

**THIS MEETING DID NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION**

**JJPOC INCARCERATION WORKGROUP MEETING**

**JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

**1:00 – 2:00 PM**

**Web-Based Meeting – Zoom**

**Attendance**

ALICIA LIND-WINDHAM	KELLY ORTS
DR. GLEN WORTHY	MARTHA STONE
EDDIE CAJIGAS	MICHAEL PIERCE
EMILY LEEN	PATRICIA NUNEZ
EULALIA GARCIA	RAFAL MATUSZCZAK
GARY ROBERGE	SARAH EAGAN
GARY WINFIELD	SHANDA EASLEY
INDRE FISHMAN	SHARMESE WALCOTT
JIM CONNOLLY	TAMMY PERREAULT
JUDGE NGUYEN	TASHA M. HUNT
O'DOWD	

**TYJI Staff**

BRITTANY LAMARR  
PAUL KLEE  
SHELBY HENDERSON  
ARYANA AGLI

**Meeting Objectives:**

- Members provided subgroup updates regarding reentry and commissary, as well as the use of chemical agents by DOC from March, April, and May 2024
- Legislative and funding updates were provided
- Discussion was held regarding the implementation plan

**Meeting Summary:**

- **Subgroup Updates; Including Respective Legislative Updates**
  - Reentry Subgroup Updates
    - Each section of the reentry Plan is updated every month and receive updates from State Agencies including budget requests
    - One more section left in the plan – relating to mental health
    - Reached out to the leads of 4 different agencies regarding 2 outstanding questions:
      - Discussion regarding the Hub debates 3 options: whether the Hub should be contracted out VS managed by a State Agency VS should a reentry center be created and modeled after what exists for the adult population

- Cathy Foley Geib would produce a written description given the coordination would lie within one of the State Agencies by sometime in July
  - Second issue regarding who is doing the writing for the plan – the quality assurance piece and the funding piece by December 1<sup>st</sup>
- Since session has ended, the reentry subgroup has put forth recommendations that would expand the use for credible messengers for up to 24 months for youth through Public Act 24-139, recommendations did pass
  - No money associated with recommendation
  - <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2024/ACT/PA/PDF/2024PA-00139-R00HB-05508-PA.PDF>
- Some of the funding can be included in some sections since agencies' budgets are due by the end of September
- Some talk about TYJI providing TA assistance for supporting the writing of the plan with lead support by Cathy Foley Geib
- Meeting will take place in July, no August meeting – plan should be written by the beginning of September – Sections complete by August 1<sup>st</sup>
- Commissary Subgroup Updates
  - Members are looking for clarity on previous years' recommendations from PBIS to be used in substitution of money for purchase of commissary
  - DOC connected fiscal note presented to the legislature that would allow them to mirror the quantity and quality of hygiene products that the Judicial branch gives out (traditional products)
    - If money is available
    - Public Act 24-140 was passed regarding commissary, but doesn't reflect language that the subgroup was looking for in terms of clarity on DOC being able to use PBIS as a supplement to money used to purchase from commissary
      - [2024HB-05429-R000556-FC.PDF \(ct.gov\)](#)
    - Still seeking clarity whether there is money allocated to DOC to change the products that they use and indignant threshold
- **DOC Chemical Agent/ Restraint Reports**
  - **March:**

- *March 7:* incident with 3 youth in the classroom – staff attempted to intervene – lack of staff available – chemical agent used
- *March 12:* chemical agent had to be used due to number of youth (5) vs lacking number staff
- **April**
  - *April 2:* in the school –youth did not stop when the staff ordered – chemical agent used
  - *April 20<sup>th</sup>:* 2 youth fighting, chemical agent used to stop combative actions toward each other
  - *April 24<sup>th</sup>:* In the courtyard, 2 youth were fighting and there were not enough staff present at the time to break up the fight – chemical agent utilized
- **May:**
  - Involved 4 youth during transition from school - there was not enough staff to control the fight – chemical agent used when youth did not cease combat per staff commands
- Issues are mostly taking place around schools
- Issues are arising because youth are hearing word about things going on at the streets, especially as the weather gets warmer
- Usually, youth will stop fighting once they see staff or hear staff coming, but in these few reported incidents, the kids do not care whether staff is there or not
- **One member requested a report be sent out regarding data where verbal intervention is successful by DOC staff**
- The member inquired why the incidents were frequently reporting that there were not enough staff present and if the facility is understaffed.
  - Staff is present, but spread out around the facility, therefore it takes a few minutes to get between positions and locate the fights
- The member reported that the data from the first quarter of 2024 shows that there is an increase in rate of chemical agent used and increase in fighting compared to the decrease in 2023
  - The member inquired what the staff has observed and why the increase may be present.
    - It was reported in the beginning of the year that there had been several issues between 2 Hartford groups that were present in the facility
      - Incidents have decreased since then

- Staff report youths dealing with a lot of egos and concerned about the others' perceptions of them
- Staff also report that incidents stem from street stuff – hearing things going out on the street and having to defend on the inside as well
- A member asks what interventions are taking place and what is currently in place for the youths to meaningfully work through conflict resolution/reduction.
  - Programs and circles are still used, but when viewing the data, no program or intervention has been the end-all-be-all solution and staff report that fights are always going to happen
  - Staff report that this is just one of the times of the year where tensions are high, and the incident increases/decreases come in waves
- **A member proposed that there is a deeper look into what are the most successful interventions, what the boys themselves find most effective, what do the boys need to be successful, and what can we learn from other detention centers and regions?** It is important to recognize that, while data is helpful, solutions and skillsets within the youths are crucial as well.
- **JBCSSD Implementation Plan Updates**
  - Member reports there are no significant updates and that the plan discussion was not taken up during the general assembly meeting
  - There was language in the budge around a 20-million-dollar bond for a second region site
    - Must still get on bonding commission agenda moving forward
    - Once bonding package is set, looking to move forward with site location and details

**Next Meeting: September**