

THIS MEETING DID NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION

JJPOC Diversion Workgroup

April 8th, 2025

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Web Based Meeting- Zoom

Attendance

Anthony Nolan

Brian Wright

Curtis Eller

Elisabeth Cannata Wheeler

Erica Bromley

Joanne Tremblay Jackson

John Cotten

John Saccu

Joshua Bernegger

Kathryn Dube

Lisa Simone

Nateisha-LaShay Howard

Nieka Thompson

Ray Nancy

Steve Smith

Thea Montanez

Victor Jones

Yecenia Casiano

TYJI Staff

Andrew Zhebrak

Brittany LaMarr

Paul Klee

Meeting Objectives:

The April 8th, 2025 Diversion Workgroup meeting consisted of updates regarding the current legislative session and the Diversion First plan.

Meeting Summary:

- Legislative Updates
 - H.B. 7250 contains the recommendations of the JJPOC, including the Diversion Workgroup's recommendations. It was voted out of committee with slightly adjusted language regarding the creation of the State Advisory Group in statute, and it continues to move forward through the legislative process.
 - The current bill to raise the age of criminal responsibility in Connecticut has had a public hearing and amendments have been proposed. With the legislative deadline approaching, more information concerning the fate of this bill will be available in the near future.
 - A bill proposing the rollback of the reforms which moved Families with Service Needs (FWSN) and related issues to the juvenile justice system is currently moving through the legislative process but does not seem to have a lot of support.
- Diversion First Updates

University of New Haven

- The Diversion Workgroup has worked collaboratively to develop three recommendations as part of the Diversion First plan and implementation, which are outlined below. The standardization of Juvenile Review Boards (JRBs) was also proposed.
 - The creation of a uniform statewide policy specific to law enforcement around youth diversion developed by a subcommittee of the Diversion Workgroup to be shared with and reviewed by Connecticut's Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC). This subcommittee consists of JJPOC members, representatives from POSTC, representatives from the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), and members of the Community Expertise Workgroup (CEW).
 - The development of training specific to law enforcement around youth diversion.
 - The development of training specific to youth around healthy interactions with law enforcement.
- The Department of Children and Families (DCF) provided an update regarding their RFP that is currently being created. DCF plans to have a release of the RFP on July 1st, 2025 with a six-month process to execute contracts and launch. It should launch at the end of the 2025 calendar year. DCF will work to ensure the collection of diversion data across the state as well as the implementation of JRBs so that every jurisdiction has access to one. Training will also be provided to JRBs in an effort to standardize their processes.

Next Meeting: July 8th, 2025





Diversion Workgroup Meeting

April 8, 2025

Zoom

1. Legislative Updates
 - a. HB7250
 - b. Committee Members
2. Diversion First Updates
 - a. Youth Diversion Policy and Training for Law Enforcement
 - b. DCF - RFP