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University of New Haven

Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee

April 10th, 2026

Legislative Office Building Room 2E and Zoom

Scan to submit your attendance:



Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee

Opening Remarks

Meeting Agenda

Administrative Updates

Tow Youth Justice Institute

Gender Responsive Landscape Analysis

Gender Responsive Panel Discussion

Workgroup/Subgroup Upcoming Meeting Dates

Workgroup/Subgroup:	Meeting Date:	Agenda Items:
Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee	April 10th, 2026, 2:00 – 4:00 PM (In-Person & Zoom)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gender Responsive Landscape Analysis• Gender Responsiveness
Education Workgroup	May 18th, 2026, 2:00 – 3:30 PM (Zoom)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legislative Updates
Community Expertise Workgroup	April 7th, 2026, 6:00 – 7:30 PM (In Person)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legislative Process Training• Storytelling Training
Cross Agency Data Sharing/RED Workgroup	April 20th, 2026, 11:00 – 12:30 PM (Zoom)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OPM, DAPA Crossover Youth Update• Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard 2.0 discussion

Workgroup/Subgroup Upcoming Meeting Dates

Workgroup/Subgroup:	Meeting Date:	Agenda Items:
Diversion Workgroup	May 12th, 2026, 2:00 – 3:30 PM (Zoom)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reporting Metrics for JRB's, DCF• RFP diversion supplement, DCF• POSTC Policy Adoption• Youth Police Training
Incarceration Workgroup	April 20th, 2026, 1:00 – 2:30 PM (Zoom)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TBD
<p>Direct any Questions to the following Tow Youth Justice Institute Staff: Erika Nowakowski: enowakowski@newhaven.edu Namandje Wali nwali@newhaven.edu Andrew Zhebrak: azhebrak@newhaven.edu</p>		

Gender Responsive Landscape Analysis

Public Act No. 24-139

The Gender Responsive Landscape Analysis shall

1. define “gender responsive” and ”gender responsive practice”;
2. receive and consider input from youth, families and communities directly impacted by any gaps in gender responsive work;
3. review national best practices, including approaches and types of services provided and system considerations;
4. review previous work and legislation concerning gender responsive work;
5. identify any gaps in gender responsive work resulting from system or programmatic changes;
6. review existing work and practices on gender responsiveness among agencies and community providers;
7. review data, broken down by race, ethnicity, gender, age, location and level of system involvement, including the type of offenses committed by youth and how such offenses are handled within the juvenile justice system.



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The Process

The Gender Responsive Landscape Analysis was created in collaboration with the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (JB-CSSD), and the Department of Correction (DOC), along with other key stakeholders throughout the state.

Gender Responsiveness

- “Gender responsive” is defined a “multidimensional, strengths-based approach based on theoretical perspectives that consider girls’ pathways into the system and provide interventions that address social, cultural, and psychological factors.”¹
- The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) outlines five suggestions for gender responsive programs:
 - (1) programs should be all female whenever possible;
 - (2) girls should be treated in the least restrictive environment whenever possible;
 - (3) programs should be close to the girls’ homes in order to maintain family relationships;
 - (4) programs should be consistent with female development and stress the roles of relationships between staff members and girls; and
 - (5) programs should address the needs of parenting and pregnant teens.¹



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Best Practices

Gender responsive programs and practices should be **culturally responsive**, focus on **relationships**, prioritize **safety**, take a **skills-based and strengths-based approach**, and take **holistic approach**.

Then vs. Now

Then

- Gender responsiveness was ingrained into the systems and programs that served girls throughout the state.

Now

- Gender responsiveness is an initiative but not consistently present throughout the systems and programs that serve girls.

Data Highlight

- Across calendar years 2022, 2023, and 2024 the majority of youth in DCF foster care were girls
- “**Neglect**” was the most common reason for home removal by DCF for both boys and girls, as of 2024
 - **Sexual and physical abuse** together made up **11.5%** of all removal of girls, greater than that for boys
- In 2024, the highest rate of re-arrest was for **15-year-olds**
- “Non-Hispanic Black” girls made up **43.6%** of all court referrals involving girls in 2024
- The most common PrediCT risk level for girls with a disposition of “Probation with Placement” or “Supervision” was **Tier III** (72.2%)
- 309 girls were identified as being dually involved, the majority of them being Non-Hispanic Black girls
 - Of these **309 girls**, the most common **PrediCT risk level was Level 3**
- The most common need of girls, as identified by the PrediCT assessment, was “**Mental Health**” at 52.3%
- **New Haven** had the greatest number of dually involved girls in 2024
- Across calendar years 2022, 2023, and 2024, more girls **with DCF involvement were admitted to detention centers on multiple occasions** compared to those without DCF involvement

Data Highlight

- All girls admitted to York Correctional Institution (YCI) between 2022 and 2024 were unsentenced with a mean length of stay of 56 days
 - The length of stay ranged from zero days to 228 days
- Of the girls in DCF care with identified Intellectual and/or Learning Disability
 - **41.6%** were identified as having an **Emotional Disability**
 - **Manchester** was identified as having the largest percentage of Emotional Disability and Learning Disabilities diagnoses
 - Girls who identify as **Hispanic/Latino** comprise the majority of the cohort with any diagnosed disability
- In fiscal year 2024, **53.2%** of the **female pretrial juvenile detention population** was identified as having an intellectual disability.
 - An increase from fiscal year 2023



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Looking Forward

- To ensure that the voices of girls will be included in this work, a survey has been designed to administer to girls involved with DCF and JB-CSSD.
 - The survey will be administered by DCF and JB-CSSD staff, be completely voluntary, and all responses will be de-identified
 - This survey aims to gain insight into the opinions and experiences of girls who are systems-involved, and the potential changes they believe would be beneficial.
- Recommendations for legislative consideration will be developed with the responses from girls and the findings of the landscape analysis being considered

2026 PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

TRAILBLAZERS AND INNOVATORS IN YOUTH JUSTICE

SAVE THE DATE

OCT. 21, 2026

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