

# Examining Connecticut Juvenile Review Boards' Case Management of Youth with Disabilities

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# Overview

- Background and case example
- Investigating trends and prevalence of juvenile offenders with disabilities
- Research proposal
- Next Steps
- \*Potential Limitations
- Questions

# Background and Case Example

- “East Hartford Man Sentenced for Stomping Man to Death Outside of Walgreens”
  - Not guilty by:
    - ...reason of insanity—Hartford Superior Court’s Clerk Office
    - ...reason of mental defect—Hartford Courant
  - (Lakisha Henry) Mom’s Testimony
- First-hand JRB account
  - Boy with autism threatens to kill family and stabs father in hand with kitchen knife
- Importance of ‘person in environment’ and holistic approaches
- Individualism and Punishment for Conflict
  - OUTCOME: Non-problem solving

# Trends and Prevalence of Disability Among 'Offenders'

- Competing Results
  - Overrepresentation of juvenile offenders with intellectual disability in the criminal justice system (Frize et al. 2008; Close, D.W., & Walker, H.M., 2010)
  - Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2004)
    - 1/3 state prison and 1/4 of federal inmates
    - 1+ disabilities
  - National Survey of 12,000 students (Wagner, 2005; Newman et al., 2009)
    - 47% of students with emotional/behavioral disorders –arrested @L 1x w/n 2 years
    - 0% arrested @L 1x w/n 4 years
  - Adolescents with LD 3x greater risk of involvement in offending activities (Matta-Oshima et al., 2010; Wang et al., 2005)
  - Crimes against persons vs. property (Cheely et al., 2012)
  - Washington State Juvenile Court (Van der purt et al. 2014)
    - ID (IQ below 70) juvenile offenders n=102 vs. w/o ID n=526

# Research Project

- Examining Connecticut Juvenile Review Boards' Case Management of Youth with Disabilities
- Juvenile Review Boards
  - What are they? Where can they be found?
  - What is their role?
  - Why are they important? Why focus on this population?
    - Sample—JRBs whose members attend LIST Local Interagency Service Team

# Research Project

- Examining Connecticut Juvenile Review Boards' Case Management of Youth with Disabilities
  - Intake Form—characteristics of population and clients served, JRB process & inclusion of the family
  - Am mended version of Striker's (2001) Counseling Clients with Disabilities Survey, 6-item Likert Scale
  - Focus
    - Board members' perceived knowledge and skills related to disabilities
    - Involvement of youth and families in JRB process
    - (Type of) interventions offered

# Limitations

- Time
  - Availability of Board Members
  - “Peak Season”
  - Bi-monthly meetings
- Full board participation unlikely
  - Inconsistencies of member attendance
- Inability to recall majority of cases
  - No database or tracking system
- Potential usefulness of follow-up questions
- Major differences by Board, Town, and Region

# Next Steps

- IRB Approval
- Distribution of surveys and intake forms—Month of June, 2017



Questions???