

Photo by: Sara Jeffries



September 17, 2015 – Hartford, CT – (From Left to Right)
State Senator John Kissel, State Senator Gary Winfield,
State Representative Robyn Porter, State Representative Toni Walker

JJPOC Adopts Three Strategic Goals to Guide Juvenile Justice Reform Efforts

The Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) is currently leading the conversation on youth justice and child welfare reform in the state of Connecticut. The three strategic goals to guide juvenile justice reform efforts are described in page 3.

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TYJI Celebrates 1 Year Anniversary

“An academic-based institute at UNH dedicated to research, evaluation, training and education with the youth justice area.”

With the one year anniversary on October 2, 2015, the Tow Youth Justice Institute looks back on all of their accomplishments this past year in the first issue of their newsletter.

The opening of the Tow Youth Justice Institute on October 2, 2014, announced a unique partnership between the University of New Haven, the State of Connecticut, and the Tow Foundation in furthering juvenile justice reform in this one-of-a-kind institute. The staff is dedicated to study practices, programs, and policies related to youth justice and child welfare, while also focusing on the needs of youth up to age 21. The institute will develop new curricula to broaden juvenile justice courses and Experiential Education offered at UNH. Additionally a Youth Justice Leadership Program and staffing of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (PA14-217 Sec 79) at the legislative level establishes the institute as a national model for youth justice reform and leadership.

“Investing in the creation of this important new institute will help ensure that those positive outcomes are protected and that youth and communities in Connecticut and around the country will benefit from the knowledge and expertise that will be housed here.”



From left to right: Dr. Henry C. Lee, Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, Leonard Tow, Emily Tow Jackson, UNH President Steven Kaplan, University of New Haven - Henry C. Lee College Dean Mario T. Gaboury

-Emily Tow Jackson,
Executive Director of the Tow Foundation

Juvenile Justice Reform Training for Police Executives

June 24, 2015 | Woolsey Hall

By: Timothy Earley, UNH Henry C. Lee College Research Assistant



Photo by: Timothy Earley

William H. Carbone at the podium

In June, the International Association of Police Chiefs (IAPC) and Law Enforcement Institute of Juvenile Justice held a three-day seminar centering on the juvenile justice reform.

The conference saw more than 30 police chiefs in attendance as well as a

variety of presenters, including the University of New Haven's Director of the Tow Youth Justice Institute, William Carbone.

Professor Carbone stressed the importance of rethinking how law enforcement and youths interact, saying there was a need "to avoid the event of making arrests and putting kids through the system [because] it's counterproductive."

"We can do the same old thing with kids as we've done for many, many years, or we can learn from what the research is telling us works better. ... we've learned a lot about how to more effectively change their behavior."

The symposium consisted of presentations from leaders in child psychology, juvenile justice reform, and community policing experts and round table discussions between the law enforcement executives in attendance.

Many of the chiefs in attendance stated that they planned to take what they were learning at the program back to their departments in an effort to better the often-strained relationship between law enforcement and young people.

The seminar, co-hosted at Yale University with the University of New Haven Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Science, has been funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur foundation since 2011.



Photo by: Timothy Earley

Police officials and speakers meet the press

Training of Trainers: Child Welfare Response to Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

May 28, 2015 | Alumni Lounge – UNH

By: Kelly Tea, UNH TYJI Graduate Assistant



Photo by: Kelly Tea

The Training of Trainers event was held by the Connecticut Department of Children and Families at the University of New Haven all day on Thursday, May 28th. The ultimate goal of the event was to have optimal training capacity to educate communities about domestic minor sex

trafficking and child sex trafficking and exploitation in Connecticut. Its efforts to increase awareness included an introduction to the topic designed to produce statewide capacity to train communities in this critical issue. This training has already reached thousands in Connecticut through our internal faculty. The statewide initiative is designed to meet the training needs at every level in your local communities, including service providers, medical and mental health providers, schools, churches, hotels, coaches, Girl and Boy Scouts and perhaps parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors.



Photo by: Kelly Tea



Photo by: Sara Jeffries

JJPOC Adopts Three Strategic Goals to Guide Juvenile Justice Reform Efforts

Sept 17, 2015 | Hartford, CT, The roundtable at the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee meeting

By: Chloe Sharon Williams, UNH TYJI Master's Intern

The Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) was created in 2014 by Public Act 14-217 Sec 79 and is charged with evaluating policies related to the juvenile justice system and the expansion of juvenile jurisdiction to include persons 16 and 17 years of age. The University of New Haven was designated, by law, to staff the JJPOC, naming the Tow Youth Justice Institute (TYJI) as responsible for management of all activities of the JJPOC. The co-chairs of the JJPOC, Representative Toni Walker and Secretary Ben Barnes, work along side representatives from agencies ranging from advocacy organizations to Judicial to Law Enforcement and more.

One of the major accomplishments of the JJPOC in its first year has been to develop priority goals to meet the statutory mandate to improve youth justice and child welfare in the state of Connecticut. The three strategic goals to guide juvenile justice reform efforts over the next three years are to:

- **Increase diversion of children and youth from juvenile court by 20 percent;**
- **Decrease the number of children and youth confined (incarcerated) in state-run facilities by 30 percent; and**
- **Decrease the rate of recidivism among juvenile offenders by 10 percent.**

JJPOC Work Groups have been established to identify ways to implement the three strategic goals. In addition, the JJPOC determined that reducing disproportionate minority contact (DMC) be a priority in each Work Group as they identify strategies and action steps. The JJPOC also established a Cross Agency Data Sharing Work Group, which will identify data collection, merging, sharing and analysis issues across agencies in order to improve data interoperability capabilities.

In less than one year, the JJPOC has successfully developed a common definition of recidivism for all state agencies with consistent measures: rearrest/technical violation, re-adjudication/reconviction, and recommitment to DCF/sentencing to other sanction. JJPOC has been studying the impact of the Raise the Age legislation that transferred

the jurisdiction of 16 and 17 year olds from the adult criminal justice system to the juvenile justice system; with TYJI reporting on the average of juvenile offenders and the types of criminal offenses charged among juvenile offenders. From 2006 to 2014, there has been increase in average age of arrest from 14.07 years to 15.22 years. The most frequent types of criminal offenses youth have not changed from 2006 to 2014 with family offenses, public-peace, assault, and larceny making up approximately three-fourths of all offenses for youth in the system both before and after Raise the Age. Data does show a substantial decline in arrests over time. For the final two components of the assessment of the impact of Raise the Age, TYJI will continue to look at the types of services and outcomes provided to youth in the justice system as well as identify gaps in services.

The TYJI has begun a study to assess congregate care settings for juvenile offenders in state-run facilities and in February 2016, a second study will commence which will assess congregate care in state-funded facilities. The focus of these studies is on the conditions of confinement, including use of restraints and seclusion. The TYJI is completing a report to identify strengths that support as well as barriers that impede the educational needs of children and youth in the juvenile justice system. In addition, the TYJI team is responsible for developing a process for agencies to implement Results Based Accountability and to report on an assessment of the overlap between the juvenile justice system and the mental health care system for children. In the last legislative session, a study of the vocational education needs of older adolescents and a study of training needs in the juvenile justice system was added to the JJPOC mandate in PA 15-183 Sec 2, which also added new members to the JJPOC.

The TYJI support of the JJPOC is a unique opportunity and the team at UNH looks forward to the ongoing work with the Legislative Committee to continue youth justice reform for the state of Connecticut.

Child Welfare Law Symposium

May 20, 2015

By: Kelly Tea, UNH TYJI Graduate Assistant



Photo by: Kelly Tea
Marilou Giovannucci, award recipient and The Honorable Bernadette Conway

The Tow Youth Justice Institute had the honor of hosting the Child Welfare Law Symposium at the University of New Haven, which was coordinated by the Office of Chief Public Defender this year. The all-day event took place on May 20th in Bucknall Theater with break out rooms throughout campus where participants would hear a variety of presentations. Kitty Tyrol and Jeanne Milstein from the Tow Youth Justice Institute presented a workshop on how the new institute can be a resource for child welfare policy. The keynote speaker, Amelia Franck Meyer, is the CEO of Anu Family Services presented on the impact of childhood trauma. Sarah Locke from Autism Services and Resources Connecticut presented on Autism in Juvenile Court, and the "Color of Justice" was shown in the theater

during the second half of the day. Afternoons break-out sessions included speakers from DCF and the Center for Children's Advocacy on advocating for young children, Vermont Legal Aid and Vermont Disability Rights on how to plan and advocate for parents with cognitive limitations, and many more.

The Honorable Judge Bernadette Conway for Juvenile Matters, presented an award to Marilou Giovannucci for Court Improvement Program Innovations and Leadership. Marilou retired from the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch in March 2015 after more than 30 years working in juvenile and family court. Her title when retiring was Manager for Court Services Officer Programs. She also served as the Project Director for Connecticut State Court Improvement Project, which manages and distributes federal grant money aimed at improving the outcomes for children and families involved in the state child protection court. Marilou was instrumental in creating the Child Welfare Law Forum and helped the Judicial Branch use their Federal Court Improvement Project dollars to support programs that improved outcomes for children and families. She specifically supported efforts to provide cross training for the professionals who work with children and families in the juvenile courts.

Christine Rapillo, the director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection, and Frances Wickstrom, from the Office of the Chief Public Defender, organized this event and collaborating with various resources in Connecticut to help bring awareness to such an important topic.

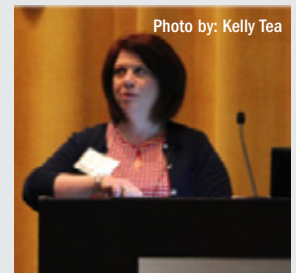


Photo by: Kelly Tea
Keynote speaker, Amelia Franck Meyer, Anu Family Services

CHDI 2015 School, Police, and Community Symposium: A New Approach: How Restorative Practices Can Be Used In Schools and To Engage Families

June 3, 2015

By: Kelly Tea, UNH TYJI Graduate Assistant

Sponsored by Child Health and Development Institute, School-Based Diversion Initiative, State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, Department of Children and Families, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and the State Department of Education.



Kitty Tyrol, Curriculum Developer at the Tow Youth Justice Institute, was the keynote speaker.

The Child Health and Development Institute School, Police, and Community Symposium was held from 9AM-12PM at Amarante's Sea Cliff in New Haven. The symposium included an overview of Restorative Practices and Family Engagement with a keynote presentation by our very own Kitty Tyrol from the Tow Youth Justice Institute on Restorative Justice Practices. A panel discussion about family engagement with community leaders, including school administrators, family engagement specialists, and law enforcement officials (see picture on right).



From left to right, Eric Crawford, Mario Florez, Chief Joseph Gaudette Jr., Pam Scott-Ashe & Beresford Wilson

Guests ranged from law enforcement, detention staff, facility staff from Child, Youth, and Family Support Centers, and school administrators. These guests were also given the opportunity to ask questions and get feedback from the panelists. Resource kits that included additional information on restorative practices and family engagement were also provided to all guests following the symposium.

Student Perspective

By: Chloe Sharon Williams, UNH TYJI Master's Intern

“Humanity, restoration and equity are the pillars necessary to change the conversation of true public safety.”

My name is Chloe Williams and I work at the Tow Youth Justice Institute as a Master's intern. I received my undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Juvenile and Family Services, and currently I am a Masters Student in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Forensic Psychology. I do research at the Tow Youth Justice Institute that correlates to youth justice, child welfare, and the importance of how the education and training of state and local officials can have a beneficial effect on youth's futures.

On June 23, 2015, I participated in a webinar hosted by the Claiming Futures Leadership Institute. The topic was “Public Health and Justice: A Partnership to Promote Equity and Well-Being for Youth and Families” and it was live-streamed from San Diego, California.

The presentation was not only informative, but brought up vital information that is relevant to the juvenile justice and child welfare system. The different speakers all touched on varying aspects of the system that can affect why and how a child is put into the system. Through the seminar, I have learned that there are many significant challenges that the juvenile justice system faces in their two approaches to the system. Additionally, the seminar brought up the very familiar topic of minorities facing substantial difficulties in relation to the youth justice system.

James Bell, W. Haywood from the Burns Institute discussed “Equity in Public Health and the Administration of Justice” articulating that our country has an addiction to the societal reliance of our primary concern being incarceration. Furthermore, he shared examples of the bias or inequity as to how society responds to youth based on race. I believe that our society and criminal justice system too often associates safety with punishment.



On the subject of equity, Mr. Bell examines the inequality as to how youths of color (YOC) are treated compared to whites when one is referred to treatment for disorders (conduct, substance use, anxiety, and mood.)

Mr. Bell differentiates two approaches of the (juvenile) justice system that do not work together: Custody, Control and Confession and Intervention, Asset-Based and Restoration, as they are based on two different types of trainings and ideas.

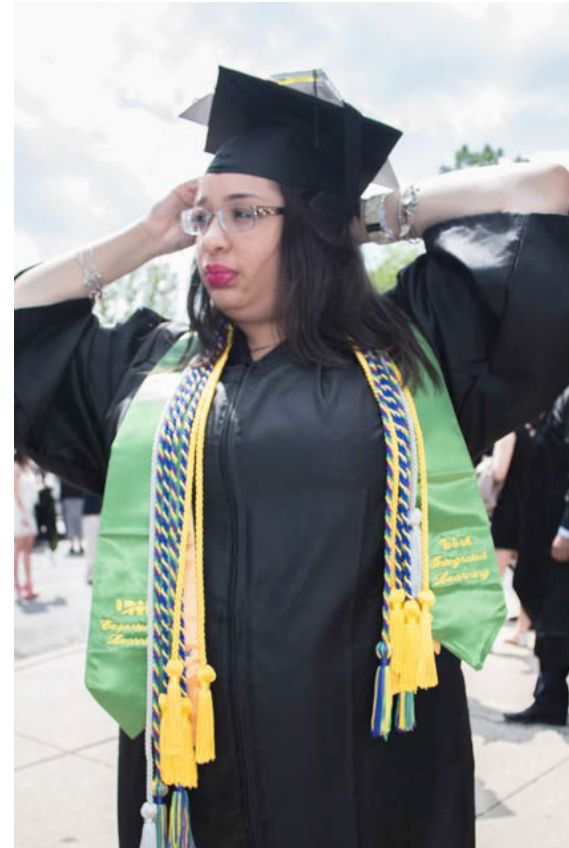
Dr. Angela Irvine (Impact Justice) discussed the number of girls in California detention centers who identify as LGBTQ and the importance of behavioral health treatment needed in the centers. Dr. Ken Hardy (Drexel University) discussed the idea of “being psychologically homeless,” in correlation to youth feeling that they “have invisible wounds that cannot be seen and are very difficult for kids of color to grow up with in this society.” Dr. Monique Morris (National Black Women's Justice Institute) believes that detention can sometimes reinforce the cultural stereotypes that black women face, especially in drug use and dependency issues; and that “Being ignored is traumatic and it shows that we accept silence...” in reference to other (cultural) groups that may not be considered; i.e. transgender, LGBTQ, and Asian and Hispanic girls.

No longer can society ignore the problems that youth are facing today. They are the future.

SOURCE:

Reclaiming Futures Leadership Institute 2015

“Public Health and Justice: A Partnership to Promote Equity and Well-Being for Youth and Families”



Tow Restorative Justice Forum

April 29, 2015 | UNH- Saw Mill Campus

By: Kelly Tea, UNH TYJI Graduate Assistant

The Tow Restorative Justice Practices Forum held two identical sessions with keynote speakers Judge Andrew Becroft and Christine Rurawhe-Gush from New Zealand. Their presentation provided a great insight on the differences between our juvenile justice systems and how we might be able to improve.

Since the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act (CYPF Act) in 1989 was enacted in New Zealand, their youth justice system has been looked at as innovative and revolutionary. The CYPF Act combines a police-led diversionary approach with family group conferencing from a restorative justice system. Since this act, apprehension rates have continued to decrease to the lowest in recorded history for the country.

Christine Rurawhe-Gush works at the Child Youth and Family Ministry of Social Development in New Zealand and was able to teach us about family group conferencing (FGC), in New Zealand and the many myths that come along with it. The reliance on family group conferencing is used as a key decision making tool throughout the court process. It allows everyone involved on both the victim's side and the young offender's side to be a part of the decision making in order to repair any harm that was done and to prevent any future harm.

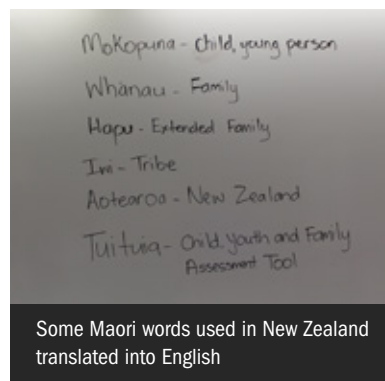
She explains how important support, engagement, and education can be in changing lives of the youth in the community and shared stories from her experiences.

In New Zealand, family group conferencing comes from M ori and western approaches where the concept of wrongdoing is thought to be a collective responsibility and the resolution would have to include both the victim and the victim's family. It has been shown to be very successful in reducing recidivism and a similar approach is currently being tried in adult criminal courts in New Zealand as well.

Other speakers included Judge Bernadette Conway from the State of CT Judicial Branch, moderator of a lively Q&A with Judge Becroft and Christine, Donna Decker Morris from the Legal Studies Department of the Henry C. Lee College, and a panel of speakers from various youth agencies and organizations on their Restorative Practices efforts in the state. The event was sponsored by the Tow Youth Justice Institute and The Tow Foundation and is the first of many events by the Tow Youth Justice Institute.



Our panelists, from left to right: Liz Murphy from RYASA, Gemma Joseph Lumpkin from New Haven Public Schools, Kyisha Velazquez from New Haven Family Alliance Restorative Review Board, Antonia Thompson from Stamford Youth Services Bureau, Jeffrey Vanderploeg from Child Health and Development Institute



Some Maori words used in New Zealand translated into English



Judge Andrew Becroft, New Zealand, was the keynote speaker for the day



Christine Rurawhe-Gush, New Zealand, presenting on Family Group Conferencing



Judge Andrew Becroft, continuing discussion on restorative justice practices with some of our guests.



Judge Andrew Becroft, New Zealand, telling the funny story behind the shirt he is wearing.

Above Tow Restorative Justice Forum Photos by: Kelly Tea

TYJI Spotlight: Connecticut Senators Murphy and Blumenthal Host Senator Cory Booker, Local Teens & Advocates for Roundtable on Juvenile Justice Reform

June 20, 2015

By: Chloe Sharon Williams, UNH TYJI Master's Intern

Senators heard from local teens who experienced the juvenile justice system firsthand.

Kitty Tyrol of the Tow Youth Justice Institute had the opportunity to meet U.S. Senators Chris Murphy (D-CT), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), and Cory Booker (D-NJ) during their roundtable with local teenagers and advocates in Stamford, CT. The meeting afforded teenagers who have firsthand experience with the juvenile justice system to listen and learn about reform efforts to address juvenile confinement. The discussion consisted of strategies to prevent youth from entering the system and how to expand on innovative reforms that reduce school-based arrests. The Senators also provided insight on their legislative proposals to reduce these arrest rates and reform the nation's juvenile justice system.

“On a rainy Saturday afternoon, these three Senators took the time to sit with youth, parents, practitioners and CT legislators to listen to the young people whose lives have intersected with the juvenile justice system. The common theme of how youth struggle in their schools, communities, and the child welfare and juvenile justice system in our state gave voice to the need for us to continue to strive for better options for kids. What a powerful message for our youth to have the ears of their representatives!” ~Kitty Tyrol

Senators Murphy, Blumenthal, and Booker are three national advocates for juvenile justice reform. Murphy mentioned after the roundtable that it was clear that harsh and punitive punishment is ineffective, especially when there are treatments that are superior at rehabilitating children into their community. He remarks that he is confident that Connecticut will continue in a positive direction for juvenile justice reform that will assist other states in our nation at helping our kids to succeed. Booker agreed with this notion, saying, “We must enact policies that enable our children to succeed, not condemn them to failure.” Booker has stated, “It is our responsibility as community leaders, policymakers, and citizens to activate and empower the genius of all of our kids. I am committed to working with my colleagues in the Senate to do just that.”*

Blumenthal mentions that the juvenile justice system's use of incarceration is not working and is especially failing youth and families of color by not giving them the tools to succeed. “Simply put, the juvenile justice system is not working...Our current system is failing not only the children it incarcerates - particularly youth of color - but the families, schools and communi-



Kitty Tyrol, Curriculum Developer, with Senators Chris Murphy and Cory Booker in Stamford to discuss juvenile justice legislation

ties to which they return, most often no better equipped or supported to succeed,” said Blumenthal.*

The senators have all recently introduced several policies to the legislature to protect youth from further traumatization and avert the use of incarceration.

“Connecticut has made great strides toward a system that better protects our young men and women in the juvenile justice system. Over the course of a decade, we’ve diverted kids away from prison and have cut our rate of juvenile incarceration by 60 percent,” said Murphy. “But there’s still more work to be done. I am confident that Connecticut will continue to be at the forefront of juvenile justice reforms as we work hard to enact policies that will help kids all across the nation get back on the right track to success.”

The senators have been vocal advocates of juvenile justice reforms and recently introduced several pieces of legislation that aim to protect youth and prevent the incarceration of young men and women. Last Congress, Murphy and Booker introduced the Better Options for Kids Act legislation that incentivizes states to replace overly harsh school disciplinary actions and juvenile court punishment with bipartisan, evidence-based solutions that save money, enhance public safety, and improve youth outcomes – and just this year, Murphy called on leaders of Connecticut's General Assembly to enact legislation that places reasonable limits on the use of shackles in Connecticut's juvenile courts.

Source: *<http://www.murphy.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/murphy-blumenthal-host-senator-cory-booker-local-teens-and-advocates-for-roundtable-on-juvenile-justice-reform>



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