

Office of the Child Advocate
Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board
Data Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 1, 2024
1PM -2:30 PM
Meeting held virtually

Subcommittee Members or Designees Present:

David Chandler (DYS)
Kim Occhiuti (DCF)
Nancy Brody (DCF)
Patricia Bergin (EOPSS)
Laura Miller (MDAA)
Janelle Ridley (JJAC)

OCA Staff:

Kristi Polizzano
Arianna Turner
Jess Seabrook

Other Attendees:

Kathleen Bitteti (OSA)
Jen Rocha (DYS)
Omar Irizarry (DMH)
Erin Stewart (Northeastern)
Jason Lewis (DYS)
Lisa Lindquist (OGR)
Baqar Husain (DPH)
Katarina Bettencourt

Meeting Commenced: 1:03 PM

Welcome and Introductions:

Ms. Polizzano welcomed the attendees to the Data Subcommittee meeting. Members and attendees introduced themselves.

Ms. Polizzano then reviewed the agenda for the meeting and began presenting data on the pretrial phase project.

Pretrial Project: Data Discussion

Ms. Polizzano reviewed the research questions and methodology for the project, explaining that this meeting's focus would be data analysis and the use of bail, pretrial probation as a disposition, and 58A hearings.

Ms. Polizzano then began reviewing data on youth held without bail set, including the following:

- In MA, a quarter of all detention admissions are for youth with bail set, a third of which are held on less than \$100. Over half (59%, n=120) of youth detained with bail set are for low grid offenses, and most of those admissions are for youth who had bail set under \$100. Over half of admissions for youth detained with bail set are for person offenses, and most of those admissions had bail set under \$50.
- Black & Latino youth are more likely to be detained as a result of bail being set than white youth. When white youth *were* detained as a result of bail being set, a higher percentage were held on bail amounts under \$50 compared to Black or Latino youth.
- Compared to all detention admissions, girls are overrepresented in detention admissions when bail was set and are held for lower amounts compared to boys.
- LGBTQ+ youth account for 10% (n=20) of detention admissions where bail was set and are held for lower amounts compared to youth who did not identify as LGBTQ+.
- Youth with DCF involvement are detained with bail set more frequently and held for lower amounts compared to youth with no DCF involvement.
- Hampden, Norfolk and Suffolk Counties have higher rates of detention admissions as a result of bail than the rest of the state. Hampden county held most youth on bail amounts under \$100.

Ms. Polizzano welcomed questions and takeaways from the data presented on cash bail. None were raised.

Ms. Polizzano then began presenting data on 58A Hearings, including the following:

- In recent years, the number of 58A Hearings has been increasing. However, most hearings do not result in a detention admission, and the percent of hearings resulting in detention has declined in recent years. Most youth held as a result of a 58A hearing are for higher-level and persons related offenses.
- Over half of 58A Hearings are for Black and Latino youth. Boys make up the majority of 58A Hearings.
- Essex county accounts for a quarter of 58A Hearings.

Ms. Polizzano welcomed questions and takeaways from the data presented on 58A hearings. None were raised.

Ms. Polizzano then began presenting data on Pretrial Probation (PTP) as a Disposition (Dispo.), including the following:

- More than half (56%) of PTP as a Dispo. cases require supervision by local probation offices. In FY23, 6% of arraignments resulted in a PTP as a Dispo.
- A quarter of all PTP as a Dispo. cases are for Black youth and a little more than quarter are for Latino youth. Black youth are less likely, and Latino youth are more likely, to be placed on PTP as a Dispo. than white youth.
- Between FY22&FY23 the number of girls on PTP as a Dispo. more than doubled. Girls are overrepresented in PTP as a Dispo. cases compared to arraignments.

One member asked why the number of girls on PTP as a Dispo. more than doubled between FY22 and FY23. Ms. Polizzano shared that the board does not have data on the causes behind this increase, but the board is exploring this question through stakeholder interviews.

One member asked if there is dual involvement data for kids who are on PTP as a Dispo. Ms. Polizzano shared that the board does not have data on kids on probation but will also be exploring this question through stakeholder interviews.

Ms. Polizzano then finished presenting data on PTP as a Dispo., sharing that a little under half (45%) of PTP as a Dispo. cases are supervised in Bristol, Middlesex and Norfolk Counties.

Ms. Polizzano welcomed questions and takeaways from the data presented on pretrial probation as a disposition. None were raised.

Ms. Polizzano welcomed questions on the pretrial project. None were raised.

Data Subcommittee Timeline

Ms. Polizzano then shared the work plan for the data subcommittee for the remainder of the year.

Concluding remarks:

Ms. Polizzano asked for final comments, questions, or concerns about the subcommittee's work. She asked that members fill out the scheduling poll for the upcoming meeting and adjourned the meeting.

Adjournment: 1:36 PM