



Nancy Wyman

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Youth and Urban Violence Commission

May 15, 2015

Cabinet Attendees: Nancy Wyman, Jill Spinetti, Alice Forrester, Clayton Northgraves, David McGuire, Joette Katz, Mark McKinney, Adrienne Cochrane, Barbara Tinney, Brian Foley, Andrew Woods, Carleton Giles, Joe Carbone, Natasha Pierre, Ryan Matthews, Kim Buchanan, Glenn Cassis, Bob Francis, Jeana Bracey, Andrew Papachristos, Susan Storey, Mike Lawlor, Brent Peterkin, Vernon Riddick, Megan Quattlebaum, Nancy Turner (designee for Karen Jarmoc)

Absent: Scot Esdaile, Jillian Knox, Dr. Manuel Rivera, Scott Jackson, Samuel S. Gray, Jr.

Agenda Item	Topic	Discussion	Action
1.	Call to order	None.	
2.	Public Comment	No public comment.	
3.	Review & Approval of 4/13/15 minutes	None.	Carleton Giles made motion to approve, Andrew Woods seconded. Minutes approved by unanimous voice vote.
4.	Introductions	Commissioners introduced themselves.	
5.	Juvenile Justice and Education - Cyd Oppenheimer, Senior Policy Advisor,	Cyd Oppenheimer began by saying that Connecticut Voices for Children is a nonprofit with a mission that all Connecticut children will have the opportunity to achieve their full	

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	<p>Connecticut Voices for Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sarah Iverson, Policy Fellow, Connecticut Voices for Children - Edie Joseph, Policy Fellow, Connecticut Voices for Children 	<p>potential. They work to achieve this through research and data analysis that leads them to make recommendations about public policy. In recent years, their focus has really been around the intersection of education and juvenile justice. In particular, they have been looking closely at what they term exclusionary school discipline or forms of school discipline that remove kids from the classroom (in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, and arrest). Why does this matter to the Governor’s Commission on Youth and Urban Violence? Sarah Iverson would say for three reasons. First, there is the school-to-prison pipeline. Arrest in school is often an entry point into the juvenile justice system and, once kids are mired in the juvenile justice system, it can be very difficult to leave that system so understanding the causes of school arrest and who is being arrested, what the reasons they are being arrested, and what we can do to impact that is important to stopping that pipeline. Number two, she thinks we need to understand that children spend a good part of their day in school and the things that are happening in school need to be looked at when we look at how we can reduce urban and youth violence so we need to be looking at school climate, positive behavioral supports, and alternatives to exclusionary discipline to make sure kids are getting the supports they need to succeed in school and out of it. And third, when you look at the criminal justice system and who is most impacted by urban and youth violence, we see that children of color and children from poorer socioeconomic backgrounds are disproportionately impacted. When you look at the children who are being impacted by exclusionary school discipline, those most likely to be suspended, arrested, and expelled,</p>	

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		<p>we see that same disproportionality so, if we, again, want to impact one we have to be looking at the other. They recently released a report called “Keeping Kids in Class” that looked specifically at trends in exclusionary school discipline from 2008 to 2013 statewide and then looked specifically at trends in regard to base socioeconomic status and special education status.</p> <p>Sarah Iverson spoke a little more specifically about what they found. Edie Joseph answered members’ questions.</p>	
6.	Personal Perspectives on the Juvenile Justice System- Charles Grady, Program Director, Project Longevity, Bridgeport	<p>“Project Longevity” is a joint effort with the U.S. Dept. of Justice to reduce gun violence in CT’s major cities. It was launched in New Haven and has expanded to Hartford and Bridgeport.</p> <p>The committee heard personal perspectives on the juvenile justice system from two young men. Mr. Lewis and Mr. Bigelow spoke about their experiences with Project Longevity and how they are giving back to their community by mentoring other youth. Mr. Lewis and Mr. Bigelow spoke about the need for jobs, and how job and housing opportunities provided by Project Longevity were instrumental to their success. Both Mr. Lewis and Mr. Bigelow explained how their time in prison contributed to their criminality.</p>	
7.	Organization of Subcommittees	<p>Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman sent out a memo asking for suggestions on how to break down the committee and make sure that certain things are relevant for certain age groups. Andrew Woods thought that adding structure was a good start. There are things that cut across all age groups like</p>	

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		<p>poverty issues and social culture issues. He asked about chairmanships. Lt. Governor Wyman's idea was that members will prioritize which subcommittees they want to be on. Barbara Tinney asked, if members have staff that has expertise in these different age groups, then would it be possible for them to join a subcommittee as additional resources. Natasha Pierre liked that idea because it gets non-appointed people involved. Lt. Governor Wyman agreed that more people being involved are better. She said, within the subcommittee, those that have people with expertise can bring them in. There will be an at large committee meeting in June, and the subcommittees will meet in July, and August and September. In October, the at large committee will meet again to hear from the subcommittees about their findings and recommendations. Subcommittees will be responsible for their own staffing and organization, although Jennifer Putetti from Lt. Governor's office will help with securing rooms in the LOB. A list of committee membership will be sent before the next meeting. Michael Lawlor suggested that they can get academics involved. He thinks people would be interested in doing research in a subcommittee-type process. They do not necessarily need a budget for staff because the members have resources.</p>	
8.	Next Steps	<p>The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 8, at 3:00pm in the Legislative Office Building.</p>	
9.	Adjourn	<p>Lt. Governor Wyman asked for motion to adjourn.</p>	<p>Carleton Giles made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andrew Woods.</p>

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