

Restorative Justice

Center for Children's Advocacy
Juvenile Justice Policy & Oversight Committee (JJPOC)

6/16/2022



Background

Martha Stone,
Executive Director
Center for Children's Advocacy

- **2016:** CCA secured funding from Open Society Foundations to initiate a Deep End Diversion Program at CJTS in partnership with Center for Restorative Justice at Suffolk University
- **2017:** CCA and CRJ expanded program to include Children's Center, Waterford Country School, Manson Youth Institution
- **2018-2021:** CCA conducted trainings and coaching in the following CSSD facilities:
 - **Hartford Juvenile Detention Center**
 - **Bridgeport Juvenile Detention Center**



Background

- **2021-present:** CCA expanded to the following facilities:

- **CSSD:**

- Hartford Regions - Secure
- Bridgeport Regions - Secure
- Boys and Girls Village Regions - Staff Secure
- Nafi Afir
- CJR Regions Staff Secure
- CJR Amir
- CJR Trac
- CPA Regions – Staff Secure
- CPA Regions – Secure
- Journey House

- **DCF:**

- Hastings House
- Winifred
- Harwinton
- Freymannon
- Noank

Five Components of Restorative Justice

**LaToya Fernandez,
Restorative Justice Coordinator
Center for Children's Advocacy**

Relationship

Respect

Responsibility

Repair

Reintegration

Panelists:

- **LaToya Fernandez,**
CCA Coordinator,
Restorative Justice Project
- **Kia Levey-Burden,**
former CCA Coordinator,
Restorative Justice Project
- **Verdell Reid,**
Deputy Superintendent,
CSSD Training Academy
- **Luis Roger,**
Shift Manager,
Hartford Juvenile Residential Center

Restorative Justice From The Field

Evaluations

Jason Szanyi
Deputy Director
Center for Children's
Law and Policy

- **June 2018:** “Deep End Diversion Pilot Project Evaluation” written by Yale Consultation Center and funded by Open Society Foundations
- **July 2021:** [“Evaluation of the Implementation of Restorative Justice Programs in Connecticut’s Judicial Branch and Department of Corrections Secure Youth Facilities”](#) written by Center for Children’s Law and Policy and funded by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

CCLP Evaluation: Strengths

- "Insider-outsider" partnership embedded restorative practices that are rarely seen in secure detention settings
- Buy-in, ownership, and expansion of restorative practices promoted by thoughtful implementation plan
- Positive feedback from youth and staff regarding impact: *"You can forget how much these kids have gone through in their lives. Recognizing that helps you see their behaviors in a different way."*
- Strengthen opportunities for youth engagement and partnerships (e.g., conducting Youth Councils in a circle format), and opportunities to embed restorative practices elsewhere
- Data collection and analysis to evaluate impact

CCLP Evaluation: Challenges

- COVID-19, impact on ability to implement strategies as planned, and difficulty with identifying impact and trends
- Benefit from additional capacity for coaching and training on implementation
- Consistency across facilities and units (importance of emphasizing leadership champion work on multiple levels)
- Establishing substantive benchmarks and milestones to expedite implementation (including as feedback loop for administrators)
- Developing and implementing a system-wide, sustainable strategy for training

Demonstration of Restorative Justice Circle



Vision for the Future

- **New Partnership (with funding from OJJDP + 3 agencies):**
 - Court Support Services Division (CSSD)
 - Department of Corrections (DOC)
 - Department of Children and Families (DCF)
 - Center for Restorative Justice (CRJ)
 - Center for Children's Advocacy (CCA)
- **Integration and Sustainability:** Susan Maze-Rothstein, Director, Center for Restorative Justice

Integration & Sustainability



Implementation of the Vision



Restorative Justice Continuum

