

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 5, 2016

SAMSHA's National Children's
Mental Health Awareness Day

May 19, 2016

WEBINAR

Identifying Peer Abuse and Clearing the Haze:
Eliminating Hazing from Our Schools

Center for Safe Schools:

www.safeschools.info/bullying-prevention/professional-development

May 19, 2016

JJPOC Monthly Meeting
Legislative Office Building, Hartford

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Governor Malloy meets with JJPOC to Announce Major Youth Justice Reform Legislation

Connecticut leadership once again initiates youth justice reform, calling for the state to raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction over the next three years.

The January 28, 2016 Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) meeting hosted special guests Governor Dannel Malloy and his legal team, Under Secretary for Criminal Justice of the Office of Policy and Management Mike Lawlor and General Counsel, Office of the Governor, Karen Buffkin to hear his request that the JJPOC prepare recommendations for groundbreaking criminal justice reform legislation. The new legislation calls for implementation by January 1, 2017 with goals including raising the age of the juvenile justice jurisdiction to include 18 year olds by July 2017, and 19-20 year olds by July 2019. Governor Malloy announced his proposal to ultimately raise the age to 21 within three years, setting a new standard for juvenile jurisdiction with Connecticut leading the nation.

The Governor's proposal calls for low-risk offenders, age 18-20, to be tried as young adults in the juvenile system rather than the adult system; expanding youthful offender status to include 21-25 year olds; and bail reform efforts.

As part of his sweeping reform efforts, Governor Malloy proposed the closure of the Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS) by July 1, 2018, and has advised the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to make a plan to meet the goal. Operating under DCF management, the CJTS

cover story continued...

currently provides services to males ages 12-20. At the time of the Governor's statements, there were approximately 50 youths housed at the CJTS.



While the JJPOC will be busy working with the Governor on his proposals, the committee was able to announce that they have made great strides over the year by identifying three strategic goals for youth justice reform: increasing the rate of youth diverted from the juvenile

justice system by 20%, decreasing the rate of incarceration of children and adolescents by 30%, and decreasing the recidivism rate among juvenile offenders by 10%, all over the next three years.

To help further these goals, the JJPOC created four work groups, each of which was tasked with considering strategies and action plans to meet the three main goals within the three-year period. The four work groups are Recidivism, Diversion, Incarceration, and Cross-Agency Data-Sharing.

Each work group met several times over just a few months and submitted recommendations to the JJPOC for consideration. The Recidivism work group recommends that the state adopt and adhere to a research based framework, implement a restorative justice model in secure and congregate care that promotes diversion before police involvement, and appoint a neutral state agency to track, analyze, and report on recidivism of all youth.

The Incarceration work group recommends that the state reduce the use of detention of juveniles, stating that the state should try community-based alternatives, among other ideas, and reduce the use of secure confinement - tying into Governor Malloy's call to close the CJTS - and reduce the use of secure confinement while in custody.

The Cross-Agency Data-Sharing work group recommended that the state establish a permanent JJPOC juvenile justice data-sharing group and develop recommendations on the use of limited releases to improve case management and to develop a standard template for an MOU regarding data-sharing among Executive Branch agencies, the Judicial Branch and researchers.

The Diversion work group has recommended that the state implement a community-based diversion system that diverts youth who have committed crimes from involvement with the juvenile justice system (excluding serious offenses) and the removal of truancy and defiance of school rules cases from court involvement at all, once school and community-based diversion services are available to youth.

Since October 2015, the JJPOC has welcomed numerous guest speakers and groups to present to the committee on several topics of interest to its members concerning youth justice reform. Members of the Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI) recommended that the juvenile justice system infrastructure and integration be enhanced to address the behavioral health needs of all youth, including those within the juvenile justice system, and that an integrated system be developed to provide services and supports that identify and address service needs at the earliest possible point, prevents deep-end behavioral health and juvenile system involvement, coordinates care across systems and fully addresses the needs of system-involved youths.

Members of the Center for Children's Advocacy (CCA) recommended the reduction of chronic absenteeism by initiating truancy intervention models, addressing exclusionary school discipline practices and adopting restorative justice practices; providing an appropriate menu of educational supports for all students at each stage of the juvenile justice system; and increasing interagency collaboration, monitoring and accountability amongst agencies to address the educational deficiencies of the juvenile justice population.

Other guest speakers included Drs. Edward Latessa and Elizabeth Cauffman, who spoke on addressing recidivism reduction and understanding adolescent brain development, respectively.



Dr. Latessa (left), Dr. Cauffman (right).

Currently, a bill has been drafted (Raised Bill 5642) to put forth the recommendations as legislation for JJPOC to continue advancing juvenile justice reforms in the state. The bill passed the Judiciary Committee on March 29, 2016. The work of the JJPOC is furthered by a myriad of studies and projects still underway by the Tow Youth Justice Institute at the University of New Haven and its partnerships with various consultants.

Over-Incarceration Panel Draws Capacity Crowd at UNH

America's Distorted Image: The Over-Incarceration of African-Americans

The issue of the over-incarceration of African-Americans took center stage during a presentation and panel discussion on October 21, 2015 at the University of New Haven.

The discussion, "America's Distorted Image: The Over-Incarceration of African-Americans," included a panel of faculty and students from the University of New Haven, as well as a guest speaker from The Sentencing Project in Washington, D.C.

The presentation began with a lecture by UNH Criminal Justice Associate Professor, Tracy Tamborra, Ph.D., on the history of treatment of African-Americans from a criminal justice perspective that included explanations of Jim Crow laws, slavery, peonage, the War on Drugs and the prison industry.

"More than 60 percent of all incarcerated persons are ethnic and racial minorities... One in three black males are likely to be imprisoned in their lifetime," said Dr. Tamborra, who teaches Ethnic and Gender Issues in Criminal Justice and Criminology at the University of New Haven.

Tamborra called the incarceration rates "a modern form of slavery," using a slide show of photographs depicting the history of slavery as a part of her argument. "Slavery was in all states, as late as the 1850s in New York and New Jersey. It was not just a 'Southern problem,'" she stated.

Dr. Tamborra also highlighted how the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986, which allocated \$1.7 billion to fight drug crimes, resulted in a more dramatic prison problem for black males, calling the war on drugs a "trillion-dollar failure."

The War on Drugs is a "trillion-dollar failure".

"The mass incarceration of African-Americans is a social justice issue impacting both adults and juveniles. By realizing the multigenerational effect of incarceration policies, prevention efforts can target youth whose social support has suffered as a result of a loved one being removed from the home and community. Social services must be available for adult reentry, but they must also address delinquency prevention to stop the cycle of incarceration," said Dr. Danielle Cooper, a criminal justice professor at the University of New Haven, who was one of the panelists. Cooper also works with the TYJI.

The panelists also discussed the New York Times article, "Police Leaders Join Call to Cut Prison Rosters," as well as a movement to reduce the nation's incarceration rates, pushing for alternatives to arrest, reducing the number of criminal laws and ending mandatory minimum sentences.

Ashley Nellis, Ph.D., a Senior Research Analyst for the Sentencing Project, was a special panelist invited to speak at the forum. Dr. Nellis, who studies criminal justice policies and practices, spoke specifically on racial and ethnic disparities in the context of youth in the juvenile justice system. As the author of *A Return to Justice: Rethinking our Approach to Juveniles in the System*, Dr. Nellis, who spoke of the treatment of youth in the U.S. justice system, has extensive experience in research on racial disparities, life sentences and the sentence of life without parole.

"I believe that this is an important issue, especially with all that has been going on with the Black Lives Matter movement and the social and news media that has been amplifying major racial issues that are going on," stated Chloe Williams, a student at the University of New Haven majoring in criminal justice with a concentration in forensic psychology, TYJI

Graduate Intern and panelist. "The over-incarceration of minorities has been a subject that has been spoken about in many criminal and social justice classes in which I have enrolled at the University of New Haven. However, the discussion should not end in the classroom. Black men are still suffering the repercussions of the War on Drugs, which unjustifiably targets black men for the same drug that their white counterparts were using and selling – crack vs. cocaine. Underlying bias is the reason why blacks are a minority in the United States, yet somehow are the majority of the prison population," Williams added.

Many attendees and panelists expressed that they enjoyed the event. "The panel and audience engagement was amazing. The introduction set the tone and informed everyone about the history of slavery and incarceration. We were asked great questions that allowed us to explore topics relating youths and young adults experiences with corrections, perceptions of justice, prevention efforts in the community, and more. Many students told me that they enjoyed the conversation when we discussed it in class the next day," Dr. Cooper stated.

The event was sponsored by the Tow Youth Justice Institute, Institute for Social Justice, and the University of New Haven Political Science Department.



Panel: (Top L-R) Moderator Kitty Tyrol, Jeanne Milstein, Chris Haynes, Ph.D., Tracy Tamborra, Ph.D. (Bottom L-R) Ashley Nellis, Ph.D., Sentencing Project, Danielle Cooper, Ph.D., C.C.P., Chloe Williams

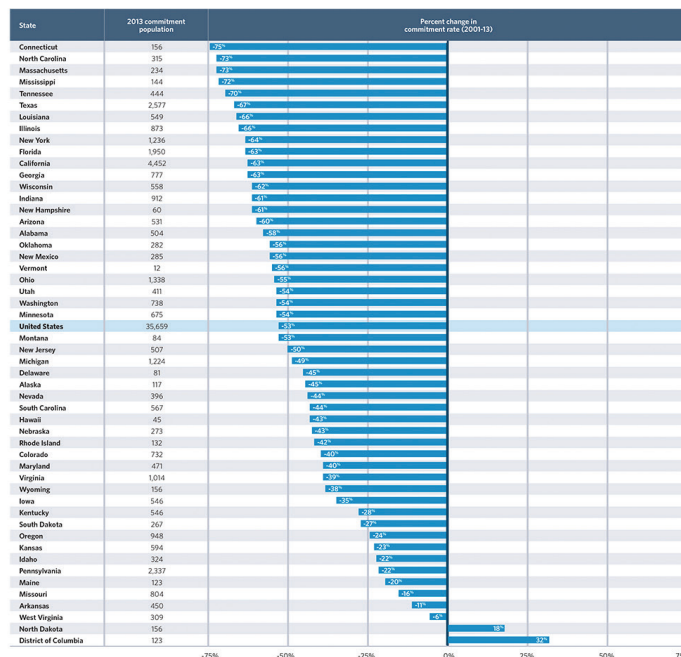
CT Leads the Nation Reducing Juvenile Commitment by 75%

Juvenile commitment rates reveal the greatest drop in the State of Connecticut. According to the Pew Charitable Trusts, the state has lowered juvenile commitment rates by 75% between 2001-2013. The findings of the research came from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, who compile their data by requesting juvenile residential facilities to return census information for analysis. Connecticut ranks #1 in the study and is nearly 25% higher than the national average. "Connecticut should be proud of this chart because it represents years of commitment to the goal of recidivism reduction of juvenile justice in our state. This result didn't happen by accident, but through collaboration of careful and thoughtful planning by the state Judicial Branch with general support from the legislature," said Bill Carbone, Director of the Tow Youth Justice Institute. "We know the incarceration of kids can be harmful, traumatic, and contribute to higher rates of recidivism. For those reasons, Connecticut invested in a wide range of community-based programmatic and treatment interventions, which have made it possible to keep kids in their home communities instead of incarcerating them. This chart is a true testimony to the hard work and commitment from those who work in the Connecticut juvenile justice system," he added. The state created the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee in 2014, which is working to evaluate current policies in juvenile justice and placing 16 and 17 year olds in juvenile jurisdiction, as well as raising the age to 21 under the juvenile justice system umbrella. The JJPOC is staffed and supported by the Tow Youth Justice Institute at the University of New Haven.

An infographic from THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS | Nov 2015

Juvenile Commitment Rate Drops 53%

From 2001 to 2013, the U.S. juvenile commitment rate declined 53 percent, according to data recently released by the Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.¹ Rates fell in 49 states during this period, including decreases of over 50 percent in more than half of the states. The nationwide reduction reflects a 42 percent drop in juvenile violent crime arrest rates from 2001 to 2012, and comes as a growing number of states are adopting policies that prioritize costly space in residential facilities for higher-risk youth adjudicated for serious crimes.²



Source: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

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Endnotes

- 1 Data come from the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ncj.asp>. The census was first administered in 1997 and the most recently published results are from 2013. Pew's analysis includes only youth committed to a facility as part of a court-ordered disposition. The commitment rate is the number of committed juvenile offenders in residential placement per 100,000 youth in the population (ages 10 through the upper age of original juvenile court jurisdiction in each state).
- 2 Charles Puzanchara, "Juvenile Arrests 2012" (2014), Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ncj.asp>; Howard N. Snyder, "Juvenile Arrests 2001" (2003), Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ncj.asp>.

Project website: pewstates.org/publicsafety

The Pew Charitable Trusts is driven by the power of knowledge to solve today's most challenging problems. Pew applies a rigorous, analytical approach to improve public policy, inform the public, and invigorate civic life.

Community Foundation for Greater New Haven Funds Transforming Youth Justice: A Leadership Development Program



Dr. Frank Olive presents leadership program curriculum during a focus group on October 8, 2015 at Saw Mill Campus.

The Tow Youth Justice Institute (TYJI) announced a new program that will focus on leadership development and juvenile justice reform by developing core competencies for change within a best practices framework. The program, Transforming Youth Justice: A Leadership Development program, began April 15-16 and will meet monthly through December at various locations on the University of New Haven campus. The program sought applications from mid-level managers in state agencies, education, law enforcement and policing, as well as members of the community, including parents, providers and policymakers, among others. The program will be provided at no cost to the participants due to generous funding by The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. The first cohort of the program has been selected and will include participants who either live or work in the Greater New Haven area that is served by the Foundation.

Student Spotlight: Kelly Tea

Experiential Graduate Assistantship Program at TYJI

In January 2015, Kelly Tea graduated from UNH with her B.S. in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Forensic Psychology and a minor in Psychology. She then accepted a two-year placement as a Graduate Assistant at the Tow Youth Justice Institute (TYJI) as part of the Experiential Graduate Assistantship Program (EGAP) at the University of New Haven. This unique and highly competitive program offers graduate students tuition assistance as well as placement within a department to work on projects or programs that will support the career goals of the student. Kelly is pursuing her Master's degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Forensic Psychology. On November 10, 2015 Kelly presented on her EGAP and TYJI experience at the Graduate Student Showcase 2015, which was held in the Alumni Lounge on campus. The showcase allowed Kelly the opportunity to discuss the Tow Youth Justice Institute with University administrators, members of the Board of Governors, alumni, President Kaplan, faculty, staff, deans, and undergraduate and graduate students. Some of her responsibilities at TYJI include writing for the TYJI Newsletter and youth justice related events, managing the website and communications for the Institute, assisting with the Juvenile Justice Policy & Oversight Committee meetings and supporting research projects. Kelly says that one of the most rewarding parts of working with the TYJI is being able to contribute to something bigger than herself and being able to work on a small part of a large project or event that really makes her feel like an asset to the team.

Some of the most valuable experiences for Kelly have been working with the TYJI team at UNH by attending meetings with the legislators

and advocates at the State Capitol as part of the staff support of the JJPOC. She hopes to grow to be more like the people she has worked with so that she can continue to make big changes in the juvenile justice system.

"I have had hands-on experience on the legislative side, research side and administrative side of the juvenile justice system and am very excited to see what the future brings for me while working at the Tow Youth Justice Institute. The Tow Youth Justice Institute is rapidly expanding its responsibilities, projects and membership, and I am so happy I was able to present some of my involvements in helping them move forward to the rest of the UNH community," she said.

Kelly has proven to be an invaluable asset to TYJI and its projects while maintaining a 4.0 GPA.



Kelly Tea, TYJI EGAP presentation on November 10, 2015.

Leadership Program Welcomes Deborah Stewart as Project Coordinator



Deborah Stewart, B.S., C.P.P., joins TYJI as the Leadership Project Coordinator.

Facilitated by Kitty Tyrol, Francis P. Olive, III, PhD, and William H. Carbone, as well as guest speakers, the program will be the first of its kind in an effort to sustain the reforms in juvenile justice in Connecticut and to become a model for continued reform efforts nationally. TYJI welcomes Deborah Stewart, B.S., C.P.P., as the Leadership Project Coordinator. Deborah is recognized for youth leadership development initiatives in Greater New Haven and

the state and coordinated a statewide project to improve relations between youth and police for five years as the Director of the Youth Development Training and Resource Center (YDTRC) located at The Consultation Center, Inc. (TCC) in New Haven, a non-profit arm of the Division of Prevention and Community Research in the Department of Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine. Contact: dstewart@newhaven.edu for more information.

Student Spotlight: Francis G. Olive, III, Ph.D. First PhD Graduate of UNH Works with TYJI

In 2011, Francis G. Olive III made a decision that changed his life. After being laid off from a job as a former corrections officer and counselor of the Hampden County Sheriff's Department in Massachusetts, he decided to pursue his dream of becoming a professor of criminal justice. "Going for my Ph.D. was one of the most challenging experiences in my life. It was a lot of hard work and required countless hours and sacrifices, but it is starting to pay off," Olive said.

After four years, in August Olive was conferred the University of New Haven's first Ph.D. in Criminal Justice. He is now teaching as an adjunct faculty member at the University of New Haven, as well as the University of Hartford, Westfield (Massachusetts) State University, and Elms College in Chicopee, Massachusetts. He recently became the father of a newborn son.

Being no stranger to multi-tasking, Olive is also working on multiple projects as a research fellow, which includes working with the New Haven Police Department to revise and update their policies and procedures, working with the Massachusetts State Police in Springfield on their policing strategy, and facilitating "Protecting the Dignity of the Corrections Officer" trainings at the Museum of Tolerance in New York City with Dr. David Schroeder, Associate Dean of the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences. Dr. Olive has been offered a tenure track faculty position at Worcester State University, starting in fall 2016.

Dr. Olive will continue working with TYJI as Evaluator and Co-Facilitator of the Transforming Youth Justice: A Leadership Development Program, which is scheduled to begin in April 2016. "As a student, being part of the TYJI was a great experience for me because it gave me the opportunity to attend Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee meetings, and I was able to see first-hand how research guides policy. This experience demonstrated how important the coursework in the Ph.D. program is and how research methods and statistics are used in the real world to inform policy decisions that will have a huge impact on the youth population," Olive said.



Dr. Frank Olive receives his Doctoral degree from Dean Mario Gaboury at the UNH Summer Commencement 2015.



Tow Youth Justice Institute
is now located at
1076 Campbell Avenue
on the UNH Campus
in West Haven.

Founder of Tow Foundation Receives UNH Honorary Degree

The founder of The Tow Foundation, Leonard Tow, recently received an honorary degree from the University of New Haven during the Winter 2016 commencement ceremony in recognition of his generosity to the community throughout the years. Dr. Tow has generously contributed to medical, cultural arts and youth justice reform efforts.

By supporting nonprofit organizations that serve vulnerable populations and help individuals become positive contributors to society for the benefit of themselves and others, The Tow Foundation works towards having a society where all people have a high quality of life and a voice in their community.

The Tow Foundation is also the major supporter of the Tow Youth Justice Institute at UNH, founded in the fall of 2014 to promote increased planning, training, research and evaluation in the state's juvenile justice system as a way to sustain and build on past reforms.

"The Tow family foundation laid the groundwork for juvenile justice reform in Connecticut with the study of juveniles housed in the old Bridgeport Detention Center in the late 1990's. Since that time, they have promoted significant changes such as the successful effort to raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction to 18, removing status offenders from detention and promoting reductions in youth incarceration. Dr. Tow richly deserves this honorary degree," stated William Carbone, Director of the UNH Tow Youth Justice Institute.

SOURCE:

"Vision." Tow Foundation. www.towfoundation.org, n.d. Web. 18 Mar. 2016.



Photo credit: University of New Haven, Stan Godlewski

Leonard Tow (right) receives honorary degree from UNH at Winter Commencement 2016 from UNH President Steven Kaplan (left). Also pictured is Baharom Hamzah (middle), '85, '87 MBA, group managing director and CEO of Romstar, who also received an honorary degree.



To learn more about the The Tow Foundation visit:
www.towfoundation.org

Coming Stories in the Next TYJI Newsletter!

UNH Women's Leadership Conference — Building our Future with STEM, held on April 1, 2016, hosted more than 200 registered participants with women leaders in STEM fields as speakers, presenters, panelists and workshop facilitators.

Connecticut Police Executive Juvenile Justice Conference was held April 7-8, 2016. The conference hosted more than 30 Connecticut Police Chiefs and their designees with a focus on Adolescent Development, Diversion Programs, Evidence Based Decision Making and Re-entry, as well as Juvenile Justice Reform efforts including Raise the Age.

The Power of Philanthropy to Impact System Change presented by Emily Tow Jackson, Bartels Fellow, spoke to UNH students, faculty, staff and guests on April 12, 2016.

Transforming Youth Justice: A Leadership Development Program, funded by The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven - Session One began April 15-16, 2016 with a diverse cohort from the Greater New Haven region including participants from police, probation, detention, child welfare, community providers, the faith community, parents and advocates. The program will meet monthly through December 2016.



University of New Haven

TOW YOUTH JUSTICE INSTITUTE

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[www.newhaven.edu/lee-college/institutes/
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