

*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.*

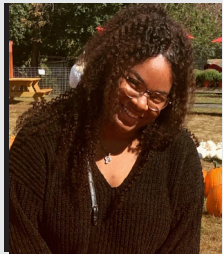
## Upcoming JJPOC Meetings:

JJPOC Meetings are held the third Thursday of every month at 2 p.m., via Zoom and can be viewed on ct-n.com.

## In This Issue:

- Student Events
- 2021 JJPOC Recommendations
- Police Transparency and Accountability Task Force- Young Adult Listening Session
- 2021 Transforming Youth Justice Leadership Development Program Cohort #5 Virtual Graduation
- Introducing the Community Expertise Workgroup

## 2021 Winter Newsletter Student Contributors!



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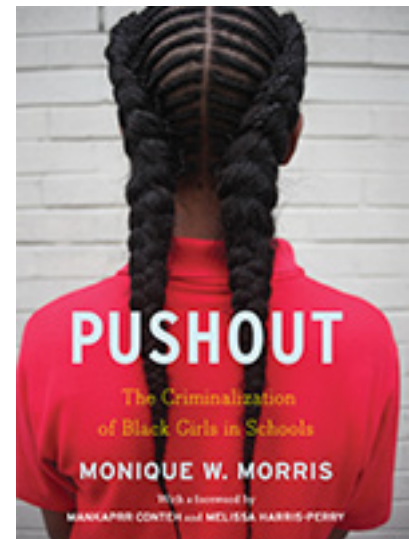


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## Fall 2020 Student Engagement Events

An important goal of the Tow Youth Justice Institute is student engagement and many of these opportunities come in the form of events, both on campus and off. By planning events that enlist student participation and offer a learning component, the University is able to align curriculum with events outside of the classroom to engage the students in all aspects of the Institutes work. CJST 4430 is the Exploring Delinquency course that inspired a few of these events.

In October, as part of National Youth Justice Awareness Month, Associate Professor Dr. Danielle Cooper developed a trivia event for her students and others at the University to participate in and learn more about youth justice. The trivia was written by students, allowing them to take their readings and assignments from the course and use it for a practical, learning experience.



Dr. Cooper also enlisted her students to create the Pushout Event, where a viewing of the 2019 documentary film was planned and was followed by a discussion with the students and invited guests. The Pushout film and book played a large part in the CJST 4430 course, and brought attention to the long-standing issue of Black teens, especially girls, being pushed out of public schools due to discrimination of gender and race. Gemma Joseph-Lumpkin, the Executive Director of the New Haven Board of Education, and Tasha Hunt the Commissioner of the Interstate Commission for Juveniles, were in attendance for the event and discussion afterwards.

A Summer New Haven Social Justice School program prompted the creation of a Focus Group of students, where their thoughts and input would lead discussions of change in juvenile justice work. There was a round table following the Summer New Haven Social Justice School where the students involved could voice their likes and dislikes of the program, discuss possible troubleshooting to improve the next program, and share their personal benefits from the program. Students who did not participate in the Summer Justice School were also invited to participate, and Dr. Cooper's research team led the discussion questions and facilitated the round table.

## The Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee Approves 2021 Recommendations!

*Here is a summary.*

### The Diversion Workgroup recommendations:

#### Recommendation #1

- Legislation for raising the minimum age of juvenile court jurisdiction from seven years to twelve years on July 1, 2021, and the development of a plan for ensuring that a child who would have been referred to the juvenile court system will instead be referred to the Children’s Behavioral Health System, the Community-Based Diversion system, and/or other community-based services.

#### Recommendation #2

- Beginning July 1, 2021, the legislature and the Governor will fund implementation of the community-based diversion system.

#### Recommendation #3

- The development and implementation of a funded statewide data-base system within the Youth Service Bureau System. The data system is necessary for monitoring, tracking, evaluating and for case management purposes. A data system is critical for evaluation based on the numerous reforms made to the FWSN (Families With Service Needs) laws and the implementation of the Community Based Diversion System.



### The Education Workgroup recommendations:

#### Recommendations #1 - 3

- Current legislation be amended to create a unit within DCF to oversee the education of youth in all juvenile justice facilities including incarcerated youth.

#### Recommendation #4

- A pilot program be designed to review 911 calls from the 10 Opportunity School Districts (Hartford, Bridgeport, Waterbury, New Haven, East Haven, Derby, Norwich, New London, East Hartford, New Britain) to their local 911 jurisdictions in an effort to better understand for districts’ utilization of police. Data should include: de-identified data related to the demographics of child, including age, gender, race, and disability classification, similar to the existing documentation for other emergency interventions, such as restraint and seclusion, already codified in statute and regulation and the circumstances leading to less restrictive alternatives considered (if available). JJPOC and TYJI should partner to create an MOU with each 911 jurisdiction to receive, review, and analyze these data.
- JJPOC should collaborate with CHDI to review similar data collected on 211 calls made by public schools.
- All data analyses should be submitted for review by the JJPOC Education Committee on a bi-annual basis.

#### Recommendation #5

- An amendment to Public Act 15-96 sec. 10-233a-i “ban suspension and expulsion of children in preschool through grade two,” to expand to twelfth grade with a phased-in plan
- The amendment shall include elimination of “violent or sexual nature” and replace with only those exceptions required by federal law to be effective by July 2022.
- No later than 2023, the implementation committee shall identify the phased-in plan and effective date for the following grades: Third grade through eighth grade; Ninth grade through twelfth grade
- An implementation committee shall be established and chaired by Steven Hernandez, Executive Director, Commission on Women, Children, Senior, Equity & Opportunity and Chair of the Social Emotional Collaborative and Fran Rabinowitz, Executive Director CT Association of Public School Superintendents and work collaboratively with CT School Discipline Collaborative and the JJPOC Education Committee Chairs.
- The implementation committee shall provide an update on the progress of the development of the plan to the JJPOC and Education and Children’s Committees by January, 2022 with an effective date of July 2022.
- The State Department of Education shall be adequately funded and resourced to accommodate for its expansion as outlined in the implementation plan

### The Incarceration Workgroup recommendations:

#### Recommendation #1

- The laws on juvenile transfer be amended to limit both the number of cases eligible for mandatory and discretionary transfer in order to decrease the population of youth in the adult criminal justice system
- A “second look” provision be adopted for all youth transferred to adult court who receive sentences of incarceration. This “second look”

will require a sentence review within 50% of their sentence, or by their 18th birthday (whichever comes first) to determine the need for continued incarceration.

#### Recommendation #2

- Legislation be proposed to provide the automatic erasure of certain juvenile records, and elimination of the petition requirement that exists in current law which youth and families rarely avail themselves of.

#### Recommendation #3

- A bill in the General Assembly which reads, “Beginning July 1, 2021, telephone services or any other telecommunications services provided to a child confined in a correctional facility or transferred to DOC shall be provided free of charge”
- Beginning July 1, 2021, a committee be established to study phone call rates and commissary needs for all youth, 18-21 years of age, confined in Connecticut correctional facilities, and such committee shall make recommendations to the General Assembly and Department of Administrative Services prior to the renegotiation of the current prison phone services contract set to expire March 1, 2021.”

#### Recommendation #4

- Legislation be passed to ban use of all chemical agents on youth under the age of 18 by January 1, 2022.

### The Racial and Ethnic Disparities Workgroup recommendation:

#### Recommendation #1

- The provisions of C.G.S. § 54-1m be extended so that racial profiling data is collected on all police stops, whether traffic or pedestrian, giving a full and complete picture of any racial profiling that takes place in the state
- The co-chairs of the RED Workgroup should present this recommendation to the Connecticut Racial Profiling Advisory Board and collaborate with the advisory board to further define “pedestrian stop” and establish a method for analyzing and reporting the findings to follow the precedent of the current approach with traffic stop reports.

### The Community Expertise Workgroup recommendation:

#### Recommendation #1

- The General Statutes be amended to increase the membership of JJPOC by two community members and two youth (must be under 26 years of age) with first or second-hand justice system involvement. Funding should be provided for stipends, transportation, and child care to enable member attendance.

### The Executive Committee recommendation:

#### Recommendation #1

- An amendment to PA14-217 sec. 79 to expand the purview of the juvenile justice policy and oversight committee to the under 21 year old population for purposes of research and data collection to inform and evaluate justice system policies.

### The IOYouth Task Force recommendations:

#### Recommendation #1

- Legislation be proposed to establish a pre-arrest juvenile diversion model that holds youth accountable for low-level misbehavior while diverting them from any court processing or formal arrest record. The model is based on a youth’s offense and prior history, and requires in each case that law enforcement provide an alternative response in lieu of an arrest.

#### Recommendation #2

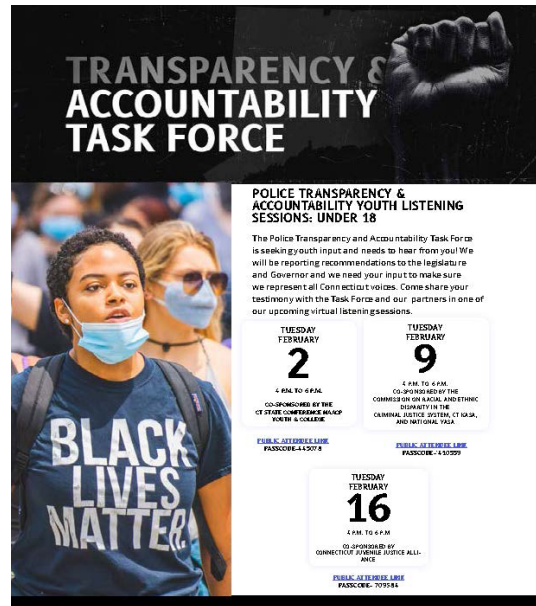
- Not later than January 1, 2022, the Judicial Branch shall develop and submit in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters related to the judiciary and to the Juvenile Justice Planning and Oversight Committee established pursuant to section 46b-121n of the general statutes, an implementation plan to securely house in the custody of the Judicial Branch any person under eighteen years of age who is arrested and detained prior to sentencing or disposition on or after January 1, 2023. The plan shall include cost estimates and recommendations for legislation as may be necessary or appropriate for implementation.

***Click [HERE](#) to read the details of the JJPOC Recommendations!***

## Police Transparency and Accountability Task Force- Young Adult Listening Session

On November 13th the University of New Haven, via the Tow Youth Justice Institute, partnered with the Connecticut Police Transparency and Accountability Task Force to host a virtual Young Adult Listening Session. This listening session called on the voices of Connecticut residents between the ages of 18 and 25 years old to give public testimony to members of the Task Force. The Police Transparency and Accountability Task Force focuses on addressing and improving police transparency and accountability in the state of Connecticut. This past summer, Public Act 20-1, an "Act concerning police accountability", was signed into law. The Police Accountability Bill, which will go into effect next year, will substantially impact several key areas of policing, such as the use of body worn cameras, changes in the minimum training requirements regarding implicit bias and cultural competence, and the removal of qualified immunity for police officers. The Bill will also limit the use of consent searches, create civilian review boards, and require routine behavioral health assessments of active officers.

The session held on the 13th at the University was targeted towards all young adults in the state of Connecticut, asking them to provide brief testimony about their experiences with law enforcement, opinions of the Police Accountability Bill, or any other criminal justice related issue that was of important to them. During the 3-hour listening session, young adults testified on various issues such as police training, traffic stops, and racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system. Additionally, community members and UNH faculty members testified to support further training and higher educational requirements for law enforcement as well as to advocate for greater community-based efforts to inform residents of their rights when interacting with police.



In preparation for the November 13th listening session, the University of New Haven hosted two public testimony workshops to assist those who planned to testify. These workshops were facilitated and led by Dr. Danielle Cooper, Dr. Alvin Tran, and Dr. Laura Kempton. Furthermore, these workshops provided a foundation for what it meant to provide public testimony, assisted them in working on their own testimonies, and they receive feedback from peers and workshop facilitators.

The Police Transparency and Accountability Task Force held subsequent Young Adult Listening Sessions at the University of Connecticut and Central Connecticut State University throughout November. The Task Force also plans to conduct listening sessions with minors across the state of Connecticut early next year. The Task Force previously held 8 general listening sessions for all CT residents throughout the month of September. In these 8 sessions, the Task Force heard from citizens across the state regarding their opinions on various issues relating to policing in Connecticut.

The Task Force will use the testimonies provided in all of these sessions to inform their recommendations and final report to the Connecticut General Assembly in 2021.

The Tow Youth Justice Institute and University of New Haven were both honored and excited to host such an informative event and provide an opportunity for young adult voices to be heard. We would also like to thank our student moderators who helped facilitate the listening session and the following campus organizations who helped make the event possible: Center for Advanced Policing, Fire Science Club, PRIDE, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Juvenile Justice Club, Spectra, Latin American Students Association, NAACP, and the Undergraduate Student Government Association (USGA).

## Transforming Youth Justice Leadership Development Program Cohort #5 Virtual Graduation!



Donned with virtual graduation caps, the 13 members of the fifth cohort of the leadership program graduated on Friday, March 5th. The nine month program was a first this year as it was held entirely in a remote format due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Graduations Keynote Address was given by Commissioner Vanessa Dorantes, Dept. of Children and Families, and Markus Cherry, Director of Workforce Development at Career Resources, Inc., shared his personal experience of being involved in the juvenile justice system. Cohort members working individually or in groups completed a capstone proposal that they will look to implement as they take their new knowledge and skills back to their current professional role. Cohort members Timothy Fraylon, Workforce Coordinator, Urban League of Greater Hartford and Tamara Wilson, Substance Abuse Counselor, Dept. of Correction provided a brief summary of them to the audience. The topics included:

- Collaboration of DCF and CSSD Systems: A Guide to Improving Communication and Collaboration Between CSSD & DCF Through Family Teaming,
- Draft Encouraging the Use of the Case Plan for Juvenile Probation Officers,
- Family Engagement in Juvenile Justice: How can ACES Help with Engagement,
- Fatherhood Engagement Plan for the Department of Children and Families Staff,
- Incorporating Mindfulness Programs and Safe Spaces that are Gender Responsive,
- Targeted to Black & Brown Girls,
- Law Enforcement and Mental Health Agency Partnership,
- Reducing Trauma While Youth Incarcerated,
- The Impact of Parents Incarcerated on Children
- The Effect of Parental Support on Re-Entry and Re-Integration Success of Juvenile Offenders.

Speaker topics throughout the nine months included Restorative Justice Practices, Understanding Youth Development and Impact of trauma, Family and Youth Engagement, Research for Effective youth services, Youth Justice Outcomes, Elements of Youth justice Reform (Juvenile justice Policy), and Community Engagement and Advocacy. Through a variety of presentations and videos, over 70 guests heard about the challenges and amazing experiences of the cohort members.



Applications for Cohort #6 will be opened over the summer.

## Community Expertise Workgroup of the JJPOC

The creation of the Community Expertise Group is a result of the JJPOC's commitment to engaging youth and parents who have lived experience and can talk first-hand about the effects of juvenile justice reform. The group is comprised of individuals who have experienced the juvenile justice system themselves and can identify as resources for educating the JJPOC members on how to improve policy and legislation for juveniles. These individuals include youth, parents, guardians, or family related to those young individuals with experience in the juvenile justice system and victims of juvenile crime as well as those in the communities with high juvenile arrest rates.



There are four organizations that work with parents and youth who are bringing the members of this workgroup together. AFCAMP provides adults and parents for the workgroup. The Center for Children's Advocacy (CCA) represents the needs of youth under 18. The Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliances (CTJJA) utilizes justice advisors to connect with the community and young adults aged 18 to 25. Iliana Pujols, Director of Community Connections at the CTJJA is sure that the "JJPOC chose to dedicate a workgroup solely for parents and young people to have the opportunity to actively take part in state government, specifically juvenile justice matters." Full Circle, based in Bridgeport, provides the parent and community voices. Janeen Reed, Executive Director at Full Circle, states that they "are grateful that the JJPOC has understood the need and value in implementing a Youth and Parent Support Committee. Thus we believe in the need of our voices being heard and are hopeful that as a unified voice, parents and youth can have greater influence and a collective impact for change within the juvenile justice system." Also providing parents for the workgroup is

One of the JJPOC's 2021 recommendations is to add two community members and two youth members as voting members of the JJPOC. This important part of the recommendations represents their validity in the juvenile justice and advocacy space. This new group allows youth to meet directly with the incarceration workgroup co-chair and other co-chairs, who can directly see how youth are experiencing the juvenile justice system and thus tailor their policies toward their best interests. With the increase of JJPOC membership and four members representing the Community Expertise Group, the JJPOC is prepared to not only continue, but improve their work for youth and parents impacted by the juvenile justice system.

Please visit [newhaven.edu/towyouth](http://newhaven.edu/towyouth) for more information about the Tow Youth Justice Institute. Please scan the image to read our other Issue Briefs and Quarterly Newsletters.



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