



# State of Connecticut Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division

## November 2022 JB-CSSD Quarterly Chronicle

*Featuring:*

*Juvenile Probation Services & Juvenile Residential Services*

Hello JB-CSSD,

I can't believe we are approaching the end of yet another year. It amazes me how fast time goes, but I can tell you that across all disciplines in our division, 2022 has been a highly productive and rewarding year. I can't thank you all enough for your commitment, hard work and professionalism. You are simply "getting it done" and for that I thank you. I am currently conducting field office visits in our adult probation offices and should have visited all offices by Thanksgiving. At the start of 2023 I will be going out to our Bail, Family, Juvenile Probation and Residential Centers. It has been great to get back to in-person field meetings and I am looking forward to seeing and talking with you in your offices.

Back to the Chronicle, I am very excited to share some outstanding information with you about the great work going on in our Juvenile Residential Centers and in our Juvenile Probation offices. This Chronicle highlights that work and I can't thank Cathy Foley Geib and Tasha Hunt enough for their hard work, leadership and commitment to our core responsibility of risk reduction. They are tremendous colleagues and I am fortunate to have Cathy and Tasha on my team.

Please note, I have added a new section to the Chronicle which you will see at the end of this publication. As I noted earlier in this message, we are doing great work every day in the Branch and making differences in people's lives, families and our communities. It doesn't get any better than that! Each Chronicle I will be working with my management team to identify and highlight someone that is going above and beyond. The "hoodie" is a small acknowledgement of my appreciation for their hard work and commitment to the Branch and the people we serve.

Lastly, we all have many things to be thankful for. Please take a moment during this Thanksgiving holiday to reflect upon those things. I wish you and your families a happy and healthy Thanksgiving, Holiday Season and New Year. I am looking forward to continuing our great work into 2023 and having another productive year.

Please take good care.

Gary



# Juvenile Probation Services

## JB-CSSD Chronicle Article



### Forensic Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Initiative (F-CBT)

Connecticut Juvenile Probation is on record for becoming the first juvenile probation department to partner with the academic community to implement Forensic Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (F-CBT), a model of interaction between probation officers and clients that incorporates motivational, cognitive behavioral, and risk-based concepts into community supervision sessions. The F-CBT initiative originated with a collaboration between the JBCSSD Adult Probation Services, Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), and the University of Southern Maine on a 2012 “SMART Probation” grant from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance. The grant sought to enhance the supervision skills of probation officers through training and coaching in CBT skills. The goal of F-CBT is to foster client awareness of the relationship between thinking and behavior and recidivism reduction. An evaluation found that officers trained in F-CBT practices had more risk-relevant discussions with clients, displayed more empathy, built more collaborative relationships with clients, and had lower client 6-month recidivism rates following training. Congratulations to all the trained and certified Juvenile Probation F-CBT graduates!

### Tiered Risk Model

Juvenile Probation Services in collaboration with Connecticut academia has developed and validated a new comprehensive, objective risk assessment tool called the PrediCT (Prospective Risk Evaluation for Delinquency in Connecticut). This new tool provides Juvenile Probation Officers with a more detailed assessment of a juvenile’s risk-relevant life domains. Several derivative instruments have been created: PrediCT Motor Vehicle Screener (PrediCT-MV-s), PrediCT Non-Judicial Screener (PrediCT-NJ-s), and most recently, PrediCT Screener (PrediCT-s). The new tool informs case handling decisions, allows Juvenile Probation Officers to target areas likely to reduce recidivism more accurately, and sorts clients into one of five supervision tiers based on their risk and needs. Connecticut Juvenile Probation is the first juvenile jurisdiction to use a tiered risk approach, which has historically been limited to the adult system. This homegrown, validated model is not offense-driven, but rather, a holistic approach to supervision and services. Juvenile Probation Services continues to collaborate with CCSU around the quality assurance of this model.

### Academic Partnership

There are many exciting academic partnerships to look forward to with Juvenile Probation Services, including the Opportunity Based Probation Pilot (OBP) with the University of Washington. OBP is a new and innovative approach to probation supervision based on the science of adolescent brain development that was developed jointly between Pierce County Juvenile Court of Washington State and the University of Washington through an Annie E. Casey Probation Transformation Grant. OBP supports youth by developing and meeting personalized goals during probation supervision. When goals are achieved they are reinforced by various incentives. The approach is aligned with emerging research which indicates that positive reinforcement is more effective in helping youth achieve meaningful and consistent behavior change. A special thank you to the Hartford Juvenile Probation office for co-designing and piloting OBP!

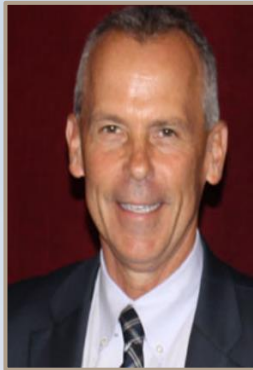


# REACHING HOME

17<sup>th</sup> annual

## AWARDS CELEBRATION

# 2022 AWARDEES



Gary A. Roberge



Tasha Hunt



Michael Aiello



Sharon Green

## Diane Randall Leadership

Each year, the Partnership for Strong Communities hosts the Reaching Home Awards Ceremony, bringing together hundreds of policymakers, advocates, and service providers who help prevent and end homelessness across the state. The Reaching Home Awards Ceremony celebrates the collaborative successes of Connecticut's housing advocates, leaders, and organizations, and the enormous progress made to provide vital services to those who have experienced homelessness. In May 2022, JBCSSD was awarded the Diane Randall Leadership Award, which recognizes an individual or group who demonstrates exemplary leadership in the public or private sector by promoting systems change, policies, and funding that create solutions to prevent and end homelessness.

The joint efforts of the JBCSSD team directed by Executive Director Gary Roberge, Program Manager Michael Aiello, Deputy Director Tasha Hunt, and Regional Manager Sharon Green led to new and innovative methods of tackling homelessness for justice-involved adults and youth, including implementing a housing survey which allows JBCSSD to identify and plan for their housing needs. Tasha and Sharon played an integral role in the statewide implementation of the juvenile housing survey and the development of Connecticut's first Minor Community Care Team model in the Stamford Judicial District. Because of their contributions, Juvenile Probation Services is bridging the gap between minors and the resources they need to stay housed and successfully transition into adulthood.



# Juvenile Probation Employee Recognition Ceremony

Earlier this year, Juvenile Probation Services held its 3rd Annual Employee Recognition Ceremony, which acknowledges the outstanding work and accomplishments of Juvenile Probation staff. JPS staff members were nominated by their peers and confirmed by the JBCSSD leadership. The awardees are as follows:

## T.E.A.M Spirit Award: Juvenile Probation Officer Victoria Bui (Bridgeport)

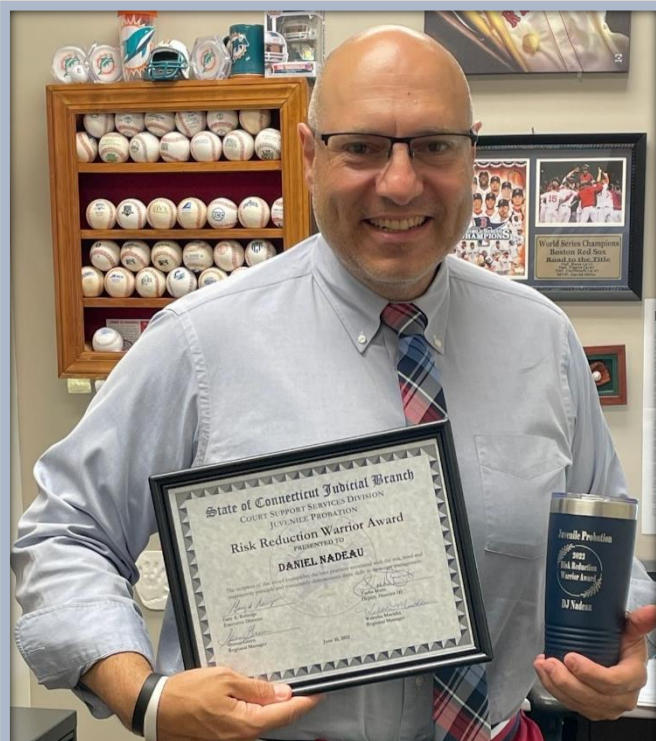
Victoria embraces the concept of Together Everyone Achieves More. She consistently, without having to be asked and with no negative impact on her performance, plans and engages in activities that increase the overall positive atmosphere in the office and boost the morale of her coworkers. Victoria is also the Office Party Planning Committee point person and she voluntarily committed to organizing office celebrations. Victoria's dedication extends to her clients. She has organized numerous collections in her office and even put together holiday care packages and food baskets for clients and their families. Victoria's energetic and positive attitude in the office contributes to the positive office morale.



T.E.A.M Spirit Award:  
Juvenile Probation Officer  
(Bridgeport)  
Victoria Bui

## Risk Reduction Warrior Award: Juvenile Probation Officer D.J. Nadeau (New Britain)

D.J. exemplifies the best practices associated with the risk, need, and responsivity principle and consistently demonstrates these skills in his case management. D.J.'s use of Forensic Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (FCBT) techniques when engaging with clients shows the strong rapport and nonjudgmental approach that leads to in-depth conversations related to the underlying risks in their lives. As a juvenile probation officer, D.J. gains insight into his clients' strengths and relevant risk areas and is not afraid to challenge their thought processes.

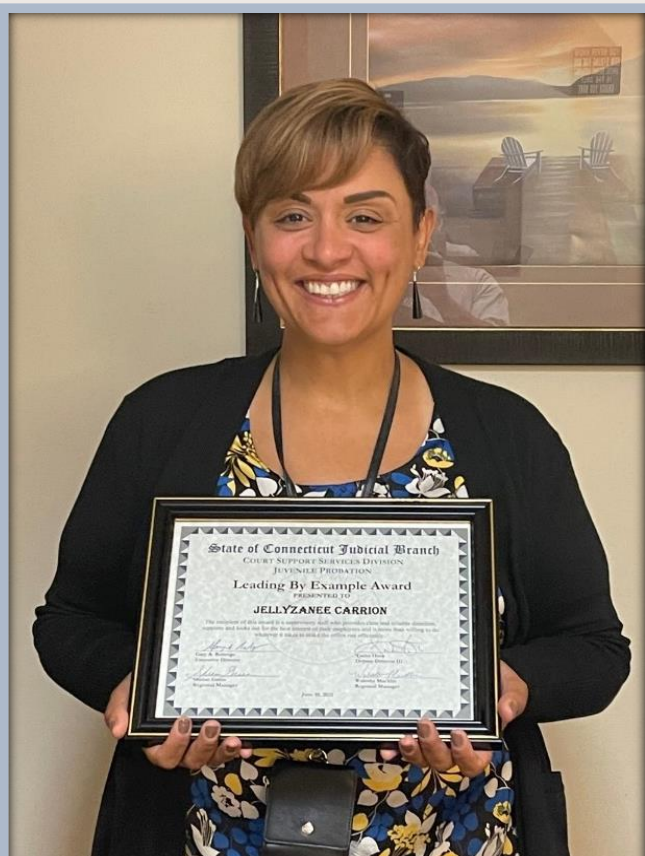


Risk Reduction Warrior Award:  
Juvenile Probation Officer  
(New Britain)  
D.J. Nadeau



**Leading by Example Award:  
Juvenile Probation Supervisor  
Jellyzanee Carrion (Hartford)**

Jelly provides clear and reliable direction, supports and looks out for the best interest of her employees, and is more than willing to do whatever it takes to make the office run efficiently. She is the epitome of a solid leader who unexpectedly had to take on the Supervisor II role in their office and did so without missing a beat. The nominees chose Jelly because, on top of having to unexpectedly lead one of the largest offices in the state as the sole supervisor, she did so through significant staffing changes, running multiple pilot projects, navigating policy changes, and attending mandatory meetings and training, all while continuing to support probation officers and support staff to the fullest.



**Leading by Example Award:  
Juvenile Probation Supervisor  
(Hartford)  
Jellyzanee Carrion**

**Community Champion Award:  
Juvenile Probation Officer  
Courtney Collier (Hartford)**

Courtney is actively involved outside of her current employment in activities that give back to their community through her commitment of time, energy, and passion. Her work with local, state, and federal municipalities ensures victims of human trafficking receive the support they need.



**Community Champion Award:  
Juvenile Probation Officer  
(Hartford)  
Courtney Collier**

**Super Support Staff Award:  
Administrative Clerk  
Erin Jasso (Bridgeport)**

Erin regularly goes above and beyond to provide assistance and support to the probation officers and supervisors, as well as youth and families. Her strong understanding of the mission of the organization is exemplified through her organization, respect, and willingness to help others.



**Super Support Staff Award:  
Administrative Clerk  
(Bridgeport)  
Erin Jasso**





## Additional Staff Acknowledgements

We would like to recognize the following groups for their dedication and willingness to go the extra mile:

**HART Liaisons** - Over the past few years, Juvenile Probation has partnered with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and several other agencies to combat human trafficking through HART (Human Anti-trafficking Response Team). HART was created by DCF to focus on and reduce Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST). This coordinated response by local and state agencies, law enforcement, and the medical community ensures child victims of sex trafficking receive effective and comprehensive treatment and legal services. Juvenile Probation works side-by-side with HART. Juvenile Probation Officer Courtney Collier and Supervisor Dawn Castellon are master-level trainers and have dedicated countless hours serving as DMST Liaisons for Juvenile Probation and have collaborated with local and federal law enforcement agencies, community providers, DCF, court personnel, schools, and parents to support and advocate for suspected and confirmed probation-involved victims of human trafficking. Dawne and Courtney serve along with other Juvenile Probation Officers, including Carly Sheil and Andrew Schuch, at the state and regional levels.

**Juvenile Probation On-Call Team** - The Juvenile Probation On-Call Team is available after-hours and on weekends and holidays. Their responsibilities include, but are not limited to, responding to after-hours calls from providers about AWOLs and law enforcement requests for court information, and responding to any issues requiring an immediate probation response or notification. Thank you to all the current and past members of the On-Call Team.

**PrediCT Coders** - PrediCT coders volunteer their time to assist in quality assuring the risk assessment process. They are trained to use a detailed audio-recording coding manual to assess staff fidelity to the risk assessment procedures. They deserve our utmost appreciation for all the hard work they've put into continuing our quality assurance efforts in collaboration with Central Connecticut State University.

**Thank you to all the current and past coders!**



# Juvenile Residential Centers Recognized for PbS Barbara Allen-Hagen Award



**Performance-based Standards (PbS)** is a data-driven continuous improvement process for juvenile justice facilities, community residential programs, and reentry services to improve conditions and quality of life in our nation's juvenile facilities. Twice a year nine juvenile residential programs operated and/or contracted by the Judicial Branch CSSD participate in PbS data collection by surveying youth, staff and families, and reporting administrative data, incidents, and programs and services provided.

The PbS Barbara Allen-Hagen Award was established in 2007 to honor Barbara Allen-Hagen and her retirement from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The award is given annually to a correction, detention/assessment, and community program that best exemplify PbS' commitment to treating all youths as one of our own by developing and implementing strategic plans to change practices that result in positive outcomes for youths, staff, and families.

For the first time, both the Hartford and Bridgeport Juvenile Residential Centers were selected as the two finalists for the PbS Barbara Allen-Hagen Award under the detention category. This year, the Hartford Juvenile Residential Center was selected as the 2022 winner for the PbS Barbara Allen-Hagen Award for their work in improving the climate of staff safety. This award is a major achievement that recognizes the hard work and dedication that our Residential Center staff demonstrate on a consistent basis to ensure safety in our programs by utilizing the PbS improvement model to achieve positive outcomes for youth, staff, and families. Congratulations to staff at Bridgeport and Hartford Juvenile Residential Centers for their outstanding service in meeting the needs of Connecticut's youth and families!





# Bridgeport REGIONS Newsletter

The idea for the Bridgeport REGIONS Newsletter was developed by Yale Mental Health Consultant Kristin Nerreau and Classification and Program Officer Jun Atcherson to create a journalist job opportunity in the REGIONS treatment program. The REGIONS Newsletter allows the program to share all the fun activities offered such as Spa Night, Jewelry Making, Tie-dying, Game Night, Ice-Cream Socials, Promotional Celebrations, Superbowl Party, Logo Making, and many other prosocial activities. The REGIONS Newsletter includes updates on the program’s pet fish, accomplishments of youth, birthdays, DBT skills used, recognition of staff by youth, and any other topics of interest the youth want to share. Youth must apply for the journalist position and participate in a job interview outlining their interest in writing and creative outlets. The process gives youth a way to increase their job interviewing skills including resume building and appropriate interview etiquette and attire. Youth in the Bridgeport REGIONS program have taken an interest in the journalist position and enjoy the opportunity to be supportive to their peers.

## Hartford REGIONS ServSafe Certification & Cooking Class

In 2020, Hartford REGIONS partnered with EASTCONN to offer vocational programs including CPR/First Aid and ServSafe. ServSafe is a food safety-training program developed by the National Restaurant



Association that is nationally recognized and accredited. ServSafe certification ensures individuals know about topics like food sanitation methods, proper storage practices, and how to prevent food-related illnesses. Many of the youth who have been in the REGIONS program have obtained the ServSafe certification. As a result, Hartford REGIONS created a Cooking Class, which is a compliment to the ServSafe Program that allows REGIONS youth to obtain certification to work in commercial kitchen settings. The Cooking Class is run by Hartford Food Services Coordinator Brendan Haley. Youth are taught all preparation steps and the importance of food safety in accordance with ServSafe standards. In the last few weeks, youth have prepared personal sized pizzas,


cookies, and empanadas. The Cooking Class also gives REGIONS youth basic cooking skills that will prepare them for their future culinary endeavors.

### Class of 2022



Special thank you to Brendan Haley for sharing his passion of cooking with the REGIONS youth!





# National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) Reaccreditation

The National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) accreditation is awarded to a facility that demonstrates compliance with 70 standards, including over 700 separate compliance indicators. The indicators focus on Governance and Administration, Safety, Personnel and Training, Health Care Services and Support, Juvenile Care and Treatment, Health Promotion, Special Needs and Services, Health Records, and Medical-Legal Issues. Accreditation requires compliance with 100% of the applicable Essential standards (39) and at least 85% of the applicable important standards (31). The Hartford and Bridgeport Juvenile Residential Centers were first accredited in the year of 2004. The NCCHC accreditation process occurs every three (3) years. The recent accreditation which took place in a virtual format for the first time, occurred on May 23, 2022 (Bridgeport) and May 24, 2022 (Hartford) respectively. NCCHC accreditation shows that a system is providing the highest possible standard of healthcare services and certifies how well these services are delivered. Facilities that achieve NCCHC accreditation also demonstrate their commitment to high-quality healthcare services that are constitutionally required and based on nationally recognized standards.

The NCCHC surveyors all had significant medical, mental health, and corrections experience: Josie Mabalay, a Registered Nurse and Lead Surveyor, and Dr. Bertram Horowitz, a Physician, found no deficiencies in the juvenile residential health care system. At the conclusion of one of the center's exit conference, Ms. Mabalay commented, "Your staff blend so well. If a kid walks through the door, they are going to get the best opportunity they have had in a long time." They were truly impressed with the level of communication between departments. Dr. Horowitz spoke highly of our continuity of care and intake process stating, "Nothing falls through the cracks" and "Staff are amazing at what they do to care for the juveniles under their care". Dr. Horowitz remarked, "Services are very deep in mental health and medical services." He said, "I hope the juvenile and families appreciate it". Each surveyor remarked that after interviews with both staff and juveniles at each Center, and reviewing many health care charts, the common denominator for both Centers was that all staff are, "Kind, courteous, and helpful".

CSSD Administration extends special appreciation to Superintendents Steve Cedor and Keith Orrico; Health Care Liaisons, Dino Guerra and Judith D'Alessandro; Central Responsible Health Authority Jeff Davis (Responsible Health Authority) and Health Care Services Supervisor Jennifer Esposito; the juvenile residential center staff; and all the healthcare service providers working with our youth.

## Jeff Davis Nominated for NCCHC Award Recognition

Jeff Davis, JRS Central Responsible Health Authority has been nominated for the Bernard P Harrison Award of Merit. This lifetime achievement award is presented annually to an outstanding correctional health leader who has a long record of accomplishment and participation in the NCCHC programs. It is a capstone to a career dedicated to qualify correctional health care. Individuals who qualify for this award must have at least 20 years in the field of correctional health care and have demonstrated thoughtful leadership and mentorship in correctional health care. We thank Jeff Davis for his dedication to the delivery of a robust health care system!



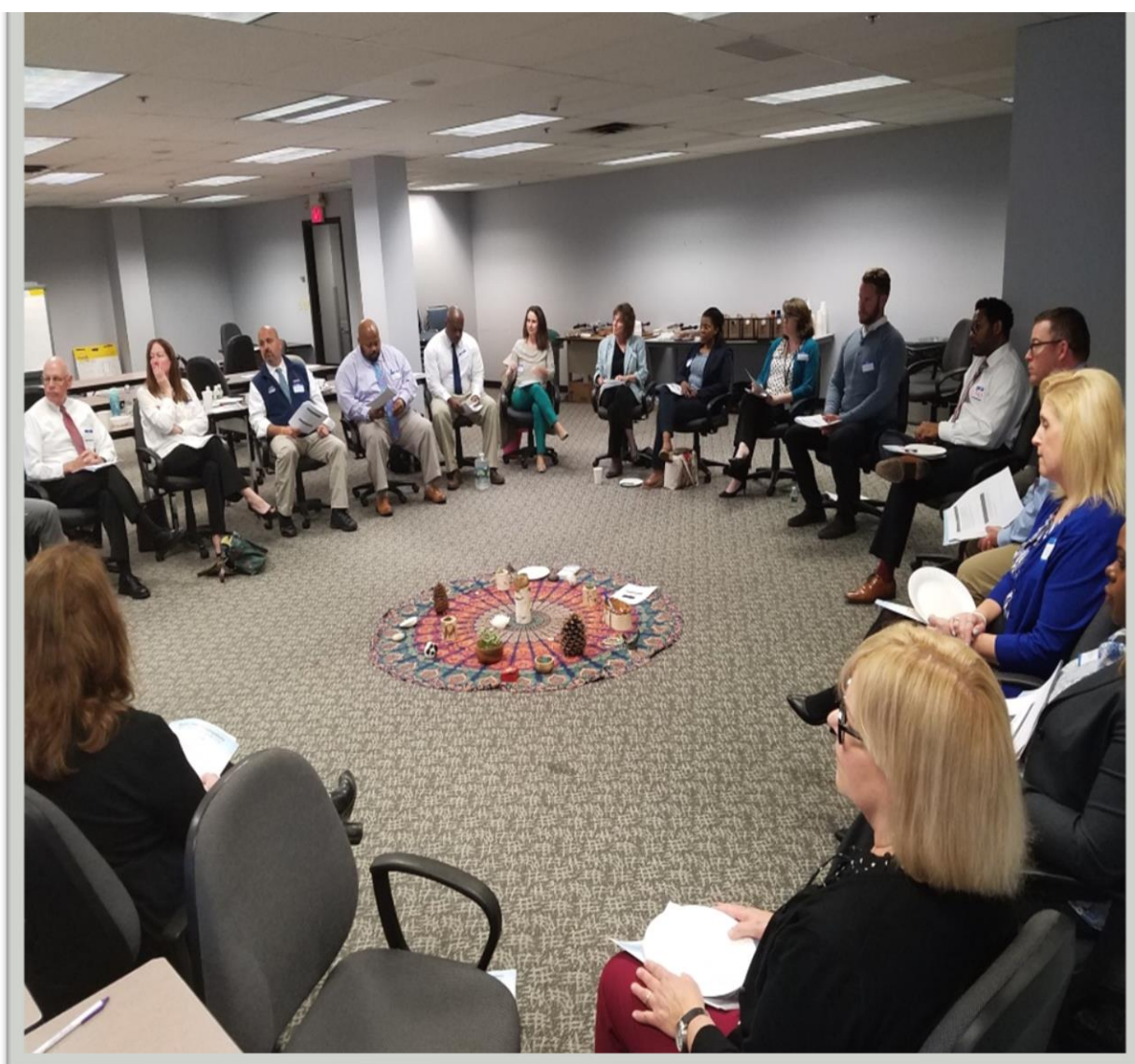
# Restorative Practices Benefit Youth, Families and Staff!

Juvenile Residential Services (JRS) in partnership with the CSSD Training Academy and The Center for Children's Advocacy launched a multi-year restorative justice project in 2018 that includes the creation of restorative leadership teams, staff training, implementation of restorative practices, and on-site coaching and technical assistance. Restorative practices have been implemented at the Bridgeport and Hartford Juvenile Residential Centers, three (3) secure REGIONS programs, three (3) staff secure REGIONS programs, one (1) limited secure REGIONS program, and four (4) community residential programs. A strategic cohort of ten JBCSSD staff members successfully completed an intensive Training for Trainers (T for T) through the International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP) in October 2021. These individuals are representatives from the Training Academy, Juvenile Probation, and Juvenile Residential Services who either have direct experience with implementing restorative practices and/or expressed an interest in learning and training others.

At the Juvenile Justice Planning and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) meeting on June 16, 2022, JRS staff members Verdell Reid, Deputy Superintendent at the CSSD Training Academy, and Luis Roger, Shift Manager at the Hartford Juvenile Residential Center took part in a panel discussion with The Center for Children's Advocacy to discuss the benefits of using restorative practices in working with juvenile justice involved youth. Staff members from the Community Partners in Action (CPA) staff secure REGIONS program took part in a circle demonstration to show the benefits of restorative practices in building a healthy program community. JRS thanks all staff for their commitment to restorative practices!

## Second Chance Newsletter Highlights Reentry Resources

Every April the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) observes Second Chance Month in support of youth's successful reentry back into their communities. This year new JRS staff member Nancy DeCrescenzo published a "second chance newsletter" each week in April highlighting educational and vocational resources. Information on local job fairs and hiring events, college and career readiness resources, summer youth employment initiatives, and more were curated and distributed. The newsletter was well received and has since evolved into "*Next Step News: Stories and Resources for Re-entry and Transition*". This monthly newsletter is soon to be archived in the CSSD JRS Intranet webpage!





# TOW Youth Justice Institute Graduate Dr. Ijomah

On June 3rd, 2022, Dr. Lilian Ijomah, Program Director of DOMUS Kids, Inc. and School Principal at the Hartford Juvenile Residential Center, graduated from the University of New Haven TOW Youth Justice Leadership Institute program. She reports feeling more equipped to promote positive outcomes for juvenile justice involved youth regardless of their race, gender, background, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and economic status. Congratulations to Dr. Ijomah for her commitment to life-long learning!



## Edupalooza 2022

In April, Dr. Lisa Simone, Principal of ACES at Hamden REGIONS and ACES Team Leader and Teacher, Jack Kitching presented at the 2022 Breakfree Education Edupalooza Conference. Their workshop, *“Creating Pathways to Success through a Positive School Culture”* focused on the high expectations they maintain for all students embedding social-emotional learning, rigorous academic, and vocational opportunities leading to our student's success in school and their communities. Congratulations to the ACES team for their commitment to providing a quality education program for youth!



# REGIONS Summer Basketball League

The REGIONS Summer Basketball League provides an opportunity for all the REGIONS programs to create cohesive teams and build community. All six REGIONS programs (3 REGIONS Secure Programs and 3 REGIONS Staff Secure Programs) participate in the league. The REGIONS Basketball League allows youth to practice social skills, learn strategy and team building techniques, as well as enhance leadership skills and accountability. While off the court, youth are practicing their skills while at the program by participating in drills to build endurance and skills. Youth must engage in all programming activities including treatment to participate in the REGIONS Summer Basketball League. Overall, the league has been successful in encouraging communication amongst teams and structuring their time.



## Class of 2022

Several juvenile residential programs celebrated high school graduates in June!

Dr. French, Director of Education at the Boys & Girls Village (BGV), reported a Hamden High School graduate from their REGIONS program in Milford. Dr. French says, “this graduate completed academic credits at BGV to graduate on time and explored the building trades in our Vocational Learning Center. The student is continuing his education and pursuit of a career in construction at the Job Corps Academy.”

The Bridgeport Juvenile Residential Center is pleased to announce that one of their REGIONS students earned his high school diploma this year. According to the new graduate, “I have made some bad decisions, but have learned from my mistakes.”

“He hopes to get a job in construction where he will be able to put his amazing math skills to use. The teachers and staff in Bridgeport witnessed tremendous growth in this student since we have known him and are glad to see him off as a young adult with a high school diploma” said Suzanne Brogie, Bridgeport Public Schools Transition School Counselor at the center. “Let this success story, and our other graduates, inspire our youth to stay engaged in the academic programs while in their placements as this shows these credits do add up!”

ACES Hamden REGIONS celebrated two graduates this year! One student graduated with a West Haven High School diploma with progress towards obtaining his CDL truck driver license. The second student graduated with a diploma from the Waterbury School District with an interest in attending trade school.

“We are very proud of their accomplishments while in the program. These two students worked diligently with their teachers within the classes as well as participating in credit recovery after school through our APEX program,” Dr. Lisa Simone, Principal shared.



# JB-CSSD Quarterly Chronicle

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## “Getting It Done”



Hello again,

I am very excited to share with you the first “getting it done” section of the Chronicle. As I noted in my opening remarks, each Chronicle will highlight someone that is going above and beyond and getting it done for the Branch, our clients, their families and the communities we serve.

This month I am honored to recognize Juvenile Detention Officer (JDO) Terisa Godbee and Juvenile Probation Officer (JPO) Cherise Owens.

JDO Godbee has been with us for over 8 years and works in our Hartford Residential Center’s Regions Unit doing outstanding work with the youth in that facility. Terisa uses her experience and education to meet the youth where they are at and provides a consistent approach to each client she is engaging in treatment services. Terisa is highly skilled at Dialectical Behavioral Theory (DBT) and assisting youth with how to use the DBT skills they learn in their daily lives. Terisa is appreciated by the youth, her colleagues and management. We are lucky to have Terisa on our team. Congratulations Terisa on getting it done for the Branch!!

JPO Owens has been with us, as a JPO for over 12 years and works in our Bridgeport Juvenile Probation office. Cherise does an outstanding job of working with the youth under her supervision and is truly changing the lives of the children and families she works with. Cherise leads by example and treats each client, and their families, in the same manner in which she would want her own family members to be treated. Cherise possesses exceptional client and family engagement skills and utilizes those skills to establish rapport, address risk and build upon the strengths of her clients and the families she works with. We are lucky to have Cherise on our team. Congratulations Cherise on getting it done for the Branch!!

Who will be recognized in next Chronicle? We shall see!!

Thank you everybody for your attention to this information and have a happy, healthy and safe holiday season with your families and friends.

Please take good care.

Gary





Juvenile Detention Officer Terisa Godbee  
&  
Juvenile Residential Services Deputy Director Cathy FoleyGeib



Juvenile Probation Services Deputy Director Tasha Hunt  
&  
Juvenile Probation Officer Cherise Owens



Juvenile Probation Officer Cherise Owens