

JJPOC Executive Committee Meeting December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 Zoom (Online)



Presentation and Discussion on the Health, Housing, and Education Study

by Dr. Danielle Cooper



### **Questions?**



### New RED Recommendations

### by Dr. Derrick Gordon & Mr. Hector Glynn

# Racial and Ethnic Disparity Workgroup Recommendations



- 1. The provisions of C.G.S. § 54-1m be extended so that racial profiling data is collected on all police stops, whether traffic or pedestrian, giving a full and complete picture of any racial profiling that takes place in the state
  - Pedestrian Stop will be defined by the subgroup for consideration by December 18th
- 2. It is recommended that JJPOC create legislation that calls for the removal of School Resource Officers (SRO) and other law enforcement officers from public schools.

# SRO Recommendation: Background



- SROs are most commonly sworn officers from a local police department who are stationed in 1 or more school buildings. The expansion of SROs in schools goes back to 1999 in response to the school shooting at Columbine High school.
- There is evidence that the presence of SROs is associated with increased arrests for noncriminal youthful behavior, commonly known as the school-to-prison pipeline.
- Research shows that SROs have biases in how they perceive students of color in urban schools.
  - Studies documented the disproportionately negative impact of SROs on children of color.
  - In a predominately white and affluent suburban community, SROs worried about intruders; in an urban district made up of children of color and those who were low-income, SROs perceived students as threats.

### SRO Recommendation: Data



Connecticut Voices for Children's conducted a study in 2019 that reviewed state wide data from 2012-2016 found:

- Schools with SRO's had significantly higher rates of arrest than schools without SROs.
  - Black students were 3 times more likely be arrested
  - Latinx students were 4 time more likely to be arrested
    - In 2015 Latinx student were 6 time more likely
- No statistically significant effect of the presence of SRO on the percentage of studies who scored at or above the benchmark for the Smarter Balanced ELA and Math exams

### SRO Recommendation: Data



- There have been reports that have attempted to capture how widely SROs are deployed, relative to other positive student supports such as psychologists, social workers, counselors, and nurses.
- In 2019, the ACLU released a report using federal data showed that:
  - 1.7 million students are in schools with police but no counselors.
  - 3 million students are in schools with police but no nurses.
  - 6 million students are in schools with police but no school psychologists.
  - 10 million students are in schools with police but no social workers.
  - 14 million students are in schools with police but no counselor, nurse, psychologist, or social worker.

# SRO Recommendation: Other State Models



- *Minneapolis, Minnesota*: The school district has hired 11 public safety support specialists -seven will be placed at the district's high schools, and four will support emergency response across the city. The specialists will not be licensed law enforcement officials, and they will not be armed. The specialists will develop school security plans, deescalate violent situations, mediate student conflicts and train staff. The specialists will receive training in restorative practices.
- Denver, Colorado: The Denver Public Schools announced plans to reduce the number of SROs by 25% the end of 2020 and have them removed entirely by June 2021. The resolution passed by the Board of Education requires that the Board convene "an inclusive, community-driven process—involving parents, students, teachers, school administrators, student support.

#### T YOUTH JUSTICE INSTITUTE University of New Haven

## SRO Recommendation: Potential Impact

- Many jurisdictions throughout the country, including Connecticut's own communities, have chosen to remove SRO in recognition of the fact that any potential benefits are significantly outweighed by the costs to student wellbeing and school climate.
- The legislation, which would prohibit federal funding for school-based police officers, would provide funding for social workers, counselors, and other student and teacher supports focused on creating positive learning environments.



# Next Steps for SRO Subgroup

• Next Meeting: December 8, 2020



New Education Recommendations

by Rep. Robyn Porter and Atty Amy Vatner

# **Education Committee Recommendation**



1. It is recommended that data is collected from schools on all 911 and 211 calls in an effort to increase transparency and accountability for districts' utilization of police. This data would be reviewed by the JJPOC Education Committee on a bi-annual basis.

## Discussion: Education Committee Recommendation #2



2. It is recommended that school suspensions be prohibited in elementary school coupled with legislative ownership of JJPOC for a justice reinvestment model that utilizes school-based preventive services that demonstrate efficacy.



### **Questions?**



*Next Meeting January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 1:00-2:30 PM* 

### **Agenda**

Review Feedback on New 2021 Recommendations