

**Office of the Child Advocate**

**Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board- Subcommittee Meeting**

**February 19, 2020**

**Members and Designees in Attendance:**

- Joshua Dohan (CPCS)
- Kim Occhiuti (DCF)
- Cristina Tedstone (DCF)
- David Melly (Rep. Dykema’s office)
- David Chandler (DYS)
- Abigail Averbach (DPH)
- Leon Smith (CFJJ)
- Matthew Broderick (DMH)
- Rachel Wallack (Juvenile Court)

**Other Attendees:**

- Melissa Threadgill (OCA)
- Kristi Polizzano (OCA)
- Alexis Yohros (OCA)
- Kristina Johnson (EOTSS)
- Members of the public

**Meeting Commenced:** 2:07pm

**Welcome and Introductions**

Melissa Threadgill welcomed the members of the subcommittee and the members of the public who attended the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves and which department/organization they are representing.

Ms. Threadgill briefly went over the meeting’s agenda.

**Approval of Minutes from January Meeting**

---Ms. Threadgill asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting. The group approved the minutes without objection.

**Juvenile Justice Data Website Update Presentation and Discussion**

-- Kristina Johnson presented the first iteration of mock ups of what the Juvenile Justice Data website will look like. The Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS) have

been developing for a new Juvenile Justice System Data Webpage that the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) will manage. This presentation included the first time the subcommittee has seen the visualizations of data as part of the overall web page.

-- Ms. Johnson showed two draft pages of the website. The first page included a title, introduction, and table of contents. Ms. Johnson pointed out some questions that this subcommittee and the OCA will need to address. The second page included “post-adjudication” data visualizations including youth probation, commitments to DYS, and Youth Engaged in Services (YES).

-- The group provided feedback to EOTSS and the OCA regarding other data visualizations they would like to see on this page including legal representation of youth, security levels for the youth committed to DYS, and crossed data for some of the commitment data. Overall feedback included other ways to view year-over-year change for each processing point and other terms to add to a glossary.

--Ms. Johnson stated that the next steps will be to incorporate these changes and work on other process point’s data webpage mockups for the group.

### **Data Reporting Alignment Presentation and Discussion**

--Kristi Polizzano from the OCA presented on a continued discussion from the last Data subcommittee meeting. At that meeting, the group decided they wanted to work on data reporting alignment. Ms. Polizzano asked the group for “pain points” that they experience when trying to compare cross-agency data. The group identified some main variables as: geography, race/ethnicity, and biological sex and sexual orientation and gender identity and expression (SOGIE).

--The group also identified that other stakeholders should be involved in these conversations. DESE, the adult criminal justice reform coalition formed by the Criminal Justice Reform Bill in 2018 and some mental health provider organizations.

-- The group agreed that they wanted to work on data alignment for Race and Ethnicity first. Ms. Polizzano presented on the current way the agencies in the room are reporting race and ethnicity. There is variation between agencies specifically around the variables “Unknown/not reported,” “other,” “multi-racial” and how agencies count Hispanic/Latinx youth in their data. This is a problem because it makes it impossible to do a comparison across agencies and see where improvements need to be made.

--Ms. Threadgill continued the data reporting discussions with a brief overview of other agencies’ guidance on reporting alignment. She presented on how reports from the Office of Civil Rights, Office of Management and Budget, U.S. Department of Education, and California’s juvenile justice agencies recommend reporting Race and Ethnicity. The examples here collect and report ethnicity (Hispanic/Latinx or Not Hispanic/Latinx) separate from Race, or combined as a racial category. There is also some difference in what Racial categories are collected and reported. For example, a Census testing reported in 2015 to include Hispanic/Latinx and Middle Eastern/North African in their Race question in addition to the recommended categories: Asian,

White, Black/African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

--Ms. Threadgill noted she would send follow up materials out to the group to think about how Massachusetts' juvenile justice agencies can report their race/ethnicity data. The group had questions on why some agencies collect "other" and "Multi-racial" as a racial category, as well as expressing preference for certain reporting recommendations. There was some concern over including Middle Eastern/North African as a reported field due to matching with other federal agencies. Additionally, the group commented that there can be a discrepancy between how groups in the community identify and how the questions for race/ethnicity are structured. Finally, the group also recognized the need to contextualize why race/ethnicity reporting is important.

-Ms. Threadgill briefly transitioned to how Massachusetts juvenile justice agencies are currently reporting biological sex and reporting (or not) sexual orientation and gender identity and expression (SOGIE) data. The group briefly discussed the need for alignment with *certain* agencies over SOGIE data, but recognized that not all agencies are positioned in a way to form rapport with a youth to get to a level of comfortability asking about SOGIE data. Ms. Threadgill mentioned next steps to ask other professionals to present on best practices regarding SOGIE data collection and reporting.

--Ms. Threadgill noted the next meeting will be held on March 18,2020 from 1-3:00pm at 600 Washington St. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Room 4068. The meeting adjourned.

**Adjournment:** 3:57PM