

*The Tow Youth Justice Institute is a university, state and private partnership established to lead the way in juvenile justice reform through collaborative planning, training, research and advocacy.*

## Upcoming JJPOC Meetings:

JJPOC Meetings are the third Thursday of every month at 2 p.m., at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.

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## JJPOC Meet and Greet

On June 20th, members of the JJPOC were introduced to members of the Group to Integrate Community Voice. Youth presented their feedback at the monthly meeting, and afterward, a social was held where youth, parents, community members, and



JJPOC members had the opportunity to get to know one another on a more personal level. In addition to refreshments, an ice breaker with M&Ms offered a way for to share Information about a family/friend/community/school/work, what they like to do for fun, a bucket list/goal/something you would like to do, some of their favorite things and fun facts!

## Meet Our Summer Research Interns

This summer, two students worked with Dr. Danielle Cooper, TYJI Director of Research, on research projects for the Tow Youth Justice Institute. Clairmond Berantuo, an undergraduate student in the Department of Psychology with a concentration in Forensic Sciences and a minor in Legal Studies, and Sarbjeet Kaur, a Ph.D. Fellow in the Department of Criminal Justice, have been working on research projects related to justice issues for youth and young adults, such as Truancy and Status Offenses, Diversion and Education, and Youth and Policing. Summer researchers focused on data cleaning and analysis tasks,



*From left, Dr. Danielle Cooper, Sarbjeet Kaur and Clairmond Berantuo*

as well as attending meetings for the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee.

Upon graduation, Clairmond's plan is to go to law school and eventually open her own consultation firm. As for Sarbjeet, her plan is to work as an Assistant Professor at a University in a position that supports desire to teach and do research.

"This experience will help since it provides me with research experience that will help me in upcoming years with my dissertation as well as work thereafter."  
- Sarbjeet Kaur

"This research experience has helped me explore different areas of the justice system, and gain a better understanding on the functional parts of research."  
- Clairmond Berantuo

## Promoting Student Internship Opportunities with the Community



On Friday, June 21, 2019, The Tow Youth Justice Institute hosted a Non-profit Open House at the Orange Campus of the University of New Haven. Fifteen local nonprofit organizations and agencies had the opportunity to learn about the University's Experiential Education Program and how they might be able to utilize the University's students.

This program provides students with hands on experience, a realistic view of workplace culture and helps students develop strong professional networks that support their future success. The Tow Youth Justice Institute is committed to our students' professional and educational development. Our goal is to offer students the opportunity for an individualized educational experience through a structured employment environment that helps students develop the skill necessary to prepare them for a lasting career after graduation. We have benefitted every semester from working with students and wanted to share the same asset with other organizations.

During the Open House, juvenile justice centered organizations had the opportunity to meet Faculty and staff from the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, along with Matt Caporale, Executive Director of the University's Career Development Center.

During their presentations, organizations learned about exciting opportunities to host UNH students through academic service learning projects, internships, co-operative work experience, and community work study programs.

Attendees recognized that in challenging fiscal times such as these, partnership with the University offers a mutually beneficial opportunity for organizations and students. These partnerships pair bright, talented, and committed students with local organizations seeking support in the meaningful work they are undertaking within the community. As future leaders, our students value these opportunities and are eager to learn from the dynamic organizations already engaged in youth justice work.



As a result of this event, participating organizations have already begun to reach out to the University regarding student engagement for the 2019-2020 academic year.



## Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee Special Projects

The Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) has contracted with the Center for Children's Law and Policy (CCLP) in order to attain two out of the four specific goals outlined in the Committee's 2019 – 2021 strategic plan - reducing racial and ethnic disparities of youth in the juvenile justice system and reducing incarceration of youth. Through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP) national technical assistance center, CCLP has assisted state and local governments in implementing RED reduction programs, improving training and education of professionals addressing RED in juvenile justice systems, and promoting promising and evidence-based strategies to reducing RED to ensure fairness and equity for all youth. Racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system pose serious civil rights issues and exacerbate the significant post-system-involvement inequalities in a variety of important areas of life, including jobs, housing, education and civic engagement, among vulnerable and minority communities.



The JJPOC's Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Work Group, working with CCLP, was created to:

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

### RED Workgroup Chairs



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



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

These objectives can only be accomplished through the creation of clear vision and mission statements, as well as a data-driven work plan. By completing data analysis and identifying areas of opportunity for focused RED reduction work, the JJPOC will be in a position to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in a more strategic manner. The overall goal is to develop a proposed strategy and outreach plan to embed an RED reduction focus within all of the JJPOC Work Groups (Diversion, Incarceration, and Cross-Agency Data Sharing).

This year, Public Act 19-187 authorizes the JJPOC to conduct a study on how other states house their "transferred" youth and to develop organizational and programmatic alternatives to Connecticut's current structure. CCLP also has extensive experience assisting jurisdictions improve conditions of confinement, reduce the use of incarceration consistent with public safety, and develop community-based services and supports for young people and families, particularly through the lens of racial and ethnic equity and inclusion.

In January 2018, the state's large, high-security juvenile prison, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, ceased new admissions and the facility was effectively closed in May 2018. It is imperative that closure of outdated and ineffective programs is accompanied by the opening of more evidence-based community programs.

While reducing reliance on formal correctional settings, Connecticut continues to shift towards a more developmentally appropriate juvenile justice approach that keeps more youth at home, in their communities or at small, residential settings. This important task will require extensive planning, research, and data analysis to effectively improve the future for the youth in the juvenile justice system.

### Incarceration Workgroup Chairs



Judge Bernadette Conway  
Chief Administrative Judge  
Juvenile Matters



Ms. Christine Rapillo  
Chief Public Defender

The Incarceration Work Group and CCLP will work together from July 2019 to June 2020 to focus on reducing incarceration through:

- Review of juvenile cases who have transferred to adult court
- Identifying alternatives to housing adult-charged youth
- Issuing a plan for housing of youth who are in Manson Youth Institution and York Correctional Institution
- Consultation with current youth justice and criminal justice professionals
- Data analyses of current budgets

## Council of State Governments Press Conference

On June 11th, the Council of State Governments headed to the State Capitol in Hartford from Washington D.C. to kick off the inaugural session of the Improving Outcomes for Youth (IOYouth) Initiative. (Details on the Initiative can be found in the TYJI Spring 2019 Newsletter.) Media outlets from across Connecticut attended to hear about the process to begin reviewing Juvenile Justice Policies and assessing what can be streamlined or changed to reinvest funds into diversionary programs. Visit [newhaven.edu/towyouth](http://newhaven.edu/towyouth) to read articles in the media.

## Improving Outcomes for Youth (IOYOUTH) Statewide Task Force



### CO-CHAIRS

Rep. Toni Walker (D)  
Co-chair, Appropriations Committee

Ms. Melissa McCaw  
Secretary  
Office of Policy and Management JJPOC

### TASK FORCE MEMBERS

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Supervisory Juvenile Prosecutor  
Office of the Chief State's Attorney

Mr. Hector Glynn, MSW  
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The Village for Children and Families

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Deborah Fuller (Designee for G. Roberge)  
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Ms. Martha Stone, Esq - Advocate  
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Ken Mysogland  
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Department of Children and Families

Fred Spagnolo  
Chief of Police  
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Eulalia Garcia  
Deputy Warden, Manson Youth Institution  
Department of Corrections

Mark Pelka  
Undersecretary for Criminal Justice  
Office of Policy and Management

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