

# ***Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee***

***September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021***

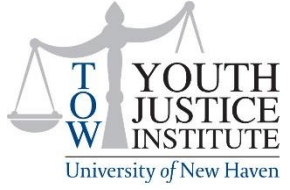
***2pm-3:30pm***

***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

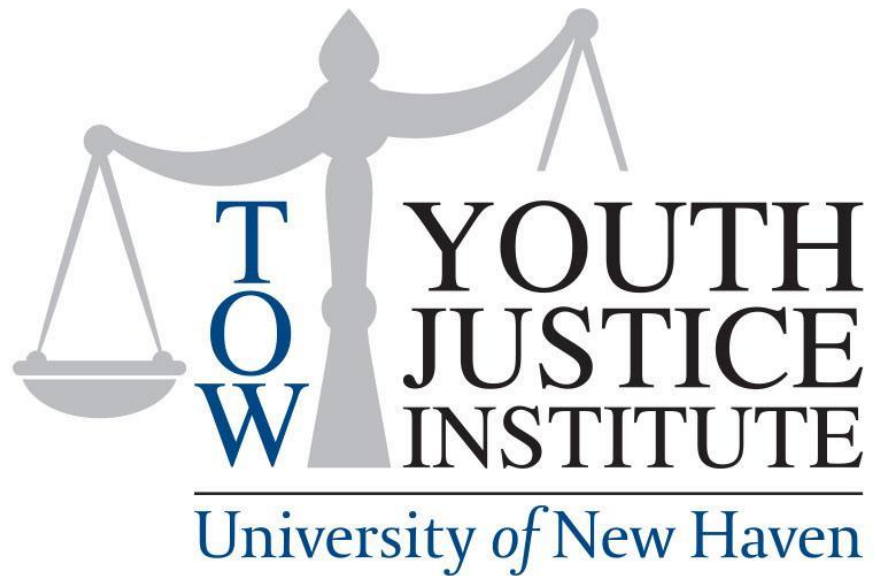


- Thank you Judge Bernadette Conway!
- Welcome Judge Dawne Westbrook!

# Meeting Overview



- Acceptance of the July 2021 Meeting Minutes
- Overview of MYI Agreement
- Presentation on DCF Implementation Plan



## ***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-19 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
- CCA & partners arrange consultation between national experts and DOC personnel, January 2021
- Goal: Improving conditions for 300 young people (roughly 40-50 minors), many with ongoing educational rights, disabilities and mental health needs

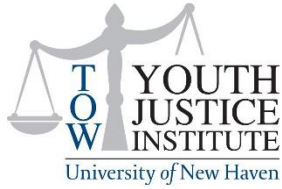
# Agreement concerning MYI youth cont'd



- 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 with DOC staff regarding expanding out of cell time and programming options
    - Written recommendations to be produced and published
  - 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



# Education



## 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.

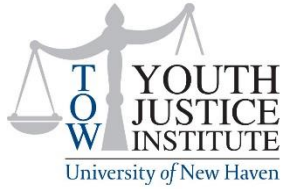
# Health Mental Services



**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.

# Out of Cell Time and Access to Programs



**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

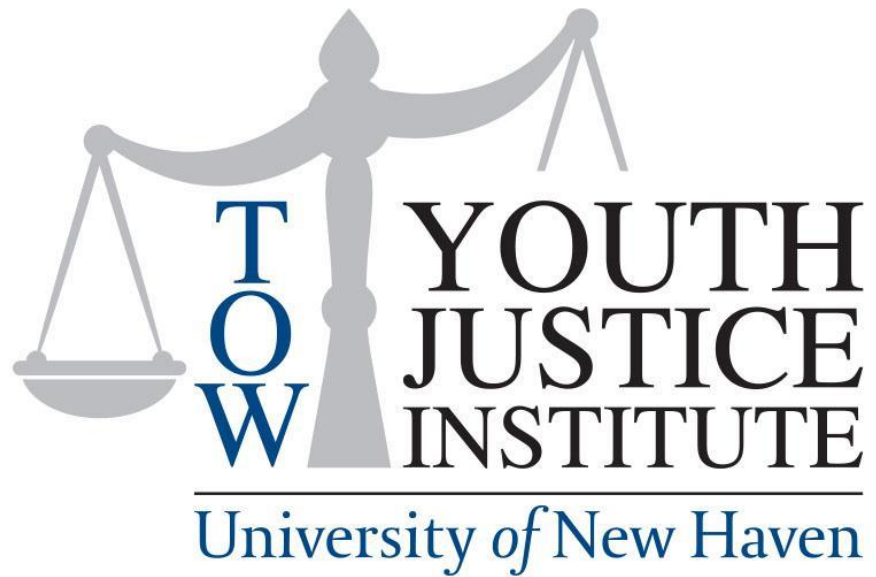
# Collaborative Efforts



**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.**

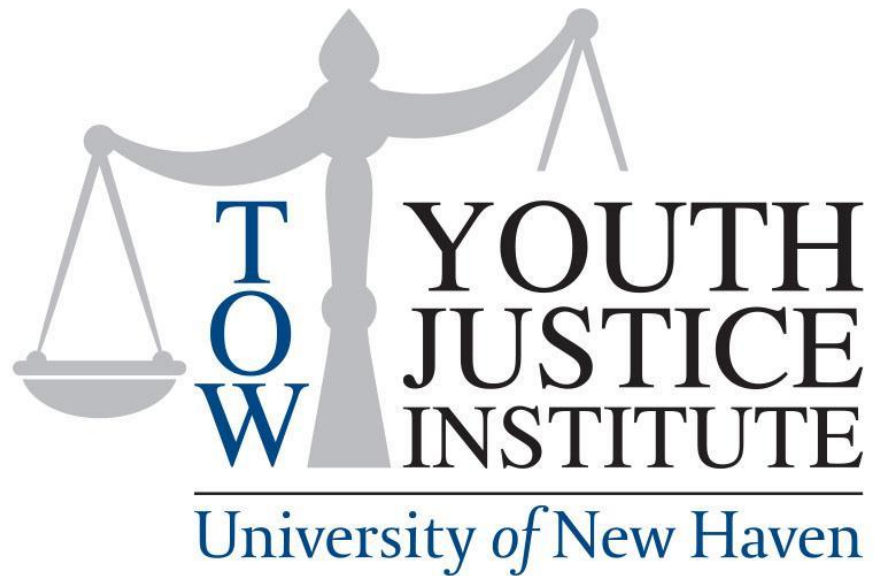
The MYI Administration continuously engages in meetings with the agencies listed below. Our goals are to work together to develop solutions and policies that represent the best interest of the young people we serve.

- The State Department of Education
- The Department of Children and Families
- The Office of the Child Advocate
- The Center for Children's Advocacy



*Questions?*





***Presentation on Education  
Implementation Plan for  
DCF Oversight of JJ  
Educational Services***

# JJPOC Recommendation



- JJPOC recommended DCF create a unit that will oversee and monitor the education of children who reside in justice facilities or who are incarcerated, creating standardization, reentry processes, and quality assurance

# PA 21-174



- Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) An implementation team shall assist the Department of Children and Families in the development of an operational plan to create an education unit pursuant to section 3 of this act.
- The implementation team shall identify the implementation timeline, funding and other measures necessary to fully implement the operational plan.



# Implementation Team Membership



## **Department of Children and Families (DCF)**

Michael Williams - Deputy Commissioner of Operations

Matt Folan - Superintendent of Unified School District #2

Vincent Russo - Legislative Program Director

## **Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (JBCSSD)**

Cathy Foley Geib - Deputy Director

Patricia Nunez - Program Manager II

## **State Department of Education (CSDE)**

Desi Nesmith – Deputy Commissioner

John Frassinelli – Division Director, School Health, Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

Lisa Lamenzo – Division Director, Turnaround Office

Melissa Hickey – Reading/Literacy Director

## **Department of Correction (DOC)**

Veron Beaulieu - Acting Superintendent of Unified School District #1

## **JJPOC Education Subcommittee**

Amy Vatner – Director of Educational Support Services

Rep. Robyn Porter – State Representative for District 94

## **Public Schools**

Verna Ruffin – Superintendent of Waterbury Public Schools

Chris Leone – Superintendent of Regional School District #6

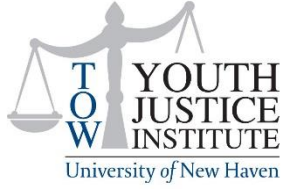
## **Youth and Community Member Representatives**

Fred Phillips – Founder of Men Standing Up Against Violence

## **Office of Policy and Management (OPM)**

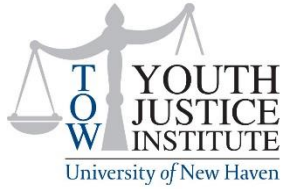
Marc Pelka – Undersecretary, Division of Criminal Justice

# PA 21-174



- Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2022*) (a) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall implement the operational plan developed pursuant to section 2 of this act to establish an education unit within the Department of Children and Families, for the education of any child who resides in any juvenile justice facility and any incarcerated child.
- The Commissioner of Children and Families shall administer, coordinate and control the operations of the unit and be responsible for the overall supervision and direction of the activities of the unit.

# Implementation Team Work Plan



- Met monthly from February 2021 to September 2021
- Reviewed current educational services and programs in justice facilities
- Presentations by JBCSSD, USD #1, SDE, and contracted community providers
- Discussed standards, accountability, and outcome measures
- Identified barriers to data sharing and management
- Outlined staffing, budget and legal needs for implementation
- Received feedback from JJPOC Education Committee, Executive Committee, Community Expertise Workgroup

# Outcomes and Accountability

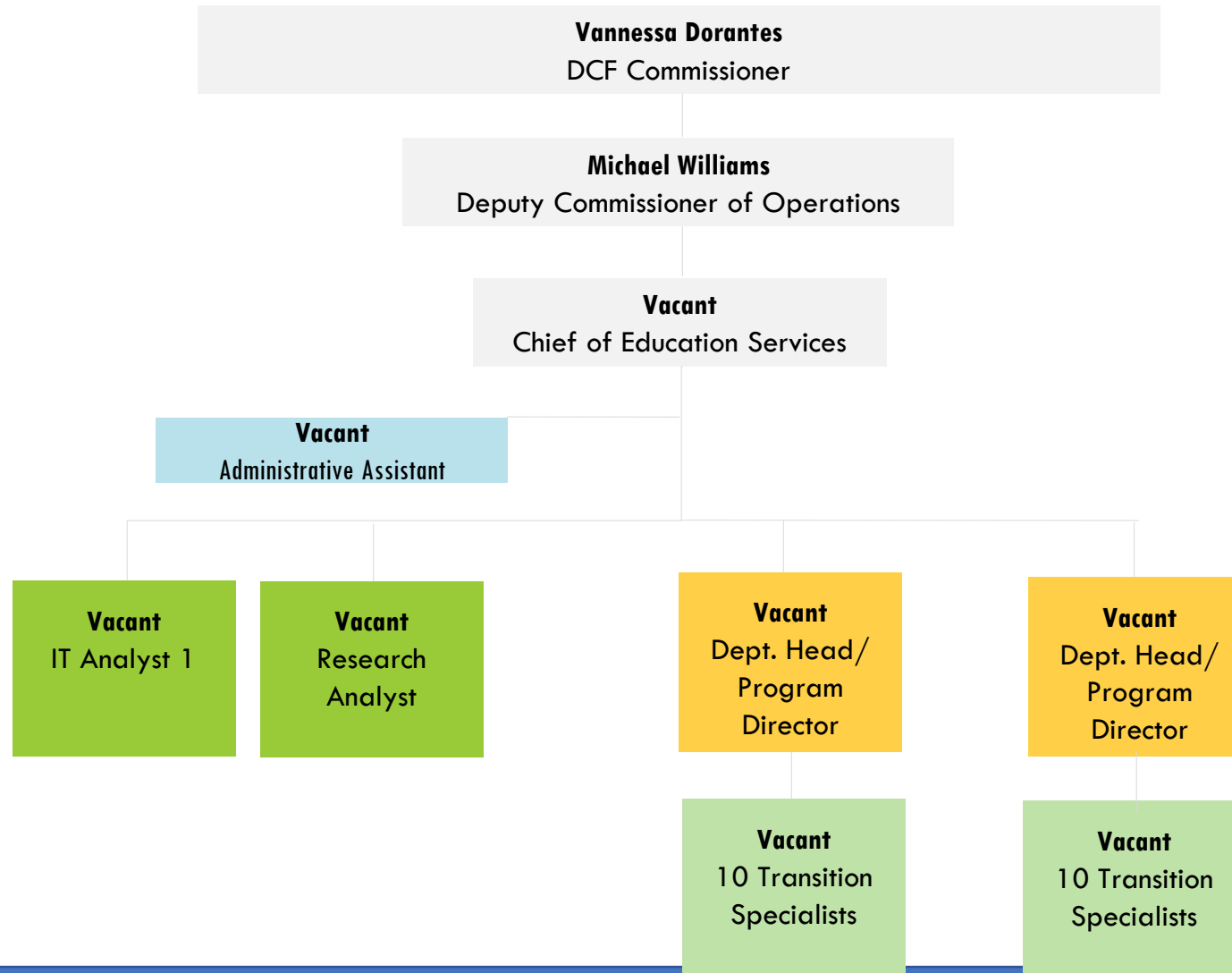


**The new DCF oversight unit will ensure that equitable, measurable and sustainable child centered educational achievement outcomes are produced for the children in justice facilities.**

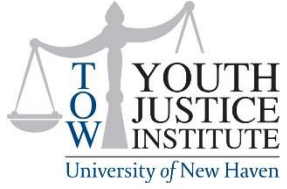
The accountability provisions in the public act include:

- Develop and review quarterly reports on academic performance, school discipline, attendance and other similar issues concerning students whose education is overseen by the unit;
- Require providers of educational services to compile, at least semiannually, performance data to ensure that reporting measures are tailored to experiences of students in short and long-term placements in justice facilities;
- Require providers of educational services to develop partnerships and programs with local educational agencies, private educational providers and local industries and businesses;
- Report student performance data, attendance and rates of participation for all education programs and document transition activities and outcomes and collaborations with community service providers and parents to the JJPOC;
- Transition Specialists will manage and track the educational credits of a student who is in an out-of-home placement and document the success of a placement following a student's reentry into his or her community; and
- Ensure that the school the student will enroll in upon release provides services and supports that maximize the student's success, including achievement of a high school diploma from the student's LEA.
- The same process will be used to create the accountability system that will be adopted by stakeholders, service providers and participating state agencies.

# Proposed Organizational Structure



# Timeline



## 2021

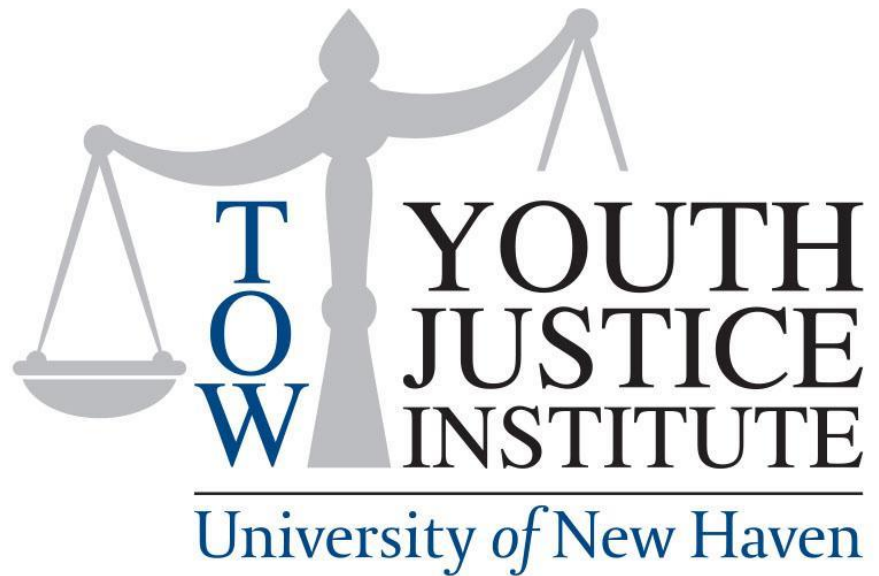
- **October - December** Recruit the Head of the Administrative Unit and the IT Analyst

## 2022

- **January** Hire the Head of the Administrative Unit and IT Analyst
- **January – June** Determine the job classifications for additional staff required for the Administrative Unit, Collaborate with CSSD, DOC, and CSDE to establish MOU's for data sharing and other necessary services
- **February – August** Collaborate with CSDE and LEA's to develop and implement IT systems for the immediate transfer of records and credits between justice facilities and the children's home school districts.
- **July** Collaborate with external partners to establish accountability and outcome measures
- **June** Hire Research Analyst and develop the reporting requirements and datasets established under the public act
- **July** Hire and train transition specialists and managers. Conduct joint training with reentry coordinators identified by CSDE
- **October 1, 2022** Full operational plan implementation

# Next Steps

- DCF is in the process of posting for the Chief of the Administrative Unit and plans to have the position filled by January 1, 2022
- DCF is working with CSDE to develop a database that will seamlessly share student records with the Administrative Unit when a student is being educated by a juvenile justice facility
- DCF is working with CSDE and our federal partners to ensure that student records can be shared under FERPA
- DCF Legal has met with attorneys from partnering state agencies to discuss drafting necessary MOU's



***Next JJPOC Meeting  
October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021  
2:00-3:30 PM***