

THIS MEETING DID NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION

JJPOC Gender Responsiveness Workgroup

February 3rd, 2025

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Web Based Meeting- Zoom

Attendance

Chyann Higgs

Erin Williamson

Kate Dormont

Krystal Rich

Maribel Martinez

Maya Abou-Elias

Sarah Eagan

Sharmese Walcott

Sukhmani Singh

Sunindiya Bhalla

Talia Nunez

Vin Russo

Yvette Young

TYJI Staff

Amanda DiPinto

Brittany LaMarr

Danielle Cooper

Erika Nowakowski

Meeting Objectives:

The February 3rd, 2025, Gender Responsiveness Workgroup meeting consisted of a review of the final workgroup recommendations passed at the January JJPOC monthly meeting, an update regarding the Gender Responsive Landscape Report, an update on the JJPOC organizational plan, a review of the 2025 workplan, and an update on Dr. Singh's research.

Meeting Summary:

- Final Workgroup Recommendations Passed at JJPOC in January
 - Two of the six Gender Responsiveness Workgroup recommendations passed at the January JJPOC monthly meeting.
 - The first recommendation that passed from the workgroup was regarding DCF reporting to the JJPOC in July on a number of metrics, some of which are still in development. Specifically, the July report from DCF will be in relation to the STARR Enhancement Plan that was implemented in April 2024.
 - More data will likely be available by DCF in the near future due to enhanced data collection processes and software. This new automated case record system is planned to go live around

August/September, but data will likely not be available immediately.

- The addressing of the needs of the youth in all systems in Connecticut should be most important, which includes preventing youth from becoming juvenile justice involved, and was emphasized by the workgroup.
 - The population of young people in STARR homes is very small but have a lot of needs. It is necessary to narrow down and specify the population being addressed through the efforts of the numerous organizations involved.
- Gender Responsive Landscape Report Update
 - A draft of the Landscape Report was shared in December with the Gender Responsiveness co-chairs where feedback was provided. The updated draft was then sent to the JJPOC co-chairs to review. The report includes work that has been done in the past, as well as an overview of programs and services, and includes the voices of young people and providers. A final version of the report will hopefully be presented at the April JJPOC monthly meeting.
 - JJPOC Organizational Update Overview
 - To close some of the loopholes on information sharing, some JJPOC subgroups will merge with the workgroups, such as the Education Workgroup and its related subgroups. As of now, the plan is for the Gender Responsiveness Workgroup to become a subgroup of the Incarceration Workgroup to consolidate and streamline information.
 - 2025 Workplan
 - The Gender Responsiveness 2025 Workplan includes: a revisitation of the initial six recommendations and continue the work of the recommendations that did not get passed in 2025; the development of additional metrics for reporting on in collaboration with DCF as was passed in 2025; the receipt of the STARR program update that will be shared with JJPOC in July to review; to review the Office of the Child Advocate case file quarterly; and review the ROCA Landscape Report and Dr. Singh's data and understand areas of agreement and areas of disagreement.
 - The workgroup wants to ensure that they deliver on the recommendations that were passed in 2025 and that the gathered data is being used to its full potential.
 - The Office of the Child Advocate has shared that quarterly reports are likely not possible from them, so a review of this aspect of the workplan is needed. Instead, DCF may be able to report on these data requests in their December report.
 - Dr. Singh Research Updates

- Dr. Singh is in the process of the analysis of the data collected with her team and is hoping to have more information to share before the 2025 legislative session adjourns.

Next Meeting: April 7th, 2025

