

Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board

Community Based Interventions
Subcommittee Meeting

September 22, 2025

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of July Meeting Minutes
3. Dually Involved Youth Project: CPCS and MPS Guest Presentation
4. Discussion & Next Steps

Dually Involved Youth Project: CPCS Presentation

Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS)

- ▶ Jamie Bennett Attorney In Charge
YAD Worcester Office
- ▶ Brian Blakeslee Supervising Attorney
CAFL Trial Panel Support Unit

Agenda

- ▶ Representation at CAFL & YAD
- ▶ Typical crossover case
- ▶ Collaboration between divisions & relevant courtroom practices
- ▶ Relevant policies (Court, CPCS, Case Law)
- ▶ Relevant trainings
- ▶ Challenges & bright spots



Child Client Representation – Delinquency and Youthful Offender cases

- ▶ Appointment of Counsel – how does it happen?
- ▶ Summoned-in vs. overnight arrest
- ▶ Youthful Offender offense list
https://www.publiccounsel.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/YO_LIST_PDF_08-24-2022_1519-1.pdf
- ▶ Prior client history

Child Client Representation – C&Ps

- ▶ Appointment of Counsel – how does it happen?
- ▶ Who else receives an attorney?
- ▶ What if there is more than 1 child on the petition?
- ▶ Who else is involved?

Child Client Representation – CRAs

- ▶ Appointment of Counsel – how does it happen?
- ▶ Who receives an attorney?
- ▶ What if there is more than 1 child on the petition?
- ▶ Who else is involved?



Child Client Representation

- ▶ Model of Representation -- client directed (expressed wishes)
- ▶ Mass. Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 1.14
(Client with Diminished Capacity)
- ▶ CPCS Performance Standards for Care & Protection Cases, Standard 1.6
(Determining & Advocating the Child Client's Position)

Dually Involved Youth Case Management

“Common” crossover cases:

- CRA pending and youth picks up criminal charges
- Criminal charges are pending and parent/guardian files CRA (sometimes because they do not want their child home)
- Child is in the custody of DCF on a Care & Protection and is being charged with a crime

“Common” crossover case themes

- Placement disruption
- History of significant trauma/CSEC
- Inconsistent services/waitlists
- Educational issues
- Parent/guardian fatigue

Case Collaboration & Courtroom Practices

- How does CPCS identify youth who are dually involved?
- How do YAD and CAFL attorneys coordinate?
- See: <https://www.mass.gov/handbook/guide-on-the-disclosure-of-confidential-information>

Effective Advocacy – Crossover Cases

- ▶ Communication Between Counsel
- ▶ Coordinated Litigation Strategy
- ▶ M.O.U. between DCF and DYS
- ▶ Information Sharing
- ▶ Pre-Arraignment Representation
- ▶ Same Judge



CPCS/Court Policies, Practices & Trainings

Are there any other relevant courtroom practices to highlight?

- Judges sometimes hear CRA case first, then delinquency and try not to conflate each case
- Can be difficult when Judge is familiar with client who is struggling on a CRA contract who comes in with charges

Are there any relevant CPCS policies that impact how attorneys work with crossover youth?

- Collaboration between YAD and CAFL offices is encouraged
- Success with CAFL attorneys getting YAD attorneys involved early on in criminal case

Are there any relevant CPCS trainings that inform attorneys on crossover cases?

- Yes, we have training on criminal cases for CAFL clients and training on Care & Protection cases for criminal attorneys
- Edlaw trainings for all attorneys

CPCS Practices

- ▶ DIY cases & Social Workers
- ▶ Complex cases benefit from SW expertise
- ▶ YAD Staff Attorneys have Social Services Advocates
- ▶ CAFL Staff Attorneys have Social Workers
- ▶ Private Panel Attorneys can request ICCA funds to hire social workers
- ▶ CPCS trainings focus on benefits to clients & counsel of using social services experts

Challenges – DIY Cases

Challenges for Attorneys

understanding
roles of different
players

impact of one
case on another

group share of
information

Challenges for Child Clients

understanding
roles of different
players

understanding
process

trusting
attorneys

Bright Spots

What works in terms of effective representation for dually involved youth? Have you seen this in MA? If not, where have you seen it?

- COLLABORATION! All parties talking and trying to be creative to create better youth outcomes
- Utilizing SSAs or Court Clinic Case Management
- Utilizing EdLaw's expertise

Any innovative models or emerging practices to highlight?

- Wrap around services that provide 24/7 care to families on CRAs to keep children at home
- Not utilizing criminal charges to enforce issues more appropriate for CRA
- Diversion
- Utilization of Family Resource Centers

Dually Involved Youth Project: MPS Presentation

CBI: Where We're Going...

Late Fall 2025 - Winter 2026:

- ✓ discuss data analysis
- ✓ review key takeaways from the case file review
- ✓ learn best practice from other jurisdictions

Summer/Fall 2026:
JJPAD Board finalizes
recommendations
and publishes the
report

Spring 2026:
Discuss draft
findings and
brainstorm
recommendations

Next Meeting:

October 27th

11am-12:30pm

(All meetings are virtual; Zoom information is in each calendar invitation)



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