



**JJPOC Diversion Work Group
Raising the Lower Age Limit Subgroup
October 16, 2019
10:30-12:00pm**

State Department of Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT 06103

Meeting Summary:

- Review National/International Research Regarding the Lower Age Limit
 - Carl Jiang discussed his research on International standards for minimum age of criminal responsibility. A majority of countries outside of the U.S. consider 12 to be the minimum age with some as high as 18. Nationally, the age of responsibility varies within the U.S.
 - The Subgroup is interested in finding out what other countries/states do with the youth who are below the minimum age of responsibility. What does accountability look like? What services are provided to them? Who provides these services?
 - It was expressed that the Connecticut already struggles with answering this question. There are currently graduated sentences for non-compliance
- Discussion on competence to stand trial, “doli incapax”, victim perspective, restitution, and how to better engage the family in this process.
- Discussion on the trauma of going through formal court processes for youth and how this might create a distrust with the system and lead to future recidivism. Discussion on having 10-11 year olds go to JRBs or case management services for those under 10 years old under behavioral health mandate or DCF services.
- Discussion on Draft Recommendations
 - Discussion on why certain services can only be accessed through court and the need to have more community support services. It was emphasized that the needs of the population, as well as the proportions and charges, should drive the draft legislation.
 - There was discussion on the need to carve out certain crimes committed by youth below the minimum age but are serious enough for court involvement. Further discussion will take place to determine these specific crimes.
 - The Subgroup engaged in a discussion surrounding the competency of youth aged 7-12 to stand trial.
- Next Steps
 - More information will be collected as it pertains to what other countries and states do with children below the minimum age limit
 - Sue Hamilton will provide information from Massachusetts and Vermont
 - TYJI will provide information from Nebraska and California and their exclusions and implementation process.
 - Carl will finalize his international research document

Next Meeting: November 12th, 11:30-1PM at SDE