



Making connections. Informing solutions.

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# Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee

October 17, 2024

2:00PM – 4:00PM

Legislative Office Building, Room 1E

Zoom Option available



SCAN FOR ATTENDANCE

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# Agenda

<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	Rep. Toni Walker/Undersec. Daniel Karpowitz
<b>Overview of Meeting &amp; Announcements</b>	Brittany LaMarr, University of New Haven, TYJI
<b>Conditions of Confinement Presentation</b>	Christina Ghio, Associate Child Advocate, OCA
<b>Youth Diversion Report</b>	Thea Montanez, Senior Advisor to the Governor Lisa Simone, Principal, ACES
<b>JJPOC Strategic Plan</b>	TYJI; JJPOC Workgroup Chairs

# OCA REPORT 2024

Conditions of Confinement for Youth  
in DOC Facilities

## OCA 2024 Report: Recommendations

### 2015 Consultation Report on CJTS (Kinscherf, R.)

The uneasy interplay between a corrections model with an emphasis on “accountability” and a rehabilitation model with an emphasis on “treatment” creates a deep core ambiguity and tension as to mission and methods...

Youth developmentally and socially require both age-appropriate accountability for their conduct and to have their needs met--especially needs which left unmet increase the likelihood of continued delinquent misconduct with its negative impacts upon themselves, their families and their communities. The challenge is to craft and implement an approach which can (a) provide accountability without becoming punitive; (b) effectively meet unmet educational, behavioral health, and other developmentally critical needs; and (c) communicate to youth that they are valued and can be welcomed as meaningful positive contributors to our communities.

OCA 2024  
Recommendations:  
Restraint/ Isolation

- Implement strategies to reduce restraint and seclusion, such as U.S. Department of Health and Human Services SAMHSA endorsed Six Core Strategies.
- JJPOC should regularly review the use of cell confinement for minor youth both routine daily hours of cell confinement and disciplinary confinement.
- JJPOC should oversee implementation of evidence-based strategies to reduce cell confinement and develop youth's social learning and conflict resolution skills.

# OCA 2024 Report: Recommendations Mental Health

- Eliminate the Mental Health Scoring system.
- Replace with frequent individual and group counselling to all youth.
- Add mental health support staff.
- JJPOC should regularly review data regarding mental health assessment and service delivery for incarcerated youth.

## OCA 2024 Recommendations: Group Programming

- Embed programming in a trauma-informed milieu focused on rehabilitation and clinical support.
- Offer daily programming.
- Minimize isolation in cells.
- Provide regular outdoor recreation (structured and unstructured).
- JJPOC should regularly review the provision, including engagement and completion, of programming for youth, with a focus on documented improvement in youth's clinical symptomatology and functional skills.

## OCA 2024 Recommendations: Family and Visiting Resources

- Include in intake protocols the identification of a visiting/connection resource for each and develop an individual plan for engagement with the resource.
- Treatment plans should include assistance with understanding the value of connection and addressing barriers to engagement.
- Make family counselling available to support engagement and prepare the youth and adult for discharge and re-entry into the community.
- JJPOC should regularly review the percentage of youth who visit with an adult support and help address barriers to youth-adult connections.



## OCA 2024 Recommendations: Strategic Plan re Educational Services

- Ensure educational staff are well supported.
- Sufficient substitute teachers must be readily available to ensure consistent delivery of educational services.
- Add specialized teaching staff, such as specialists in reading and math and transition services.
- Support planning for credit recovery programs.
- Implement a quality assurance framework to track attendance, grade level performance, academic and functional gains, and receipt of special education and related services.
- SDE should develop a remedial action plan, and monitoring and enforcement plan, to ensure students receive required special education services.

# OCA 2024 Recommendations

- The State should continue to develop a plan for removal of youth from adult correctional facilities.
- Relocate these youth from MYI to a smaller, more rehabilitative, secure environment that supports developmentally appropriate work with minors.
- Relocate girls to juvenile settings.

# Communicate to Every Youth That They Are Valued

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# Youth Diversion Report

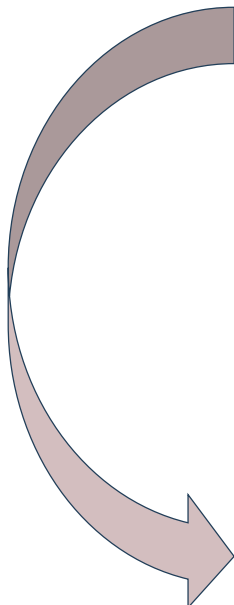
A Juvenile Review Board (JRB) is a community-based diversion process for youth that may otherwise be referred to the Juvenile Court for minor violations of the law. Although there is no specific enabling statute establishing a JRB, the Youth Service Bureau (YSB) JRB model has been in existence for 60 years in Connecticut.



Currently, there are 90 Different JRB's that serve 135 towns

Connecticut has 169 municipalities. That leaves 34 municipalities and the families and police departments within them, without access to the diversion system.

JRBs function/operate differently, depending on the region and vary in their resources, services offered, outcome evaluation, and utilization by local police departments, schools, and other referral sources.



<b>PRE ARREST DIVERSION PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>1.</b>	Diversion Workgroup will develop an implementation proposal for standardization of all Juvenile Review Board's by November 1, 2024.
<b>2.</b>	The Diversion Workgroup will partner with the State of Connecticut's Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), Community Expertise Workgroup (CEW), and the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC), to develop a "Statewide Pre-Arrest Diversion Policy."
<b>3.</b>	The Diversion Workgroup will partnership with DESPP, POSTC, and CEW, to develop a "Youth Diversion Training Curriculum" that police departments across the state would be required to complete every three years as part of the law enforcement accreditation process.
<b>4.</b>	The Diversion Workgroup will partner with members of the CEW to "Identify Youth and Police Engagement Training Programs " that aim to educate young individuals on safe and effective interactions with law enforcement.

<b><i>DIVERSION FIRST RECOMMENDATIONS</i></b>	
<b>1</b>	Mandate all municipalities have or have access to a Juvenile Review Board (JRB) – Needs based approach <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High need communities receive direct funds to administer JRB</li><li>• Smaller need communities will have access to DCF services and supports</li></ul>
<b>2</b>	Standardize JRB practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Referral process</li><li>• Needs-based assessment</li><li>• Community-based accountability via restorative justice approach</li><li>• Outcome evaluation and quality assurance framework</li></ul>

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# JJPOC Strategic Plan

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# Diversion: Goals

1. **Standardize Diversion System:** Ensure youth in all communities have access to diversion programs.
2. **Develop Diversion Training:** Create, implement, and evaluate diversion trainings and curriculum in partnership with law enforcement and the community.



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# Diversion: Strategies

1. **Standardize Diversion System so youth in all communities have access (November 2024 Plan).**
  - a) **The Diversion First Plan is being drafted to ensure that youth in every community have access to a diversionary program, regardless of whether their municipality implements a juvenile review board.**
  - b) **The Workgroup will develop, implement and evaluate metrics for success.**
2. **Create, implement, and evaluate diversion trainings and curriculum in partnership with law enforcement and community**
  - a) **The Diversion Workgroup will partner with the State of Connecticut’s Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), Community Expertise Workgroup (CEW), and the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC), to develop a “Statewide Pre-Arrest Diversion Policy.**
  - b) **The Diversion Workgroup will partner with DESPP, POSTC, and CEW, to develop a “Youth Diversion Training Curriculum” that police departments across the state would be required to complete every three years as part of the law enforcement accreditation process.**
  - c) **The Diversion Workgroup will partner with members of the CEW to “Identify Youth and Police Engagement Training Programs ” that aim to educate young individuals on safe and effective interactions with law enforcement**

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# Education: Goals

1. **Reduce chronic absenteeism and truancy rates** statewide through identification, targeted interventions, and improved data tracking.
2. **Reduce the Use of Discipline in Schools** and support schools in implementing restorative practices and alternative appropriate responses.
3. **Ensure the provisions of quality education to youth in justice facilities meets their educational needs and prepares them for educational success upon return.** Review facility education provision in justice facilities through DCF-JJEU and review efforts, metrics, and success.

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# Education: Strategies

- 1. Education Goals Strategic Planning: Reduce chronic absenteeism and truancy statewide thereby increasing school attendance.**
  - a) Review the impact of chronic absenteeism legislation
  - b) Review and streamline referral processes for chronic absenteeism, ensuring timely intervention. Evaluate YSB response to absenteeism
  - c) Analyze LEAP (Local Education Agency Profiles) data to identify trends and areas for improvement.
  - d) Continue collaboration and information sharing between the workgroup and CCM's Strategic Plan: "Young People First", developed through the 119K Commission.
- 2. Reduce the Use of Discipline in Schools**
  - a) Review and expand the SBDI to provide alternatives to exclusionary discipline
  - b) Assess and strengthen CSDE's (Connecticut State Department of Education) role in guiding and supporting municipalities with disproportionate use of exclusionary discipline.
  - c) Increase utilization of restorative practices and de-escalation alternative programs in schools.
  - d) Analyze data on school-based arrests and expulsions, cross-referencing with municipal arrest data to identify disparities and areas for intervention.
- 3. Review facility education provision in justice facilities through DCF-JJEU and review efforts, metrics, and success, to ensure the provision of quality education to youth in justice facilities meets their educational needs and prepares them for educational success upon return.**
  - a) Increase metrics and measurement of success for students longitudinally
  - b) Ensure that educational services in justice facilities are aligned with the state's academic standards and prepare youth for successful re-entry into community schools.

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# Incarceration: Goals

- 1. Ensure appropriate conditions of confinement for youth development.**
- 2. All youth leaving facilities have the identified individual supports desired and necessary for success.**
- 3. Programs, services, and system responses are gender responsive.**

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# Incarceration: Strategies

## 1. Ensure appropriate conditions of confinement for youth development.

### a) Increase reporting requirements to JJPOC from facilities that house youth

- a. Increase data collection from DOC/JBCSSD
- b. JJPOC to receive conditions of confinement data in addition to OCA
- c. Review adherence of DOC to DOJ settlement

### b) Increase JJPOC oversight and monitoring of facilities that serve youth, including REGIONS and MYI and YCI.

- a. Review facility conditions by visiting facilities and speaking with youth
- b. Hold at least one meeting a year at MYI/YCI (Detention centers, REGIONS, etc.)
- c. Look into what rec space looks like, and for how long, how many hours, it is utilized/accessed

### c) Develop a chemical agent and restraint reporting form that includes incident, summary and report, the staff involved, how long the incident went on for, 19 number of incidents within the month, and a report out from mental health counselor that spoke with youth.

- a. Develop a form that for when response to incidents is positive and doesn't involve chemical agents/use of restraints
- b. Explore the training and education provided to the staff at MYI as part of how they interact with youth to assist in deescalating situations before a restraint or chemical agent is used.

### d) Review of availability of education programs, may come in partnership with education workgroup, education provided in facilities, special education services

## 2. All youth leaving facilities have the individual supports desired and necessary for success.

### a) Oversee Implementation of Reentry Success Plan recommendations.

## 3. Programs, services, and system responses are gender responsive.

- a) Create gender responsiveness landscape analysis
- b) Develop gap assessment of landscape analysis
- c) Identify solutions to gaps

### d) Review implementation of Special GR recommendations

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# Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED)

Analyze policies and practices for their equitable implementation and effectiveness for all youth in Connecticut.

Serving as an assessment workgroup for the JJPOC, we will conduct racial equity impact statements on all recommendations put forth and use the available data to make intentional and directed outreach to support communities with high disparities.

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# Cross Agency Data Sharing

To support comprehensive data requests from the JJPOC Workgroups and the JJPOC Committee, as well as to support annual state agency presentations and prepare the annual state of the system report.

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# Community Expertise: Goals

**Authentic Partnership:** Move beyond passive listening to active collaboration, allowing lived experience to guide policy recommendations.

**Foster Collaboration:** Build bridges and improve communication between policy makers and communities they serve.



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# Community Expertise: Strategies

1. Review all JJPOC recommendations
2. Create workshop trainings for young people on social justice civic and engagement
3. Partner with TYJI to prepare youth who would like to attend and participate at the JJPOC meetings.
4. Conduct surveys to gather community insights and develop recommendations based on identified themes.
5. Create an annual Youth Report to highlight their perspectives and experiences.
6. Explore developing a summer civic engagement academy to further empower youth.
7. Collaborate with JJPOC Workgroups to ensure youth, family, and community voices are reflected in their conversations and proposals.