

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

October 19, 2023 Meeting

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

LOB Room 1E

Hybrid

Meeting Facilitation



- 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

Opening Remarks



- Welcome and Introductions – JJPOC Co-Chairs
 - Approval of September 2023 Meeting Minutes
 - Overview of draft recommendations will be presented in November

**State of Connecticut Judicial Branch
Court Support Services Division (JBCSSD)
Juvenile Justice Process and Outcome Evaluation (JJPOE)**

**Presented by
Development Services Group, Inc.
October 19, 2023**



Background and Methodology

Purpose of the Evaluation

- Evaluate the post-adjudicatory juvenile justice process established to implement Public Act 18–31.
- 3-year evaluation.
 - Conduct a process evaluation of the implementation of the new requirements (81 metrics):
 1. Court Clinic
 2. Residential Treatment
 3. Reentry and Probation.
 - Conduct an outcome evaluation of the effectiveness of the new requirements.

Data Collection

- Engaged 200 individuals in interviews, focus groups, and conversations: JBCSSD administrators, clinical coordinators, judges, attorneys, probation officers, residential program staff, auditors, community-based service providers, youths, and family members.
- Conducted site visits to 7 residential treatment programs, 4 courthouses, and 3 community-based programs.
- Observed treatment groups in each of the 7 residential programs.
- Reviewed policies and procedures, audit reports, youth files, data from the Contractor Data Collection System (CDCS) and the Case Management Information System (CMIS), etc.
- Met regularly with JBCSSD administrators and leadership. Submitted quarterly reports.



Main Court Clinic Findings

Effectiveness of the Clinical Coordinator Role

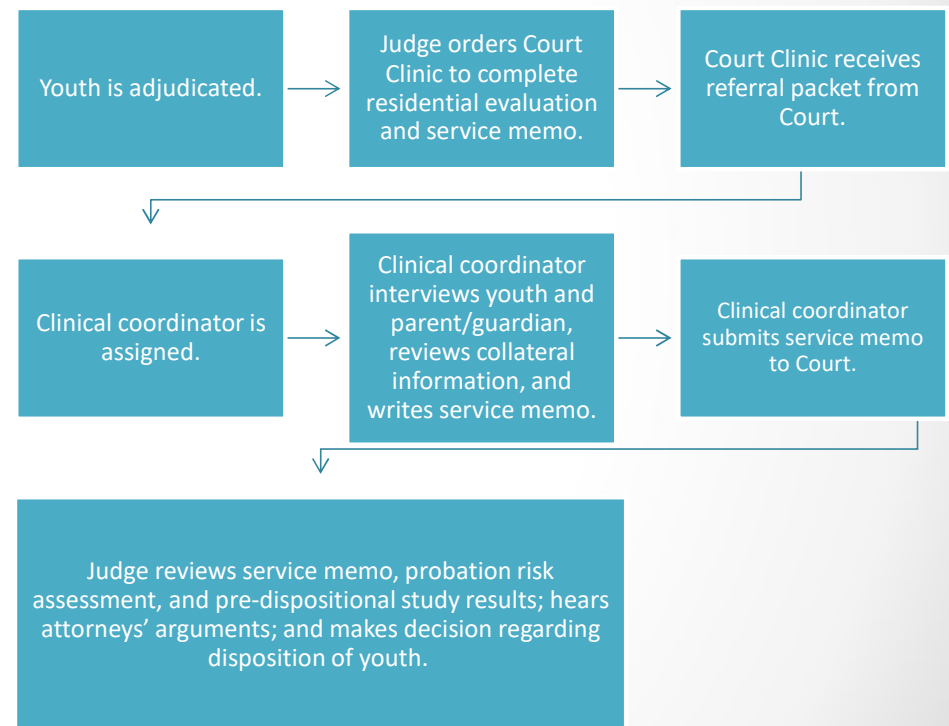
Effectiveness of the Current Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Process

Effectiveness of the Forensic Formulation Model

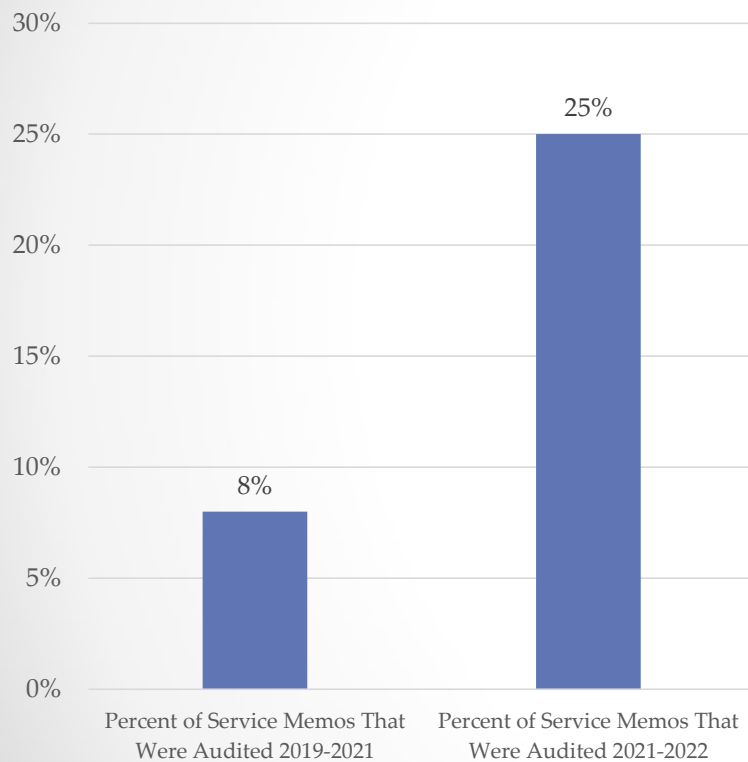
Utility of Court Clinic Data

Effectiveness of the Clinical Coordinator Role

- Interviewees overwhelmingly agreed that clinical coordinators were available to assist Court personnel.
- There was some concern about defining roles.
- Most interviewees felt that the service memo was a helpful addition to the juvenile justice process.
- Many timeliness indicators have improved from 2019 through 2023.
- The clinical coordinator role clearly adds value to the juvenile justice process.



Effectiveness of the Current CQI Process



- The audit tool aligns well with JBCSSD Policy and Procedure 6.116.
- The percent of service memos that are audited is increasing.
- Clinical coordinator training is comprehensive, substantive, and well-aligned with their role.
- Clinical coordinators value the feedback they receive from auditors and supervisors and use the feedback to improve their service memos.
- Timeliness of feedback has improved over time.
- The number and types of trainings generated through the CQI process appear to be sufficient for meeting the Court Clinic's needs.

Effectiveness of the Forensic Formulation Model

- The forensic formulation model is both useful and valid.
- Data are sufficiently available to inform decision-making. The Court Clinic does a good job of gathering and presenting a range of relevant information to the judge for decision-making.
- Service memos consistently include references to the five factors used to determine a youth's recommended level of security:
 - 1) History of violence, 2) risk for future violence, 3) past treatment compliance/progress, 4) current amenability to treatment, and 5) AWOL risk.
- There is some disagreement or discomfort concerning how best to explicitly factor in public safety, specifically related to gun charges.
- There have been improvements since the start of the new requirements (PA 18–31) in how service memos incorporate collateral information.
- Strengths and protective factors are consistently identified.

Utility of Court Clinic Data

- Clinical coordinators enter information on several measures into CMIS.
- CMIS data fields are often reviewed and adjusted.
- There is a sense among clinical coordinators and supervisors that entering the data is beneficial.
- Court clinic managers meet with JBCSSD leadership and other stakeholders periodically to present their analyses of the data.

Progress from Interim Report to Final Report

Interim Report Recommendation	Progress
Improve consultation and supervision of clinical coordinators.	JBCSSD hired additional supervisors to work with clinical coordinators.
There should be greater standardization of information captured in routine forms.	There has been improvement in the standardization of information captured in routine forms and in CMIS.
Clinical coordinators should receive training on the distinction between adversity and trauma.	Several training opportunities have been generated.
Clinical coordinators should receive training on the differences between strengths, resilience factors, and protective factors.	Service memos have improved in their explanations of how to leverage strengths toward behavior change. Consideration of protective factors in treatment recommendations has improved.
Consider establishing record-release policies and protocols with some school districts.	There have been several statewide policy changes aimed at improving communication and file sharing between public schools and juvenile justice residential programs.

Main Residential Treatment Findings

Admission and Treatment Plan Development
Treatment Approach
Discharge Planning

Admissions and Treatment Plan Development

- The REGIONS program has a quality admission process that is implemented as intended.
- Almost 100% of cases have intake screening completed at or before arrival.
- Admission instruments are appropriate.
- There is a high rate of agreement between the clinical coordinator's placement opinion and the facility where the youth is placed.
- There is a high rate of agreement between the clinical coordinator's formulations and recommendations and the Integrated Treatment Plan (ITP) formulations, need areas, and goals.
- ITP meetings are high quality and valued.

Treatment Approach

- Youth engagement strategies are implemented in a high-quality manner.
- Weekly team meetings and the multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach are valued, useful, and effective.
- Youths, parents/guardians, probation officers, and attorneys regularly participate in monthly ITP meetings.
- Most parents do not regularly participate in treatment groups or visit the youth in person while in the residential program.
- Substance misuse is not a primary focus of treatment. It is typically not identified as a cause of the behaviors that resulted in REGIONS placement. Other behaviors are more significant drivers of the youths' delinquent behaviors.
- Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) is the primary treatment approach.
- DBT implementation improved over the course of the process evaluation.

Treatment Approach (Cont'd)

- Most programs have appropriate staffing structure and levels although some of the private facilities face challenges related to turnover and filling positions.
- Non-clinical programming appears to be designed intentionally and in alignment with best practices.
- It is challenging to meet youths' educational needs. Education staff are dedicated and do a good job, especially with credit recovery.
- Vocational opportunities vary among residential programs.
- Youths and staff experience the residential programs as being fair (i.e., no disparate treatment based on race, ethnicity, or gender).
- START:AV is used as one part of the decision-making process, but it is not the driver of this process.

Discharge Planning

- The MDT approach is a strength. It can be improved by making the process more objective.
- There is consensus in discharge planning among MDT members about 90–100% of the time.
- The average length of stay is 4 months.
- Each treatment goal is likely to require additional work in the community after discharge.
- Before discharge, 97% of youths were connected to school, 69% of discharged youths were connected to vocational services or training, and at least 16% had already obtained a job when they were discharged.

Residential Treatment Recommendations

- Ensure that identified criminogenic needs are incorporated into the treatment plan.
- Treatment goals should be SMART—Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timebound.
- Enhance opportunities for vocational training.
- Teach youth skills to cope with situations in their home environments.
- DBT delivery should be standardized, fidelity to the model should be monitored, role play should be emphasized, and more training should be offered for residential and non-residential staff and family.
- Form a committee to discuss data collection.
 1. What, if any, data fields are missing and should be added?
 2. What required data fields do staff feel are unnecessary and should be removed?
 3. What are the system barriers that inhibit staff's ability to enter data appropriately?

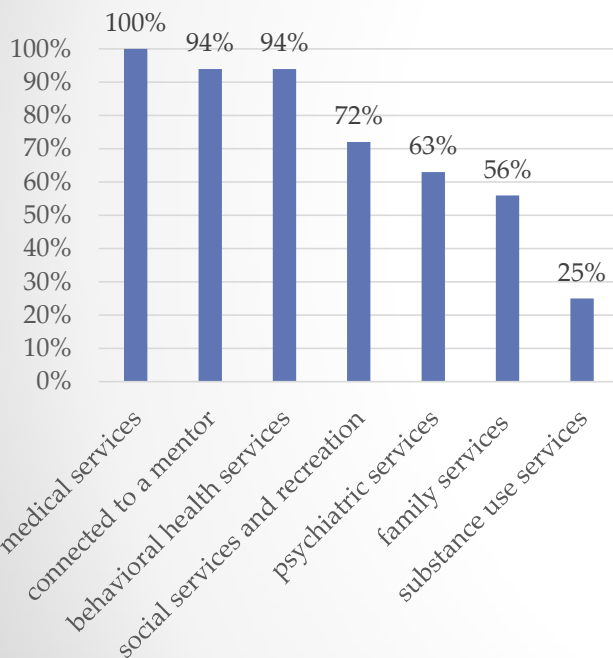
JBCSSD Progress Toward Residential Treatment Recommendations

- Increased contracted staff salaries (as of July 1) to support recruitment and retention of experienced staff.
- Added family support specialist (FSS) positions.
- Increased focus on substance use needs.
- Improved implementation of DBT.
- Implemented a quality assurance program for the START:AV.
- Improving vocational opportunities.
- Developing objective behavioral indicators to determine readiness for discharge.

Main Re-entry and Probation Findings

Re-entry and Probation Findings

Percent of Discharged Youths Connected With Services (2022)



- Many resources are available in the community.
 - Probation officers, reintegration mentors, credible messengers, MST-FIT, education liaisons, pupil services specialists, etc.
- Service delivery and service delivery coordination during re-entry appear to have improved since the start of REGIONS.
- Communication between probation officers, community-based providers, schools, reintegration mentors, and others is working well most of the time.
- Most youths who are assigned reintegration mentors remain connected to them.
- It is difficult for youths to attend school regularly and achieve academic success after re-entry.
- Youths who are connected to a job at discharge often struggle to stay connected to that job.

Re-entry and Probation Recommendations

- Implement a mechanism to ensure that good communication between partners is supported.
 - Ensure that efficient and effective communication is established and maintained with pupil service specialists.
 - Improve communication regarding access to psychiatric services and medications in the community after the youth leaves REGIONS.
- Enhance support for older youths by increasing access to job readiness programs that specifically target justice system-involved youths and housing.
- Improve data collection processes.

JBCSSD Progress Toward Addressing Re-entry and Probation Recommendations

- Reintegration mentors provide vocational, employment, and prosocial support in the community. They are involved starting from the youth's admission to REGIONS and continue working with the youth up to 12 months after they return to the community.
- DCF Juvenile Justice Education Unit pupil service specialists, reintegration mentors, and juvenile probation officers work together to sustain school engagement and success.
- There is ongoing development of vocational opportunities and career pathways in the community.
- There is a new contract for credible messengers.
- Data collection related to school attendance and school engagement has been improved (collected by probation). Also, there is ongoing development of re-entry data fields in the data collection system.

Outcome Evaluation

REGIONS Youth Demographics

Variable	N	%
Race		
Black	98	57.6
White	64	37.6
Unknown	8	4.7
Ethnicity		
Not Hispanic/Latino	82	48.2
Hispanic/Latino	70	41.2
Unknown	18	10.6
Age		
13	3	1.8
14	17	10
15	38	22.4
16	50	29.4
17	48	28.2
18	5	2.9
Missing	9	5.3

Variable	N	%
Risk		
Tier II	2	1.2
Tier III	9	5.3
Tier IV	63	37.1
Tier V	83	48.8
Missing	13	7.6
Start Year		
2018	34	20
2019	79	46.5
2020	40	23.5
2021	17	10

Variable	N	%
Gender		
Male	145	85.3
Female	25	14.7

Recidivism Results for REGIONS Youths

- 77.1% of REGIONS youths had a new arrest within 1 year.
- 88.2% of REGIONS youths had a new arrest within 2 years.
- 50% of REGIONS youths had a detention stay within 1 year.
- 52.9% of REGIONS youths had a detention stay within 2 years.

Variables	Yes		No	
	N	%	n	%
New Arrest				
1 Year	131	77.1	39	22.9
2 Years	150	88.2	20	11.8
New Detention Stay				
1 Year	85	50	85	50
2 Years	90	52.9	80	47.1
New Adjudication				
1 Year	31	18.2	139	81.8
2 Years	55	32.4	115	67.6

REGIONS Youths Compared With a Matched Group of Probationers

- Used coarsened exact matching (CEM) to match REGIONS youths with similar group of probation youths (based on gender, race, ethnicity, age, and risk level).
- Compared 115 REGIONS youths with 279 probation youths.
- No differences in gender, race, or ethnicity between groups.
- Statistical differences in age and risk level between groups.
- REGIONS youths were more likely than probationers to be arrested and detained 1 and 2 years after release.
- Multivariate logistic regression analyses were conducted to control for differences.

	Comparison		REGIONS		Test
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	
New Arrest, 1 year					
No	154	55.2	27	23.5	$\chi^2=32.989$
Yes	125	44.8	88	76.5	$p < .001$
New Arrest, 2 years					
No	84	30.1	13	11.3	$\chi^2=15.514$
Yes	195	69.9	102	88.7	$p < .001$
New Detention, 1 year					
No	194	69.5	50	43.5	$\chi^2=23.449$
Yes	85	30.5	65	56.5	$p < .001$
New Detention, 2 years					
No	168	60.2	46	40	$\chi^2=13.411$
Yes	111	39.8	69	60	$p < .001$
New Adjudication, 1 year					
No	238	85.3	92	80	$\chi^2=1.684$
Yes	41	14.7	23	20	$p = .194$
New Adjudication, 2 years					
No	211	75.6	81	70.4	$\chi^2=1.114$
Yes	68	24.4	34	29.6	$p = .285$

Logistic Regression Analyses

	Model 1. Arrests		Model 2. Detentions		Model 3. Adjudications	
Variable	<u>Sig.</u>	<u>Exp(β)</u>	<u>Sig.</u>	<u>Exp(β)</u>	<u>Sig.</u>	<u>Exp(β)</u>
Female	0.047	0.485*	0.011	0.348*	0.014	0.080*
Race (Black)						
White	0.109	0.552	0.004	0.363*	0.013	0.367*
Unknown	0.364	0.477	0.623	1.443	0.968	1.031
Ethnicity (not H/L)						
Hispanic/ Latino	0.147	1.766	0.128	1.742	0.355	1.453
Unknown	0.639	1.264	0.079	2.101	0.255	1.578
Age	0.003	0.683*	0.001	0.474*	0.001	0.595*
Risk (Tier III)						
Tier IV	0.048	1.902*	0.278	1.435	0.849	1.074
Tier V	0.020	2.705*	0.083	1.966	0.153	1.801
REGIONS	0.001	3.585*	0.001	3.019*	0.351	1.314

Outcome Evaluation Limitations

- Although outcome studies can demonstrate the presence or absence of an impact, they will not tell you why the impact does or does not occur.
- The evaluation took place during a time when REGIONS had not yet matured as a program.
- Data are missing.

Questions and Discussion

Contact Information

Elizabeth Spinney, Project Director

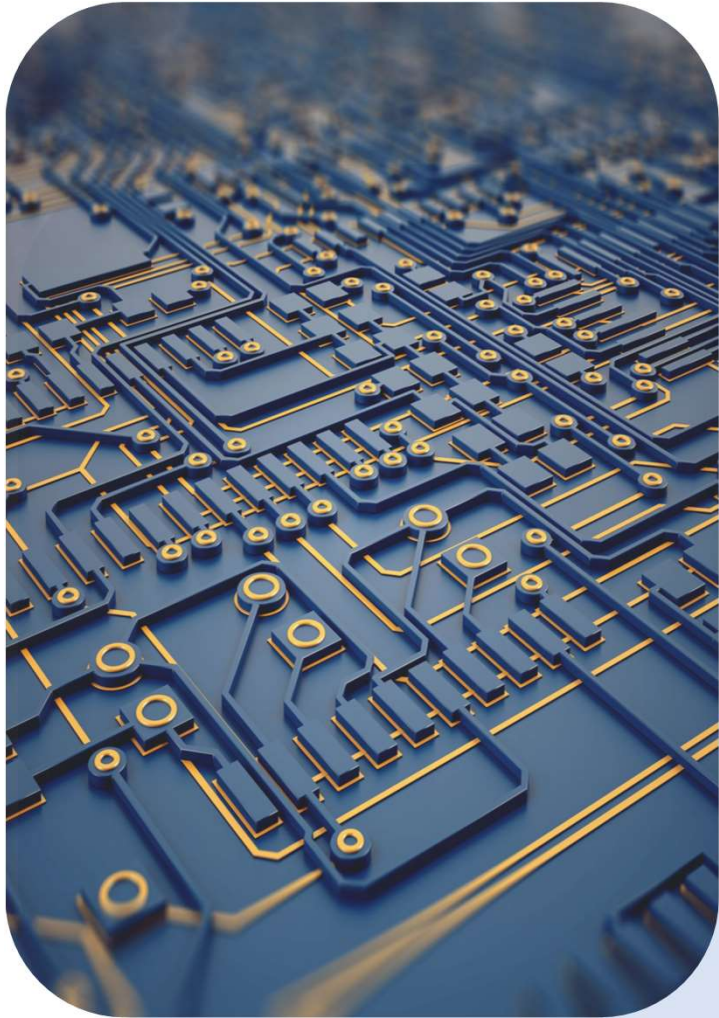
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State of Connecticut
Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (JBCSSD)

Juvenile System Information Sharing Protocol for Orders to Detain



Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division

- Pursuant to General Statutes Section 46b-121(b)(1), General Statutes Section 54-76l(c), and General Statutes Section 46b-124(e):
 - *Authorizes the release of juvenile case information in delinquency matters.*
 - On September 1, 2021, JBCSSD implemented formal procedures for providing law enforcement officials with juvenile delinquency and adult court records for purposes of obtaining an Order to Detain for a juvenile taken into custody.



Law Enforcement Procedures for Obtaining Delinquency and Adult Court Records for Orders to Detain

CUSTODIAL ARREST

The arresting police officer takes a child into custody and completes the Order to Detain (JD-JM-190) and Law Enforcement Request for Court History for Purposes of an Order to Detain (JD-JM-218).

RECORDS REQUEST

The police officer notifies the local Juvenile Probation Supervisor (during regular business hours) or the designated Juvenile Residential Center (during off hours) of the request for records and emails the JD-JM-218 for completion by Juvenile Probation.

VERIFICATION & RECORDS RELEASE

The Juvenile Probation Supervisor verifies the request for information, obtains adult court records from Bail Services, completes the adult and delinquency court information section of the JD-JM-218, and emails the completed form to the police officer.

REQUEST FOR ORDER TO DETAIN

The police officer submits the completed JD-JM-218 and JD-JM-190 with the Order to Detain affidavit to the Judge.



Expanded Access to Juvenile Records



Statutory Changes: Public Act No. 22-115 §§ 5 and 19, effective June 1, 2023, gives municipal agency employees, and their authorized agents, the same access to juvenile delinquency case records that already applies to state or federal entities. It also allows law enforcement officials conducting criminal investigations to have electronic access to “(1) [p]ending juvenile delinquency charges; and (2) any suspended detention orders or prior juvenile adjudications during the ninety days prior to the initiation of such investigation.

Solution: JBCSSD completed the addition of search/display of juvenile case records in MA-JEB on June 1, 2023. Law enforcement agencies access this feature in MA-JEB via their existing credentials; documentation was shared with law enforcement agencies via the Branch’s Protective Order Registry fax server and CT Police Chief’s Association.

Impact: Since June 1, 2023, there have been 344 record searches by 41 unique law enforcement agencies.



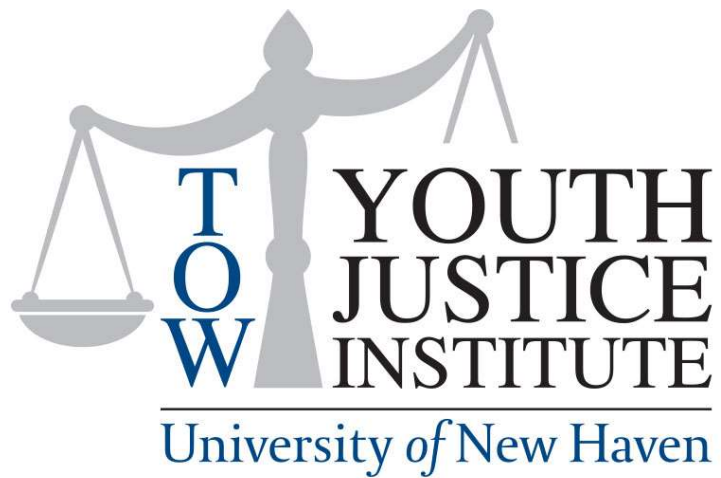
Orders to Detain

Calendar Year 2022

Granted	Denied	Total
354	8	362

Calendar Year 2023

Granted	Denied	Total
296	0	296



Next Meeting
Thursday, November 16th
2:00PM – 3:30PM