

Office of the Child Advocate
Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board
Data Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 30, 2020
1pm – 2.30pm

Meeting held virtually due to COVID 19 emergency response

Subcommittees Members or Designees Present:

- Maria Mossaides (OCA)
- Naoka Carey (CfJJ)
- Sana Fadel (CFJJ)
- Leon Smith (CfJJ)
- Barbara Kaban (CPCS)
- Cristina Tedstone (DCF)
- David Chandler (DYS)
- Kim Occhiuti (DCF)
- Lydia Todd (CLM)
- Patricia Bergin (EOPSS)
- Rachel Wallack (Juvenile Court)
- Abigail Averbach (DPH)

Other Attendees:

- Melissa Threadgill (OCA)
- Kristine Polizzano (OCA)
- Alix Rivière (OCA)
- Jordan Meehan (MA Commission on LGBTQ Youth)
- Corey Prachniak-Rincón (MA Commission on LGBTQ Youth)
- Patience Crozier (GLAD)
- Kristina Johnson (EOTSS)
- Daniel Zollman (EOTSS)
- Other members of the public

Meeting Commenced: 1:02pm

Welcome and Introductions:

Ms. Threadgill welcomed the attendees to the Data subcommittee meeting. The nature of this meeting is different due to COVID-19 emergency response shifting the meeting to a virtual WebEx platform. She explained some general guidelines for the virtual meeting and then introduced all the individuals in the WebEx video conference. Individuals on the phone introduced themselves.

Review and Approval of the May Meeting Minutes

Ms. Threadgill asked if anyone had any questions or feedback regarding the May 26, 2020 meeting minutes. The group did not have any additions or corrections.

The minutes were approved.

Presentation on Collecting/Reporting SOGIE by MA LGBTQ Youth Commission and GLAD

Mr. Meehan started the presentation on collecting data on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression (SOGIE). He presented the work of the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth, GLAD, and defined certain key terms. He explained that collecting SOGIE data provides a more intersectional lens to the vulnerabilities faced by marginalized population and discussed how these vulnerabilities may be compounded. The presenters highlighted the ways in which not collecting SOGIE data can have dire consequences, including during the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Mr. Meehan also presented key data points regarding LGBTQ youth in the state. In the juvenile justice system, SOGIE data collection demonstrates that LGTBQ youth are twice as likely to enter the justice system than their non-LGBTQ peers. Trans people of color report a rate of past incarceration 4 times higher than other LGBQ people. Collecting SOGIE data is central to ensuring LGBTQ youth are not over-represented in the juvenile justice system.

Mx. Prachniak presented promising practices in SOGIE data collection by different organizations and state/federal agencies. They described best practices, including: making SOGIE questions universal; including SOGIE with other demographic data; ensuring self-identification and self-reporting; using accurate and culturally affirming language; creating a safe and inclusive environment; asking periodically and ensuring confidentiality.

Mx. Prachniak highlighted the importance of training, confidentiality, as well as regular review of data (and mandatory fields) to ensure questions are asked in the correct manner and reflect youth's identity. In answer to a subcommittee member, they explained that youth should be encouraged to self-identify when demographic data is reported in that manner.

At the end of the presentation, the subcommittee members were able to ask questions regarding specific terms as well as practical ways to go about data collection and reporting. The group discussed the next steps for SOGIE data collection and reporting, including defining current system challenges.

Review of Juvenile Justice Data Website

Ms. Threadgill asked the group if they have any general feedback on the Data Website. Ms. Threadgill explained this is one of the last times the group has an opportunity to provide final feedback before the website is launched.

The group first looked at the web page about initial complaints and filings with Juvenile Court, which provides data on delinquency complaints. Ms. Polizzano explained that based on last meeting's feedback, the OCA added more description and options to each page's table of contents. She went over the demographic and geographic sections of the complaint applications data. She explained the OCA had added more explanatory text to make note of certain terms or legislation. Later, she discussed the content of arraignment and detention data on the website. The group had no questions or comments. Finally, she presented the page on Youth Engaged in Services (YES) participation data trends. The group had no questions or comments.

Concluding remarks:

Ms. Threadgill reminded the group that the next meeting will be held via Webex on July 23, 2020 at 2pm. The committee will discuss SOGIE data standards as well as give feedback regarding the updated race/ethnicity standard.

Adjournment: 2:30pm