

Office of the Child Advocate
Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board

Monday July 13, 2020

1pm – 3:00PM

Meeting held virtually due to COVID 19 emergency response

Subcommittee Members or Designees Present:

Maria Mossaides (OCA)

Tammy Mello (CLM)

Joshua Dohan (CPCS)

Leon Smith (CFJJ)

Dawn Christie (Parent Representative)

Fabiola White (Probation)

Ed Dolan (Probation)

Nancy Connolly (DMH)

David Melly (Rep. Dykema's Office)

Lindsey Tucker (DPH)

Cristina Tedstone (DCF)

Peter Forbes (DYS)

Daria Afshar (Sen. O'Connor's Office)

Other Attendees:

Melissa Threadgill (OCA)

Kristi Polizzano (OCA)

Alix Rivière (OCA)

Noor Taraif (OCA)

Angela Brooks (AGO)

Matt Cregor (MHLAC)

Kathleen Bitetti (SAO)

Members of the public

Meeting Commenced: 1:04PM

Welcome and Introductions:

Ms. Threadgill welcomed the attendees to the Juvenile Justice Policy & Data (JJPAD) Board meeting. The nature of this meeting is different due to COVID-19 emergency response shifting the meeting to a virtual WebEx platform. She explained some general guidelines for the virtual meeting and then introduced all the individuals in the WebEx video conference. Individuals on the phone introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes from March Meeting:

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

The meeting minutes for March were approved.

Meeting Agenda:

Ms. Threadgill explained the agenda for today's meeting.

Legislative Update

Ms. Threadgill provided updates regarding the state Senate police reform and equity bill that was recently voted on. She explained that Sen. Boncore (JJPAD Member) submitted an amendment in this bill that required training (and tracking of trainings) for School Resource Officers based on the JJPAD Board's Fall 2019 Legislative Report. Ms. Threadgill mentioned other amendments to the bill that might be of interest to the Board including data transparency and school committee oversight for SROs. Ms. Threadgill mentioned the House will most likely put out an omnibus bill in the coming week.

Updated work plan

Ms. Threadgill showed the updated Full Board work plan for the remaining portion of 2020. The 2020 Legislative Report will include FY20 data trends, COVID-19 contextual information, summaries of the subcommittees' work and any other additional recommendations.

Subcommittee reports will include:

Childhood Trauma Task Force (CTTF): recommendations for being a trauma informed organization

Data Subcommittee: Data reporting standards and FY20 data trends

Community Based Interventions (CBI): model program guide for diversion program based on 2019 report

Ms. Threadgill reviewed the updated plans for the Board's September and November meetings and asked if any Full Board member had recommendations or requests regarding the report's content. Members will have an opportunity to see a first draft of these documents during the September meeting.

Subcommittee Report Outs

Childhood Trauma Task Force: This group researched, discussed and issued a legislative report on children's mental health during the Covid-19 pandemic. This report issued seven findings and three recommendations.

The group discussed the challenges faced by the legislature during this pandemic. A Board member asked what agencies represented in this group could be doing differently to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and structural racism. Ms. Threadgill mentioned this report's discussion of racial trauma in the context of the nation-wide protests.

Ms. Threadgill updated the group on the CTTF's Framework for Trauma-Informed and Responsive Organizations and explained that the subcommittee was in the process of collecting feedback from trauma experts and child-serving organizations and agencies throughout the Commonwealth.

Data Subcommittee: This group has been working on data reporting standard recommendations for variables such as race and ethnicity; sexual orientation, gender identity and expression; offense types, and geography. Ms. Threadgill explained that the Juvenile Justice Data website launch is scheduled to take place in the coming months. Ms. Polizzano showed the group two

pages to serve as examples for the group to see. This website includes data on the following process points:

- Arrests & Overnight Arrests
- Applications for Complaint & Delinquency Filings
- Detentions
- Probation & Commitments
- Youth Engaged in Services (YES)

Community Based Subcommittee meeting: Ms. Threadgill updated the Board on the progress of the Model Program Guide for Statewide Diversion that the Community Based Interventions (CBI) subcommittee has been working on since the start of the new year. Ms. Threadgill also mentioned the Information Sharing Working Group that has been discussing what information Diversion Coordinators should automatically have, sometimes have, or never have.

School-Based Arrest Data: Massachusetts Failure to Comply with the 2018 Criminal Justice Reform Act:

Leon Smith (CFJJ) and Matt Cregor (MHLAC) presented on data findings regarding school-based arrests. They demonstrated that a majority of school districts are either underreporting, or not reporting at all, arrests that occur at school. Previously, this Board had discussed implementation concerns of the 2018 criminal justice reform legislation, and these implementation concerns had also been addressed in the 2019 Early Impacts report. Ms. Threadgill proposed reconstituting the SRO Working Group that convened several times in 2019. All members of the Board agreed.

Board Member Updates & Reflection

The rest of the Board meeting was dedicated to hearing agency updates during the COVID-19 emergency response. Board members discussed technological challenges, increased disparities, telehealth concerns, re-opening and plans, and staff and youth health concerns. Members of the Board noted that detentions, residential treatments and 51A reports had all decreased. Concerns were expressed regarding FY21 budgets and any upcoming surges in COVID-19 cases this fall.

Ms. Tucker provided an update from DPH regarding the COVID19 Health Equity Advisory Committee that released recommendations at the end of June.

Closing Comments:

Ms. Threadgill thanked the group for their updates and time. She reminded members to fill out their availability for the Fall Board meetings and closed the meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 2:37pm