

By Five Town Communities That Care for [Village Soup](#)

A distinguished panel of experts from Maine's law enforcement community will discuss the juvenile justice system at Five Town Communities That Care's Coalition meeting on March 8th. The meeting will be held at John Street United Methodist Church in Camden, from 11:30am-1pm. Lunch will be provided free of charge.

Nearly 350 out of every 100,000 kids in the U.S. are placed in detention or correctional custody. This is roughly five times the rate in South Africa, seven times that in England, 14 times that in Germany, and almost 82 times the rate in Sweden.

Many of us do not understand that placing kids in the care of the juvenile justice system often does not result in positive outcomes. Unfortunately, we continue to lock up our kids despite research that shows juvenile incarceration to be ineffective, unnecessary, and wasteful.

Furthermore, we ignore the major difference between adult and juvenile offenders. Much of what predisposes youth to break the law can be blamed on their different adolescent brains, wired by nature for risk. Add to this substance abuse, family issues and lack of access to mental health services, and a child's chances of running afoul of the law grow dramatically.

The panel will address their work with juveniles, touching on the particular challenges our youth face and ideas for ways our community can come together to mitigate or prevent juvenile delinquency. Speakers include:

Chief Ron Young, Lincolnville Police Department; Roy Curtis, Community Corrections Officer; Lindsay Jones, Maine Assistant District Attorney; Edwin Chester, Esq., Juvenile Defense

Panel on Juvenile Justice to Address Five Town CTC Coalition Meeting

Thursday, 23 February 2012 10:35

Attorney; Bartlett Stoodley, Associate commissioner of the Dept. of Corrections, Division of Juvenile Services; and a staff member from Mountain Valley Juvenile Detention Center.

Dalene Dutton, Executive Director of Five Town CTC, will provide context for their discussion by underscoring CTC's community approach to providing a choice of safe, supportive activities and groups for our kids as an alternative to getting in trouble.

Due to limited seating and the need for a head count for lunch, we ask that you RSVP as soon as possible by phone at 236-9800 or email mentors@fivetownctc.org.

Five Town CTC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the support of the Five Town CTC Coalition. This group of individuals and organizations collaborates to promote healthy youth development and to reduce the incidence of problem adolescent behaviors in the towns of Appleton, Camden, Hope, Lincolnville, and Rockport, Maine. By working together we can more efficiently and effectively leverage the community's limited resources for prevention of youth alcohol and drug use, tobacco use, violence, delinquency, and suicide.