

JJPOC Incarceration Workgroup Meeting

February 9th, 2026, 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Zoom

1. Gender Responsive Landscape Analysis
 - a) Overview of Phase 1
 - b) Barriers
2. Update on Conditions of Confinement Subgroup
3. Draft Incarceration Workgroup Project Plan
4. DOJ Summarization Plan



Making connections. Informing solutions.

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Agenda

Administrative Updates

Tow Youth Justice Institute

Draft Gender Responsive Landscape Analysis

Update on Conditions of Confinement Subgroup

Draft Incarceration Workgroup Project Plan

DOJ Summarization Plan

Administrative Updates

Workgroup/Subgroup Upcoming Meeting Dates

Workgroup/Subgroup:	Meeting Date:	Agenda Items:
Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee	February 19th, 2026, 2:00 – 4:00 PM (In-Person & Zoom)	JJPOC Workgroup 2026 Workplans
Education Workgroup	March 23rd, 2026, 2:00 – 3:30 PM (Zoom)	Legislative Updates
Community Expertise Workgroup	February 10th, 2026, 6:00 – 7:30 PM (In Person)	- Legislative Process Training - Storytelling Training
Cross Agency Data Sharing/RED Workgroup	April 20th, 2026, 11:00 – 12:30 PM (Zoom)	- OPM, DAPA Crossover Youth Update - Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard 2.0 discussion

Workgroup/Subgroup Upcoming Meeting Dates

Workgroup/Subgroup:	Meeting Date:	Agenda Items:
Diversion Workgroup	February 17th, 2026, 2:00 – 3:30 PM (Zoom)	• Reporting Metrics for JRB's, DCF • RFP diversion supplement, DCF • POSTC Policy Adoption • Youth Police Training
Incarceration Workgroup	April 20th, 2026, 1:00 – 2:30 PM (Zoom)	• TBD
Direct any Questions to the following Tow Youth Justice Institute Staff: Erika Nowakowski: enowakowski@newhaven.edu Namandje Wali nwali@newhaven.edu Paul Klee: pklee@newhaven.edu Andrew Zhebrak: azhebrak@newhaven.edu		

Gender Responsive Landscape Analysis

Public Act No. 24-139

The Gender Responsive Landscape Analysis shall

1. define “gender responsive” and “gender responsive practice”;
2. receive and consider input from youth, families and communities directly impacted by any gaps in gender responsive work;
3. review national best practices, including approaches and types of services provided and system considerations;
4. review previous work and legislation concerning gender responsive work;
5. identify any gaps in gender responsive work resulting from system or programmatic changes;
6. review existing work and practices on gender responsiveness among agencies and community providers;
7. review data, broken down by race, ethnicity, gender, age, location and level of system involvement, including the type of offenses committed by youth and how such offenses are handled within the juvenile justice system.

Gender Responsive Landscape Analysis Overview

The Process

- In collaboration with state agencies (DCF, JB-CSSD, and DOC) the Gender Responsive Landscape Analysis is being drafted and finalized
- State agencies have provided data and feedback on the report

Two Parts

Part 1 – Four sections

1. Historical Context
2. Best Practices
3. Current Connecticut Climate
4. Data Analysis

Part 2 – Three sections

1. Intellectual and Learning Disabilities
2. Barriers
3. Recommendations

Part 1

Historical Context: Overview of previous gender responsive efforts in Connecticut

Best Practices: Review of evidence-based best practices for gender responsive programming

Current Connecticut Climate: Discussion of current gender responsive programming and practices across state agencies

Data Analysis: Profile of girls in Connecticut's juvenile justice and child welfare systems

Highlights from Part 1 Data

1. Across calendar years 2022, 2023, and 2024 **the majority of youth in DCF foster care were girls** (55.7%, 57.9%, and 57.7%, respectively)
2. **"Neglect"** was the most common reason for home removal by DCF for both boys and girls, as of 2024
 - a. **Sexual and physical abuse** together made up **11.5%** of all removal of girls, greater than that for boys
3. In 2024, the highest rate of **re-arrest** was for **15-year-olds**
4. **"Non-Hispanic Black"** girls made up **43.6% of all court referrals involving girls** in 2024
5. The most common **PrediCT risk level** for girls with a disposition of "Probation with Placement" or "Supervision" was **Tier III (72.2%)**
6. **309** girls were identified as being dually involved, the majority of them being Non-Hispanic Black girls
 - a. Of these **309 girls**, the most common **PrediCT risk level was Level 3**
7. The most common need of girls, as identified by the **PrediCT assessment**, was **"Mental Health"** at **52.3%**
8. **New Haven** had the greatest number of dually involved girls in 2024
9. Across calendar years 2022, 2023, and 2024, **more girls with DCF involvement were admitted to detention centers compared to those without DCF involvement**

Part 2 – In Development

Intellectual and Learning Disabilities: Level setting on the determining factors of Intellectual and Learning Disabilities and a profile of girls within Connecticut's juvenile justice and child welfare systems that have been diagnosed with an Intellectual Disability and/or Learning Disability.

Barriers: Discussion of barriers faced when designing and conducting the landscape analysis

- a. Survey Responses

Recommendations: Potential policy and/or legislative recommendations

Next Steps

1. Feedback

- a. Please provide feedback on Part 1 to Ryan Connick (rconn4@unh.newhaven.edu) by **February 20th, 2026.**

2. Recommendations

3. Survey Responses

- a. Pause on this phase of the report and regroup with state agencies

Conditions of Confinement Update

Draft Incarceration Workgroup Workplan

DOJ Summarization Plan

2026 PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

TRAILBLAZERS AND INNOVATORS IN YOUTH JUSTICE

SAVE THE DATE

OCT. 21, 2026

**CONNECTICUT
CONVENTION CENTER**

100 COLUMBUS BLVD
HARTFORD, CT 06103

**INTERESTED IN PRESENTING?
SCAN CODE TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL.**



THIS MEETING DID NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION

JJPOC Incarceration Workgroup

February 9th, 2026

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Web Based Meeting- Zoom

Attendance

Catherine Foley Geib	Martha Stone	Tammy Perreault	TYJI Staff
Glen Worthy	Michael Pierce	Tasha Hunt	Danielle Cooper
Heather Panciera	Nordia Napier	Victor Jones	Erika Nowakowski
Heriberto Cajigas	Robert Francis		Paul Klee
Indre Fishman	Sarah Eagan		Namandje Wali
James Connelly	Sharmese Walcott		Ryan Connick
John Frassinelli	Stella Rose Dugue		Devin Davila
John Tarka	Talia Nunez		
Lynnia Johnson	Tamara Wilson		
Marisa Morello	Tammy Nguyen-O'Dowd		

Meeting Objectives:

The February 9th, 2026 Incarceration Workgroup met to discuss the process and status of the Gender Responsive Landscape Analysis, the future of the Conditions of Confinement Subgroup, the draft of the Incarceration Workgroup Project Plan, and the Department of Justice Summarization (DOJ) Plan.

Meeting Summary:

- Gender Responsive Landscape Analysis
 - An overview of Public Act No. 24-139 was given, which contains the legislative charge for the Gender Responsive Landscape Analysis. There are seven criteria outlined for inclusion in the report. The landscape analysis is being developed in collaboration with the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Department of Correction (DOC), and the Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (JB-CSSD). These agencies have reviewed the report and have been given the opportunity to provide feedback.
 - The landscape analysis is being completed in two parts. Part 1 contains four sections: (1) Historical Context, (2) Best Practices, (3) Current Connecticut Climate, and (4) Data Analysis. The draft of this part has been sent to the Gender Responsiveness subgroup members. Part 2 is still in development and contains three sections: (1) Intellectual and Learning Disabilities, (2) Barriers, and (3) Recommendations.
 - Data highlights from Part 1 were presented. These highlights include the percentage of girls in foster care, the reason for home removal, risk levels

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as identified by the PrediCT assessment, and the relationship between DCF involvement and detention admissions.

- The draft Gender Responsive Landscape Analysis will be sent to the Incarceration Workgroup following the meeting. Feedback on the draft of Part 1 is due by February 20th, 2026. The Part 2 draft will be released to the workgroup once it has been completed. Legislative and/or policy recommendations are hoped to be developed in collaboration with state agencies and this workgroup to be included in the final released report.
- A survey was developed to be administered by DCF and JB-CSSD voluntarily to the girls in their care, but a few barriers were met. This stage of the report is being paused to regroup with the state agencies. The survey section of the report will likely be released after the finalization and release of the landscape analysis as an addendum.
- The report will be released at the April Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) Monthly Meeting. This meeting will likely be a panel discussion.
- Feedback/Questions:
 - Will the state agencies receive the newly revised report to provide feedback?
 - Yes, this is correct.
 - Will the presentation for the April JJPOC meeting be given to either the Gender Responsiveness Subgroup or the Incarceration Workgroup prior?
 - Yes, a test drive of the final presentation will be shared with the Incarceration Workgroup prior to the JJPOC April Meeting. The date of the next Incarceration Workgroup may be moved to allow for this trial run.
 - Could focus groups be completed with girls before the April JJPOC Meeting to ensure youth voices are included?
 - Unfortunately, the Tow Youth Justice Institute (TYJI) does not have permission to convene a group of youth at this time. To obtain such permission will result in a delay of the report. The survey mode was chosen to best protect the youth and to ensure TYJI does not have any identifying information. It is also important to ensure girls from multiple systems are included.
- Update on Conditions of Confinement Subgroup
 - The chemical agents and restraints report provided by the Department of Corrections (DOC) every other month will continue to be provided. TYJI will take these reports and create a recurring trend analysis. TYJI will also create a best practices overview regarding the use of chemical agents.
 - The Conditions of Confinement Subgroup will sunset. The work of this subgroup will be brought up to the Incarceration Workgroup.

- Draft Incarceration Workgroup Project Plan
 - The draft workplan has been developed based on the JJPOC's five-year strategic plan. There are three initiatives outlined: (1) ensure appropriate conditions of confinement for youth development; (2) all youth leaving facilities have the individual supports desired and necessary for success, and (3) programs, services, and system responses are gender responsive.
 - It was suggested that a document is shared with the workgroup that outlines the current state of the Re-Entry Plan. The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) will be invited to present on this plan to this workgroup.
 - The workgroup will begin to schedule a meeting that will be held at a DOC facility, potentially for June or August.
- DOJ Summarization Plan
 - One report has been released by the Department of Justice (DOJ) for the monitoring of Manson Youth Institute (MYI). These reports will be released biannually, with the next one being released in March. These reports will be summarized and brought to the Incarceration Workgroup.
 - A synopsis of the DOJ plan and monitoring reports was requested.
 - An anonymous letter was sent in 2019 to the DOJ that stated that Connecticut's DOC was not providing adequate educational and mental health services to its youth, and that it was over-utilizing isolation.
 - In 2024, a settlement was reached and declared that DOC has to eliminate their isolation procedures and should only isolate youth following an incident that may prove dangerous to the youth themselves, the staff and/or other youths, or the facility. DOC must also improve their educational and mental health services. The settlement is available for the public to access.
 - Feedback/Questions:
 - Are youth given a survey that they can fill out to share feedback?
 - Yes, youth and staff at MYI are given surveys and there are youth counselors that meet with the youth biweekly. In pretrial detention, there is an ombudsman that the youth can meet with and file grievances with as well as a youth counselor.
 - It was suggested that workgroup members keep in mind the data services and requests that they come into contact with in their professional spaces.

Next Meeting: April 20th, 2026