October 20, 2022
In-person meeting/ Virtual Option Available
LOB- 300 Capitol Ave Hartford, Room 1D

Attendance:

Rep. Toni Walker	Tais Ericson	**TYJI Staff**
Marc Pelka	Susan Hamilton	Bill Carbone
Anthony Nolan	Brian Casinghino	Sue Cusano
Gary Winfield	Judge Patrick Carroll	Erika Nowakowski
Christina Quaranta	Stacy Schulman	Brittany LaMarr
Erica Bromley	Amy Marracino	Danielle Cooper
Macklin Roman	Lisa Sementilli	Donna Pfrommer
Janeen Reid	Astread Ferron-Poole	Hunter Clark
Hector Glynn	Sarah Eagan	
Martha Stone	Veron Beaulieu	
Thea Montanez	Gwendolyn Samuel	
Robyn Porter	Gary Roberge	
Greg Howard	Judge Dawne Westbrook	

Welcome and Introductions

Undersecretary Marc Pelka and Representative Toni Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Undersecretary Marc Pelka took a moment for the fallen officers of the Bristol Police Department, offering a space for members to offer condolences and have a moment of silence.

Overview of the Meeting

Erika Nowakowski introduced the Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division, who will be presenting on system data presentations, and Office of Policy and Management, who will be presenting on the Equity Dashboard.

Acceptance of JJPOC Meeting Minutes

Representative Toni Walker asked for a motion to accept the September 15, 2022 meeting minutes. The motion was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Judicial Branch Court Support Services-- Division System Data Presentation

The Juvenile Justice system has changed exponentially over the last five years, making it vital to consistently look at the data. The Judicial Branch Court Support Services' Division system data presentation is intended to provide context to stakeholders, with quarterly data from 2017-2022. It is important to note that data regarding the justice system tends to be seasonal in nature- Q3 tends to have the most referrals of the calendar year. Total quarterly delinquent referrals remain lower than pre-pandemic referral rates, with about a 30% drop from the initial pre-pandemic referral levels. There has been some rebound, but the system is seeing about 1500 children per calendar quarter. Racial and ethnic

disparities within the population of young people referred to the juvenile justice system have appeared to lessen as well.

Overall, we are seeing that the system is smaller, but simultaneously more intense than pre-pandemic. In terms of charges, most reduction in volume is seen among misdemeanors. As a result of less misdemeanors being referred, the system is smaller but considered to be catching young people who are considered higher risk. This reduction in volume (down 34% from pre-pandemic levels) but higher risk cohorts is also mirrored in the supervised probation populations (down 31% from pre-pandemic levels); there are fewer young people in the system but those in the system have been indicated as being higher risk by PrediCT risk assessments. The most common referral continues to be conduct-based misdemeanor offenses. Larceny 1 and Larceny 2 are seen more frequently, rising in the rankings of frequency over less severe charges. Delinquent referrals involving Motor Vehicle Theft saw a spike during the pandemic but has seen a decline in referrals. While during the COVID-19 pandemic, there were very few school-related incidents that led to referrals due to classes being remote. School-related incidents are classified as events that have occurred on school grounds or is related to a school activity. Spikes are being seen in school related incidents, due to classes returning to in-person.

Pre-disposition detention admissions are well below pre-pandemic levels, with 2022 being down 34% from pre-pandemic numbers. 12-Month follow-ups on rearrest are showing tiers 3-5 are having over a 50% rearrest rate, with adjudication rates being at or below 50% for all levels (50% for tier 5, below 50% for tiers 1-4).

Program referrals are remaining consistent, with Linking Youth to Natural Community and Multisystemic Therapy being the top referrals in both 2019 (pre-pandemic) and 2022 Q3 reports (422; 112 and 451;182 respectively). Education support services are being utilized more in 2022 by nearly twice the number of referrals. However, probation with residential placement referrals, such as REGIONS, have remained below pre-pandemic levels, with fewer kids being put through residential treatments.

Although the system is smaller in almost every regard, there are still concerns. With the system being considered higher risk than the pre-pandemic system, there naturally tends to be a higher level of recidivism. Even with this, behaviors are continuing to change with the youth that have been referred-whether it be increased time between arrest and rearrest, or reductions in disposition for future offenses. However, the percentage of young people who remain arrest-free during probationary supervision has remained relatively stable to previous years. It is a complex process that it still being worked through to attempt to determine how we can best adjust to help the higher-risk youths involved in the system and/or being referred to the system. The JJPOC acknowledges the shift that has occurred to more high-risk populations and aims to find ways to find what program models work best for these individuals, rather than just giving up on them. These youths are not a lost-cause, but instead just have a different set of needs than the lower-risk young people that used to be in the system.

It is important to share this information with the community, and University of New Haven- along with Tow Youth Justice Institute- are working to create webinars to discuss and disseminate this information

with the public. It remains important that the community is kept informed about what is going on directly in their community in regard to the juvenile justice system, as well as given a space to inform policy makers on their experiences and what supports they need. Creating an open line of communication between the community, the youth, and the JJPOC is vital to best serving the community.

There are tentative presentations scheduled by the Cross-Agency Data Sharing Workgroup. Spotlight presentations are as follows:
- Dec 2022—JRB/YSB Diversion System
- March 2023— CT State Department of Ed
- July 2023— Department of Children and Families
- September 2023— Department of Corrections

Office of Policy and Management Equity Dashboard Presentation

The Equity Dashboard originated as a recommendation from CT's Improving Outcome for Youth Initiatives (IOYouth) in 2020. The IOYouth statewide task force was developed in 2019 with the goal of assessing whether recent juvenile justice system reforms had been implemented as originally intended, while determining the impact of these reforms. The implementation kicked-off as a collaboration between the JJPOC workgroups 'Racial and Ethnic Diversity' and 'Cross-Agency Data Sharing'. Throughout 2020, a focus group (comprised of members from the Racial and Ethnicity Disparities Workgroup, the Cross-Agency Data Sharing Workgroup, Court Support Services Division, and Office of Policy Management Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division met to refine and develop the dashboards' implementation approach by focusing on 1) identifying potential sources of data for the recommended measures 2) refining the measures to align with collected data more closely and 3) prioritize available data for initial development.

While determining the implementation planning, key decisions were established that outlined the judicial branch as being responsible for providing aggregate data for the priorized measures initially outlined in the dashboard, while allotting responsibility to OPM for hosting the public-facing dashboard. OPM's Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division's Research Unit also obtained Bureau of Justice Statistics grant funding to support cross-branch data exchange and dashboard development- receiving $175,413 for total funding across three years.

OPM began facilitating collaborative dashboard developments between stakeholders. Key development tracks were identified, as well as key next steps in development, that were presented to the JJPOC in November 2021. These next steps included things such as: 1) Revise mock-ups based on work group feedback. 2) Utilize static draft data metrics to develop draft dashboard design 3) Present draft dashboard design to work group 4) Revise design based on work group feedback. 5) Present dashboard tool review & revised design to Racial and Ethnic Disparities and Cross-Agency Data Sharing workgroups. These previously identified steps have shown to, by in large, been completed by 2022.

Within monthly meetings between OPM's team and judicial branch throughout 2022, many key technical accomplishments have been made based on the needs that had been identified during development presentations in November of 2021. Data has been validated, with the judicial branch currently revising and finalizing data extract for official launch. A secure exchange process for data sharing between branches has been identified, which will allow for more frequent updates of data in the future, hopefully to being updated in a quarterly style. Data can be transformed for privacy and best visualization presentation; in the case of small cell sizes measures can be obscured to protect privacy while still being utilized in a way that supports dashboard visualizations. Steps have been taken by OPM to protect individual privacy where potentially identifying aggregate information from the Judicial Branch is being used (if there are below 5, this data will NOT be used, for privacy reasons). Infrastructure has been developed to transform the aggerate data into its most appropriate visualization. The current dashboard is hosted by Socrata (through Open Data), with visualization hosted in Tableau.

Keys to the design and development of the equity dashboard prioritized collaboration with the JJPOC members and acknowledged that needs must be addressed for a variety of different audiences. The design model incorporated multiple voices, including representatives from the Racial and Ethnic Disparities work group, Judicial Branch, OPM data and policy analytics unit, Tow Youth Justice Institute, African Caribbean American Parents of Children with Disabilities, Connecticut Justice Alliance, and Center for Children's Law and Policy. Regular bi-weekly, moderated convenings of the work group were scheduled for discussion of design consideration and draft visualizations. Consensus was reached that this dashboard must meet the Racial and Ethnic Disparities Workgroup's equity monitoring needs, each measure should have a separate and dedicated page, and initial focus should be on a single, principal measure- with additional measures being added over time. By highlighting the need for the dashboard to meet workgroup's needs, it allows for the opportunity for policy recommendations to be data-driven and evidenced-based knowledge specifically related to Connecticut's youth and justice system. The group also stressed the need for the page to be user-friendly, with the information being accessible for support of multiple audiences, while also encouraging users to access additional resources to facilitate better public understanding of CT's Juvenile Justice System. Between convenings, iterative development springs occurred to incorporate feedback that was discussed. At the beginning of each convening, representatives were shown the changes, where the feedback could be further re-incorporated into future development and design. Representatives at the convenings reviewed the design of similar equity dashboards, including those from other states (Colorado, Minnesota, and Oregon). A collaborative site review process will be utilized before publication for public release, during this process designees from key stakeholders can confirm and refine site materials for OPM's final publication.

The hope is for the site to launch in early 2023, with information regarding delinquent referrals, non-judicial handlings, dispositions of first-time felonies, and detention. At the moment, the draft of data is from 2019 to Q1 of 2022. The dashboard can be looked at for specific years, or as an overall trend across all years in which there is available data. It can also be able to be broken down by age, gender, race/ethnicity, with hopes to also break down by location/town. The dashboard aims to track demographic information and keep this information easily accessible to the public.

University *of* New Haven

HENRY C. LEE COLLEGE OF
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND FORENSIC SCIENCES

YOUTH
JUSTICE
INSTITUTE

CIYPR Listening Session

CIYPR invites you to join our 2022 listening sessions. We will be hosting listening sessions to learn what community policing issues are most important to people—especially youth and families—in Connecticut. The sessions are open to community members of all ages and partner organizations. All events start at 6:00 PM and will last approximately 1.5 hours. Please join us and help spread the word to ALL CT residents who would like to share their voices as we plan future CIYPR trainings. Online via Zoom: Thursday, October 20th and Monday, November 7th.

Next Meeting:
Hybrid Model Option (In person and available over zoom)
November 17, 2022
2:00-3:30 PM