

JB-CSSD CHRONICLE

A publication of the Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (JB CSSD)



November 2024

Good morning JB-CSSD,

I am excited to share the latest edition of the JB-CSSD Chronicle with you. In this edition you will read about the exceptional work going on in our Juvenile Probation and Juvenile Residential Units. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Juvenile Probation and Juvenile Residential Services staff for their commitment and dedication to the youth and families we serve. I would also like to thank Tasha Hunt, Director of Juvenile Probation Services and Cathy Foley-Geib, Director of Juvenile Residential Services for their outstanding work overseeing these units. I am very fortunate to have Tasha and Cathy on my team!!

You will also read about JPO – Alex Colon, aka Mr. Bodega, and JRS – Shift Manager Malik Wyrick who have been selected to receive this edition's Getting It Done recognition. Thank you, Alex and Malik, for your commitment and dedication to the Branch and our overall mission of risk reduction. It is the work you do that truly makes a difference in the lives of the kids and families you work with and our communities. I can't thank you both enough. Enjoy the Nike hoodies!

Lastly, I hope that everyone is doing well, and you all are enjoying the tremendous Fall weather we are having here in CT. It has been amazing. I can't believe we are heading toward the Thanksgiving holiday and the end of the year. 2025 will be here before we know it.

Thank you for your attention to this information and have a good day.

-Gary

Getting it Done Honorees

The newest Getting it Done Honorees (November 2024) are Alexander Colon, Juvenile Probation Officer and Malik Wyrick, Juvenile Detention Shift Manager. Please take a moment to read about these individuals who are going above and beyond and are getting it done for the Branch, our clients, their families, and the communities we serve.



Alex Colon, affectionately known as “Mr. Bodega,” is a Juvenile Probation Officer in the Hartford Juvenile Probation office. He displays tireless work and commitment to ensuring that the needs of children and families with food insecurities are met. He has done this by creating a food pantry at his office and stocking it with food donations from his church. He pours 100% of himself into ensuring that families in need, leave the office with a bagful of groceries. His energy and passion have inspired an entire movement in the Hartford office to give back and generate donations so that the basic needs of children and families are met.



Malik Wyrick, who is a Juvenile Detention Shift Manager, has taken on the responsibility of coordinating the youth efforts to engage in a Restorative Justice pilot project this last summer, through a partnership with the Center for Children's Advocacy. Shift Manager Wyrick was integral in gathering and maintaining interest for participation among both the youth and staff. His actions are noteworthy since this new experience was the first step in teaching our youth how to facilitate restorative circles. It took dedication, commitment, strength, and maturity from the youth to be vulnerable and sincere amongst fellow peers and staff.

Juvenile Probation Services Supports Youth Agricultural Programming

Tasha Hunt, Director of Juvenile Probation Services and Patricia Nunez, Regional Manager recently visited the Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR) Farm Market on a warm autumn afternoon. The farm, co-operated by CJR students, is located on picturesque route 63 in Litchfield. The farm offers an outstanding variety of edible and decorative pumpkins and autumn squash and gourds, chrysanthemums, eggs and other items grown by students on the CJR Farm; crafts from CJR's vocational classes, including Adirondack chairs and other woodcrafts, decorative welded pumpkins and other ornamental pieces and ceramics; and an array of delectable culinary items, including pumpkin pies, cookies, breads and other baked goods.

Tasha was amazed at the variety of offerings and stated, "The opportunities that CJR offers young people at the Litchfield farm are outstanding. Students have access to many different vocational experiences that they might not otherwise have a chance to participate in." The beautiful autumn foliage and scenic views are breathtaking and offer students a different perspective of Connecticut.

CJR's 150-acre Litchfield campus offers a unique therapeutic and educational environment, which includes a working farm, acres of agricultural fields and woodlands. CJR offers residential, educational, community, and wellness services at locations throughout Connecticut, supported by 275 professionals serving more than 1,700 individuals, families, and communities.



Juvenile Probation Services Celebrating Creativity with the Second Chance Art Collection

Each April, Second Chance Month is celebrated to recognize the importance of helping individuals, communities, and agencies across the country appreciate their role in supporting the safe and successful reentry of millions of people returning from incarceration each year. Second Chance Month aims to inform and highlight the many opportunities for state, local, and tribal governments and community-based service providers to build meaningful second chances for our returning community members. The JB-CSSD Juvenile Probation Services established the Second Chance Art Collection in April of 2024 to help individuals, communities, and agencies to recognize the importance of reentry and their role in supporting the safe and successful reentry of young people returning to their community from out of home care.

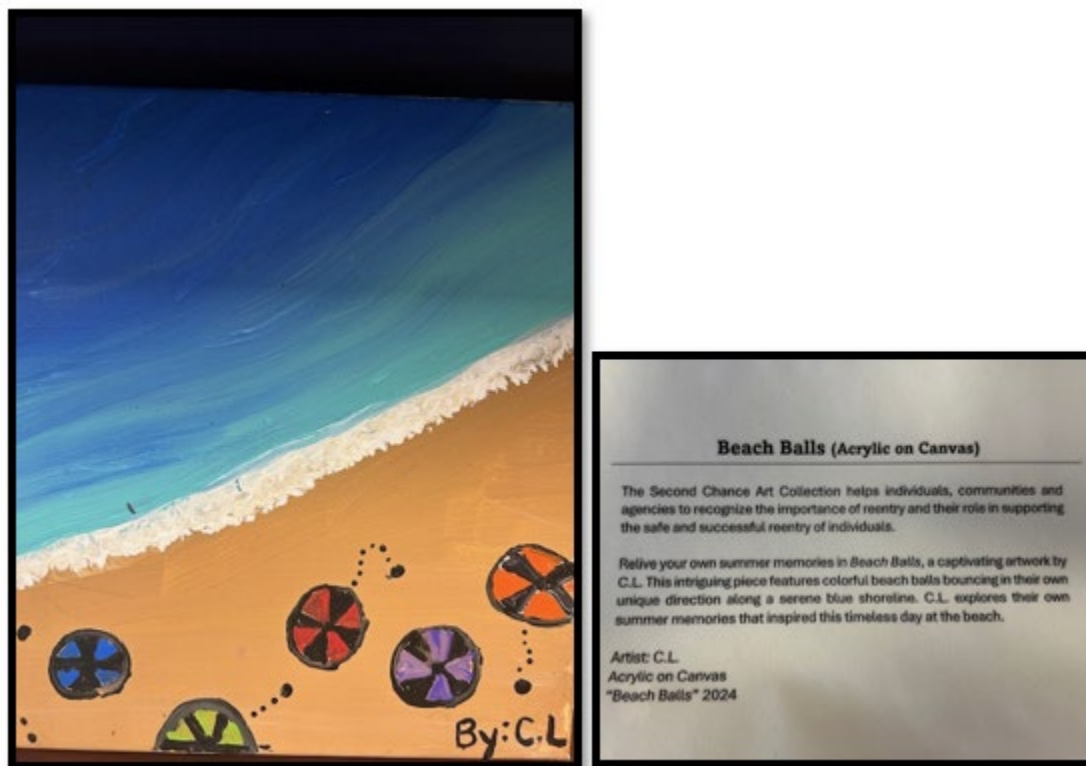
The first piece in the Second Chance Art Collection is “Loyalty Over Royalty” (Painting of Woman in Pink), a captivating artwork by JB-CSSD client J.G. This mesmerizing piece features a powerful female figure adorned with a majestic hat, set against a backdrop of intriguing geometric shapes. Through skillful brushwork and vivid imagery, J.G. explores the timeless theme of choosing integrity and loyalty over wealth and status. “Loyalty Over Royalty” is on display at the Waterbury Juvenile Probation Office, located at 7 Kendrick Avenue in Waterbury, CT.



Pictured: Left – “Loyalty Over Royalty” by JB-CSSD client J.G.

The second piece in the Second Chance Art Collection is “Beach Balls,” a vibrant creation by JB-CSSD client C.L. This intriguing piece features colorful beach balls bouncing in their own unique direction along a serene blue shoreline. C.L. explores their own summer memories that inspired

this timeless day at the beach. “Beach Balls” is on display at the Bridgeport Juvenile Probation Office, located at 60 Housatonic Avenue in Bridgeport, CT.



Pictured: “Beach Balls” by JB-CSSD client C.L.

J.G. and C.L. were presented with a Certificate of Excellence signed by JB-CSSD Executive Director Gary Roberge and Juvenile Probation Services Director Tasha Hunt. Gary Roberge stated, “Our young people are very talented, and this effort lifts up positive youth development to reinforce the strengths and capabilities of youth in Connecticut.” Tasha Hunt responded that, “It is the goal of Juvenile Probation Services to display artwork by youth in each and every juvenile probation office in Connecticut so that young people see what is possible.”

Juvenile Probation Services 6th Annual Staff Development Day & Employee Recognition Ceremony

In June, Juvenile Probation Services held its 6th Annual Staff Development Day and Employee Recognition Ceremony to hone their skills, re-establish relationships, and acknowledge the outstanding work and accomplishments of their colleagues. This year's theme was "Your Best Self: Taking Care of You." The award-winning wellness coach, author, and master transformation specialist Janai Kemp encouraged JPS staff to regroup, reignite, reevaluate, and reimagine their relationship with "self," and remember that, "The quality of your service is predicated on how we show up." He admonished the team to reflect on the following questions:

1. Are you loving yourself gently or hard? (How are you loving yourself?)
2. What is your why? (Is your why the same?)
3. Are you living from joy?
4. Are you in the process of healing deep wounds?
5. Are you developing your imagination muscle? (How intentional are you about imagining who you are becoming?)
6. Is your life reflecting the person you want to become? (What are your daily habits?)

The day concluded with team-building activities and the acknowledgement of team members for their hard work and dedication, whether through furthering JB-CSSD's mission, strengthening partnerships and community connections, or brightening someone's day. Team members were nominated by their colleagues across six distinct categories, with the award recipients being approved by the JB-CSSD Executive Director and Director of Juvenile Probation Services.

The awardees are as follows:

T.E.A.M. Spirit Award: Demys Mercado, Juvenile Probation Officer, New Britain Juvenile Probation. The recipient of this award embraces the concept of Together Everyone Achieves More. They consistently, without having to be asked and with no negative impact upon their performance, plan and engage in activities that increase the overall positive atmosphere in the office and boost the morale of their coworkers.

Risk Reduction Warrior Award: Carissa Laudano, Juvenile Probation Officer, New Haven Juvenile Probation. The recipient of this award exemplifies the best practices associated with the risk, need, and responsivity principles and Child & Family Partnership (CFP) by consistently demonstrating these skills in their case management work with children and families.

Super Support Staff: Andrea Valerio, Office Clerk, Waterbury Juvenile Probation. The recipient of this award is a probation clerical who on a regular basis goes above and beyond to aid and support the probation officers and supervisors. They also possess a strong understanding of the mission of the organization.

Leading by Example Award: Joseph Laveneziana, Juvenile Matters Supervisor I, Bridgeport Juvenile Probation. The recipient of this award is a supervisory staff who provides clear and reliable direction, supports and looks out for best interest of their employees, and it more than willing to do whatever it takes to make the office run efficiently.

Community Champion: Alexander Colon, Juvenile Probation Officer, Hartford Juvenile Probation. The recipient of this award is a juvenile probation staff who is intentional about collaborating with community stakeholders to enrich the quality of services being delivered to youth and families. They are an active participant with community initiatives through committee of time, energy, and passion.

Bright Beginnings Award: Alesha Riles, Juvenile Probation Officer, Bridgeport Juvenile Probation. The recipient of this award is a JPO with less than 5 years of experience who is energetically engaged in learning the job and demonstrates remarkable potential.

The Juvenile Probation Services Restorative Justice Response Team (RJRT) Marks its One-Year Anniversary

The Restorative Justice Response Team was developed in 2023 as a Juvenile Probation Services strategic plan initiative to work with high-risk youth placed on a Suspended Detention Order (SDO). The team consists of juvenile probation officers from five locations: Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Stamford, and Waterbury with administrative central office support. The RJRT held their first meeting in November 2023 and meet monthly for training and technical assistance, supportive learning, and sharing RJ facilitation experiences.

The team has participated in deep learning over the course of the past year and welcomed a host of Restorative Justice trainers from the Center for Restorative Practices at Suffolk University, the Center for Children's Advocacy, and JB-CSSD International Institute of Restorative Practices (IIRP) trainers including Juvenile Probation Officer John Massaro and Regional Manager Sheron Green. RJRT members gained understanding in the various indigenous roots of restorative practices, the 7 Core Assumptions, differences in circles and restorative conferencing, mindfulness, and facilitator skill sets.

The team has conducted and participated in restorative practices that include harm circles, discharge circles, reentry circles, and child and family team meetings (CFTMs).

New Haven – Juvenile Probation Officers Jennifer Sinclair and Chantel Williams held a restorative circle with two clients that were having conflicts on social media. Through careful consideration and prepping, the two clients were able to come to the realization that what they were at odds about occurred so long ago they could not quite remember why in fact they were at odds with one another! The clients ended the circle with providing compliments to one another.

Stamford – Supervisor Edward Green and Juvenile Probation Officer Maurice Hill Jr. held a reentry circle with a client who was preparing to reenter the community that included family members, program staff, and an attorney. A total of 10 individuals participated and provided the client with wraparound words of encouragement and support. Everyone explained how they would support the client with the transition.

The RJRT hosted a meeting with personnel from New Britain Superior Court for Juvenile Matters in September 2024 to demonstrate a scenario-based restorative conference as part of planning efforts to pilot a restorative justice motor vehicle program.



Pictured: Members of the RJRT. Standing: Andrew Schuch, Marco Romero, Jennifer Sinclair, Alba Pabon, Denasia Williams. Sitting: Patricia Nunez, Aisha Sharp, John Massaro, Sheron Green



Pictured: RJRT members: Chantel Williams, John Massaro, Sheron Green and Alba Pabon during circle.



Pictured: RJRT members with RJ trainers Delinda Passas and Susan Maze-Rothstein from the Center for Restorative Practices at Suffolk University.



Pictured: The circle centerpiece and values that each member of the circle bring with them into the circle.

The 3rd Annual Summer REGIONS Basketball League

The Summer REGIONS basketball league consists of both secure and staff secure REGIONS programs. The youth travel to the Hartford Juvenile Residential Center (HJRC) and Bridgeport Juvenile Residential Center (BJRC) secure sites to play 3-on-3 basketball games. Each program plays all the other programs over the 8-week tournament. Staff volunteer to coach the youth and prepare them for the games. Each game consists of 10-minute quarters refereed by Jeffrey Shealey. The youth very much enjoy playing, as well as the competition and the building of relationships with both staff and peers. The youth can use the dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) skills they are learning while participating in these events, such as the “stop skill” when frustrated and “radical acceptance” when they lose. Through basketball, the youth have been able to demonstrate growth and maturity while having FUN!



They are now enjoying the 1st Annual Fall Pickleball Tournament that started in October. They love to play pickleball!

JRS Youth are Designing a Future

Juvenile Residential Services (JRS) offers a diverse catalog of educational and vocational classes to the youth in their programs. The variety of exploratory workshops offered often inspires career paths.

A new graphic design program was launched with Community Partners in Action (CPA) at the Hartford staff secure REGIONS program this past summer. The classes occurred twice a week for a total of six hours weekly and have continued into this academic year two evenings a week. Instructor Eli Rodriguez is a State of Connecticut certified teacher and master of the Adobe Creative Suite. He is teaching the young men Illustrator and Photoshop software and the business side of graphic design.

Their first 'customer' was JB-CSSD JRS! Students worked with JRS staff to design a variety of publications including a new cover for the Course Catalog, a new Reintegration Mentor Resource Guide, and marketing and promotional materials for upcoming events.

Graphic designers work to build professional portfolios that contain samples of their work and are used in job applications and interviews. With these marketable skills and real-world experience providing services to JRS, the CPA youth will build resumes that work.

CPA Hartford REGIONS created a publication for an upcoming Juvenile Art Exhibit.

For more information about vocational programming and industry-recognized credentials contact, JRS Program Manager Nancy Decrescenzo at Nancy.decrescenzo@jud.ct.gov or (860) 368-3887.



Restorative Justice Youth Pilot: Youth Leading Youth to Common Understanding and Relationship

The Hartford Juvenile Residential Center recently implemented an initiative that has been different than anything done with youth using restorative justice in the facility. This past summer, with guidance from Dr. John Ducksworth of The Center for Children's Advocacy, our youth learned the practices and procedures of restorative circles. The goal was for the youth learn how to facilitate restorative justice (RJ) circles. Hartford has been using aspects of RJ for some time now, but youth have never been considered the leader of these circles.

Hartford's efforts were returned with success! There was a total of 10 youth who were able to participate throughout the 7 weekly educational sessions. Although each session was initially set for 60 minutes, due to such high engagement, the sessions went for 80 minutes (on average). The youth learned various facets of restorative circles, which included an introduction and overview of circles, how a peacemaking circle works, circle opening and mindfulness practices, key elements of circles, how to close a circle, and peer facilitation.

The benefits of this initiative were plentiful not only for the youth, but for staff as well. The youth were expected to be sincere, honest, and open-minded to new ideas while participating in the pilot program. Youth described the experience as "informational and different." They had an opportunity to socialize with youth from different housing units, which was said to be "good and gave them more respect for others who were in opposing gangs and for the only female in the group." Staff mentioned seeing "a different side" of the youth they usually work with, "and enjoyed hearing the youth's perspectives on their time in detention." One staff member recalled the experience as "pretty cool to see." Staff members involved with the pilot also mentioned that they learned more than they previously knew about Restorative Justice.

Hartford opened this opportunity to all interested youth and had a good mix of youth across different disposition levels (pretrial and adjudicated) and genders. Shift manager Malik Wyrick noted that a challenge "was keeping the group's numbers up because some youths were released from the facility before the sessions were completed, but we adjusted to continue to add interested youth." From an administrative standpoint, Hartford Center Superintendent Paul Gordon said, "We will continue to work with Dr. Ducksworth and The Center for Children's Advocacy to create an ongoing process which will allow all youth to learn this important skillset."

So, what is next? The Center for Children's Advocacy interviewed Executive Director Gary Roberge and Superintendent Gordon ahead of the 9th National Conference on Community and Restorative Justice Conference in Washington D.C. this past July. The interview focused on the agency's thoughts of the pilot and their reasoning for getting behind such an initiative. Concurring sentiments of skill building, increased community awareness, and individual growth were key themes discussed by both interviewees. Superintendent Gordon hopes that the skills learned by the youth in subsequent trainings can be applied to community settings through collaborative efforts with both probation, parents/guardians, and community stakeholders once a youth is released. The

Hartford Juvenile Residential Center will continue to make efforts to embed RJ in its culture, especially since Shift manager Wyrick reports that, “staff think that doing more RJ circles will help youth explore their feelings more.”

For more information, please contact Hartford Center Superintendent Paul Gordon at Paul.gordon@jud.ct.gov or (860) 244-7965.

New Assessment Service Available Through the Juvenile Court Clinic Clinical Coordinators

As of July 1st, the Clinical Coordinators of the Juvenile Court Clinic (JCC) provide all court-ordered juvenile delinquency assessments, including assessment of inappropriate sexual behaviors (ISB). This past May, the Clinical Coordinators participated in a seven-day training in conducting this very specialized type of assessment. The Inappropriate Sexual Behavior assessment model was created in collaboration with Drs. Ivan Kruh and Shoshanna Must, nationally recognized clinical psychologists and juvenile forensic experts with vast experience assessing children and adolescents involved in the justice system, including those referred for inappropriate sexual behavior.

This ISB assessment includes a Forensic Clinical Assessment and the use of the Protective + Risk Observations For Eliminating Sexual Offense Recidivism (PROFESOR). The PROFESOR assists the Clinical Coordinator to identify and summarize protective and risk factors for adolescents and emerging adults (i.e., individuals ages 12 to 25) who have offended sexually. The goal of the PROFESOR is to provide information regarding the nature and intensity of interventions that will facilitate sexual and relationship health and, thus, eliminate sexual offense recidivism. The Clinical Coordinator uses the PROFESOR to provide an informed assessment of risk for sexual recidivism while also providing the court with recommended interventions, including support, treatment, and management/safety strategies.

Given that this is a new type of assessment for the Clinical Coordinators, they have been participating in ongoing consultation with the forensic experts to increase their competency. Drs. Kruh and Must will provide consultation, oversight, and quality assurance for all ISB assessments for the first year. All assessments are reviewed by the experts prior to submission to court. After the first year, Drs. Kruh and Must will provide quarterly continuous quality improvement randomized reviews and consultation as needed.

If you have any questions about the Juvenile Court Clinic (JCC) or Inappropriate Sexual Behavior assessments, please contact the JCC Program Manager, Tracy Duran, LCSW, at Tracy.duran@jud.ct.gov or (860) 368-4302.

A Positive Review of the Intake & Screening Policies & Procedures for Pretrial Juvenile Residential Services

Starting in early 2023, the Connecticut Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (JBCSSD) commissioned the Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI) to evaluate and make recommendations on the behavioral health intake screening practices for pretrial juvenile clients at the two secure residential centers, Bridgeport and Hartford. The services for pretrial youth focus on maintaining safety and security, adjusting to the setting, and providing support for the duration of their stay. Given the prevalence of significant behavioral health needs of juvenile clients and the risk of suicide within juvenile facilities, it is critical to evaluate practices and instruments to ensure they conform to the latest best practice and support the delivery of highest-quality services. Programming at the centers is designed to meet the needs of adolescents; aid in the development of positive social skills; and foster a safe living environment.

CHDI is an excellent partner to review the pretrial intake process and instruments given its national recognition as expert in children's behavioral health and its long-standing partnership with JB-CSSD to increase access to trauma-informed services for court-involved youth in Connecticut. State funds from an agreement between the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF) and JB-CSSD supported the review. Tracy Duran, LCSW, from the JRS Juvenile Court Clinic unit worked closely with Alyssa Korell, PhD, Christine Hauser, LCSW, LADC, Jack Lu, PhD, LCSW, and Jason Lang, PhD from CHDI to facilitate the review and managed the coordination of documentation requests and focus groups, in conjunction with Eric Hudson and Jennifer Esposito, LPC, from the JRS Healthcare Services unit.

Encompassing the timeframe between March 2023 and June 2024, researchers from CHDI comprehensively reviewed the pretrial intake process, behavioral health screening instruments, and policies associated with intake, assessments, mental health, classification, and programming, including pertinent policies, procedures, training materials, and a redacted complete mental health file. Copies of all the screening instruments completed with a youth who is admitted to the juvenile residential centers on a pretrial basis were included in the materials. Throughout the 2023-2024 calendar years, planning and review meetings were held with JRS administration, residential staff, and CHDI. CHDI reviewed the materials to clarify the mental health screening process and facilitate discussion about specific areas for consultation related to the screening policies and procedures. A focus group was conducted on April 4, 2024 to gather staff perspectives about the screening process and instruments used. Sixteen staff from the Hartford and Bridgeport juvenile residential centers attended, including administrators, Classification and Program Officers (CPOs), Program and Services Supervisors (PSSs), and Juvenile Detention Officers (JDOs). After the focus group, an electronic survey was distributed that instructed attendees to rate the usefulness and administrative time required for each screening instrument.

After this year-long review process, CHDI made the following recommendations to help reduce redundancy in the information collected, to increase client engagement in screener completion, and

to improve the identification of complex trauma, co-occurring behavioral health needs and neurodevelopmental disorders (e.g., ADHD, ASD, IDD), and to integrate equity into needs identification and care recommendations.

Screening recommendations:

- Discontinue the use of the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY) to inform classification and housing decisions. The PREA (prison rape elimination act) screening tool, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument Version 2 (MAYSI-2), adequately informs decisions about classification and housing. In addition, the SAVRY's measures of risk factors for violence, impulsivity, coping skills, and social supports are redundant, and much more time consuming than the MAYSI-2, which also screens for drug use, mood, suicidal ideation, trauma experiences, depression, violence, and social supports.
- Complete the MAYSI-2 mental health screening after the initial admission Intake with the Juvenile Detention Officer to reduce youth fatigue. JRS administration decided to keep the MAYSI-2 screening where it is in the intake process as the scores effect housing decisions and room assignment.
- To improve the detection of youth with complex trauma and/or developmental impacts, the MAYSI-2 additional screening questionnaire should be completed for all youth. (These additional questions historically have only been asked if a youth scores a caution or warning on a specific item).
- Add a validated psychosis-specific screening instrument (e.g., Prodromal Questionnaire-Brief Version (PQ-B)) for any youth who report an elevated Thought Disturbance on the MAYSI-2, report a history of auditory or visual hallucinations, or has a family history of psychosis.
- Use a shorter trauma screener as an alternative to the lengthy Structured Trauma-Related Experiences and Symptoms Screener (STRESS). The Child Trauma Screen (CTS) measures the same parameters, is shorter, and highly recommended by CHDI.
- Continue to use the CAR, Relax, Alone, Forget, Friends, Trouble (CRAFFT) instrument to screen for substance use history, substance use effects on mood/memory, behaviors, social settings, and discontinue the Personal Experiences Screening Questionnaire (PESQ) as it measures the same areas. The elimination of one screener will reduce redundancy and youth fatigue without compromising care.
- Adopt a tiered screening approach for substance use. Use a briefer substance use screening instrument (i.e. S2BI) as an alternative to the CRAFFT. Adolescents that endorse substance use in the last year should complete only the Part 2 questions from the CRAFFT. (Part 2 measures drug use effects on mood/memory, behaviors, social settings.)
- Discontinue using the Suicidal Ideation Questionnaire (SIQ) as the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS) is used and measures suicide ideation and risks and is a great replacement.

- Integrate the Adolescent Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (A-SBIRT) protocol utilizing Motivational Interviewing to increase motivation to change. (Training and implementation are scheduled for designated JRS staff and Clinical Coordinators for the Fall of 2024.)

Training:

- Integrate the use of Motivational Interviewing (MI) training for JRS staff as a tool to effect and guide conversations with the youth.
- Offer annual refreshers of screening tools for staff.
- Seek consultation and/or trainings from providers with expertise in addressing and diagnosing specialized conditions and communicate about behavioral observations. (JDOs will attend the weekly medical/mental health meeting to get guidance regarding youth with specialized conditions.)

Intake and Release Procedures:

- Standardize staff administration of screeners to effectively support youth engagement and ensure all staff are administering the screeners in the same way.
- Elicit youth feedback during and after care for suggestions on how to improve the intake process.
- During the intake, assess the youth's concerns about vulnerability and mistreatment due to race or ethnicity.
- Add a more specific question to the CPO Intake and Parent Interview about whether a youth has an IEP or 504 plan. (The current CPO Intake has a question asking about "any special education".)
- Add a question to the JDO Intake Parent Questionnaire asking if the youth has any difficulty learning, disabilities, etc.
- Add more specific questions to CPO Intake and Parent Interview asking if the youth has a history of ADHD, IDD and/or ASD. (The current CPO intake has a question stating, "any mental health concerns or diagnosis".)

Treatment Planning:

- Integrate youth feedback in Special Needs Communications (SNC) and treatment planning process.
- Consider a youth's access to educational supports/resources in the community when assessing for intellectual functioning vs estimating a youth's intellectual functioning based on just observation. (The question being would the youth be presenting higher intellectual functioning if they had access to needed educational supports/resources at school.)
- Include a youth's strengths and environmental supports on transition summaries and treatment plans.

Policies and Procedures:

- Establish a JB-CSSD policy for intoxication and withdrawal. (JRS already has medical protocols in place to address the needs of youth detoxing from substances.)
- Ensure Narcan is accessible for youth when needed. (Currently Narcan is available in the medical bags at each center and in the Central Transportation Unit (CTU) vans.)
- Put a process in place for JDOs to share behavior observations to inform evaluations and planning for post release care.
- Develop a data collection and CQI system to evaluate and monitor outcomes by demographics and social determinants.
- Reserve protected time (e.g., standing agenda item during team meetings) for regular communication about screening results and behavior observations between JDOs, CPOs, and mental health staff that exists in addition to the special needs list and Special Needs Communications.

The CHDI consultants praised the Judicial Branch, CSSD, and the Hartford and Bridgeport Juvenile Residential Center staff for their on-going commitment, collaboration, and teamwork to assure the proper classification and treatment of pretrial youth. CHDI stated that this dedication is not found in many states, especially given the complexities of today's judicially involved youth. Implementation of the recommended training and other changes has begun and will continue into the new year.

For more information, please contact Jeff Davis, Manager of Administrative Services for Juvenile Residential Services, at Jeffrey.davis@jud.ct.gov or (860) 626-2654.

Nailed It! AFIR Resident Pursuing State Licensure

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics states, “employment of manicurists and pedicurists is projected to grow 12 percent from 2023 to 2033, much faster than the average for all occupations.” Indeed.com, a worldwide employment site, reports salaries in Connecticut can exceed \$47.00 per hour.

State licensure requires a minimum of 100 hours of training in an accredited school of cosmetology. The Nail Technician Program is a combination of course curriculum and practicum hours. Belle Academy of Beauty offers in-depth and hands-on technical training that goes beyond the basics of manicuring. Instruction includes disinfection & sanitation, products and technology, nail structure & common nail conditions, anatomy, and business basics. Belle Academy students can enroll at several Connecticut campus locations. Graduation leads to CT licensure and a certificate of completion.

A resident of LISA’s House enrolled part-time in September and plans to graduate in January 2025.



Pictured: LISA’s House resident at Belle Academy of Beauty, East Haven campus.