



Making connections. Informing solutions.

## January JJPOC Meeting Minutes

January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Legislative Office Building Location

Zoom Option Available

### Attendance

Amy Marracino

Anthony Nolan

Catherine Osten

Charles Hewes

Christina Ghio

Christina Quaranta

Corey Paris

Daniel Karpowitz

Derrick Gordon

Erica Bromley

Gary Roberge

Gary Winfield

Hector Glynn

Heriberto Cajigas

Jillian Gilchrest

Jodi Hill-Lilly

Kim Binet

Martha Stone

Melanie Dykas

Michael Pierce

Paul Cicarella

Ray Dancy

Renee Cimino

Sharmese Walcott

Tais Ericson

Talitha Coggins

Tammy Ngyuen-O'Dowd

Toni Walker

### TYJI Staff

Andrew Zhebrak

Brittany LaMarr

Erika Nowakowski

Eva Ott-Hill

Paul Klee

Ryan Connick

William Carbone

### Welcome and Introductions

Representative Toni Walker and Undersecretary Daniel Karpowitz welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### Overview of the Meeting

The January monthly meeting consisted of the JJPOC's voting on the recommendations presented by the Gender Responsiveness Workgroup and the Incarceration Workgroup.

### Acceptance of JJPOC Meeting Minutes

Erika Nowakowski asked for a motion to accept the December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

## **Updates**

The voting procedures for the meeting were then discussed and the meeting turned to the co-chairs, where they shared the importance of the JJPOC and the work that is being done among its attendees and members. During 2024, the JJPOC workgroups met over 75 times, which was commended as being a significant amount of effort that should not go without admiration. The JJPOC allows for many different individuals from over 100 professionals who have a professional and/or personal relationship with the work being done by the committee to come together and collaborate. In addition, during 2024 the committee produced three complete reports: Pre-Arrest Diversion, Diversion First, and the Reentry Success Plan. Therefore, the co-chairs reminded the committee that although members may not agree on every front, it is important to remember that the work is being done for the young people of Connecticut.

## **Gender Responsiveness Workgroup Recommendations**

Two JJPOC members shared their appreciation for the work that has been and that is being done among the Gender Responsiveness Workgroup.

The Gender Responsiveness Workgroup presented two recommendations, and they are as follows: (1) “DCF should report to JJPOC by July 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, on the implementation of the new STTAR Plan released in March 2024. DCF report should include currently available metrics, and should consider developing additional metrics in September 2025 for subsequent annual reports” and (2) “DCF will submit to JJPOC by March 1, 2025 on how many calls it receives of possible/suspected child sexual abuse, including reports of abuse and neglect in out of home care settings; how many of those are substantiated; how many calls it receives of possible/suspected child sexual abuse are referred to regional multidisciplinary teams (MDTs); and any gaps in access to or capacity of the MDT system to meet the need.”

The Gender Responsiveness Workgroup recommendations were then brought to a vote where they passed with 27 yes votes, 0 no votes, 0 abstaining, and 17 not present.

## **Incarceration Workgroup Recommendations**

The efforts of the Incarceration Workgroup were commended by a member of the JJPOC.

The Incarceration Workgroup presented three recommendations, and they are as follows: (1) “JBCSSD and DOC should submit to JJPOC by March 1, 2025, how much of the items listed below are happening, how many youth are utilizing the supports, what number of youth and families need the below services, and what is the difference between the demand for the below items. Additionally, they should ask families their need for the below items and submit an officially recorded anecdote on the utilization and need, to demonstrate barriers, considerations, and opportunities. DOC and JBCSSD may also identify, or offer suggestions of their own, for potential funding reallocations to support the items below. They should identify how many youth leave their facilities on supervision and end of sentence, and any appropriate or necessary partnership to deliver the provision of services below. (a) When a youth is admitted to a facility or contracted program, necessary transportation assistance to the youth’s identified family to visit the young person at the facility or contracted program at least twice a month. (b) The need for flex funds to support families in need for up to 6 months following a youth’s return home. Support may include but is not limited to housing assistance, basic needs, transportation, and vocational training. (c) The need for flex funds to youth and their family the ability to relocate if needed for safety reasons. Funds may cover moving, basic needs, and initial housing payments,” (2) “JBCSSD and DOC should submit to JJPOC by March 1, 2025, a list of vocational/employment programming they have and the limitations to connecting youth to opportunities in the community. They should provide an explanation on how they are connecting youth, and how many, to these opportunities prior to release. (a) Additionally, DOC and JBCSSD should identify the individual at each facility who is responsible for knowing the youth who are in job related activities, their release date, and how many youth released have an employer and/or connected to a vocational program. (b) Finally, DOC and JBCSSD should outline strategies and opportunities to address current limitations or inefficiencies in connecting youth to employment/testing/opportunities prior to release and during their time in facility,” and (3) There should be annual reporting of the above recommendations, as outlined in the quality assurance logic model reporting outlined in the Reentry Success Plan dated December 2024, using a secure data enclave to conduct the evaluation.”

The Incarceration Workgroup recommendations were then brought to a vote where they passed with 27 yes votes, 0 no votes, 0 abstaining, and 17 not present.



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**Next Steps:**

The Tow Youth Justice Institute (TYJI) will next provide the language of the recommendations to the legislators and will also send out fact sheets for the legislative session regarding the recommendations that passed as they make their way through the session, along with reminders for when a bill that originated from the JJPOC is being called for public hearing or deliberation.

**Next Meeting:**

Hybrid Model Option (In person and available over zoom)

February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM