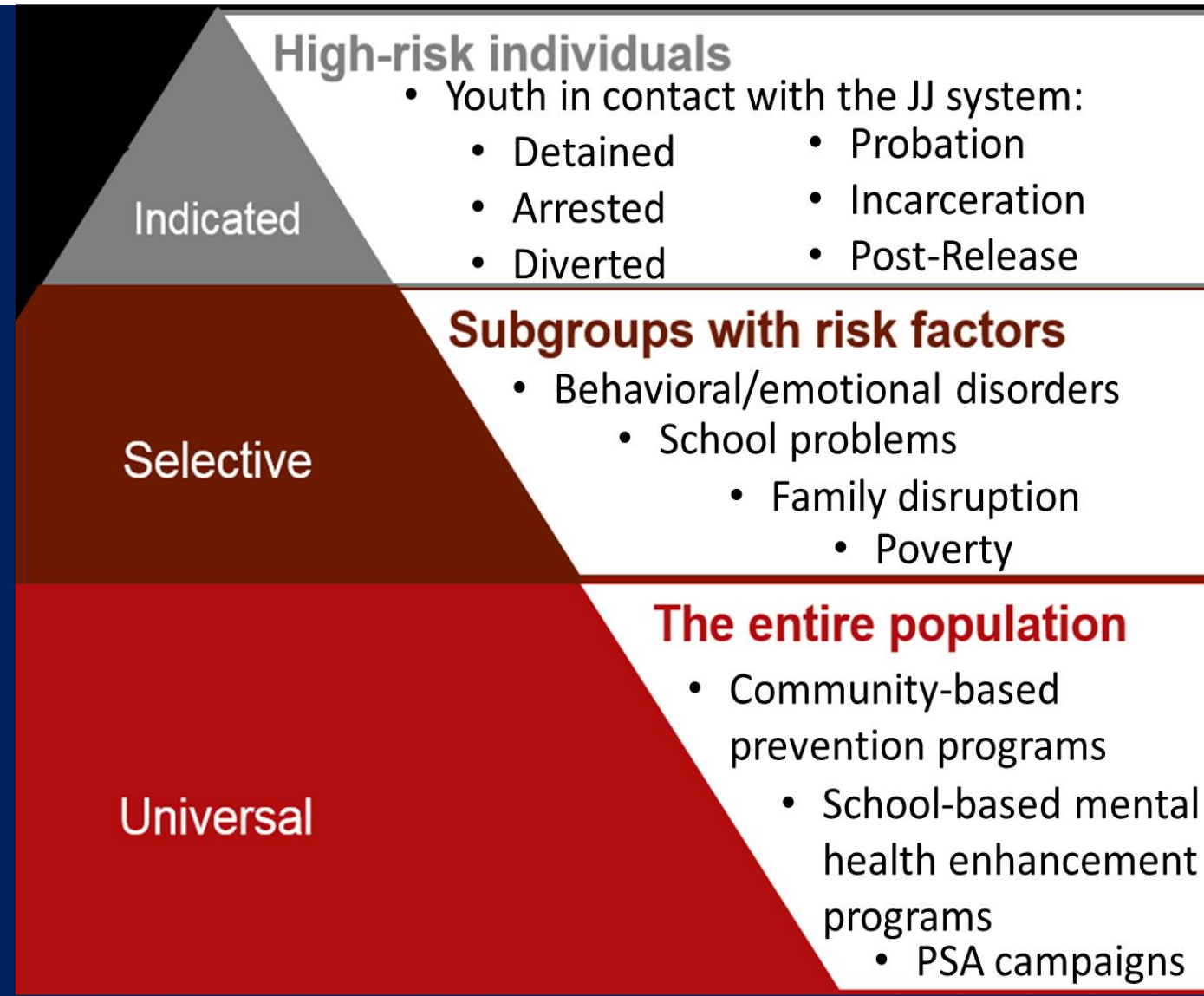
Current Challenges

- Schools continue to be a key entry point for youth in JJ system
 - Many children with untreated behavioral and emotional disorders end up in JJ system
- Youth offending may be function of unmet basic and social needs
- YSBs and JRBs function differently across counties and communities
- Little is known about pre-arrest decision making and what interventions/services youth receive



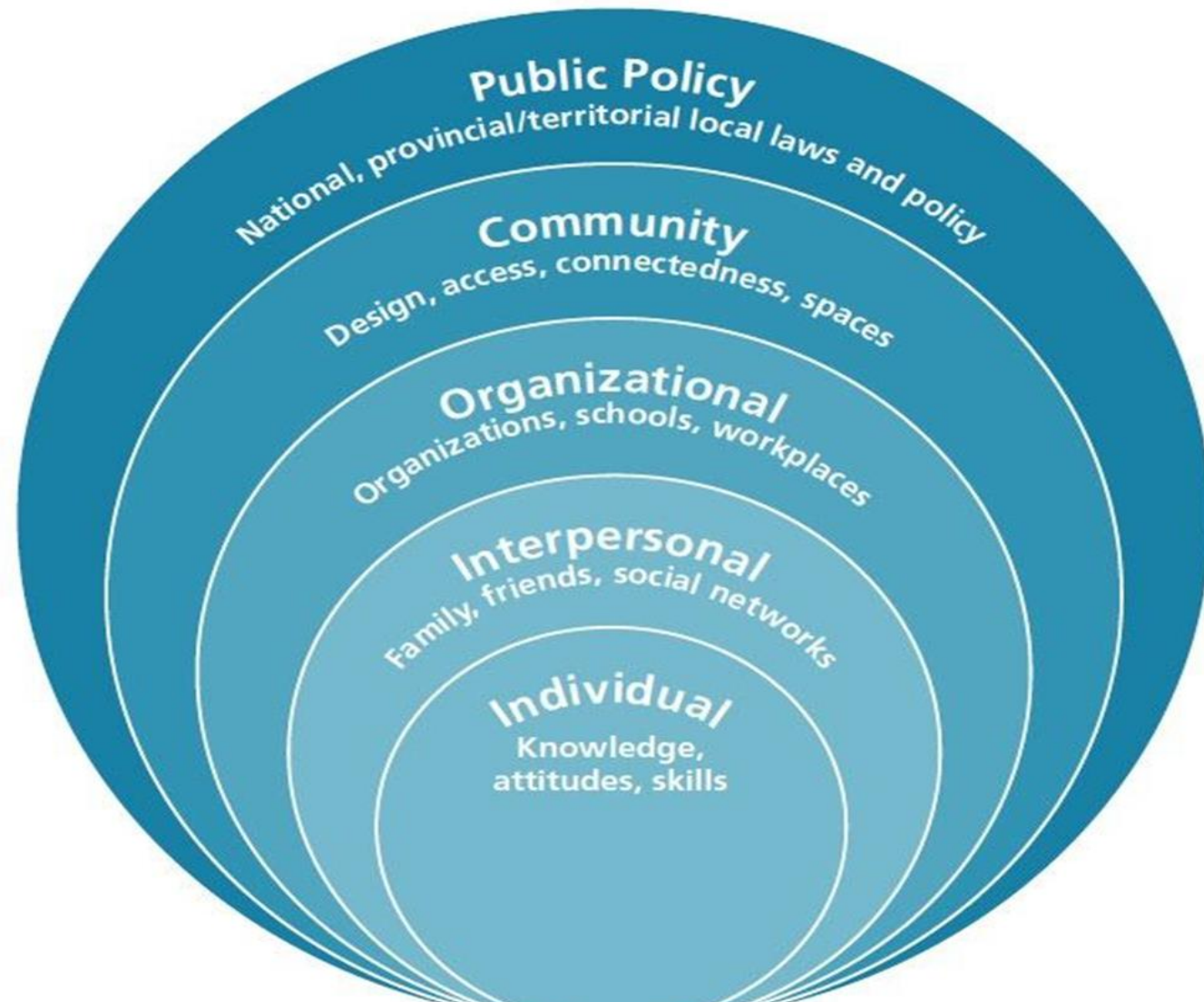
Models of Intervention – Public Health

- Conceptualizes youth entry into JJ system as reflection of risks, failure of prevention, and lack of community-based alternatives
- Youth offending has implications for individual, community, and society health
- Goal of prevention is to reduce new occurrences of targeted problem (i.e., offending) to promote greater community health
 - Intervenes at three tiers of risk



Models of Intervention – Socioecological

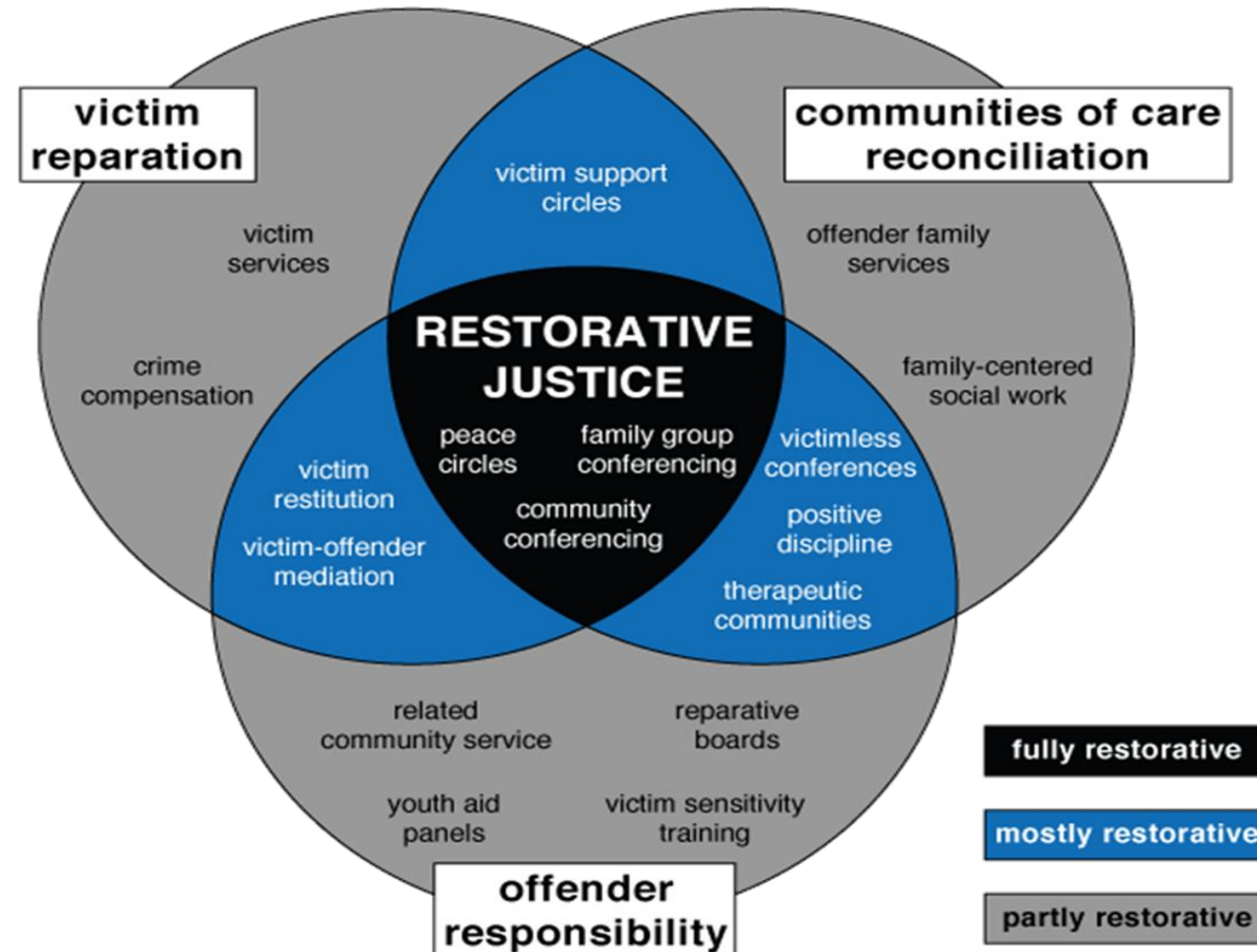
- Socioecological Model—views youth offending through lens of relationships and systems within which offending takes place. Offending reflects disorder/disruption in systems and/or relationships
 - Individual, Interpersonal, Organizational, Community, and Public Policy Systems
- Interventions focus on positive development of youth, building relationships and strengthening youths' competence, character, connection, confidence, and caring



Models of Intervention – Restorative Justice

- Restorative Justice Model—youth offending indicates a break in relationship between youth and community.
 - Brings together victims, offenders, and community stakeholders to discuss how an offense has affected all parties and collaboratively develop modes of redress
- Interventions are community-based approaches focusing on accountability, public safety, and community healing

Types and Degrees of Restorative Justice Practice



Goal

- To discuss how to **integrate** three theoretical models
 - Aim: to determine how the integration of these theoretical models can and do impact practices and can lead to a more comprehensive and effective approach to JJ reform in Connecticut

Why the Need for an Integrated Model?

- Understanding of the risks and realities of lives of justice-involved youth support the need for an integrated model
 - Young people come into the justice system with varied levels of public health risks that reflect disorder within their socioecological systems, which can be addressed through restorative justice practices
 - At each level of public health intervention (universal, selected, indicated) there are ecological impacts (individual, family, community, society) that play a role in determining the types of restorative justice approaches that should be used (victim reparation, community reconciliation, offender responsibility)
- Targeting youths' multifaceted needs may help to reduce RED

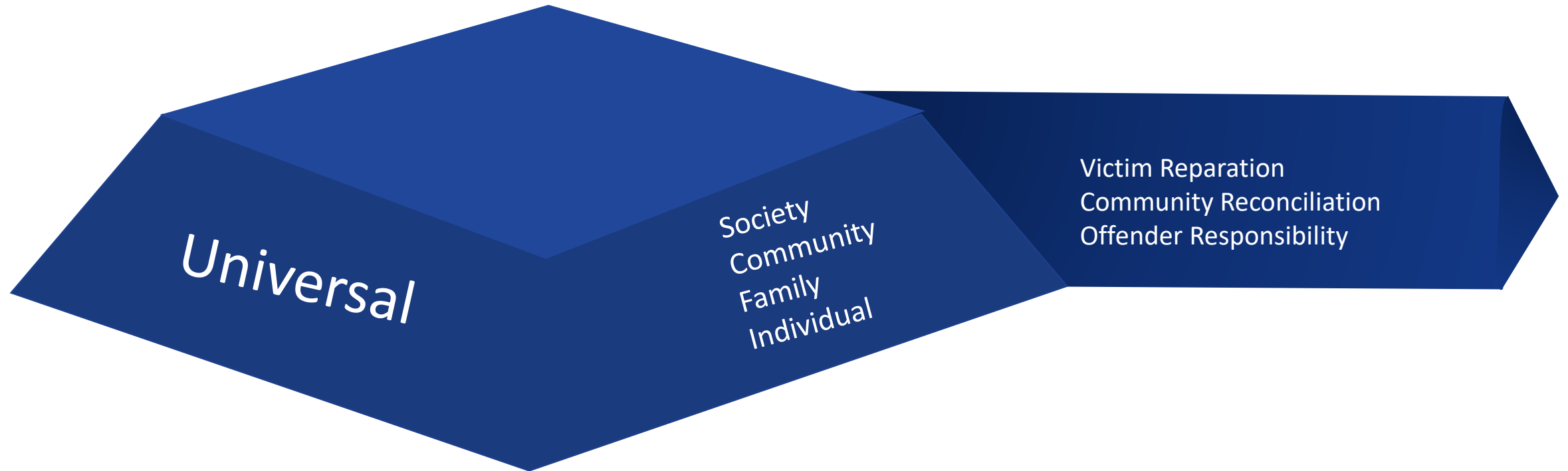
Integrated Model



Applied
Example:
Car Thefts in
Connecticut



Universal Level

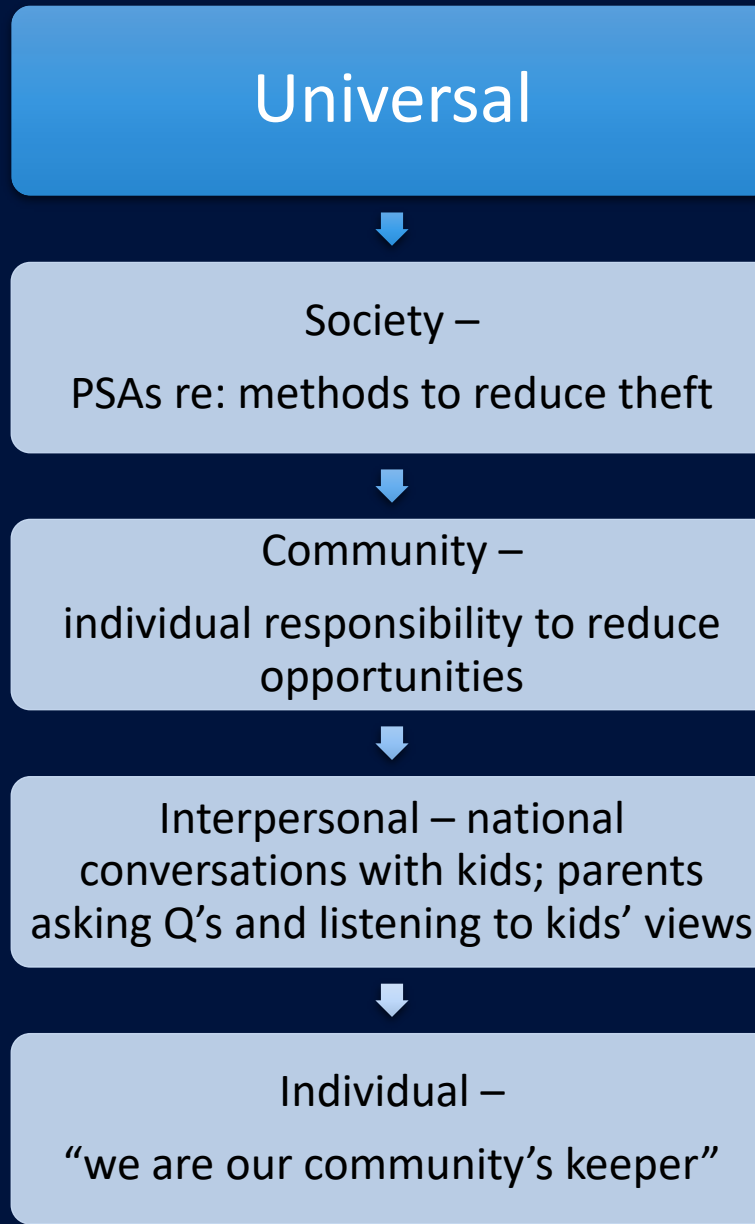




Universal Socio-Ecological Restorative Justice

- Prevention efforts designed to target all individuals, regardless of risk factors, through the use of restorative justice practices with a lens toward the social contexts in which one lives
 - Prioritizes increasing one's sense of belonging in their community
 - Builds relationships by promoting trust and stability in one's environment
 - Fosters investment in the well-being of one's community, neighbors, and resources

Integrated Approach to JJ Intervention



Selective Level

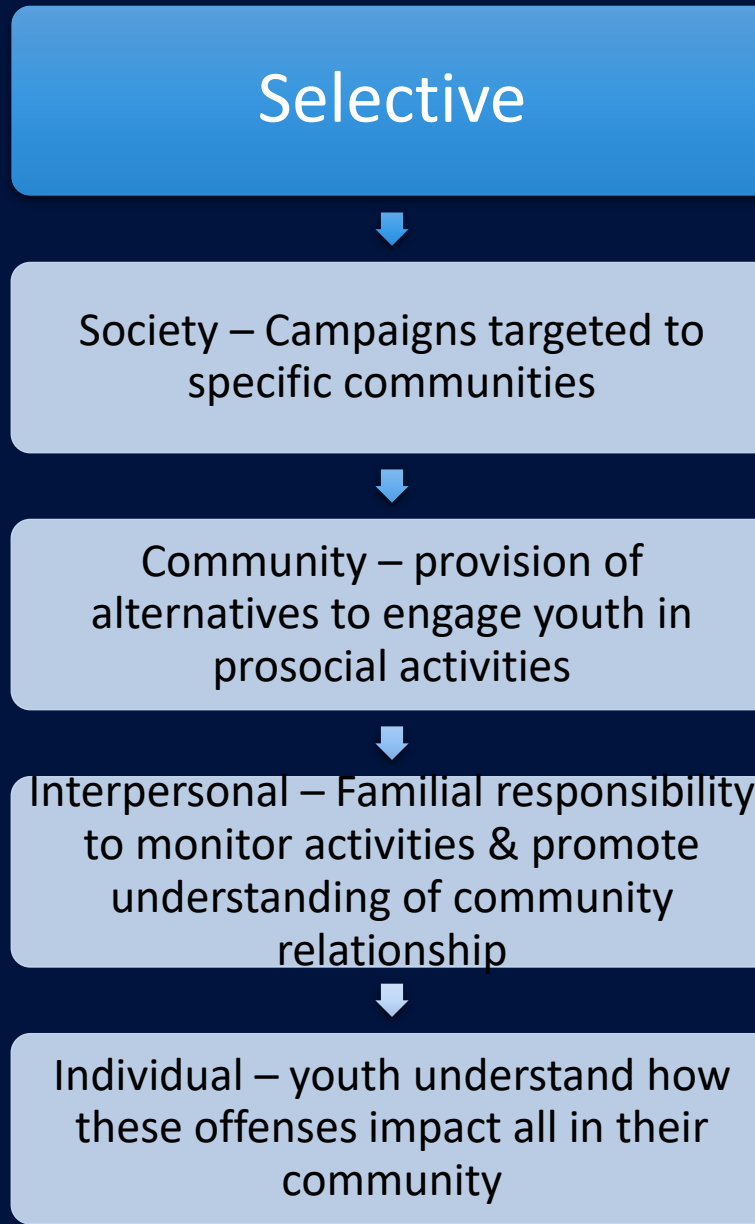




Selective Socio-Ecological Restorative Justice

- Restorative justice prevention/intervention strategies targeted toward youth identified as at risk
 - Provides resources and support within community to promote prosocial activities & relationships
 - Helps bolster family unit through provision of environment-specific and targeted services
 - Equips systems/providers within community with training and capacity to best support at-risk youth
 - Tasks community with providing youth with skills to promote positive youth development

Integrated Approach to JJ Intervention



Indicated Level





Indicated Socio-Ecological Restorative Justice

- Ecologically informed interventions targeted at individuals who have engaged in risky behaviors leading to justice system contact
 - Prioritizes helping youth establish or rebuild relationships with community through accountability and capacity building
 - Tasks community stakeholders to determine youths' needs and provide responsive services
 - Allows youth opportunities to make their needs known and learn how their actions impact their communities, families, neighbors, and themselves

Integrated Approach to JJ Intervention



Considerations...

How do we *measure* whether these initiatives are effective?

- Implementation science?

How can the model be best applied?

- Are there potential challenges that may be experienced by specific systems?

How can we move toward more system integration and collaboration?

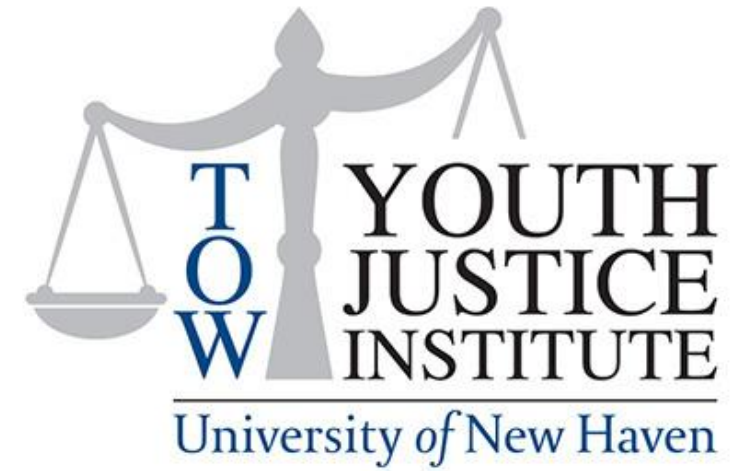
- Will agencies/departments need to engage in culture shifts?

Call to Action

- How can the JJPOC apply this model?
 - How can workgroups and sub-committees utilize this?
- How can you think of this as you propose recommendations?
- At what level of the model is your work situated?

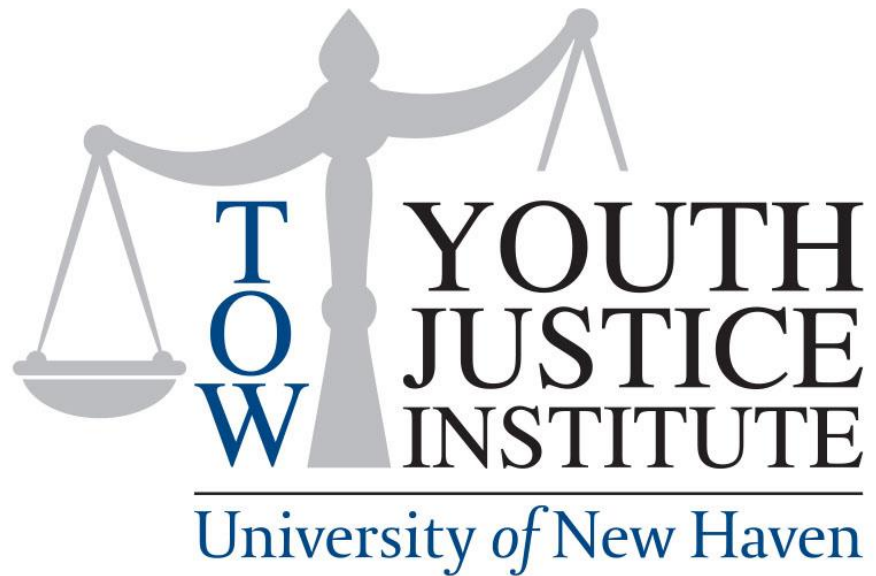


Thank You!



- Questions?
 - Dr. Keisha April – keisha.april@nyu.edu
 - Dr. Derrick Gordon – derrick.gordon@yale.edu





***Next JJPOC Meeting
October 15th, 2020***