

Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee

January 20th, 2022

2pm-4pm

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

Opening Remarks



- OJJDP Announcement
- Thank you Kelly!
- TYJI Open Positions
 - FT Senior Manager Youth Justice Initiatives
 - PT Project Coordinator CIYPR

Meeting Overview

- Acceptance of the December 2021 Meeting Minutes
- Presentations and Voting on the 2022 JJPOC Draft Reports and Recommendations
 - Community Expertise Workgroup
 - Diversion Workgroup
 - RED Workgroup

Timeline

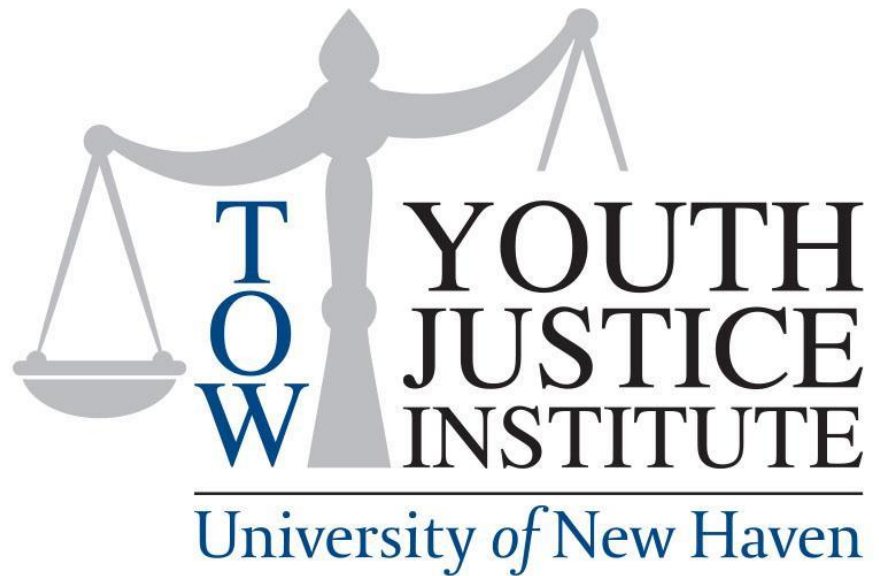
- **December 23, 2021** Draft Recommendations & Reports Distributed to JJPOC Members
- **January 6, 2022** Deadline for all JJPOC Member Feedback
- **January 20, 2022** JJPOC January Meeting (*Voting Meeting*)
- **February 17, 2022** JJPOC February Meeting (*Voting Meeting*)

JJPOC Annual Timeline



Voting Process

- A quorum of 21 JJPOC members must be present
- Appointed authority OR Designee of JJPOC Membership will vote
 - You will see * by your name if you are a voting member
- A vote by hand for each recommendation within the Workgroups
- To raise your hand:
 - By Desktop Zoom App: Click “Participants” icon at the bottom of your screen, then click “Raise Hand”
 - By Zoom Mobile App: Click “More” tab, then click “Raise Hand”
 - By Phone: dial *9
- Consensus shall be reached through a simple majority of members voting “yea”
- Friendly Amendments to any recommendation may be proposed after the presentation by the workgroup co-chairs



Presentation of Proposed 2022 JJPOC Recommendations

JJPOC Workgroup Co-Chairs

Community Expertise Workgroup Recommendations

- A. **JJPOC Membership-** The General Statutes be amended to increase the membership of JJPOC by 4 Community Expertise Workgroup members, two of which must be under the age of 26, who have been impacted by the criminal legal system. Each appointed member will be funded through their sponsor organization for transportation, child care, and stipends to enable member participation. This funding would be provided through an expansion of current contracts.

Community Expertise Workgroup Recommendations

- **Why the CEW was created**
 - **JJPOC strategic plan:** The JJPOC is committed to working with youth and families to participate in and inform JJPOC discussions and decisions, and partnering with them to identify ways to ensure their meaningful, sustainable involvement in the development of JJPOC priorities and recommendations. While hearing individuals' first-hand experiences and stories is valuable and impactful, the authentic partnership is critical to ensure those experiences and reflections guide policy and practice decisions. **The role of this group is to identify and suggest ways to overcome the barriers to equal, sustainable participation with JJPOC work by those who have first-hand experience with the juvenile legal system.**

Community Expertise Workgroup Recommendations

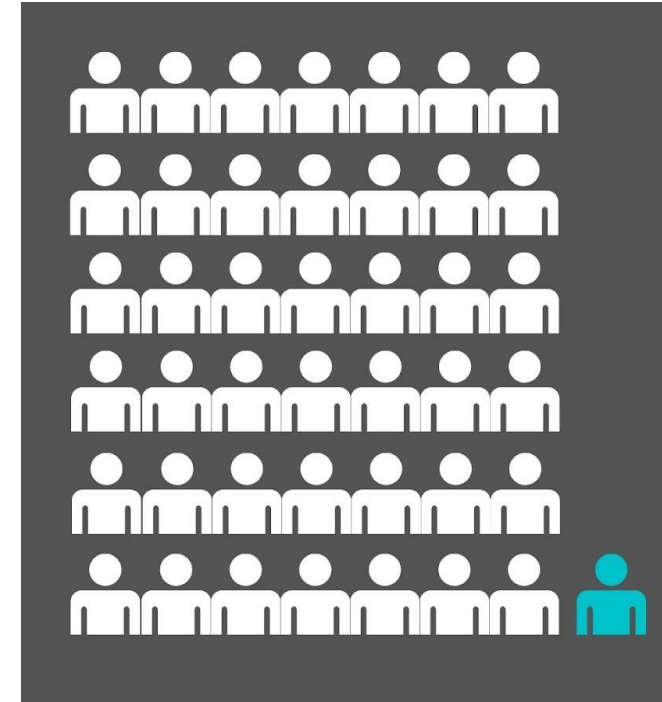
- **Partnership vs Engagement**
 - Engagement = No full commitment, inconsistent, when needed, no voting rights
 - Partnership = Fully committed, consistent, always needed, voting rights
- Validating a partnership would include experience as an expertise contributing to the official decision making of the JJPOC. Appointing these voting seats validates the value behind the expertise of those directly impacted people.

Community Expertise Workgroup Recommendations

- **The ask was amplified by JJPOC members during the youth-led vision session with the Executive Committee**
 - On June 2, 2021, young people from the CEW hosted a youth-led vision session with the JJPOC Executive Committee members. This session gave each member the opportunity to answer 3 questions. Each question resulted in members expressing the need to have directly impacted members informing the work of the JJPOC and partnering with them, including the reintroduction of this recommendation.
- Directly impacted expertise has been included and influenced work from almost all of the working groups including, but not limited to: RTA, Alternatives to Arrest, DOC Judicial transfer plan, phasing out of suspension and expulsions, commissary, racial and ethnic disparities, and more.

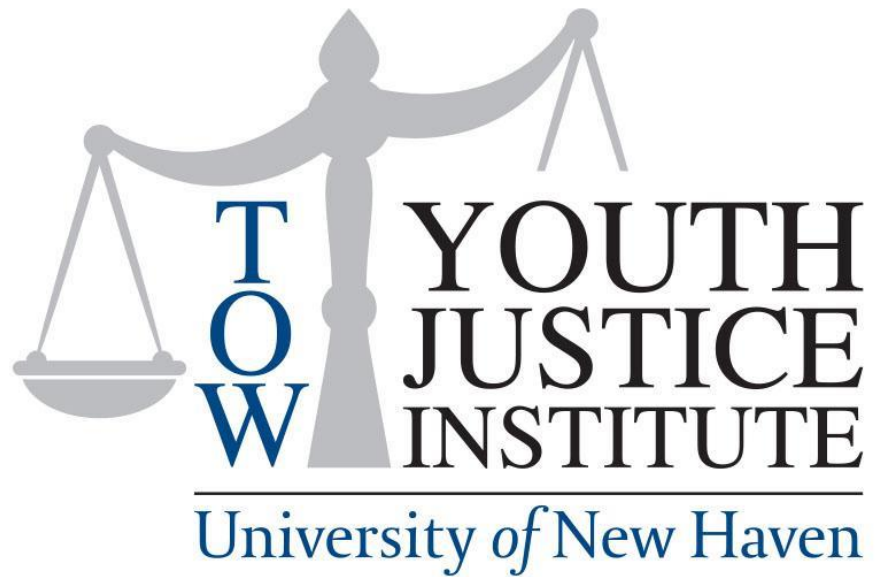
Community Expertise Workgroup Recommendations

- The ratio of voting members that are professionals, compared to those on the JJPOC based on their life experience is drastically inequitable: 42 to potentially 1



Community Expertise Workgroup Recommendations

- **CTJA:** "Having a voting seat means directly impacted voices and needs actually matter. It's time to commit to partnering with those impacted and recognize that experience is our best teacher."
- **CCA:** "We are committed to advocating for a seat at the table because it is the only way our voice will be meaningful. We want to participate and vote with the same authority that every other JJPOC member has. That is the only way we can be heard."
- **FCYE:** "Voting Rights for us means that our voice and our experience matters and we are able to advocate for change for a better outcome within the youth justice system. Without a vote means our voices remain unheard and the continuity of change stagnates."



Discussion & Vote

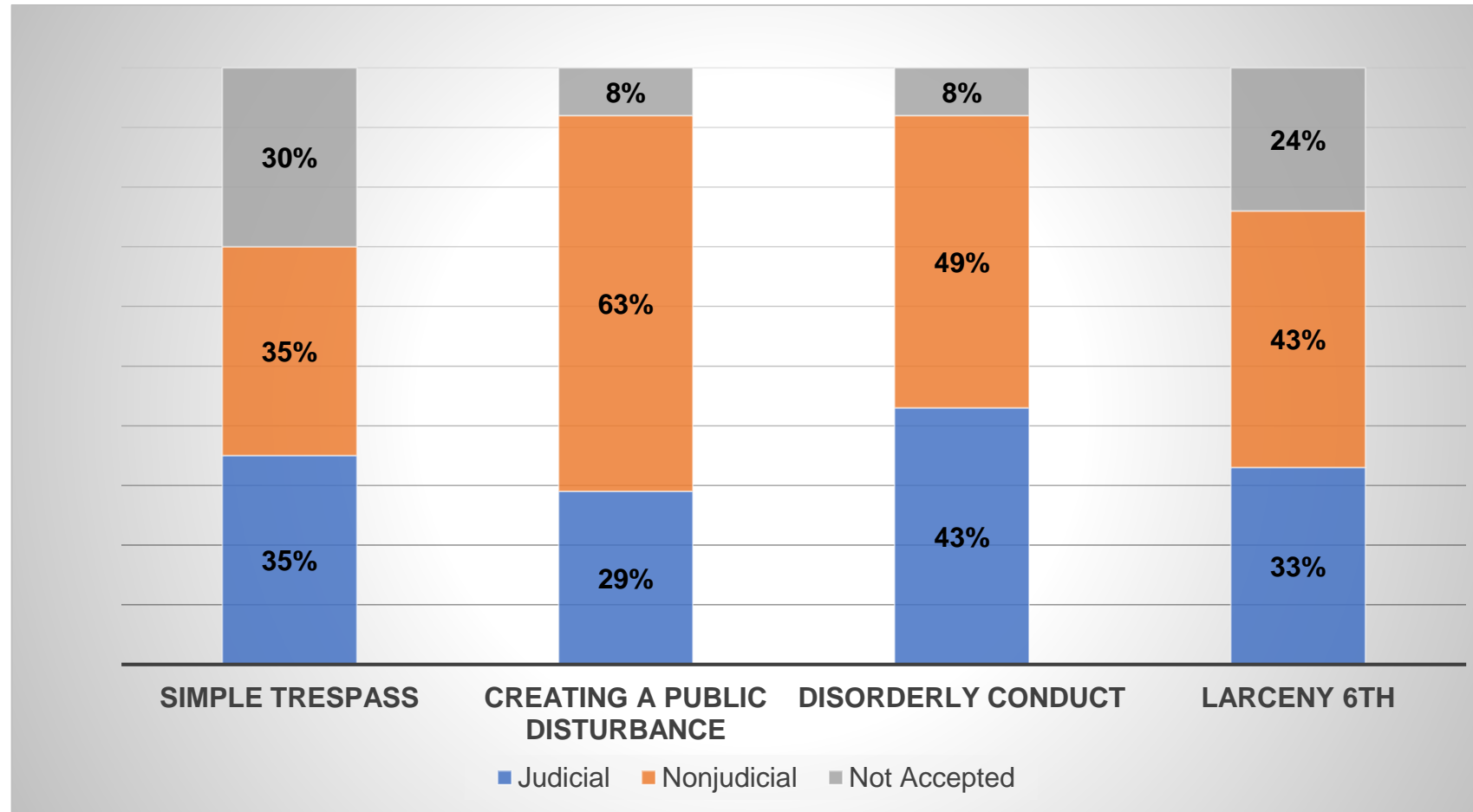
Diversion Workgroup Recommendations

- **Alternatives to Arrest-** Implementation plan with findings and recommendations for mandatory pre-arrest diversion of low-risk children to Youth Service Bureaus or other services for Tier 1 offenses by January 1, 2022
- **Report Outline**
 - Capacity of YSBs and other local agencies to provide services for this population
 - Accountability mechanisms
 - Process for victim input and involvement
 - Data collection for tracking YSB referrals
 - Communication and outreach to stakeholders on accessing local services

Diversion Workgroup Recommendations

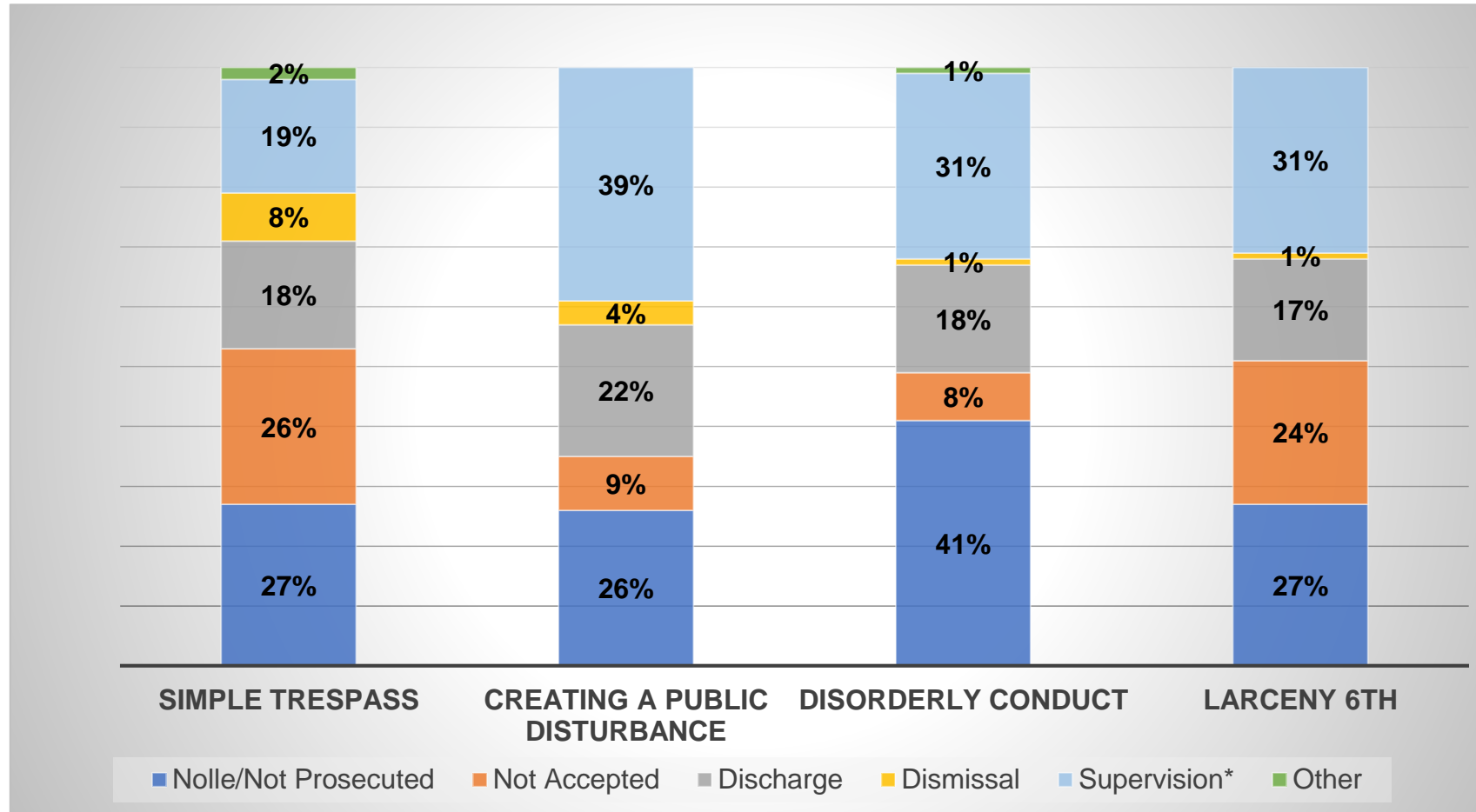
- **Alternatives to Arrest**
 - What has been done:
 - Reviewed YSB/JRB data and CSSD data on Tier 1 Offenses
 - Focus group with YSB/JRB reps
 - Surveyed Law Enforcement
 - Discussed Restorative Practices
 - Reviewed other state models

Court Handling Decisions on Dockets with a Tier I Offense as the Most Serious Statute, 2017-2021



Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division

Dispositions on Dockets with a Tier I Offense as the Most Serious Statute, 2017-2021



*Supervision includes administrative supervision and nonjudicial supervision

Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division

Diversion Workgroup Recommendations

- A. The following behaviors would be automatically diverted pre-arrest to the Community-Based Diversion System for first and second-time offenses. This would (still) allow law enforcement, schools, and other systems to refer youth to a Youth Service Bureau (YSB) or other local agency in lieu of an arrest.
 - 1. Beginning July 1, 2022
 - a. simple trespass under section 53a-110a of the general statutes
 - b. creating a public disturbance under section 53a-181a of the general statutes
 - 2. Beginning January 1, 2023
 - a. disorderly conduct under section 53a-182 of the general statutes
 - b. larceny sixth degree under section 53a-125a or 53a-125b of the general statutes

Diversion Workgroup Recommendations

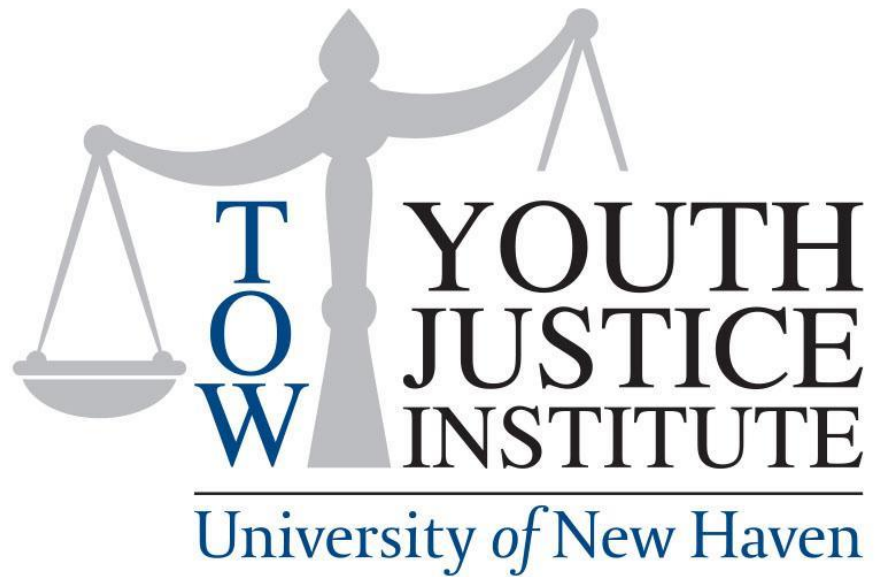
- **Alternatives to Arrest-** Implementation plan additional recommendations
 - Standardize referral process using a JRB/Diversion Ticket Book for law enforcement and YSB referral form for schools
 - Strengthen relationship between police departments and local YSBs/JRBs
 - Law enforcement trainings in identifying and handling youth trauma, local community resources, (and) mentoring, and mental health

Accountability and Referral Tracking

- Cases referred through this process will follow the same procedure as other JRB cases
 - If a youth and family do not agree to participate or if the youth does not complete the recommendations, the referral will be sent back to the referring agency (usually the police). The referring agency will have discretion as to how to handle the case moving forward.
 - Youth are held accountable for their actions utilizing a restorative approach which allows for appropriate victim involvement, restoration of relationships and repair for any harm done.
 - Intake and screening is also used to determine if other supports for services are needed
 - Referrals will always end up in the youth's town of residence. Police departments currently send out of town cases to the corresponding police department in the youth's hometown
 - After a referral is sent to the police department in hometown, they will be able to know if the youth has been arrested prior and/or the YSB will know if the youth has been seen in the JRB before
 - If a youth has prior arrests, then the case may not be eligible for this process and would be handled through referral to Juvenile Court

JRB Cases

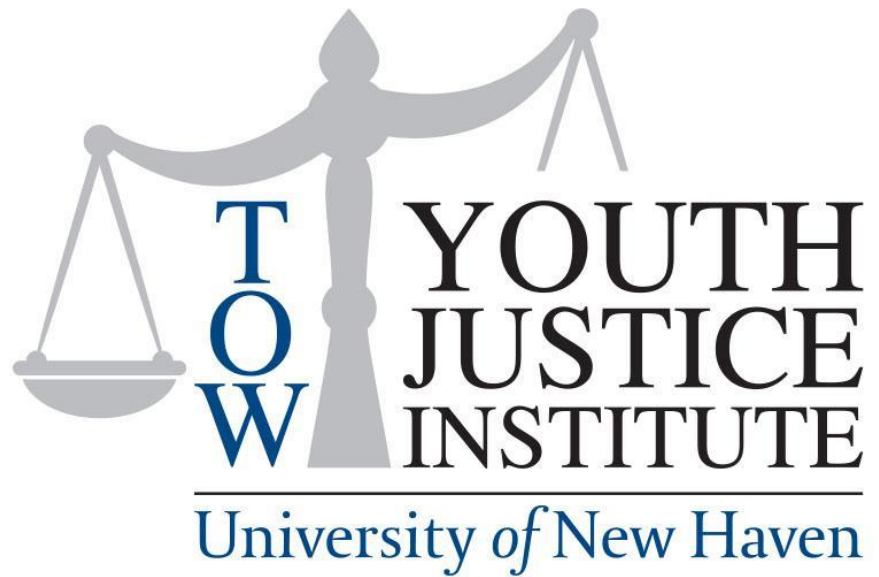
- JRBs currently serve youth who have engaged in the behaviors put forth in this recommendation
- Disorderly Conduct and Larceny 6th are common charges for youth referred to a JRB currently
- Through the restorative process, victims may be involved when appropriate and the JRB contract may include restitution or similar activity
- Appropriate recommendations are made with the youth and family's input and address harm to a victim, a community, or themselves
- Screening and the intake process are used to help identify other needs the family may have or other supports that may help the youth moving forward and services can be provided by the YSB or by making a referral to a community partner



Discussion & Vote

Diversion Workgroup Recommendations

- A. **Funding-** Beginning July 1, 2022, the legislature and the Governor **will begin funding a multi-year plan to strengthen and expand** the community-based diversion system.
1. In addition to the funds for the community-based diversion system, all available funding sources should be considered to address the current crisis, including, but not limited to, utilizing time-limited federal funds until longer term federal opportunities in prevention and diversion can be accessed.
 2. Efforts be coordinated between juvenile justice, behavioral health, education, and prevention services to ensure short-term and sustainable development of the child-serving system.



Discussion & Vote

Diversion Workgroup Recommendations

- A. **(On Hold) Raise the minimum age-** Amend legislation to raise the minimum age of juvenile court jurisdiction from ten years to twelve years.
- Youth and families would access services from the Children's Behavioral Health Services System, Youth Service Bureaus, Juvenile Review Boards, and/or other community based services

Utah raised its minimum age to 12 in May 2020

Nebraska in 2017 raised their MACR to 11

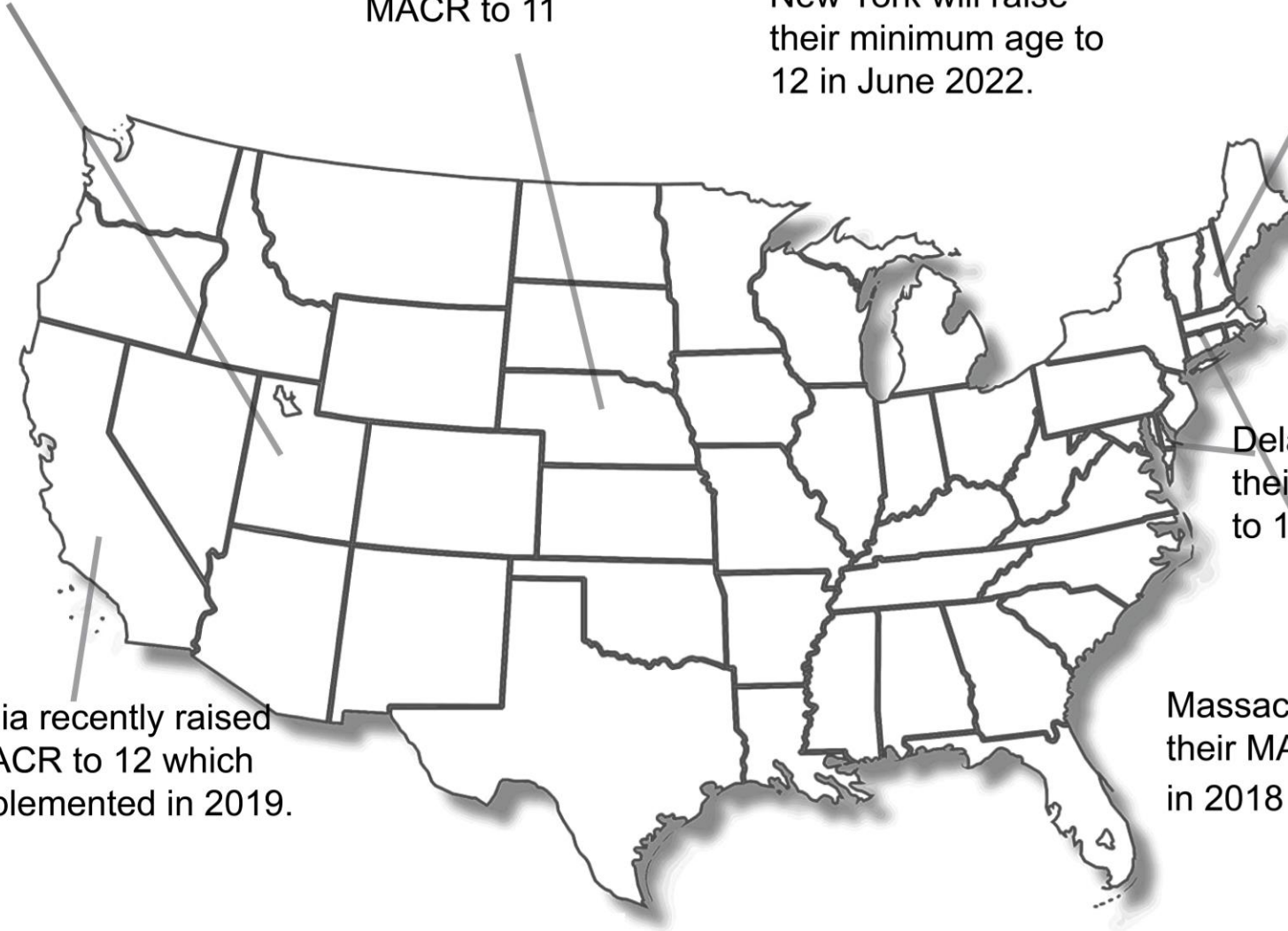
New York will raise their minimum age to 12 in June 2022.

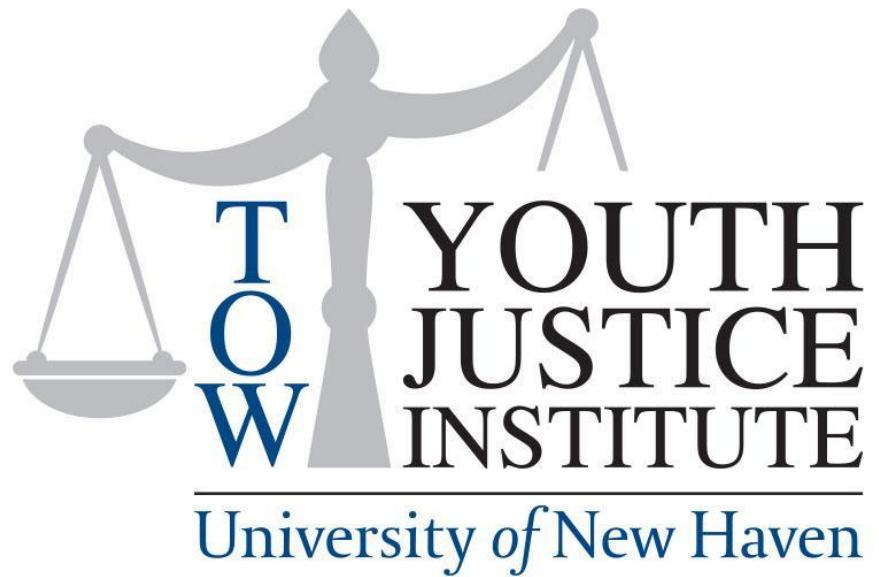
New Hampshire raised their minimum age to 13.

Delaware raised their minimum age to 12.

Massachusetts raised their MACR from 7 to 12 in 2018

California recently raised their MACR to 12 which was implemented in 2019.

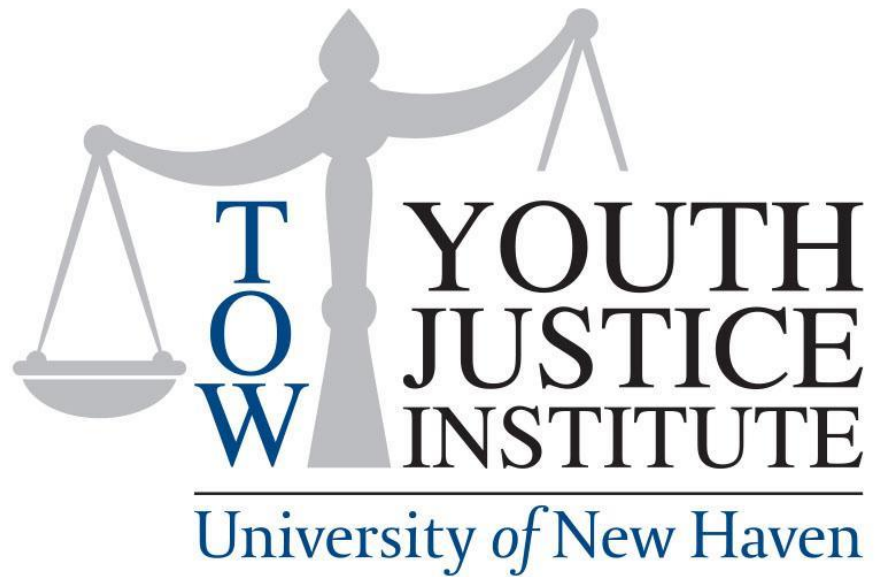




Discussion

RED Workgroup Recommendations

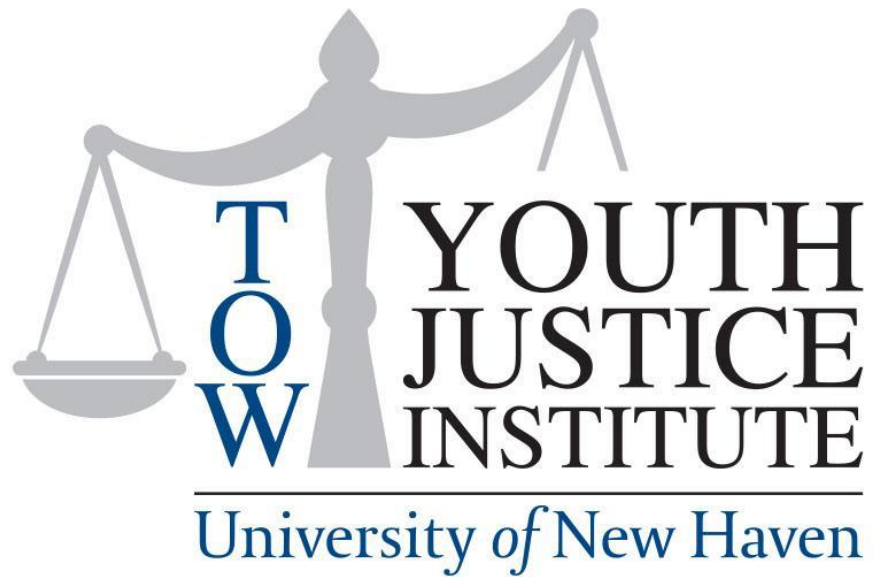
- **Pedestrian Stops**- the provisions of C.G.S. § 54-1m be extended so that racial profiling data is collected on all police stops, whether traffic or pedestrian, giving a full and complete picture of any racial profiling that takes place in the state
 - Last year the workgroup partnered with Racial Profiling Prohibition Project Advisory Board to create legislative language
 - This year the workgroup continue to seek the support and guidance from the Racial Profiling Prohibition Project Advisory Board on language and implementation timelines



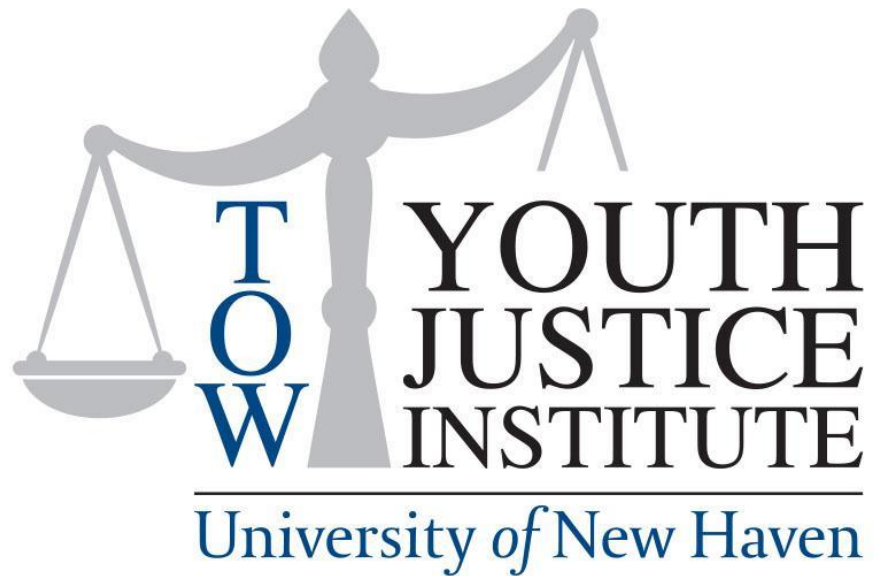
Discussion & Vote

RED Workgroup Recommendations

- **(On Hold) School Resource Officers-** standardize the role, criteria, selection process, and training for all SROs and increase transparency of MOUs
 - Two years of meeting with stakeholder has identified that there is a consensus that there is lack of consistency in the application of the MOU process
 - The workgroup will work with stakeholder over the next to identify modification to the current MOU process to align with best practices



Discussion



Next JJPOC Meeting
February 17th, 2022
2:00-4:00PM *
(voting meeting)