

Office of the Child Advocate  
Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board  
Data Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday December 9, 2021  
10:30am-12:00pm  
**Meeting held virtually**

**Subcommittee Members or Designees Present:**

- Kim Occhiuti (DCF)
- Nancy Brody (DCF)
- David Chandler (DYS)
- Lydia Todd (CLM)
- Matthew Broderick (DMH)
- Rachel Wallack (Juvenile Court)
- Laura Lempicki (Probation)
- Barbara Kaban (CPCS)
- Sana Fadel (CfJJ)
- Patricia Bergin (EOPSS)
- Dana Bernson (DPH)

**OCA Staff:**

- Melissa Threadgill (OCA)
- Kristine Polizzano (OCA)
- Janice Neiman (OCA)
- Morgan Byrnes (OCA)

**Other Attendees:**

- Kristina Sladek (Probation)
- Noor Toraif (DYS)
- Kathleen Bitetti (SAO)
- Meg Danisewich (DYS)
- Wisly Douyon (DYS)
- Michael Glennon (SCDAO)
- Other members of the public

**Meeting Commenced:** 10:31AM

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Ms. Threadgill welcomed the attendees to the Data subcommittee meeting and welcomed all attending to introduce themselves. Members and attendees introduced themselves. Ms. Threadgill thanked the committee members for their diligent work and explained that the group would be reviewing and offering edits to the latest draft of the data availability report after reviewing the September meeting minutes.

**Review and Approval of the September Meeting Minutes:**



Ms. Threadgill asked if anyone had any questions or feedback regarding the September 9, 2021, meeting minutes. The group did not offer any feedback or objections. Ms. Occhiuti, Ms. Brody, Mr. Chandler, Ms. Todd, Mr. Broderick, Ms. Wallack, Ms. Lempicki, Ms. Kaban, Ms. Fadel and Ms. Bergin all voted in the affirmative. Ms. Bernson abstained. The minutes were approved.

### **Review and Finalize the 2021 Data Availability Report**

Ms. Threadgill shared a marked-up copy of the draft report, explained that the group would go through the report page by page and welcomed members to bring edits for discussion. On page 10, a member questioned the use of “CWOFF case,” noting it is not a term the courts use. Members discussed and suggested changing the language to “a case resolved by a CWOFF.” Ms. Threadgill agreed, and the edit was made.

Members discussed the presentation of probation data, with one member expressing concern that the current language communicated to the public that certain probation data is newly available. Members discussed the overall timeline of probations data and tools, deciding to edit the language to include information on when the data in question was first available to the public.

A member expressed concern about the language used to describe the use of record level data, citing privacy concerns for the youth’s data. Members discussed the general use of record level data and suggested adding contextual language that would offer parameters of how the data would be used and shared.

Ms. Threadgill then discussed the report’s first recommendation, “The JJPAD Board should study the feasibility of creating an Administrative Data Center (ADC) to serve as Massachusetts’ central coordinator of record-level state data for child-serving entities.” Members discussed the pros and cons of this recommendation, questioning if the creation of an ADC would improve data analysis.

Finally, the Subcommittee discussed what language would be appropriate when discussing the availability of data. It was decided that the language should reflect that although some data may not be publicly available, it is available internally to state entities. Ultimately, the subcommittee changed the language from “data is not available” to “data is not publicly available.”

A motion was made to vote to send to the board as edited with the caveat that further edits can be proposed before next Friday.

- Kim Occhiuti (DCF) – Abstained
- Nancy Brody (DCF) - Yes
- David Chandler (DYS) – Yes
- Lydia Todd (CLM) – Yes
- Matthew Broderick (DMH) – Yes
- Rachel Wallack (Juvenile Court) – Abstained
- Laura Lempicki (Probation) – Yes
- Barbara Kaban (CPCS) – Yes
- Sana Fadel (CfJJ) – Yes

The report was approved to send to the Full Board by the subcommittee.

### **Review and Discuss FY21 Data for JJPAD Annual Report**



Ms. Polizzano presented the FY21 Data to be added to the JJPAD Annual Report. She highlighted preliminary takeaways and presented on FY21 data for the following process points:

- custodial arrests
- overnight arrest admissions
- detention admissions
- the detention process
- first time commitments
- DYS revocations

Ms. Polizzano also presented data in reference to the utilization of other state systems (e.g., Department of Public Health, Department of Mental Health and the Child Requiring Assistance process), highlighting that utilization is down across all points in which we have data. Last, she presented on preliminary race and ethnicity data. Ms. Polizzano noted that the report will also include gender and other demographic breakdowns.

Ms. Polizzano opened the group for questions or observations. Members discussed the increase in arrests of white youth. A member suggested that this could represent misreporting by police departments, explaining that race/ethnicity data is not self-reported by the youth but rather observed and reported by the arresting officer. Ms. Threadgill reminded the group that the final arrest data comes from the federal NIBRS reporting system. A member noted that the decrease in crime could be reflected in this data. Members additionally discussed the decrease in low level offenses. Members discussed that the low sample size would make it statistically insignificant. The group reflected on how to explain it in the report.

Ms. Threadgill explained that the Subcommittee will look at the FY21 data and the report at the next meeting. She stated that the OCA will be in touch when that is ready for the group.

**Concluding remarks:**

Ms. Threadgill explained that the Full Board will be reviewing the Data Availability Report during their meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup>. She thanked the group for their work. Ms. Threadgill wished everyone well and adjourned the meeting.

**Adjournment:** 12:13PM