

## NEW HAVEN SOCIAL JUSTICE SCHOOL, BACK IN PERSON



With an aim to educate youth about social justice topics and issues, the City of New Haven Office of Youth, Family & Engagement, in conjunction with New Haven Public School and the Tow Youth Justice Institute of the University of New Haven, established the Summer Social Justice School in 2019. This program, running concurrently with NHPS Summer of Fun, allows students to choose from a variety of four 45-minute activities and educational classes.

The New Haven Summer Social Justice School is a 5-week program offered from Monday to Thursday during the summer months which starts the first week of July until the first week of August at James Hillhouse High School in New Haven. Due to COVID restrictions, the program was delivered virtually in 2021.

This year we're excited to offer this opportunity in person. The program is open to all New Haven Public Schools 6th to 12th-grade students participating in the Summer of Fun where participants are grouped separately for middle school and high school students and navigate between chosen activities, including yoga, cooking classes, and dance.

The Social Justice School program curricula consisted of social justice topics and issues, presented by various UNH faculty like [Dr. Melissa L. Whitson](#), who spoke about the Social injustice of Adverse Childhood Experiences, and local legislative leaders like [Representative Robin Porter](#), who spoke with the group about the C.R.O.W.N ACT that she helped pass in the State of Connecticut, which explicitly outlines practices around hair discrimination; [Louis L. Reed](#), Sr. Director of Membership and Partnerships for REFORM Alliance, who talked about his role in helping changing laws, systems and culture to create real pathways to work and wellbeing; [David Schroeder](#), Associate Dean at The University of New Haven, who discussed self- reflection and social Justice, [Leonhard Jahard](#) and his staff from CT Violence Intervention Plan, [William Carlos](#), Juvenile Probation Officer, who had a round table discussion about Teen Dating Violence, an a host of other professionals from partnering organizations like the Center for Children's Advocacy...**continued**

- New Juvenile Justice Educational Unit Led by Dr. Glen Worthy

- OJJFP Announcement

- Corrections as Rehabilitation: Norway shares its model of success
- Webinar recap

- TYJP Graduation Cohort 7
- Summer '22 Interns

These professionals deliver lectures and narratives to educate students about the issues faced by youth in their communities. Participants of the program explore opportunities for youth justice careers, student rights, mental health issues, underage drinking, drugs, trafficking, LGBTQ+, childhood trauma, gender inequality, problems in schools, homelessness, and youth support services, among others.



The Summer Social Justice School is an opportunity for youth to explore responses to community challenges they may face and offer the opportunity to learn how to use their progress toward a more fulfilling and rewarding life. Albert Einstein once said, "Striving for social justice is the most valuable thing to do in life".

## NEW JUVENILE JUSTICE EDUCATIONAL UNIT LED BY DR. GLEN WORTHY



Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) was established to oversee the continued reform of the juvenile justice system. . In 2018, Public Act 18-31 mandated the JJPOC establish an education committee to develop a detailed plan addressing concerns with overall coordination, supervision, provision and direction of all academic services and programs for youth in out- of- home placement.

The Education Committee began to meet regularly to address the following: the range of services for the justice involved youth must include, at a minimum, a traditional high-school diploma program, an accelerated credit recovery program, vocational training, and access to post-secondary options. Additionally, a recommendation was made to submit a plan for a single agency to be in charge of a statewide system for education transitional supports for children in custody. Improving education in youth facilities is one of the best ways to improve an at risk juvenile's life after they are released. This recommendation addresses concerns with overall coordination, supervision, provision and direction of all academic services and programs for youth in out of home placement. It also addresses issues of fragmentation by recommending a singular administrative oversight body.

DCF has experience with overseeing education in multiple types of settings, an independent school district exists under DCF by statute (USD #2), and in addition, the USD #2 is involved with the Families First Act and emphasized preventative practices. Public Act 21-174, passed in June 2021, states the Department of Children and Families will create a unit that will oversee the education of youth in all juvenile justice facilities and established an Implementation Team...continued

DCF will assist in creating standardization, a smooth reentry process, and quality assurance across all programs, services, and reporting.

The Implementation Team's efforts led to the establishment of the Juvenile Justice Educational Oversight Unit (JJEOU) within the Department of Children and Families. The JJEOU will assure youth and young adults in juvenile justice facilities are receiving educational services and supports consistent with the standards of the Connecticut State Department of Education and meets the performance expectations of the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families.

Given the critical role of the JJEOU, Dr. Glen Worthy, an accomplished professional, and a thought leader was appointed for the position of Educational Administrator Juvenile Justice Services. Based on observations, performance, and evaluations, Dr. Worthy will recommend changes for the improvements and advancements in the existing educational policies, programs, and strategic initiatives.

Dr. Worthy is a world well-known thought leader in the sphere of education policy and practice. Recognizing his life-long work, the State Department of Education nominated Dr. Worthy to serve as a fellow for the America Archive Fellowship program. This Fellowship Program helps communities and states leverage policy, practice, and leadership to build high quality educational systems. Out of thousands of applicants across the country, Dr. Worthy was accepted and as part of the program, he participated in the NBC News Education Nation Summit – a national conference held in New York City to discuss the state of education in America. There, he met to advise public officials and educational leaders on educational policy and practice including U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

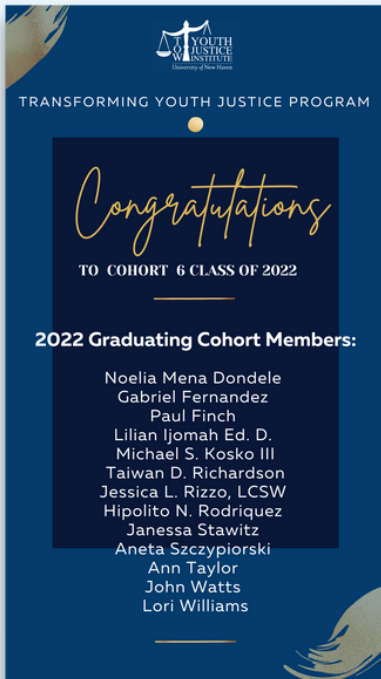
**Dr. Worthy has been a lifelong resident of Connecticut, has been dedicated to the advancement of the state's educational policy and practice landscape. Currently Dr. Worthy resides in New Haven with his family.**



**[Click here to learn more about the JJEOU](#)**

Student Contributor: Jasmine Kaur,  
Current Criminal Justice Ph.D. Student

# TRANSFORMING YOUTH JUSTICE COHORT #6 GRADUATES



On Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 13 members of the 6th cohort of the Transforming Youth Justice Program graduated from the nine-month program. Invited guests and graduates heard from Dr. Glen Worthy, Educational Administrator for Juvenile Justice Services, and from youth involved in the Community Expertise Workgroup of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee.

The Transforming Youth Justice Program has been developed by the TYJI to ensure a network of current and future youth justice reformers who are passionate, motivated, and eager to make positive systematic change for young people in Connecticut. The monthly program ran from September 2021 through June 2022 on our Orange Campus.

## The goal of the program is:

- To build the capacity of current and aspiring justice reformers to implement best practices in youth justice reform.
- To advance youth justice reformer's knowledge of how to lead reform within Connecticut.
- To cultivate a statewide network of youth justice reformers who serve as a resource to the community.

Participation in the Transforming Youth Justice increases visibility and links individuals with a wide range of organizations, and regional/state networks to state and national level juvenile justice system changes. The program creates safe spaces for learning and critical reflection on a developmental approach to juvenile justice (e.g. adolescent brain research), the use of best practices (family outreach and active engagement), and tools for measuring results (Results-Based Accountability and data-driven decisions).

Completion of the program involved a capstone proposal detailing ways participants planned to improve the youth justice system. [Click here to read more about the participants and their capstone projects.](#)

**Cohort 7 will be starting this September, so stay tuned as we announce the members of this next class.**



# CORRECTIONS AS REHABILITATION: NORWAY SHARES ITS MODEL OF SUCCESS WEBINAR RECAP

This spring, the Tow Youth Justice Institute (TYJI), participated in a webinar series hosted by The Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) at UCONN: Corrections as Rehabilitation–Norwalk Shares Its Model of Success. This virtual series featured conversations among several researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and impacted individuals from Norway, along with peers here in Connecticut, where they discussed our respective correctional systems and what we can learn from each other.



In Part I, we heard from Professor Thomas Uglevik of the Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law at the University of Oslo, John Todd-Kvam, a postdoctoral research fellow at the Norwegian Centre for Addiction Research, James Jeter, Co-founder of Full Citizens Coalition, and Program Director at Civic Ally-ship at Dwight Hall at Yale University, Barbara Fair, LCSW and lead organizer at Stop Solitary, CT, and Mike Lawlor, J.D., Associate professor of Criminal Justice Department at Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Science at the University of New Haven. The conversation was moderated by IMRP's director, Andrew Clark, and Dr. Danielle Cooper, Director of Research for TYJI and Associate Professor.

**Click here to watch the recording. [Corrections as Rehabilitation \(kaltura.com\)](https://www.kaltura.com)**



In Part II, A Look Inside the System, we heard from Elin Schie, Chief Prison Officer at Indre Ostfold Prison in Norway along with two other prison staff, Christina Quaranta, Executive Director of CT Justice Alliance, and Robert Gillis a retiree from The Department of Correction in CT. The conversation was moderated by Kelan Lyons of the CT Mirror.

**Click here to watch the recording: <https://youtu.be/KuupaXsKKdE>**

In part III: The Rights of the Child, we heard from Per Sigurd Våge, Director of the Western Region of the Norwegian Correctional Service, and Per Omdal, Former Assistant Prison Governor, Bjørgvin Prison Youth Unit West. These experts shared a powerful presentation about their experience building, designing, and working within the youth justice system in Norway....**Continued**

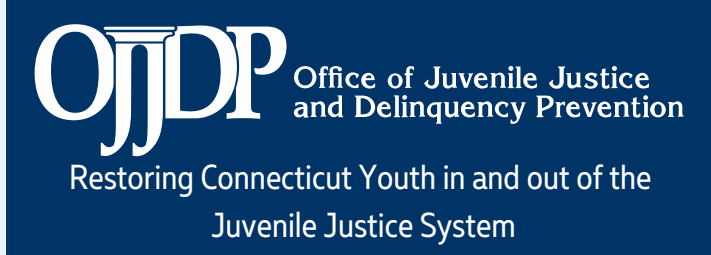


Their presentation was followed by a moderated panel discussion by Jacqueline Rabe Thomas, Investigative Report, CT Public with Brittany LaMarr, Project Manager for the Juvenile Justice Policy & Oversight Committee, Tow Youth Justice Institute, Hope Metcalf, Executive Director of the Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights, Yale Law School, Heather Panciera, Assistant Child Advocate, CT and Danielle Cooper, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Criminal Justice at the University of New Haven, and Director. of Research at the Tow Youth Justice Institute.

**Click here to view the recording: <https://youtu.be/pBOqqiLr7Sc>**



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The Tow Youth Justice Institute at the University of New Haven was the recipient of a three-year cooperative agreement from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in 2021 to implement the "Restoring Connecticut youth in and out of the juvenile justice system" project, which kicked off in May 2022, in collaboration with the University's College of Engineering and with two sub-awardees. Restorative Practices (RP) have been gaining traction across the country as a best practice in alternative ways to addressing problematic youth behavior. They are being used as a diversionary tactic to increase youths' abilities to avoid future conflict and as a more therapeutic response in the juvenile justice system that could address the root causes that led them there.

In Connecticut, there is currently no central place to understand who is doing training, how it's being utilized, which audiences are being trained and under what model. The University of New Haven will develop an online, interactive database that maps resources in a user-friendly space and accessible by phone or computer for youth, families, and community providers to access information on needed services available in their area, as an alternative to punitive discipline approaches, up to and including prosecution.

Connecticut has a well-established system for diversion through a network of Youth Service Bureaus (YSB) and Juvenile Review Boards (JRB). The Connecticut Youth Services Association will conduct a landscape analysis to understand the individual YSBs' current functioning and capacity to assess the effectiveness of YSBs and JRBs, the strengths and capacities to be leveraged, needed areas of improvement, and resources required to achieve Connecticut's juvenile diversion goals. This will inform system design and help to determine specific steps to support the development of YSBs and JRBs...continued

For youth who find themselves in the juvenile justice system, healthy relationships, constructive conflict resolution, positive discipline and a multi-tiered system of interventions can lead to a decrease in recidivism. The Center for Children's Advocacy will train RP to staff in pre-trial detention programs, secure post-disposition juvenile justice facilities, step-down juvenile justice residential facilities, youth shelters, therapeutic residential programs and probation services. CCA also works to include youth to identify ways to overcome barriers to equal, sustainable participation in juvenile justice system reform work and to directly educate and expand the knowledge of decision-makers.

**Whether inside or outside of the juvenile justice system, responding to youths' misbehavior with restorative justice practices increases youths' abilities to avoid future conflict and continued involvement with the justice system.**

## WHAT HAVE OUR INTERNS BEEN UP TO?



Jessica Morgan & Nicole Crimmins  
( pictured L-R)

*"Working with the students at Hillhouse this summer has been such a positive experience. I really enjoyed learning along with the youth and hearing what our wonderful speakers had to say. My only hope is that this program continues to make a difference in the minds of these students and they have learned to stand up to injustices and fight for what is right."*

- Nikki Crimmins

Nicole Crimmins is a First year graduate student in the Community Psychology program at the University of New Haven. She received a Bachelor's of Arts from Fairfield University with a major in Sociology and a minor in Peace and Justice Studies. When she is not studying, she enjoys painting, drawing and spending time with her pets. After shadowing the previous project coordinator of Social Justice School, Nicole took the lead on this year's arrangements. She enjoyed spending her summer with the youth population of New Haven while facilitating a positive and constructive learning environment. She is passionate about educating youth on social justice topics in order to create the next generation of leaders.

Jessica Morgan is from Framingham, Massachusetts. She graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a Minor in Criminology at Framingham State University in 2021. She is now in her second year at the University of New Haven where she is pursuing a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice. Jessica also works as a Research Fellow for the Tow Youth Justice Institute. This summer she helped facilitate Social Justice School and presented on the LGBTQIA+ Social Movement.

*"Being part of this program was very rewarding. Engaging youth on social justice issues is not only impactful but essential for creating change. It's fulfilling to know that kids were still talking about the class after leaving the classroom."*

Jasmine Kaur graduated with her M.S in Criminal Justice and is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program at The University of New Haven. Jasmine has been working hand in hand with the MarComm Department, creating Issue Briefs, contributing to Newsletter articles, and researching social media posts for publishing.



Jasmine Kaur,  
Current Criminal Justice Ph.D  
Student

*"This is my first summer in the US. Working, studying, interning, traveling, and discovering, this was one of those memorable summers that become integral to the story of your life. I was deeply engaged in gaining the real-life experience of US criminal justice system by interning with Southern Connecticut State University Police Department and by taking doctoral level coursework. The most enriching was the opportunity to write for the University's Tow Youth Justice Institute. I not only learned the research skills and about many fascinating aspects of the Connecticut's and National juvenile justice system, but I also made great friends and found managers. I must say summer 2022 brought me closer to realizing my professional aspirations and my personal dreams."*

Jessica Ellis received her B.S in Criminal justice with a concentration of Victim Services and a minor in Sociology at the University of New Haven. Jessica worked alongside with Nicole and Jessica Morgan at the Social Justice School this summer.



Jessica Ellis & Nicole Crimmins  
Pictured L-R

Eva Hill, ( not pictured) is studying Criminal Justice at Michigan State University. This summer, she worked side-by-side with TYJI Associate Director Erika Nowakowski & JJPOC Project Manager Brittany LaMarr on JJPOC projects

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.

Please visit [towyouth.newhaven.edu](http://towyouth.newhaven.edu) for more information about the Tow Youth Justice Institute.  
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