

Office of the Child Advocate
Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board
Friday, December 19, 2025
11:30am-12:30pm
Meeting held virtually

Board Members or Designees Present:

Melissa Threadgill (OCA)
Cecely Reardon (DYS)
Rachel Wallack (Juvenile Court)
Rachel Gwaltney (CLM)
Tobin Abraham (Rep. Nguyen)
Leon Smith (CfJJ)
Rebecca Brink (DCF)
Julia Andrus (DCF)
Joseph Abber (Probation)
Bridget Nichols (DMH)
Heidi Gold (EOE)
Keesha LaTulippe (DPH)
Juin Liu (DESE)

OCA Staff:

Kristi Polizzano
Brigid Kennedy-Pfister
Arianna Turner
Bessie Pierre

Other Attendees:

Kathleen Bitetti (OSA)
Duci Gonsalves (CPCS)
Theresa Coney

Meeting Commenced: 11:32am

Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Threadgill welcomed the attendees to the Juvenile Justice Policy & Data (JJPAD) Board meeting. Ms. Threadgill added that Director Mossaides would not be joining and sends her regrets. Members of the Board and guests introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes from the October 8, 2025, meeting

Ms. Threadgill held a formal vote on the approval of the previous JJPAD Board meeting minutes.

Ms. Threadgill held a formal vote on the approval of the previous JJPAD Board meeting minutes from October 8, 2025. Melissa Threadgill, Leon Smith, Commissioner Cecely Reardon, Julia Andrus, Heidi Gold, Tobin Abraham, Keesha LaTulippe, and Rebecca Brink all voted in the affirmative. Rachel Wallack and Julia Andrus abstained. No one voted against the meeting minutes.

The meeting minutes from October were approved.

Meeting Agenda

Ms. Threadgill presented the agenda for today's meeting which included:

- OCA Presentation: JJPAD Board 2025 Annual Report data to date
- Subcommittee 2026 Work Plans

Ms. Threadgill noted that the data in the presentation is a high-level overview of FY25 trends in the juvenile justice system, adding that it does not include all available data or demographic trends. She thanked attendees and their respective agencies for responding to data requests.

OCA Presentation: JJPAD Board 2025 Annual Report data to date

Ms. Polizzano began the presentation by noting that agencies reported more data this year than in prior years and that the OCA will receive additional data on summons and arrests in the upcoming weeks to complete this year's analysis. She highlighted that Probation and the Department of Youth Services (DYS) provided additional data this year to support the Board's year-over-year trend analysis. Ms. Polizzano then shared some data notes.

Ms. Polizzano began by reviewing overall juvenile justice system data trends thus far across process points, highlighting changes since the Criminal Justice Reform Act (CJRA) (FY18) through FY25.

Ms. Polizzano then reviewed the pretrial data trends and the changes in offense types/severity for these process points. She noted that rates of youth released on personal recognizance are estimated by the OCA, as the Juvenile Court does not report that data. Ms. Polizzano that the substantial increase in pretrial court involvement is likely connected to the fact that the Criminal Justice Reform Act (CJRA) established a Pretrial Unit at Probation . She invited questions and discussion. None were raised.

Ms. Polizzano then presented pretrial detention data and reasons for youth being detained. She invited questions or comments.

One member asked if there is data available on technical violations before youth face multiple charges. Ms. Polizzano responded that this information is not available.

Ms. Polizzano explained that the reported 75% increase in youth arraigned and detained on alleged drug offenses reflects a very small underlying number of cases.

Ms. Polizzano also explained that, for pretrial detention admissions offense types, DYS reports the most serious offense for youth who are arraigned and detained. She then invited questions, thoughts and takeaways on the pretrial data trends.

One member noted the increase in weapons applications for complaint for youth with no prior juvenile justice system involvement.

One member discussed the need for early intervention and prevention for youth detained for substance use.

Another member added that treatment resources for youth are limited. They also noted the low level of intervention provided for youth with either Category A or Category B Conditions of Release.

Ms. Polizzano thanked the members for their comments and noted that there is data available from the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) at the end of the presentation that they won't have time to get to. Ms. Threadgill added that the report will note BSAS program closures.

Next, Ms. Polizzano reviewed the "Disposition data trends" section and welcomed feedback. None was raised.

Ms. Polizzano then presented high-level takeaways from the data presented thus far. She invited comments or takeaways.

One member reacted to each of the takeaways and suggested removing the word "intensive" from "intensive pretrial court involvement." They also added that disposition length is not long enough for effective support identification and intervention.

Another member highlighted the restrictions on a youth's liberty when there are intensive pretrial conditions.

One member asked if the cases have higher acuity and whether there are opportunities for multiphase treatment in these cases.

Members discussed the use of GPS monitoring for youth as a result of 58A hearings and the difficult decision they may face between GPS monitoring or being detained pretrial.

Ms. Threadgill brought up the fact that youth on pretrial conditions of release may not know the difference between being placed on “A” or “B” conditions.

Subcommittee 2026 Work Plans

Ms. Threadgill shared that the next JJPAD Board meeting will be in-person in March 2026. The goal of the meeting will be to discuss and vote on the annual report. She noted that members will have two weeks to review the report prior to voting.

Ms. Threadgill added that the Data Subcommittee will review the report’s data section and that Board members are also welcome to request a copy.

Closing Comments

Ms. Threadgill thanked attendees for their work and adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 12:29pm