

In 2023, the JJPAD Board will focus on high-priority policy questions and challenges stemming from the Board's previous four years of work, continue its mandated core functions, and provide support to advance prior Board and Subcommittee projects:

### NEW INITIATIVES

Over the past decade, Massachusetts has made a concerted effort to decrease the use of pretrial detention for youth. This effort — a result of initiatives, policy changes, and practice shifts— has been largely successful: in FY2022, there were 68% fewer detention admissions than in FY2015. However, considering the significant [impact of an arraignment and the pretrial process](#) – specifically detention— on a youth, the Board is focusing on two new initiatives that aim to answer the questions: “*Who remains in pretrial detention?*”, “*What interventions (policy changes, services, etc.) can be put into place to prevent detention?*” and “*Are there youth being detained who could be better served in the community or diverted?*”



**Crossover Youth:** Current data shows that half of all pretrial detention admissions are for youth with active child welfare system involvement. This year, the Board will review our state's policies and practices, data, and national best practices to deepen our understanding of factors driving youth to “crossover” from the child welfare to the delinquency system. The Board aims to identify more effective ways to prevent DCF-involved youth entering and/or going deeper into the juvenile justice system.



**Juvenile Pretrial Phase:** Recent data trends suggest youth are often detained pretrial as a result of a violation of a condition of pretrial probation or bail. With an eye toward making recommendations to improve community-based pretrial supports to prevent detention, the Board will look at data, policies, and best practices regarding pretrial probation and the use of bail.

### OVERSIGHT AND CONTINUATION OF OTHER WORK



**Impact of Statutory Changes:** Continue to track the implementation of juvenile justice system statutory changes from the 2018 Criminal Justice Reform Bill, the 2020 Policing Bill, and any new juvenile justice legislation and make recommendations on further system improvement.



**Decrease Racial and Ethnic Disparities:** Continued education and outreach based on the findings and recommendations made in the Board's [Racial and Ethnic Disparities at the Front Door](#) brief published in Fall 2022.



**Continuation of Ongoing Work:** Continue work on prior JJPAD/CTTF initiatives, including:

- Monitoring the implementation and continued expansion of the Massachusetts Youth Diversion Program (MYDP)
- Advisory role with the [Center on Childhood Trauma and Wellbeing](#)
- Submit FY23 data as part of the JJPAD Annual Report and continue updating the [Juvenile Justice Data Website](#)

Want to learn more? Learn about the Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board & read all our legislative reports here:  
<https://www.mass.gov/juvenile-justice-policy-and-data-board>