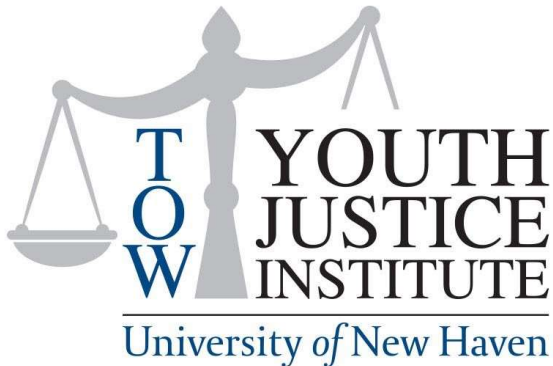




Groundbreaking Change in the Education of Youth in Juvenile Justice Facilities

February 22, 2021

Kickoff Meeting Held for New Education Plan!



On Thursday, February 18, 2021, the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) proposed and approved a groundbreaking recommendation that will change the way in which youth in juvenile justice facilities are educated!

The plan for this system change is to establish an implementation team that would assist the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in the development of an operational plan to create the unit within the agency. This Implementation Team, a short-term group comprised of individuals and agencies who may be affected by these proposed changes, is led by the Department for Children and Families with administrative support provided by the Tow Youth Justice Institute. The kickoff meeting was held on February 4th in anticipation of this recommendation being approved.

The Implementation Team is charged with developing the operational plan, as well as a timeline, funding plan, and other measures. Planning activities will include a:

- Review of current educational services provided in all facilities
- Discussion on standards, compliance, and accountability
- Discussion on responsibilities regarding reporting, data management, and contract management

The Implementation Team shall provide a report back to the JJPOC by September 2021. The team includes:

- Catherine Foley Geib, CT Judicial Branch
- Patricia Nunez, CT Judicial Branch
- Dei Nesmith, State Department of Education
- John Frassinelli, State Department of Education
- Lisa Lamenzo, State Department of Education
- Melissa Hickey, State Department of Education
- Michael Williams, Department of Children and Families
- Martin M Folan, Department of Children and Families
- Vincent J. Russo, Department of Children and Families
- Representative Robyn Porter, JJPOC Education Committee Co-Chair
- Amy Vatner, JJPOC Education Committee Co-Chair/The Village for Children and Family
- Veron Beaulieum, Department of Correction
- Verna Ruffin, Waterbury Public Schools
- Chris Leone, Waterbury Public Schools
- Marc Pelka, Office of Policy and Management
- Erika Nowakowski and Kelly Orts, (support staff) Tow Youth Justice Institute