

Office of the Child Advocate
Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board
Data Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Thursday June 29, 2023
10:30am-12:00pm
Meeting held virtually

Subcommittee Members or Designees Present:

- Nancy Brody (DCF)
- Sana Fadel (CfJJ)
- Dana Bernson (DPH)
- Patricia Bergin (
- Michael Ames (CLM)
- Kim Occhiuti (DCF)
- Joe Mulhern (CPCS)

OCA Staff:

- Kristine Polizzano
- Morgan Byrnes
- Alex Onuoha
- Bekah Thomas

Other Attendees:

- Kathleen Bitetti (SAO)
- Audrey Herrmann (Rep. Livingstone)
- Katie Perry-Lorentz (DYS)
- Daniel Rosenthal (DYS)
- Noor Toraif (DYS)
- Juliet Anctil (OCP Intern)
- Other members of the public

Meeting Commenced: 10:33 AM

Welcome New Members and Introductions:

Ms. Polizzano welcomed the attendees to the Data Subcommittee meeting. New members and attendees introduced themselves. Ms. Polizzano explained that the group would review and discuss the JJPAD Board's 2023 work plan, with a focus on two new initiatives after voting on the December meeting minutes.

Approval of December Meeting Minutes

Ms. Polizzano asked if anyone had any questions or feedback regarding the December 8, 2022, meeting minutes. The group did not offer any feedback or objections. Dana Bernson, Nancy Brody, Joe Mulhern, and Sana Fadel all voted in the affirmative. Michael Ames abstained. No one voted against the meeting minutes.

The December meeting minutes were approved.

Review JJPAD 2023 Work Plan

Ms. Polizzano began presenting on the JJPAD Board's approved 2023 work plan, explaining the process and input that informed the Board's new initiatives.

Project Discussion: Juvenile Pre-trial Phase & Crossover Youth

She then introduced the board's first new initiative, a deeper look into the Juvenile pretrial phase. The presentation included:

- A review of the JJPAD's legislative mandate, that includes "an assessment of the system of community-based services for children who are under the supervision, care or custody of the department of youth services or the juvenile court"
- A review of pretrial court proceedings
- Recent policy and practice changes that have impacted the pretrial phase (e.g., the Criminal Justice Reform Act, COVID-19 impact, etc.)
- Data trends that will help guide potential research questions
- Potential research questions
- A proposed research process, that included the Board's overall goals for the project and possible methodologies

Members discussed pretrial data, specifically how the Department of Youth Services (DYS) obtains prison rape elimination act (PREA) data. Members also discussed the trends around dangerousness hearings.

Ms. Polizzano welcomed questions or additional comments on the data presented. Members discussed the availability of probation data, discussing the inability to break down conditions of release between youth who are detained.

Members also discussed year over year detention admissions, with one member asking if it was expected that detention admissions would level out around pre-pandemic numbers. It was explained that with the current data available it is not possible to make those predictions.

Ms. Polizzano then presented on the Board's second new initiative, youth who are involved with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) at time of detention or commitment to DYS. The presentation included:

- A review of the JJPAD's legislative mandate, that includes "an assessment of the number of juveniles who, after being or while under the supervision or custody of the department of children and families, are adjudicated delinquent or as a youthful offender; "
- Data trends that will help guide potential research questions
- Potential research questions
- A proposed research process, that included the Board's overall goals for the project and possible methodologies

Ms. Polizzano welcomed questions or additional comments on the data presented. Members discussed the length of stay data – requesting to see length of stay data for non-dually involved youth to use as a comparison.

Members also discussed youth who are held as a result of a person related offense, requesting to see data on if who the victim is in those cases (e.g., parent/care giver, staff at a DCF placement) had any impact on their pretrial conditions.

Members then discussed breaking down the data to understand what type of DCF involvement (e.g., care and protection, CRA, neglect) youth enter detention with.

One member asked if youth could be held on bail with just a stipulation and no cash component. It was explained that all bail stipulations would be accompanied by a cash bail amount.

Members also discussed collecting data on youth's most recent DCF placement as part of this project.

Members discussed the strengths of employing a mixed methods methodology.

Concluding remarks:

Ms. Polizzano thanked everyone for their work, wished everyone well, and adjourned the meeting.

Adjournment: 11:46 AM