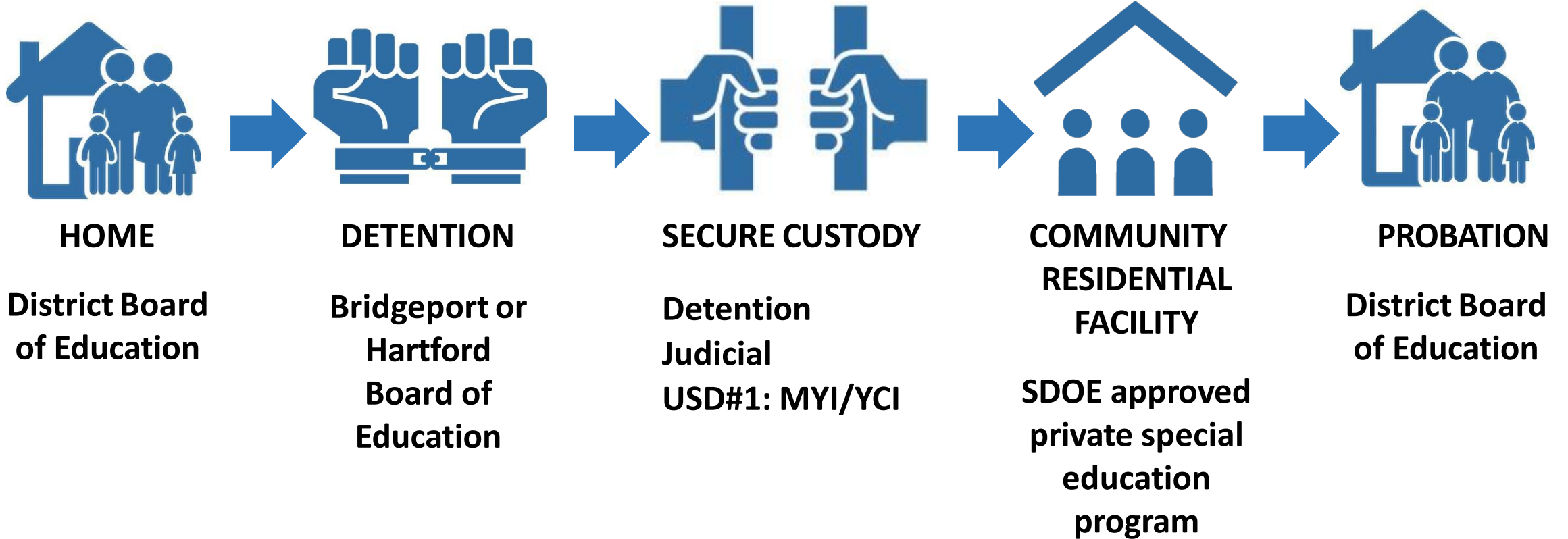


Preliminary Presentation on Improving Educational Services for Youth in Justice System Custody

*Peter Leone, Ph.D., Professor
University of Maryland
Department of Counseling, Higher Education,
and Special Education (CHSE)*

“Transforming Education for Youth in Connecticut’s Justice System” by Josh Perry



We Don't Have a System for Educating Youth in the Deep End of the Justice System...

Problem 1: Fragmentation

- **COST:** The absence of economies of scale hurts more as the justice system shrinks. In a fragmented system, each responsible provider pays for its own supports, services, and oversight...
- **ACCOUNTABILITY:** No single entity is responsible for strong outcomes
- **TRANSITIONS:** Youth cycle through multiple providers – which increases the odds of dropped transitions

Problem 2: Inefficiencies

- It costs \$35K / year to educate a child in detention and detention centers can't always afford a teachers in each classroom

Problem 3: Quality Control

- We haven't defined what quality education looks like for youth in the justice system:

Problem 4: Specialization and Expertise

Our fragmented system can't deliver:

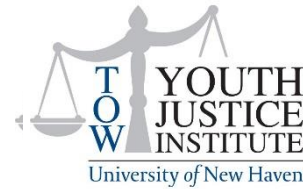
- A customized curriculum (high-interest, modular) for youth in custody
- Robust and specialized professional development for teachers of youth in custody
- Multiple pathways to opportunity – including rapid credit recovery, vocational education, and post-secondary options

Problem 5: Transitional Supports

- We have *no* specialized capacity to support transitions from detention centers into school
- Too frequently, youth fall through the cracks during transitions
- There are no pathways from custody into the state's Technical High School system

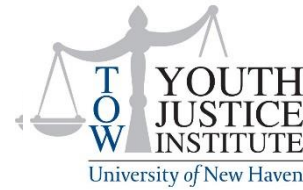
- **Public Act No.18-31**
- **July 2018 Education Committee formed:**
 - Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch designee
 - Bridgeport School District designee
 - Hartford School District designee
 - Department of Correction designee
 - An expert in state budgeting expert- Office of Policy and Management
 - Experts in education in justice-system settings- Juvenile Justice Policy & Oversight Committee
 - Advocates
- **TYJI subcontracted with Dr. Peter Leone**

Education Committee Principles



- Standards for education services for incarcerated youth should be consistent with those for public school children in the state.
- Funding for services and supports for the education of incarcerated youth should be driven by a formula that takes into account the mobility, academic disadvantage, and the considerable number of youth who are English learners and who are eligible for special education services.
- One agency or division within an agency should have primary responsibility and authority for education services all incarcerated youth in the state.
- Transition of youth from local schools to state agency placements should be seamless. Expectations, responsibilities, and outcomes for agencies and personnel responsible for entry and reentry should be explicit and measurable.
- The agency or division within an agency should report annually on the operations of the education programs serving youth in the justice system.

Infrastructure & Funding Recommendation 1



Create a special school district for education programs serving incarcerated and court-involved youth. Create an independent school board for the special school district.

Committee's Response:

Alternative options provided by the committee:

- Expansion of USD#1 for all JJ-involved youth in out-of-home placement. However, this would require USD#1 to become independent of DOC (DOC representatives are not in agreement)
- Existing providers continue educational services with oversight by a newly formed legislative commission, which would include all affected state agencies. Executive responsibility will be vested in SDE with legislative commission having oversight and accountability (DOC representatives are not in agreement)
- A single agency or single non-profit provider would provide all educational services with oversight by a newly formed legislative commission, which would include all affected state agencies. Executive responsibility will be vested in SDE with legislative commission having oversight and accountability (DOC representatives are not in agreement)

Infrastructure & Funding Recommendation 2

Enable the special school district to receive CT average per pupil costs in addition to supplemental support for a high need population.

Committee's Response:

- Committee reached consensus

Infrastructure & Funding Recommendation 3

Require the special school district to achieve accreditation from an association of colleges and secondary schools within 36 months of its creation.

Committee's Response:

- Some committee members were in agreement, other committee members questioned the need for accreditation

Quality Control & Accountability Recommendation 1

Develop a framework for education accountability that includes educators, the courts, custody and security, sending and receiving school districts and programs, and the SDE.

Committee's Response:

- Committee reached consensus regarding above recommendation
- DOC recommends all classroom personnel receive DOC training regarding classroom management

Quality Control & Accountability

Recommendation 2

Require education providers to no less than semi-annually provide student performance data to the administrators of the special school district and its school board. Ensure that reporting measures are tailored to experiences of students in short and long-term placements.

Committee's Response:

- Committee questioned the theoretical definition of “educational success”, how this is measured, and how to ensure every child receives it

Quality Control & Accountability

Recommendation 3

Require education providers to develop partnerships and programs with local education agencies, non-profit cultural groups, local industries, and businesses.

Committee's Response:

- Committee reached consensus

Transition (Entry & Reentry) Recommendation 1

Establish explicit expectations and roles for key players in the transition of youth into and out of court placements.

Committee's Response:

- Committee reached consensus to regarding above recommendation
- SDE will provide the current list of re-entry coordinators. It is recommended by the committee that this list be publicly available on SDE's website and be distributed to detention centers, school districts, and parents.

Transition (Entry & Reentry) Recommendation 2

Through the special school district, create mechanisms to ensure that sending and receiving schools and programs provide services and supports that maximize youths' success.

Committee's Response:

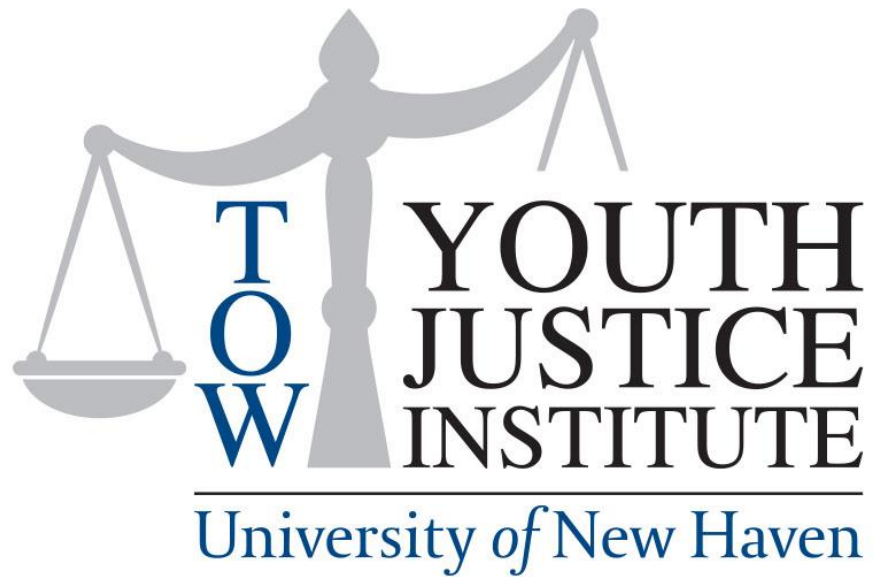
- Committee reached consensus regarding above recommendation
- Committee expressed concerns regarding the disparities in how partial credit is accepted and who is responsible for awarding it across the state. Classroom hour to credit conversion should be standardized across school districts.

Remaining Areas of Discussion

- Expanding age limit from 18 to 22 years old in order to take into consideration the state's requirements regarding special needs students
- Location of educational services will largely be impacted by the recommendations regarding the MYI/YCI housing alternatives

Resources

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3. Education and Interagency Collaboration: A Lifeline for Justice-Involved Youth, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (2016). Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/ycnmaj92>
4. How Effective Is Correctional Education, and Where Do We Go from Here? The Results of a Comprehensive Evaluation, The Rand Corporation (2014). Available at : https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR564.readonline.html
5. Incarcerated / Detained Youth – An Examination of Conditions of Confinement, Office of the Child Advocate (2019).
6. LOCKED OUT: Improving Educational and Vocational Outcomes for Incarcerated Youth, Council for State Governments Justice Center (2015). Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/obrzc4p>
7. Raising the Bar: Creating and Sustaining Quality Education Programs in Juvenile Detention (2017). Available at: https://neglected-delinquent.ed.gov/sites/default/files/NDTAC_Issue_Brief_Edu.pdf
8. Reentry Myth Busters: Youth Access to Education upon Reentry (2017). Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/y4cxewyq>
9. Transforming Education in Connecticut’s Juvenile Justice System: A Publication Supporting the Recommendations of the Recidivism Work Group, Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (2017). Available at: <https://bit.ly/2npqBfS>
10. U.S. Department of Education, Guidance Package on Correctional Education, Key Policy Letters from the US Dept. of Education and the US Dept. of Justice (2014). Available at: <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/correctional-education/index.html>



Questions
and
Discussion