Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee

July 15th, 2021
2pm-3:30pm
Zoom Meeting
Opening Remarks

• 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
  • Questions and Comments will be limited to JJPOC members
    • Use the “Chat” and “Hand Raising” feature so TYJI can help monitor and facilitate the meeting
Meeting Overview

• Acceptance of the June 2021 Meeting Minutes
• Presentation on Sexual Violence and Criminalized Youth
• Overview of MYI Agreement
• Discussion on Juvenile Car Thefts
Presentation on Sexual Violence and Criminalized Youth

Nanee Sajeev, Justice-Involved Advocacy Coordinator at the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence
Sexual Violence & Criminalized Youth

Presented by Nanee Sajeev
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Justice - Involved Advocacy Coordinator
Today's Discussion

• Who/What is the CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence?

• What is sexual violence and how does it impact young people who are system-involved?

• What can we do about it?
24-Hour, Toll-Free Hotlines:
1-888-999-5545 (English) | 1-888-568-8332 (Español)

Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence is a statewide coalition of individual sexual assault crisis programs whose mission is to end sexual violence and to ensure high-quality, comprehensive, culturally competent sexual assault victim services.

All services are free and confidential.

The sexual assault crisis programs provide:
- certified sexual assault victim advocates
- 24/7 hotline services in English and Spanish
- short-term counseling for individuals and groups
- information and referrals to other social and legal services
- accompaniment and support in hospitals, police departments, and courts

[Map of Connecticut showing locations of various sexual assault crisis centers and services]
What is Sexual Violence?
SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS ANY UNWANTED CONTACT OR NONCONTACT SEXUAL ACTS OR BEHAVIORS. SEXUAL VIOLENCE DESCRIBES A RANGE OF BEHAVIORS CARRIED OUT WITH THE USE OF COERCION, MANIPULATION, THREATS, INTIMIDATION, FORCE, OR ABUSE OF POWER. THESE INCLUDE RAPE OR ATTEMPTED RAPE; FONDLING; INCEST; EXPLOITATION; EXHIBITIONISM; OBSCENE PHONE CALLS, EMAILS, OR TEXT MESSAGES. SEXUAL CONTACT WITHOUT AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT IS SEXUAL VIOLENCE;

IT IS NEVER THE VICTIM’S FAULT
Impacts of Sexual Violence can include

IN GENERAL:
increased use of drugs and/or alcohol, depression, anxiety, self-harming behaviors, chronic headaches or other pain, insomnia, hypervigilance, perfectionism, people-pleasing/fawning

FOR CHILDREN:
this may include STIs, isolating themselves from friends and family, regressive behaviors, an increase in sexual behaviors and understandings of sexual topics that are not developmentally appropriate, unexplained changes in eating habits, being overly compliant, new and extreme worry or fear.

REMEMBER:
Every victim/survivor’s experience is unique, as are the ways they physically, emotionally, and behaviorally respond to their experiences.
Prevalence of Sexual Violence

1 IN 4 GIRLS AND 1 IN 13 BOYS EXPERIENCE SEXUAL VIOLENCE BEFORE THEY TURN 18

NATIONALLY, 41.3% OF FEMALES WHO EXPERIENCED A RAPE IN THEIR LIFETIME FIRST EXPERIENCED ONE PRIOR TO THE AGE OF 18;

30.1% WERE AGED 11 TO 17.


Why might a young person not share their experiences of sexual violence?
Barriers to Disclosure

• Lack of language or understanding

• Shame & Guilt

• Lack of support system & safe spaces
What About Young People Who Are System-Involved?

Girls in Juvenile Justice:
- 31% sexually abused
- 45% five or more ACEs

Boys in Juvenile Justice:
- 7% sexually abused
- 24% five or more ACEs

Girls’ rate of sexual abuse is 4 times higher than boys’ in juvenile justice, and girls’ rate of complex trauma (five or more ACEs) is nearly twice as high.

What About Young People Who Are System Involved?

• Trauma to Prison Pipeline
• Survived & Punished
• Carceral Facilities
OUR CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM RELIES ON & ASSUMES THAT

Crime is neutral, apolitical, and unconnected to oppression

Survivors never commit crimes and are perfectly sympathetic

Survivors want incarceration, deportation, and punishment. These things make the world safer.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE ISSUES WITH THIS?
MANY SURVIVORS ARE CRIMINALIZED FOR THE WAYS THEY EXPERIENCE & NAVIGATE TRAUMA AND SURVIVAL
How Victimization Creates “Pathways to Crime”

- Child Abuse, Neglect & Other Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Unmet Needs for Safety, Housing, Food & Human Connection
- Attempts to Meet Needs
  - Run away from home
  - Use drugs to cope
  - Move in with older boyfriend
  - Live on the street
  - Trade sex for money or drugs
  - Shoplifting, theft
- Domestic Violence
- Increased Vulnerability & Social Dislocation
- "Compelled to Crime"
  - Self-defense
  - Defense of children
  - Coerced into participating in abuser’s crimes
  - Confessed to abuser’s crimes because of intimidation

ARREST & CHARGING DECISION
Charging decisions are rarely nuanced enough to consider the role of domestic violence.

TRIAL & SENTENCING
Survivors are often not believed because of their addiction, prior criminal history, or prior self-defense. They may minimize the abuse. Culture, language, stereotypes, and discrimination also play a role.

SURVIVORS IN PRISON
2,664 women in IL prisons
98% physically abused
349 convicted of murder
45 serving life sentences

THE SEXUAL ABUSE TO PRISON PIPELINE: THE GIRLS’ STORY

WHAT DO WE HOPE JUVENILE DETENTION CENTERS DO?

• Places of rehabilitation
• Provide people with needed mental health care

DOES MORE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT MEAN MORE VULNERABILITY TO CRIMINALIZATION?

WHAT DO WE HOPE JUVENILE DETENTION CENTERS DO?

• Places of rehabilitation
• Provide people with needed mental health care

TENSION BETWEEN BODILY AUTONOMY VS SECURITY MEASURES

“PRISONS ALSO FOSTER AN ATMOSPHERE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE THROUGH SECURITY PROCEDURES... THIS EMPHASIZES INCARCERATED SURVIVORS OF THEIR LACK OF POWER AND TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM THEIR SUPPOSED PROTECTORS” (RICHIE 2012, 51)

WHAT DO WE HOPE JUVENILE DETENTION CENTERS DO?

- Places of rehabilitation
- Provide people with needed mental health care

WHEN DID YOU FIRST LEARN ABOUT CONSENT, BOUNDARIES, AND HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP BEHAVIORS?

HOW ARE YOUNG PEOPLE'S IDEAS OF VIOLENCE AND RELATIONSHIPS INTERTWINED AND IMPACTED WHEN THEY ARE SEPARATED FROM THEIR COMMUNITY AND FAMILY AND PLACED UNDER STATE SUPERVISION?
“I was locked up ten different times within a two year period. Inside juvie I met other girls like myself who were there for prostitution, running away, and truancy. All of us were from the same neighborhoods, poor families, and seemed to have the same disposition of trauma, anger mixed with hopelessness. We were not violent girls. We were girls who were hurting. Being confined to a tiny cement room was one of the hardest things I have ever had to experience. Being locked up all I could do was reflect on my life but it didn’t seem to help. I became even more withdrawn and angry.” — Nadiyah Shereff

THERE ARE NO PERFECT VICTIMS. WE ARE COMMITTED TO SERVING ALL SURVIVORS REGARDLESS OF HOW THEY’RE LABELED OR JUDGED BY THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM.

WE CAN’T ASSUME THAT THE LEGAL SYSTEM IS ALWAYS IDENTIFYING SITUATIONS AND THE PEOPLE WITHIN THEM CORRECTLY OR ETHICALLY.

NOT ALL LAWS ARE JUST. WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO SUPPORT SURVIVORS AGAINST ABUSES OF POWER, EVEN WHEN THE LEGAL SYSTEM IS INVOLVED IN PROSECUTING THEM.

NO ONE DOES THE WORK KNOWING HOW TO DO IT PERFECTLY FROM THE START. HOWEVER, WE DO HAVE MANY OF THE SKILLS WE NEED ALREADY.

WE DON’T HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS, BUT WE DO HAVE A LOT TO SHARE AND LEARN FROM EACH OTHER.

Values to Center

What can we do?

INCREASE KNOWLEDGE
Attend our trainings! Learn more about sexual violence and the way it impacts all of us.

DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS
Partner with us and your local crisis center!

INVEST IN EARLY INTERVENTION
Expand diversion pathways, involve anti-sv advocates in JRB/YSB, participate in Sequential Intercept Mapping

UNDERSTAND TRAUMA IMPACTS
Accept that trauma responses are incredibly diverse. They impact how survivors navigate their environment and how they perceive safety, harm, and authority.
People and Organizations to Learn From

- Mariame Kaba
- K Agebeyi
- Beth Richie
- Andrea Ritchie
- Survived & Punished
- Project Nia*
- Interrupting Criminalization
- Generation Five*
- Color of Violence
- Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline: The Girls' Story*
Sexual Violence & Criminalized Youth

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MYI Agreement

Marisa Mascolo Halm, Center for Children’s Advocacy
DA Eulalia Garcia and Warden Derrick Molden, Department of Corrections
Agreement concerning MYI youth

History

• Summer 2020: Negotiations commence to address conditions being experienced by youth during the COVID-10 pandemic

• CCA engages national partners Juvenile Law Center and National Center for Youth Law

• Key areas of focus:
  • Access to education
  • Access to mental health services
  • Out of cell time and access to programming given health concerns

• Meetings between national experts and DOC personnel, January 2021
Agreement concerning MYI youth cont’d

• Agreement terms:
  • Education:
    • Ensures ongoing in-person instruction, except for those in medical isolation or quarantine
    • Ensures individualization of packets and feedback on packets for those in medical isolation or quarantine
    • Ensures installation of an internal WiFi network to support an online learning platform with target date of September 2021
  • Mental health:
    • Provision of in-person mental health services, including in-person bi-weekly reassessment of all young people under 18 not currently receiving services (exceptions for those in medical isolation or quarantine)
    • Clear posting & opportunity for over 18 year olds to request and/or be reassessed for MH services on a weekly basis
  • Out of cell time & programming:
    • National expert consultations to commence with DOC staff regarding expanding out of cell time and programming options
  • Fees for experts and attorneys’ time
  • Monthly reporting
Manson Youth Institution

Agreement reached concerning Youth at MYI

• Educational Resources

• Mental Health Services

• Out of cell time and programming opportunities
**Access to educational services and resources**

- Youth at MYI have continued to receive mandated educational hours.
- Education will continue to be provided in person barring any facility emergency or safety concerns.
- Remote learning will continue to be an available resource with continued efforts to enhance the experience for the students.
- CDC guidelines and safety protocols continue to be at the forefront of our mission.
- Students in quarantine will be provided remote access to educational resources.
- Wi-Fi platform will be available to deliver educational services.
- We will look to enhance engagement in the remote learning experience.
Health Mental Services

MYI staff and Administration have committed to ensuring quality Mental Health Services are provided to the young people at MYI.

- All requirements of the agreement are being adhered to.
- Opportunity for reassessment has been offered to all persons housed at MYI and parental notices sent to parents and guardians per the agreement.
- Literature has been posted to inform over 18 population of reassessment opportunity.
- An Informational brochure will be provided at time of admission/transfer regarding access to care and available programming.
- Will review ways to simplify accessing Mental Health resources and services i.e. color coding documentation to expedite provision of services.
Manson Youth Institution is fully invested and committed to shifting culture and creating a therapeutic environment for our population to thrive and have success reintegrating back into the community post incarceration.

- MYI has added additional post to provide more out of cell opportunities.
- We have added a Counselor Supervisor, Activity Officers, and additional Counselors to the 2nd shift compliment.
- 3 additional recreation opportunities have been incorporated into the daily schedule.
- One of the new Counselors is dedicated to developing and implementing programs for the population.
- A Manson Youth City Council is being formed comprised of young people from our population.
- Opportunities for family engagement will be provided through additional visiting opportunities and programs that promote family engagement.
Collaborative Efforts

The Department of Correction is committed to collaborating with a multitude of agencies in efforts of delivering the most quality resources to the population we serve.

The MYI Administration continuously engages in meetings with the agencies listed below. Our goals are to work together to develop solutions and policies that represent the best interest of the young people we serve.

- The State Department of Education
- The Department of Children and Families
- The Office of the Child Advocate
- The Center for Children's Advocacy
Discussion on Juvenile Car Thefts
Next JJPOC Meeting
September 16th, 2021
2:00-3:30 PM

*NO MEETING IN AUGUST*