



health and substance abuse, tying them to future delinquency.”

## Objectives, and Scope of the LIST

Each LIST serves as a forum for facilitating community-wide collaboration and coordination across various agencies involved in delivery of juvenile justice system services. As independent community-based organizations, LISTs are designed to be led by a Lead Entity (Connecticut Youth Services Association) who acts as its fiduciary, serves as its statewide administrator and is responsible for planning and management of LIST functions. Each LIST is structured to be headed by a LIST Manager who will act as a liaison and facilitator for that LIST. While acting as the storehouse of knowledge and providers of information resources, as well as coordinators and facilitators for service providers to serve the clients, the LISTs are not service providers themselves. However, their member organizations can offer services.

Each LIST works on a separate project or focus area explained in their yearly workplan which, along with monthly meetings, are now captured in agenda and minutes; however, occasionally they work together on a project across court districts. Among work on truancy, diversion, restorative practices, LISTs are currently working on gathering information on the impacts of the new Marijuana laws/policy practice and how it impacts youth and how it affects stakeholders in different communities statewide. Information gathered from these forums will help inform future policy and practice changes.



Specific Goals for each LIST are

- Encourage collaborative efforts among local stakeholders for assessing the physical, social, behavioral, and educational needs of children and youth in their respective communities that leads to juvenile justice involvement, and for assisting in the development of comprehensive plans to address such needs. The infrastructure for planning is intended to be data-driven and encourage the use of evidence-based approaches and programs to support positive youth development.
- Decrease the number of children and youth referred to court.
- Address the disproportionate minority contact
- Support families with information and access to services
- Support interagency prevention strategies
- Improve access to services
- Improve services and outcomes
- Increase the sharing of information and knowledge about services and the juvenile justice system
- Create partnerships between communities and state agencies in the development of community –based interventions
- Be organized to respond to federal, state, and private grant opportunities

## The LIST Structure

There is one LIST for each Juvenile Court. Represented groups within the LISTs include:

- Family and Parents,
- Children and youth groups and their representatives
- Court Support Services Division and Department of Children and Families,
- Youth Service Bureaus
- School districts,
- Law enforcement including Police,



- Social service organizations
- Larger community (faith-based organizations, , business/labor associations, healthcare providers, local volunteers)

The Lead Entity is responsible for reporting on, a) state of finances, b) project progress, and c) future projects/work plans to JBCSSD at a predetermined frequency and individual LISTs report their activity to CYSA as the fiduciary on a regular basis.

LISTs are a fine example of a systemic development strategy as a partnership between various stakeholder groups and state agencies to further community safety, prosperity and well-being.

## Hope for Positive Future Impact

There is a reason to be optimistic that multiple stakeholder involvement in planning and implementation of prevention and intervention strategies through the LIST initiative will lead to successfully alleviating and eliminating critical causes of juvenile justice system involvement, namely, economic and shelter insecurity, trauma, mistrust of justice systems, lack of opportunities for low-income and racial minorities and more. By bringing together various perspectives, experiences, and expertise from various agencies and institutions, the LIST initiative is expected to yield some innovative and impactful solutions to solve juvenile justice issues and diversion from system involvement.



Looking into future directions, there is a near consensus supporting Diane Sierpina’s view that, “It is time, in this new decade, to recommit to the ideals that kids are different from adults and should be treated as children when [held accountable] for their actions and behavior, even when those actions are violent. Even youth charged with violent crimes have the capacity to be rehabilitated and to become assets to their communities and society.”

*This Issue Brief was authored by University of New Haven Masters’ student Jasmine Kaur.*

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## Sources

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