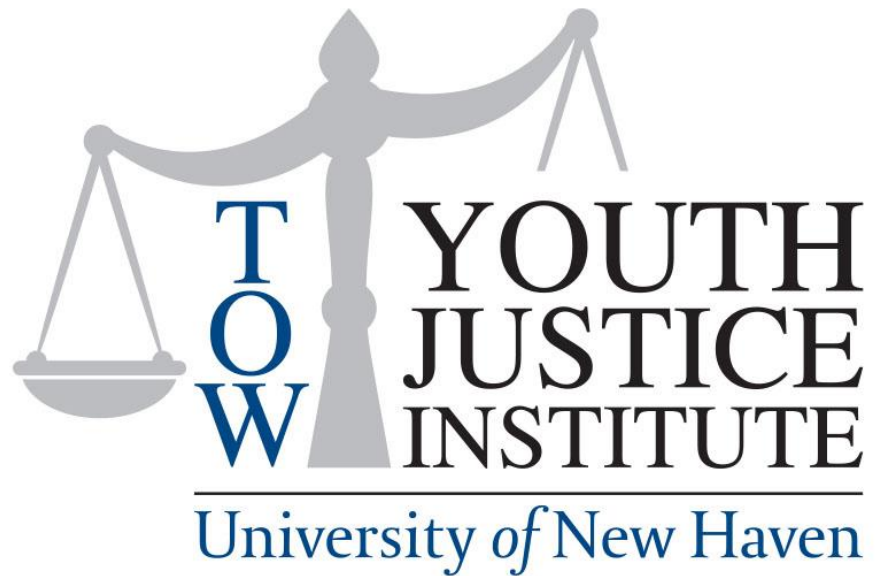


JJPOC
Executive Committee
Apr. 3rd, 2020
Zoom (Online)

Opening Remarks

- Introductions
- Meeting facilitation
 - Remain “muted” on Zoom, unless speaking
 - Refrain from interrupting with comments or questions until each presenter is finished speaking
 - Use the “Chat” and “Hand Raising” feature for any questions or comments so TYJI can help monitor and facilitate the meeting



Update from
Department of
Corrections



Manson Youth Institution

Release of Medically Vulnerable Youth

- Medically vulnerable youth may include youth with COVID-19 symptoms, chronic illnesses, such as asthma or diabetes; other serious illnesses; or are in need of medical care.
We currently have six youth who would be considered medically compromised. Weekly check in is conducted to ensure that all needs are met and offenders are not symptomatic. Medication compliance is also monitored.
- Ensure there is a discharge and transition plan so the youth can access medical care in the community.
Our Medical Discharge Planner, Jason Cruz, does a phenomenal job ensuring that all needs are met and referrals are made prior to discharge. Diligent assessments are conducted emphasizing medical/mental health, addiction services, education/vocation, housing and employment referrals. This practice was in place prior to the current crisis and currently continues.



Cases for youth and young adults 21 years of age and under as part of agency's prison population reduction plan.

- Evaluate all sentenced cases to review how long the youth has spent incarcerated, how they have managed while incarcerated and if they can be safely discharged back to the community or not.
We currently have a total of 128 sentenced adults, and 8 sentenced youth.
Information pertaining to an offender's mental health consultations, disciplinary history and educational programming has already been provided to the OCA. If needed an internal assessment of the data can be conducted and analyzed.
- Ensure there is a discharge and transition plan so the youth can access medical care in the community.
We currently have a total of 140 accused adults and 36 accused youth. However, CSSD would determine the release of un-sentenced offenders. We have consistently been collaborating with all Juvenile Justice involved stakeholders to include CSSD, Parole, DCF, OPM, CRU, Juvenile Detention Centers and Advocates toward a common goal, of ensuring youth are provided the proper resources to assist in successful reintegration into the community.



Cases for youth and young adults 21 years of age and under as part of agency's prison population reduction plan.

- Create clear criteria for the swift determination as to each youth's release.

The Department has a dedicated Community Release Unit which is responsible for identifying and assessing all suitable/eligible candidates for community release. Continued collaborations will take place with all stakeholders to ensure that all suitable candidates eligible for community release are considered. We are currently in the process of reviewing candidates, who are already community release approved, for a forty five day re-entry furlough. Seven offenders have been released from the facility this week. We will continue to work diligently throughout this crisis.

- Ensure all discharging youth have a transition plan that they are involved in developing and that includes connection to a family or responsible individual adult, access to medical care, and a housing plan.

We conduct thorough discharge planning 6 months prior to an offender's release. A CN9305, Discharge Planning Checklist & Transportation Log, which includes planning for all of the above. For example relationships built with community stakeholders have been enhanced to ensure opportunities and resources are still accessible to returning members of society. We've emphasized the importance of their continued commitment to successful re-entry efforts during this crucial time.



Criteria that will allow for safe and expeditious release of youth age 21 and under and who are scheduled for discharge before the end of 2020 or who are pre-trial.

The Department has a dedicated Community Release Unit which is responsible for identifying and assessing all suitable/eligible candidates for community release. They will continue to work diligently throughout this crisis.

- MYI has 29 youth age 21 and under scheduled to be released during the next 120 days (before end of July).
- At MYI there are 54 youth age 21 and under scheduled to be discharged before the end of 2020, (approximately 20% of the census at MYI).
- There are 142 youth age 21 and under at MYI that are pre-trial.
- (These numbers are based on census data previously provided by the DOC upon OCA's request).
- We will continue to expeditiously monitor all appropriate candidates for early release.
- As of 4/1/2020, we currently have a total of 267 offenders housed at MYI, 42 of which are youth.



Connection to family and loved ones for incarcerated youth.

- We understand that the DOC and CSSD facilities have stopped visitation with family members, however, we would ask that you ensure that each youth has an appropriate family contact plan, that includes free and regular phone calls and opportunities for video-conferencing.

The Department has an agreement with our telephone service provider, (SECURUS), to provide 2 free additional phone calls, and we are also looking at the possibility of increasing the amount of free phone calls we may be able to provide. Allowing unlimited free phone calls would have to be implemented statutorily. We are currently exploring video phone calls, and navigating through the technological barriers that we must overcome.

- Monitor individual time limits for calls and video communication so that opportunities for contact are allocated fairly.

We currently provide for opportunities to utilize the telephone during an offender's recreation period. This system had been proven effective. Document available upon request.



Educational opportunities for incarcerated youth.

- Coursework and educational materials should continue to be provided to youth each day.
State school teachers are currently not in the facility based pandemic crisis response. Right now, our primary goal is to minimize any contact the residents have with staff to prevent potential exposure to Covid 19. Taking all safety precautions into consideration, USD-1 continues to provide quality educational opportunities to all students in the district. We currently collaborate with the Education Department to assist in the delivery of these educational opportunities.
- Access to the library should be afforded to every incarcerated youth.
Per our current Operations plan, students are not permitted to leave their units at this time. Each housing unit is equipped with a book cart. A variety of genres are available for offenders to borrow. We will continue our Book club during this crisis.
- Partnership for Connecticut is donating technology materials, including computers, for at-risk/high need youth around the state. OCA can collaborate with the DOC to advocate for computers/tablets for incarcerated youth to facilitate family communication and educational work.
We agree and are open to receiving resources to assist in this process. We believe collaboration is integral to the success of this mission



Mental health contact with each youth in the facility.

- Check-in with each youth and provide regular sessions with youth based on their individual needs. Mental health staff tour daily on each shift. Individualized sessions are conducted whenever necessary. A one to one meeting is difficult with limited resources but all juveniles are checked and have access to on to one meetings if needed.
- Coordinate weekly family contact via phone or video-conference for youth who have regular contact with their family members. Phone calls are provided daily. Video conferencing is not available at this time but if resources become available we will ensure it's conducted in a safe and efficient manner. We are open to considering donated resources. However, until we tackle the lack of internet access allowing the possibility for video conferencing, this is on hold.



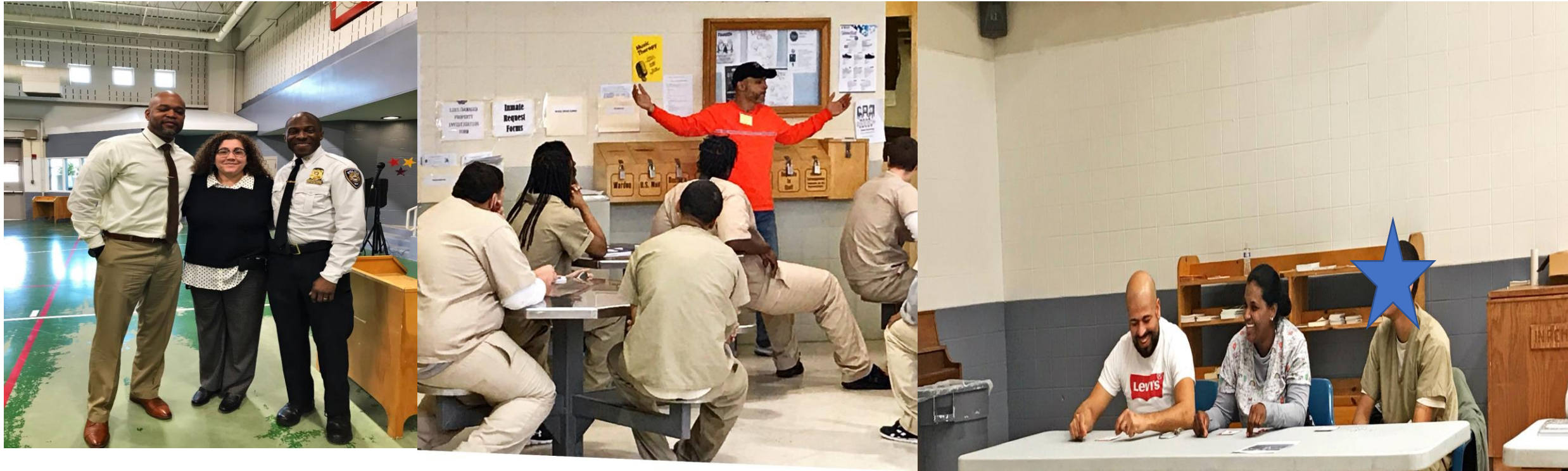
Examples of Family Engagement & Community Partnerships

Angel is able to have contact visits with his son weekly. We are looking forward to resuming this once we are back to normal operations.



Examples of Family Engagement & Community Partnerships

In our efforts to maintain ongoing relationships with community stakeholders, we are looking at alternative methods to keep the residents engaged with positive and motivational mentors within their communities.



Activities, Programs and Commissary

- Replace and enhance any activities/programs typically run by outside volunteers to ensure youth have more time out of cell participating in rehabilitative programming, organized support groups and recreation activities with small groups of youth.

Although we are limited in staffing, and must adhere to social distancing guidelines, we have continued to provide personal growth, religious, and restorative justice programming to all offenders within the units. Our staff have gone above and beyond to offer services to the population despite the current crisis.

*** All staff are checking in with residents daily throughout their shifts. The climate amongst the population is very good at this time.**

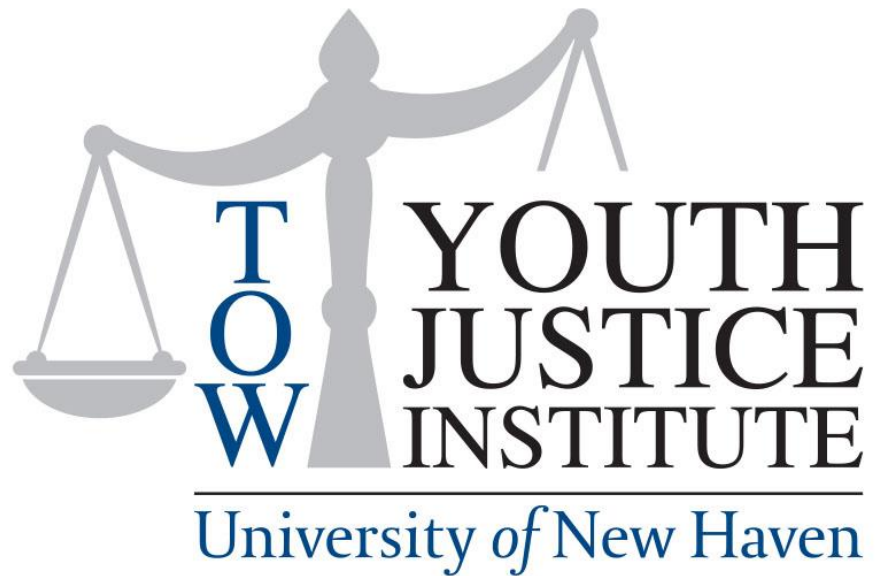
- Allocate an equal dollar amount for every youth to be able to order commissary items every week for purposes of hygiene, food items and recreational items.

There is not a maximum dollar amount restriction on commissary for general population offenders. If an offender does not have money in his account to order commissary items, hygiene, recreational, spiritual, food/snack items are provided at no cost to the offender. We are exploring providing enhanced meals, additional snacks, and recreational options to all of the residents.

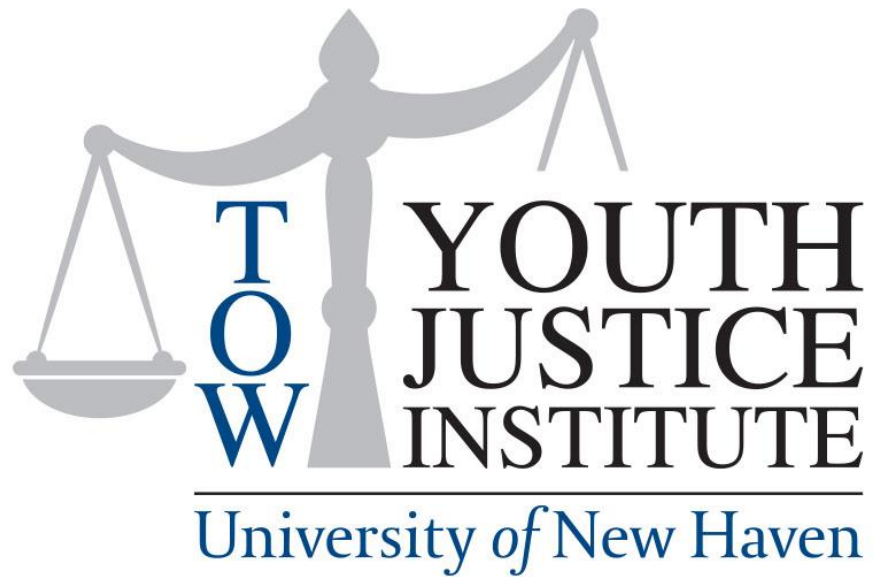


Questions and Comments

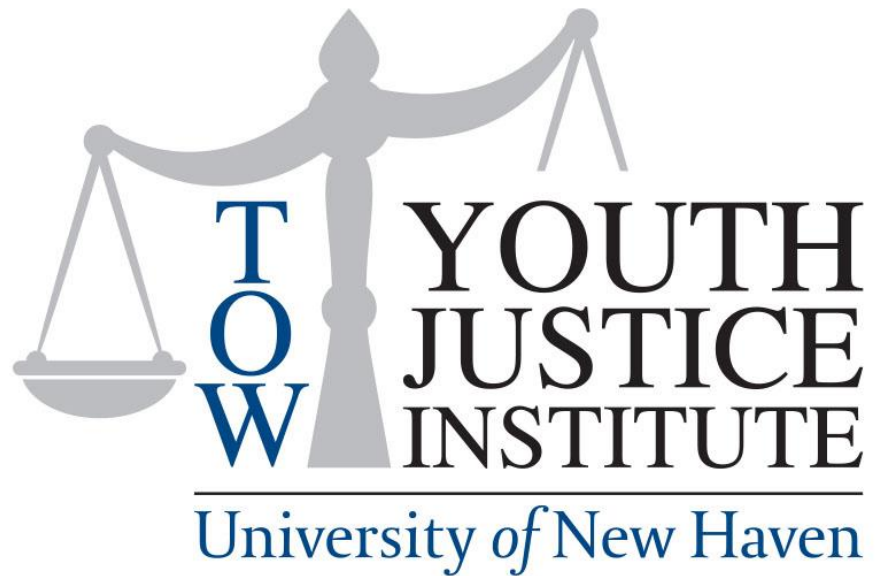




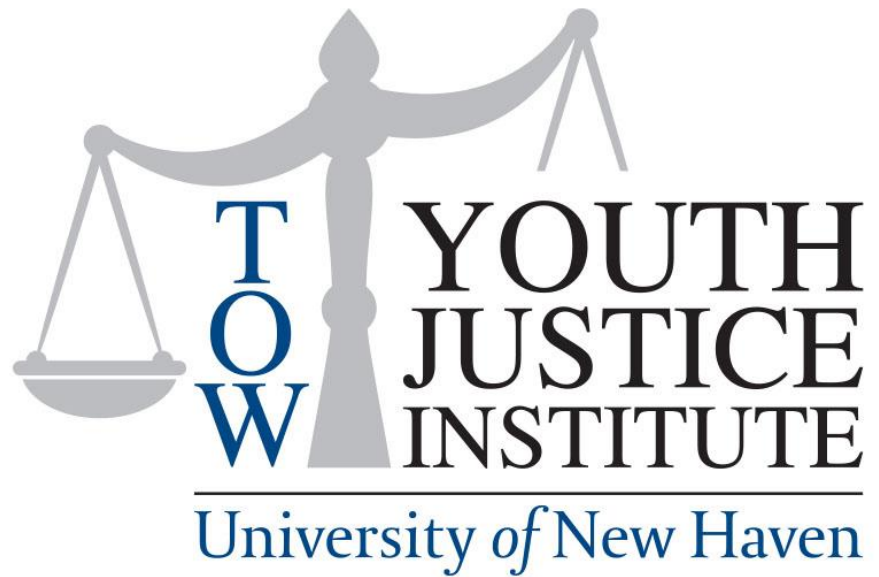
Update from
Judicial Branch



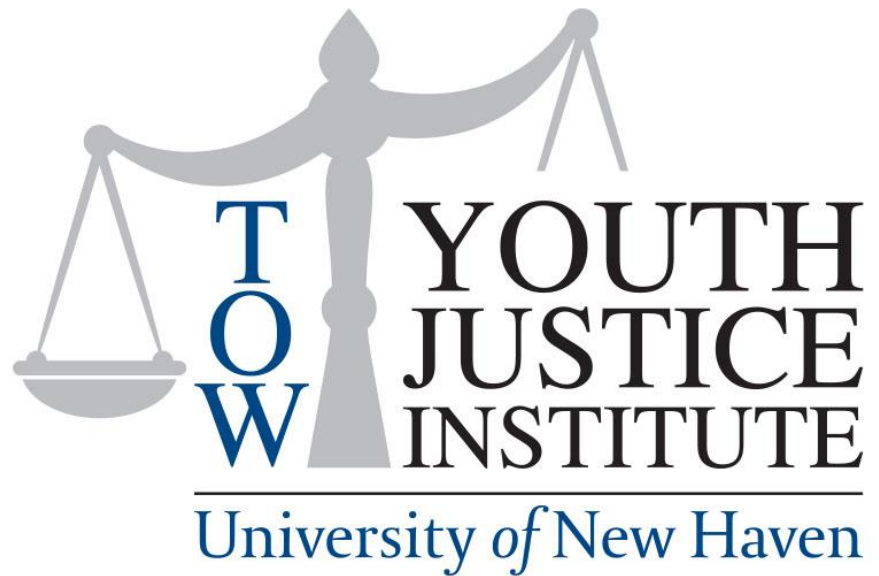
Questions?



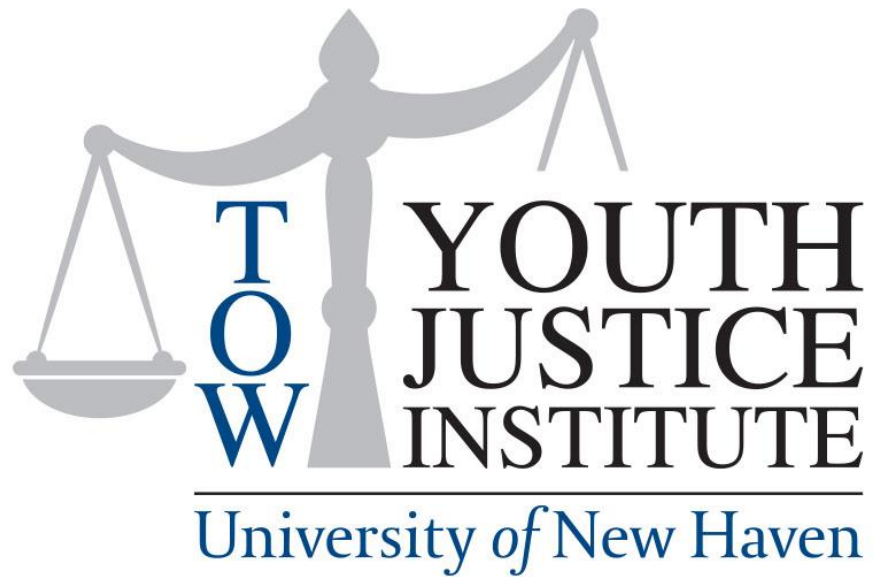
Update from
Department of Children
and Families



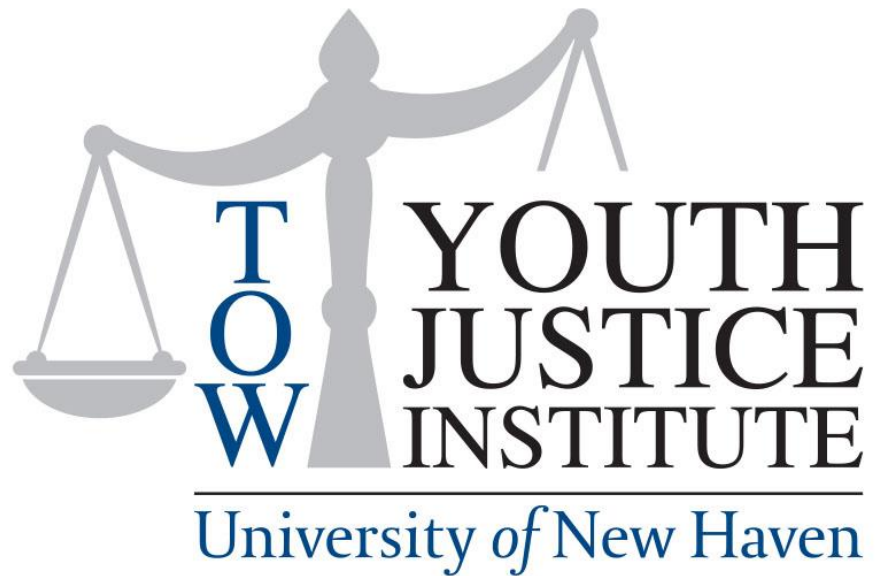
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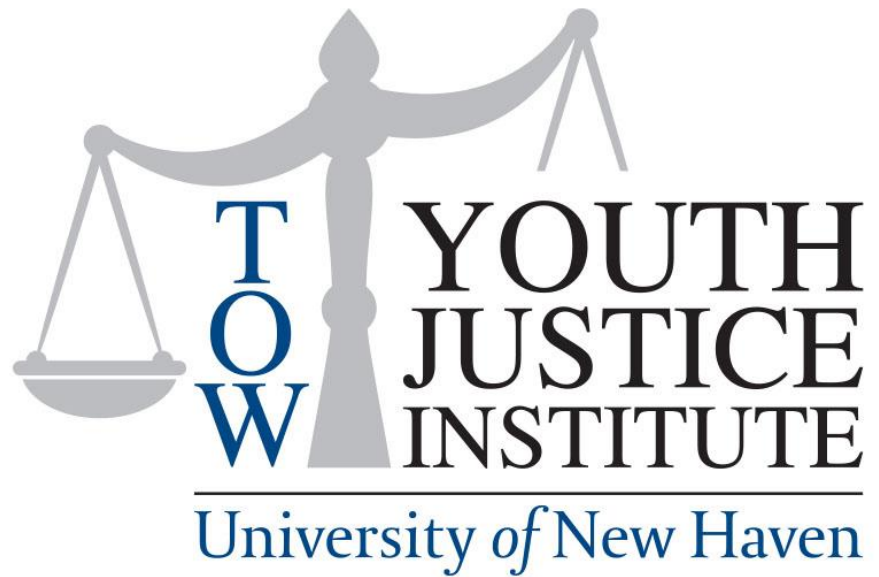
Update from
YSBs and JRBs



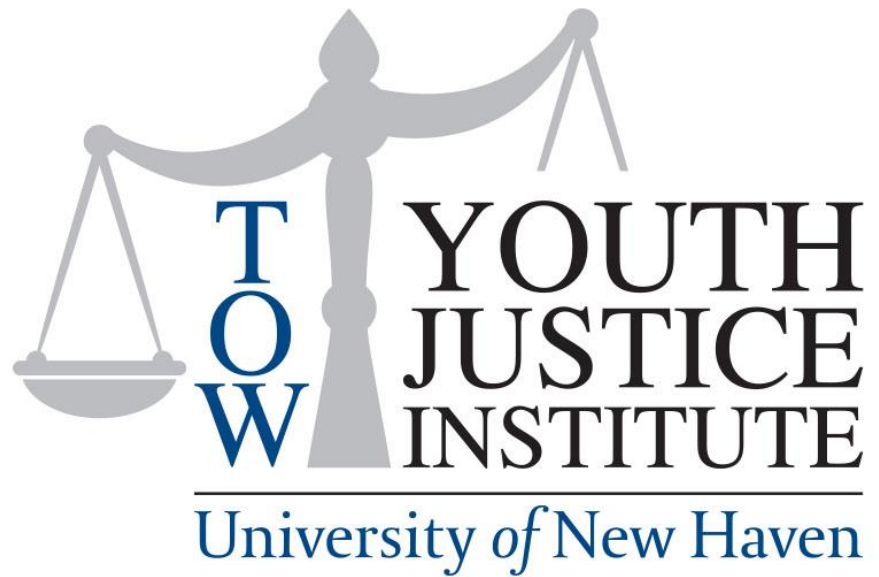
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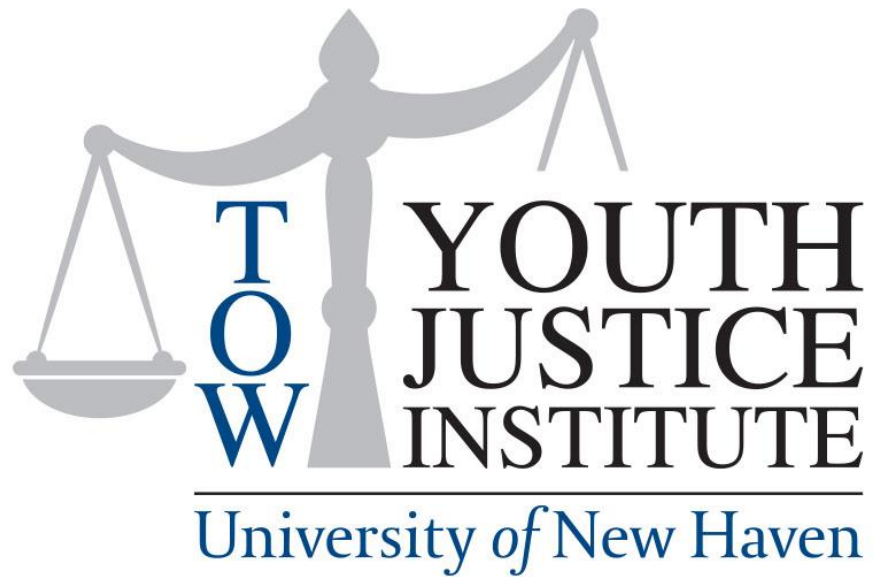
Update from
State Department of
Education



Questions?



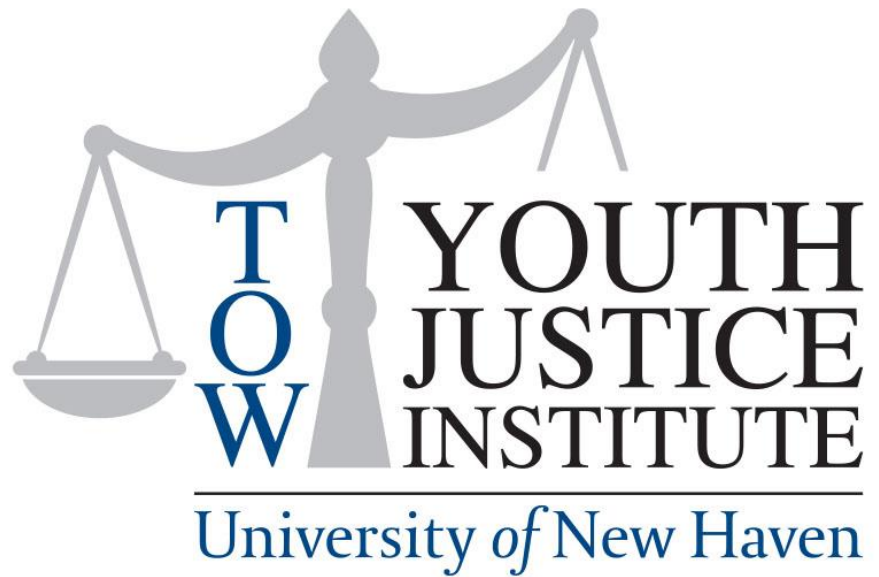
Update from Law Enforcement



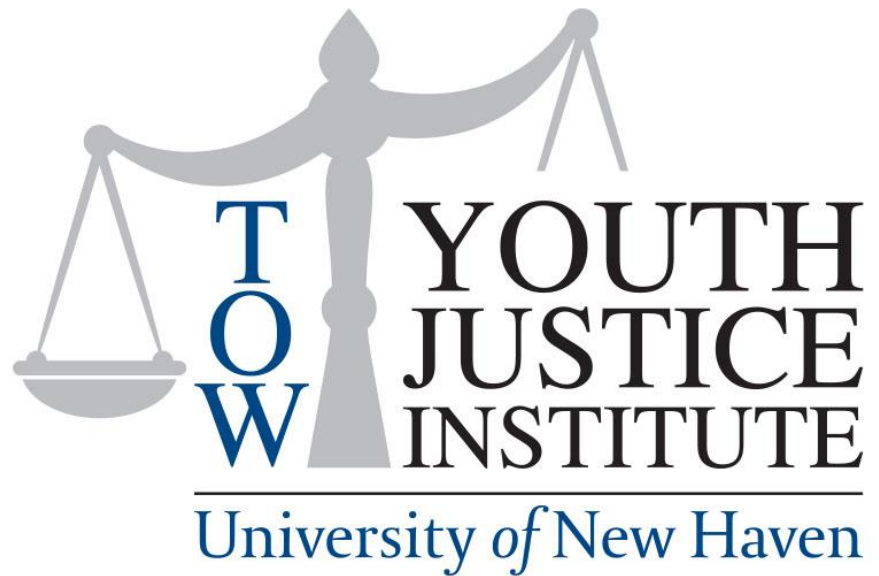
Questions?

JJPOC Operations

- Legislative Process
- Government Response



Discussion



***Next JJPOC
Executive Committee
Meeting
TBA***