

# CSSD Chronicle

State of Connecticut Judicial Branch  
Court Support Services Division  
Tuesday, May 19, 2015



## Representatives from Japan's Ministry of Justice Visit Connecticut



In January 2015, the Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (JB/CSSD) hosted three officials from Japan's Correction Bureau of the Ministry of Justice. The trio, who work with juvenile girls and women offenders in three different locations in Tokyo,

contacted CSSD Director of Administration Brian Hill during the summer of 2014 for information on Connecticut's gender specific programs for court-involved females. The email exchange led to an invitation to visit Connecticut, which the Ministry of Justice accepted.

Mr. Tetuya Higashiyama, Chief Supervisor at the Tokyo Juvenile Classification Home, Ms. Chieko Takazawa, Chief Supervisor at the Katano Juvenile Training School for Girls, and Ms. Kanako Tanaka, Educational Officer at the Kawagoe Juvenile Prison arrived in Connecticut on January 13th. The following morning, CSSD Executive Director Steve Grant welcomed the Japanese guests at CSSD's Central Office in Wethersfield. During the introductory breakfast meeting with Mr. Grant and other CSSD personnel, the group was provided with packets of information about the gender-specific programs and services offered by CSSD and the Department of Correction (DOC), along with an itinerary of the week's visit.

The first stop on the Connecticut tour was the Washington Street Secure Community Residential Program for Girls located in Hartford. An overview about the facility and the services provided to court-involved girls 17 years and younger was given by several staff members. The girls receive supportive counseling, medical and psychiatric services, recreation, and

family interventions.

In anticipation of the group's visit, the juvenile girls had researched Japan and its culture as part of their educational curriculum. They drew several colorful posters to welcome the guests using Japanese characters and hung them along the corridor leading to the classrooms. Ms. Tanaka thanked the students on behalf of her colleagues and honored a request by one of the girls to draw several Japanese words on the room's whiteboard.

Next, the group traveled to the Hartford Secure Detention Center on Broad Street. Superintendent Jennifer Alicea, and other detention personnel, escorted the visitors throughout the facility, highlighting gender-specific processes and programs. The tour ended with a catered lunch provided by the detention facility's kitchen staff. The Honorable Bernadette Conway also attended the luncheon and the conversation centered around the differences between each country's juvenile justice systems. For example, Japan considers a person to be a juvenile until the age of 25; a person is considered a juvenile in Connecticut up to 18.

After lunch, CSSD Program Manager II Michael Aiello transported the Japanese team to Litchfield where they were able to tour a NAFI CT, Inc. intermediate residential program for girls.



York CI Warden Steven Faucher (far right) with York CI and CSSD personnel, and representatives from Japan's Bureau of Ministry

On Thursday, January 15th, CSSD Compliance Coordinator Erika Nowakowski led the day's activities by taking Takazawa, Higashiyama, and Kanako to York Correctional Institute for Female Offenders in Niantic. The group was also joined by Miwa Grimmer-Solem, a Japanese translator from ABC Language Services, who accompanied the group for the rest of the trip.

After a short PowerPoint presentation on the history of the women's prison, Warden Steven Faucher, and a cadre of York's clinical and program personnel, escorted the foreign guests throughout the institution's sprawling campus. The hours-long tour was designed to show the group an offender's experience from admission to discharge, and the wide range of services provided. The programs and services are dependent on the inmate's security level, sentence length, medical, mental health, and education requirements. Faucher and his staff explained DOC's continuing efforts to parallel the facility's evaluative and treatment programs with those of the

JB/CSSD and other agencies, in order to help clients achieve a successful transition when they are released to either probation or the community-at-large.

Next on the day's agenda was a visit to the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, led by CSSD Directors Deborah Fuller and Brian Hill to attend the afternoon's Juvenile Justice Policy Oversight Commission (JJPOC) meeting.

On Friday, a tour of Crossroads Residential Treatment Facility for Women in New Haven was of particular interest to the group and they had many questions about it. The program allows children under five years old to live at the site with their mothers while they undergo treatment which is quite different from Japan, where women offenders do not have access to their children during incarceration. The group also toured the New Haven Alternative in the Community Program (AIC), and the Virginia Wells House, a transitional housing program for women. Women Offender Case Management Model (WOCMM) probation officers spent considerable time with Higashiyama, Takasawa, and Tanaka explaining the gender-specific supervision program, and discussing the challenges and positive outcomes that have occurred since its inception.

The Japanese guests spent the weekend and the Monday state holiday on their own, visiting the Yale Library and traveling to Boston to visit the Harvard Library in Cam-



(Front row) K. Tanaka (Japan) and M. Grimmer-Solem (translator). (Back row, L to R) C. Takazawa (Japan), L. Gonzalez (CSSD), M. Moreland (Project M.O.R.E.), T. Higashiyama (Japan)

bridge. Tuesday was their final day in Connecticut and included a tour of the Connecticut Supreme Court (where they spoke with Supreme Court Justice Richard Robinson), the State Capitol, and the Legislative Office Building. The group then traveled to New York to tour Riker's Island, New York City's main jail complex, before flying back to Japan.

Since their visit in January, the group has continued to correspond with CSSD administrators and staff to ask questions about the risk/needs assessment tools that are used in Connecticut, and the therapeutic, rather than punitive, approach used within the state's criminal justice system. At least one member of the original group and a high-ranking official from Japan's Ministry of Justice will be visiting Connecticut in October for the Adult and Juvenile Female Offender Conference (AJFO).

There were a number of judicial, legislative, CSSD, DOC, and contractor professionals who worked hard and gave of their time to make this international visit a success. "I want to thank the staff from throughout the division for their hospitality in hosting our colleagues from Japan," said Mr. Grant. "It provided an opportunity to showcase the evidence-based services we've adopted over the years and learn about the culture of Japan's correctional system. It was a wonderful experience that was mutually beneficial."

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*The **CSSD Chronicle** is a regular publication of information and news about the Court Support Services Division. Questions or comments on this edition, or suggestions for future articles, can be directed to [Linda.Grzeika@jud.ct.gov](mailto:Linda.Grzeika@jud.ct.gov)*