

**Connecticut Juvenile Training School**  
**Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes, 6/28/16**

**Present:** Karl Alston, Deputy Director, CSSD; Debra Bond, CJTS Clinical Director; William Carbone, Senior Lecturer and Director of Experiential Education, University of New Haven; Francis Carino, Supervising Assistant State's Attorney; Liz D'Amico, Ph.D., LCSW Behavioral Health Clinical Director; Antonio DePina, DCF Parole Services; John DiPilla, CJTS Assistant Superintendent; Joette Katz, DCF Commissioner; Eugene Riccio, Young & Riccio; William Rosenbeck, CJTS Superintendent; Ann Smith, JD, MBA, Executive Director, AFCAMP

**Guests:** Danté Bartolomeo, State Senator; John Beazoglou, LCSW, CJTS Supervising Clinician; Ken Mysogland, DCF Ombudsman; Jacqueline Rabe Thomas, Reporter, *The Connecticut Mirror*

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**Welcome**

This meeting was scheduled for 6/14/16, but due to a scheduling conflict it was rescheduled to 6/28/16. The meeting began with introductions.

**Review of January, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Minutes were accepted as written.

**2016 Admission Data**

Admission data was shared with the group and it represents five months of 2016 (1/1/16 – 5/31/16). It represents a 43% decrease in new admissions and an increase in parole admissions. The length of stay is a little shorter for Caucasian boys. Atty. Carino asked if there was an explanation for the decrease in admissions. Mr. Carbone stated that Judicial did not add any services so how do we account for such a substantial drop off. Mr. Alston added that there are 70 boys in residence in detention. Mr. Rosenbeck stated that as of today the census is at 47 and the largest drop off is in new commitments. The kids that are in residence have significant criminal histories. Some youth are actually questioning how they were admitted vs. other kids. It is difficult to surmise whether they are just not getting picked up or whether they are being diverted. For a while there was the “Ferguson Effect” where police were feeling that unless it is a public issue, they did not intervene. Atty. Carino added that he is hearing there is some confusion around who is an adult or a juvenile. We will see the system correct itself. Mr. DePina stated that as of late he is seeing an increase in community activity and an increase in suspended commitments. Commissioner Katz stated she will look to see if Orders of Temporary Custody (OTC) is increasing on the protective side in certain courts where commitments are going down. We do know that overall commitments may be

down but they are more significant. Mr. DePina added that of 47 youth in his area 17 are Serious Juvenile Offenders (SJO) and of the 17, 15 are 4 year SJO's.

### **Article: The Connecticut Juvenile Training School: The Myth and the Reality**

Clinician John Beazoglou wrote this article which was published in the Connecticut Health Quarterly, winter 2015-16 edition and was invited to present it to the board. This publication is mailed to Connecticut legislators. Mr. Beazoglou stated that about a year ago he was asked questions especially around substance abuse outcome measures. He gathered data and knew anecdotally that kids were leaving CJTS feeling better about themselves. The next step was to see if they were taking the skills they learned at CJTS and using them in the community. In 2015 about 60% of the boys in residence were diagnosed with substance abuse. What we found was that out of 141 juveniles 44 remained abstinent. We tracked parole and found that 67 kids fully completed parole without getting arrested. In many ways we wanted to see if our programming was effective. CJTS has been utilizing Seven Challenges program since 2004 which is an evidence-based program that is used in at least 35 states, but it is not offered in the community. With Length of Stay Protocol we are finding that boys are not able to complete the Seven Challenges program, so do we need to adjust the LOS? Atty. Carino asked whether we could bring the boys back to complete the program and the same may apply whether the boys can come back and complete their education in a day program setting. Dr. Bond stated that the developer of Seven Challenges emphasizes not to rush the program. Even though it can be completed in 4-6 months, we do not start it until after their initial 30 days in the Intake unit. We are balancing the LOS guide as new kids would get a 5 month discharge date and it is becoming more of a time model and not a treatment model. Kids feel that unless they act out they can leave in 6 months instead of engaging in treatment. Mr. Carbone added that there is some evidence that dosage matters and asked if there are better ways to motivate them. Unless they have significant behavior issues, they can leave. Seven Challenges is part of their treatment plan but not part of their discharge plan and we do not currently keep kids here to complete treatment. Rushford is the only other place that offers Seven Challenges. There was a grant to offer it through FREE program but that did not come into fruition. Mr. Beazoglou reached out to other facilities and there are not a lot of programs that measure outcomes once they leave. Also CJTS cannot be blamed for the kids' outcomes when they are only with us for six months and they only came to us after they failed in every other program; it is the last resort. Senator Bartolomeo asked for the link to this article as she would like to forward it to the JJPOC and other Committees. Mr. Carbone agrees that the data is encouraging.

### **Fernando Muñiz – Update**

Mr. Muñiz was not able to make this meeting due to a schedule conflict. He did present an update at the last JJPOC meeting where he indicated that he is close to getting this report out for public comment by the end of July. He has a focus group with the boys scheduled on 7/6/16. Atty. Carino stated that OPM Secretary Barnes talked about 4 options at the last JJPOC. He questioned why close this facility and if there is a way to

correct it rather than close it. Senator Bartolomeo stated that the corrective action plan and the architectural plan is a great place to start. Much of what was identified in the corrective plan was already addressed.

### **Public Comments**

Child Advocates Sarah Eagan and Heather Panciera along with James Connolly of the Office of the Chief Public Defenders were present during the meeting. Atty. Eagan thanked Mr. Beazoglou for the presentation. Mr. Beazoglou added that he will continue to collect data and do a report every three months. Atty. Eagan stated that the connection to substance abuse seems low in the community. Mr. DePina stated that parole is having an issue keeping kids engaged in programs in the community. Atty. Eagan added it may be useful to look at what percentage of kids are engaged when they leave. Atty. Eagan stated that majority of the boys that were rearrested, had documented substance abuse in the community, with that OCA identifies this as a priority. Atty. Carino stated that with CSSD stopping some programs, DCF may be in a position to pick them up. Senator Bartolomeo stated that this reinforces the fact that closing CJTS without the framework leaves the young men without a fighting chance to succeed. Atty. Eagan agreed that if kids are not connected they will flounder in the community. She added that Hartford Hospital has a program with a lot of openings but is not sure if there is available across the regions. Senator Bartolomeo asked for more information about this program which Atty. Eagan agreed to provide. In addition Senator Bartolomeo stated that with LOS and lack of programs we are in a position for setting these kids up for failure and budgetary wise some of these programs will not be out there. That is why OPM Secretary Barnes is looking at the fact that closing CJTS is not as easy as we thought. Atty. Eagan added that a conversation about what is available and to identify the needs is necessary. CSSD and DCF were supposed to create an inventory of what we have and Commissioner Katz will check in with Linda Dixon if that was done.

*Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.*

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Irene Yanaros*