

Office of the Child Advocate  
Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board  
Friday November 18, 2022  
11:00am-12:00pm  
**Meeting held virtually**

**Board Members or Designees Present:**

Maria Mossaides (OCA)  
Nancy Connolly (DMH)  
Christina Tedstone (DCF)  
Cecely Reardon (DYS)  
Naoka Carey (CfJJ)  
Rachel Wallack (Trial Court)  
Rebecca Brink (DCF)  
Barbra Kaban (CPCS)  
Duci Goncalves (CPCS)  
Yves Singletary (DPH)  
Danielle Allard (Sen. Gomez)  
Fabiola White (Probation)  
Pamela Bows (PPAL)

**OCA Staff:**

Melissa Threadgill  
Kristi Polizzano  
Alix Rivière  
Jessica Seabrook  
Morgan Byrnes

**Other Attendees:**

Sana Fadel (CfJJ)  
Members of the public

**Meeting Commenced:** 11:02 am

**Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. Threadgill welcomed the attendees to the Juvenile Justice Policy & Data (JJPAD) Board meeting. Members of the Board and guests introduced themselves.

**Meeting Agenda**

Ms. Threadgill presented the agenda for today’s meeting: a review and vote on the Board’s CRA report, a presentation on FY22 data, hear any updates from Board members, as well as reviewing and voting on the previous JJPAD Board meeting minutes.

### **Approval of Minutes from the October Meeting**

Ms. Threadgill held a formal vote on the approval of the previous JJPAD Board meeting minutes. Naoka Carey, Nancy Connolly, Duci Goncalves, Christina Tedstone, and Maria Mossaides all voted in the affirmative. Rachel Wallack abstained. No one opposed.

The meeting minutes for October were approved.

### **Review & Vote on the Child Requiring Assistance (CRA) Report**

Ms. Threadgill welcomed general edits or comments on the report. Hearing none, the Board voted to adopt the report.

The following members voted in the affirmative: Maria Mossaides, Dulcinea Goncalves, Naoka Carey, Danielle Allard (on behalf of Sen. Gomez), Cecely Reardon, Rachel Gwaltney.

The following members abstained: Yves Singletary, Rachel Wallack (on behalf of Thomas Capasso), Fabiola White (on behalf of Edward Dolan), Nancy Connolly, Rebecca Brink, and Christina Tedstone.

The report was adopted.

Ms. Threadgill thanked members for their work.

### **Review of the Childhood Trauma Task Force (CTTF)’s Report on Trauma Identification**

Ms. Threadgill then presented on the Childhood Trauma Task Force’s report on trauma identification. She gave an overview of the following:

- The project’s timeline
- The report’s general findings
- Part I of the report, which includes recommendations on trauma identification and referral for all organizations wishing to implement trauma screening and/or identification
- Part II of the report, which include sector – specific recommendations for organizations in K-12, pediatric primary care, early childhood, juvenile justice, child welfare and first responder settings wishing to implement trauma screening and/or identification

One member asked if the report addressed over screening of youth and if it outlines steps for organization’s wishing to implement trauma identification/screening. It was explained that the

report addresses the issue of over-screening and the CTTF outlined steps for organizations in the group's 2021 report.

### **FY22 Data Presentation**

Ms. Polizzano began presenting on FY22 data. She explained that this data would inform the Board's forthcoming FY22 Annual Report. She presented on juvenile justice system use in FY22 and trends over time, including:

- Juvenile court process data (applications for complaint, delinquency filings, arraignments, adjudications, dispositions)
- Trends regarding the use of the system by comparing FY22 data to FY18 to understand the impact of the 2018 criminal justice reform bill, as well as comparing FY22 data to FY19 to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Demographic breakdowns (i.e., race and gender) of the youth involved in the juvenile justice system
- Data illustrating the utilization of other child-serving systems that may be impacted by the longer-term decline of juvenile justice system use.

She welcomed any questions from the Board. Member discussed the racial and ethnic disparities observed in the system, focusing on the overrepresentation of Black and Latino youth early in the process (e.g., custodial and overnight arrest). Members discussed how the FY22 data fit into longer term trends within the juvenile justice system. It was explained that the full report would include a "Key Takeaways" section that would help put this year's data into context for readers.

A member asked how gender is reported throughout the juvenile justice system. It was explained that each agency reports gender differently, and those differences are covered in the full report.

A member asked if there would be geographic breakdowns of the data presented. It was explained that the Board would review this data by county at the December meeting.

Ms. Polizzano then presented on admissions in other child serving agencies, including:

- CRA filings
- Applications to the Department of Mental Health (DMH)
- Juvenile Court Clinic Referrals

- Admissions to the Department of Public Health (DPH)'s programs, including the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) and violence prevention programs

She welcomed any questions from the group. One member asked who could refer youth and families to DMH's services. It was explained that many of the applications come from in-patient units. Members discussed how the pandemic influenced the downward trends. One member asked for clarification on how DMH categorizes the youth in their service categories. It was explained that in some service categories high risk youth with long term engagement with DMH are combined with youth who are involved with DMH for less intense services. Members also discussed the increase in juvenile court clinics referrals.

Ms. Polizzano noted that the Data Subcommittee would continue to review the FY22 data at their December meeting. Those edits will be incorporated into a new draft that would be emailed out to the Board for a final review. The Board would then review and discuss at their December meeting.

### **Board Member Updates and Closing Comments**

Ms. Threadgill gave members opportunity to share updates of their agencies. No member had updates to share with the group. Ms. Threadgill thanked the group for their time and adjourned the meeting.

**Meeting adjourned: 11:57 am**