

Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee

> October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 2pm-3:30pm Zoom Meeting



## **Opening Remarks**

- Meeting facilitation
  - Meeting is being recorded
  - Remain "muted" on Zoom, unless speaking
  - Refrain from interrupting with comments or questions until each presenter is finished speaking
  - Questions and Comments will be limited to JJPOC members
    - Use the "Chat" and "Hand Raising" feature so TYJI can help monitor and facilitate the meeting

# Meeting Overview

- Congratulations Kelly!
- Welcome Patrick!



# Meeting Overview



- Acceptance of the September 2021 Meeting Minutes
- Presentation on PA 19-187 by JBCSSD
- Presentation on PA 19-187 by DOC
- Overview of the Updated JJPOC Strategic Plan



## Presentation on PA 19-187

Gary Roberge, Executive Director of Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division



#### Prone Position and Chemical Agents in Juvenile Detention Centers\*

Pursuant to Public Act 19-187

\*Per JBCSSD Policy 8.304, the use of prone holds and pepper spray or chemical agents are strictly prohibited. The prone position is only utilized to transition to another position or to re-secure from another position. Youth are immediately transitioned to another position and should not be prone more than 60 seconds.

Prone Incidents by Month





## **Questions?**



#### Presentation on PA 19-187

Warden Derrick Molden, Department of Corrections

MYI Incident Trends: Chemical Agent incidents involving individuals under the age of 18, by calendar year from Jan 1, 2018 – Sept 30, 2021.



MYI incidents involving individuals under the age of 18. Comparison by type of incident without chemical agent versus with chemical agent for Jan 1, 2018 – Sept 30, 2021.



MYI incidents involving individuals under the age of 18. Comparison by type of incident without chemical agent versus with chemical agent for October 1, 2020 – Sept 30, 2021.



Chemical Agent Usage on Juveniles since October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021

#### Physical altercations (8 occasions total)

<u>Steps taken before usage of Chemical Agent during physical altercations:</u> Staff members give combatants loud verbal directions for individuals to stop fighting and advise them that chemical agent may be utilized if they do not cease their actions. Once it is determined that verbal intervention is not successful, in order to gain compliance and prevent injuries, chemical agent is authorized.

Combative & assaultive individuals (2 occasions total)

May 2021

Individual became disruptive in a classroom. Punched a staff member in the facial area and continued to be combative. Chemical Agent was utilized in order to regain control of the actively combative individual.

#### June 2021

Individual actively resisted staff with a psychiatric observation placement. To reduce a risk of injury to staff and the individual, a short burst of Chemical Agent was utilized on the individual who became combative and spat on staff.

#### Immediate actions after every Chemical Agent usage

All exposed individuals are promptly decontaminated from the chemical agent. Once decontaminated, they are evaluated by health services staff for any adverse side effects and receive further treatment if deemed necessary.

Chemical Agent Usage on Juveniles since October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021

Post Incident Review

- Video footage and associated paperwork is reviewed by MYI's administrative team.
- Incident is forwarded for review to the district office overview team.
- An administrative review is completed to determine if use of chemical agent was necessary and justified.
- Incident is reviewed with a staff member administering the chemical agent to ensure the tool was properly utilized. In addition, alternative measures are discussed with the staff members if applicable.
- Mediating session with the juveniles involved in the incident may be conducted.

Staff injuries in incidents that include chemical agent



MYI Incident Trends: Prone (therapeutic) restraint incident data involving juveniles under the age of 18, by calendar year from Jan 1, 2018 – Sept 30, 2021.



15

10

Prone (Therapeutic) restraint usage (1 occasion) June 2021

A physician ordered placement due to individual's rapidly deteriorating mental health state so that appropriate calming medication could be safely administered to the patient. Shortly after, the medication achieved the desired effect the individual was removed from the soft restraints.



Age and Ethnicity Breakdown

	Chemical Agent Exposure				Prone Restraints (Therapeutic)			
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2018	2019	2020	2021
Affected Population	31	24	15	14	1	1	1	1
Race								
White	4	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Black	9	16	14	9	1	0	0	0
Hispanic	18	6	1	3	0	1	1	1
Age								
15	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
16	13	6	5	6	0	0	0	0
17	18	16	8	8	1	1	1	1
Overall N								
	2018	2019	2020	2021				

16%

59%

25%

15%

57%

28%

White

Black

Hispanic

17%

54%

29%

17%

58%

24%







## **Questions?**



### **Updated JJPOC Strategic Plan**

Tow Youth Justice Institute and JJPOC Workgroup Co-Chairs

## **JJPOC Strategic Plan - Process**



March 2021 – October 2021

- Multiple meetings with the workgroup co-chairs and workgroup members to obtain their feedback on strategies and measures, as well as working drafts
- Feedback from the JJPOC Executive Committee and Community Expertise Workgroup
- Input from national consultants, including the Center for Children's Law and Policy and the Council for State Governments

## JJPOC Strategic Plan - Goals



- **Goal 1:** Limit youth entry into the justice system.
- Goal 2: Reduce incarceration.
- **Goal 3:** Reduce racial and ethnic disparities of youth in Connecticut's juvenile justice system.
- **Goal 4:** Right-size the juvenile justice system by setting appropriate lower and upper age limits.

# Limit youth entry into the justice system



Reserving the formal justice system only for cases that cannot be diverted or otherwise appropriately served by alternative means or systems

- Landscape analysis for YSBs and JRBs and issue report
- Reviews of appropriate referrals for diversion
- Restorative Practices Trainings
- Parent and youth satisfaction of YSBs and JRBs
- Partnership with Statewide Minor Homelessness Taskforce

## **Reduce incarceration**



- Effective programming and additional resources needed for the REGIONS
- DCF implementation of Education Administrative Oversight
- Plan for serving MYI/YCI juveniles in juvenile facilities and programming.
- Tracking youth and family engagement opportunities and eligible youth automatic who have had their records automatically erased each year
- Recidivism rate broken out by risk level, community, race, ethnicity and gender

# Reduce racial and ethnic disparities of youth in Connecticut's juvenile justice system



- Action plan with strategies to eliminate barriers to partnership with community experts
- Establish new community partners engaged in RED workgroup and RED committees.
- Analyze youth of color who are arrested and/or served by JRBs
- Identify strategies that can effectively address inequities at particular decision points in the youth justice system.
- Strategies adopted by state agencies to address inequities in the youth justice system.

# Right-size the juvenile justice system by setting appropriate lower and upper age limits



Lower Age

 Analyzing the data for 7-9 year olds referred to and receiving services from YSBs through new referral process

Upper Age

• # of 18-21 year olds rearrested after the age of 18

# **JJPOC Strategic Plan - Supports**



- National Consultants
- Research
- Education Committee
- Cross-Agency Data Sharing Workgroup
- Community Expertise Workgroup



## **Questions?**



Next JJPOC Meeting November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 2:00-3:30 PM