Office of the Child Advocate
Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board
Data Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 26, 2020
1pm – 2.30pm
Meeting held virtually due to COVID 19 emergency response

Subcommittees Members or Designees Present:
- Naoka Carey (CfJJ)
- Sana Fadel (CFJJ)
- Barbara Kaban (CPCS)
- Cristina Tedstone (DCF)
- David Chandler (DYS)
- Kim Occhiuti (DCF)
- Lydia Todd (CLM)

Other Attendees:
- Melissa Threadgill (OCA)
- Kristine Polizzano (OCA)
- Alix Rivière (OCA)
- Leon Smith (CfJJ)
- Rowan Curran (DYS)
- Kristina Johnson (EOTSS)
- Daniel Zollman (EOTSS)
- Other members of the public

Meeting Commenced: 1:00pm

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 February Meeting Minutes

Ms. Threadgill asked if anyone had any questions or feedback regarding the February 19, 2020 meeting minutes. The group did not have any additions or corrections.

The minutes were approved.

Review of Juvenile Justice Data Website

Ms. Polizzano presented the updated Juvenile Justice Data website, including its two pages on arrest data and post-adjudication data. A suggestion was made to make the table of contents section more detailed.

For the juvenile arrest page, Ms. Polizzano explained the addition of the percent change from previous years after last meeting's feedback. Additionally, the website displays the geographic breakdown and demographic data (race, age, birth sex) for each juvenile justice process point. The website also breaks down offense types and grid levels depending on the agency.

Ms. Fadel asked about arrest data for children aged seven to eleven, before the 2018 legislation changed the minimum age of arrest to twelve. The OCA will add that data for the years prior to 2018. Other committee members highlighted the need for the website to also explain missing data from Lawrence. Finally, Ms. Polizzano explained the website will add a section explaining how state agencies report data by race, ethnicity, gender.

Ms. Polizzano moved on to the web page on data about youth on probation and committed to DYS. She described the different sections. Like in the previously discussed page, the data can be broken down by age, race/ethnicity, birth sex, and geography. The group discussed the data on first-time commitments to DYS by county and the variations between "home county" and "sending county." Ms. Fadel enquired about the possibility of downloading data and having individual agencies provide a link to this website for greater accessibility.

Concluding the conversation on the Juvenile Justice Data website, Ms. Threadgill explained that the website will eventually include court and detention data. She added the website will have a dedicated page on race and ethnicity.

Discussion of draft race/ethnicity reporting standard recommendations

Ms. Threadgill presented the criteria for recommendations based on the group's February discussion and explained that those can at times be in conflict with each other. They include:
1. Adherence to state and federal laws regarding confidentiality of private information.
2. Feasibility of implementation.
3. Level of detail.
4. Recognition of complexity of identity.
5. Alignment with other systems, especially the adult justice system.

Ms. Threadgill explained that not every agency will be at the same availability to share details on race and ethnicity. As such, the OCA wanted to allow for a minimum number of racial/ethnic categories. There are two ways agencies collect data: a "combined question" format, where youth can select one or multiple categories, and a "two-question" format starting with identification as Hispanic/Latino before asking about other race identities.

Ms. Threadgill continued the discussion regarding the option of selecting more than one race category. In addition, for youth not to be double-counted, she suggested a prioritization model to determine the race/ethnicity for reporting purposes. Mr. Chandler added that in his experience, youth who identify as Latino usually do not identify in the "race" category. The group discussed

whether to put the Hispanic/Latino category first, followed by Black or switching the order. The group then discussed the prioritization of American Indian/Alaska Native as a category. Mr. Chandler suggested that further research be done on this question.

Ms. Threadgill then discussed the possibility of listing "Other," and the group agreed on the addition.

Ms. Threadgill presented the six different levels of aggregation state agencies can do at varying levels of details. The subcommittee's goal would be for agencies to report: White; Black or African American; Hispanic/Latino; American Indian/Alaska Native; Asian; Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islanders (Level 4).

Finally, Ms. Threadgill went over the feedback from the committee's previous meeting that was included in the reporting recommendations. Specifically, the group discussed the implications of including a "Middle Eastern/North African" (MENA) reporting category. Ms. Threadgill agreed it would be important to reach out to people in Michigan, the state with the largest share of people that might identify as MENA, to know more about this point.

Concluding remarks:
Ms. Threadgill explained the OCA will update the recommendations based on the group's feedback. The next meeting will be held via Webex on Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 1pm. The committee will discuss SOGIE data collection and reporting after a presentation from the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth and GLAD. In July, the group will discuss data requests for FY20 as well as offense type data reporting.

Adjournment: 2:29pm