

Office of the Child Advocate

Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board- Subcommittee Meeting

January 24, 2020

Members and Designees in Attendance:

- Lydia Todd (CLM)
- Patricia Bergin (EOPPS)
- Joshua Dohan (CPCS)
- Laura Lempicki (Probation)
- Kim Occhiuti (DCF)
- Cristina Tedstone (DCF)
- Sana Fadel (CFJJ)
- David Melly (Rep. Dykema office)

Other Attendees:

- Melissa Threadgill (OCA)
- Kristi Polizzano (OCA)
- Kristina Johnson (EOTSS)
- Elizabeth Rider (EOTSS)
- Rowan Curran (DYS)
- Wisly Douyon (DYS)
- Kevin Hatchoua (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.

Approval of Minutes from October & November Meetings

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

Website Data Visualizations Presentation

-- Kristina Johnson presented the latest visualizations 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 latest iteration of data presented previously and included changes based on this subcommittee’s prior feedback. Ms. Johnson presented data visualizations for the following juvenile justice process points:

- Applications for Complaint & Delinquency Filings (Juvenile Court data)
 - Ms. Johnson showed the graphics representing three fiscal years of information for Applications for Complaint and Delinquency Filings. The group provided the following feedback:
 - Discussion on how to represent time:
 - It was discussed that somewhere it should show the percent change from year to year. The group was in agreement that year to year analysis is important and should be easily obtained from this website. Ms. Johnson stated there was concern over the way the numbers are represented now (in a ‘donut graph’) that might not be the best way to display when there is more data. Some members thought grouping of years might be important, but most agreed that being able to have as much historical data on the webpage was important. There were suggested to group years 2, 5 or 10 years at a time. It was suggested that selecting individual or all years might be best.
 - Edits are need in regard to some of the language. For example, the courts supply data as “non -white” as opposed to “youth of color.” There were also suggestions around legend and filter placement to be user friendly.
 - The group had a discussion on geographic representation of the data and how to best display the data we have location information for. One suggestion was to put county level data below the statewide date to provide a comparison. Additionally, it is important to provide census level data as a norm for comparison at all process points. This can be at the top of the whole webpage or in each section. Maps are impactful but not necessary for each process point, and it was suggested to use stacked bar charts for some process points.
- Probation Services
 - Ms. Johnson presented three probation graphs to the group. There was some feedback provided to clarify the levels of supervision in the content. There was formatting concerns surrounding color availability and use. The group agreed presenting volume and rate of caseload is important for this section. The group also suggested adding lines as visual representations of when important/notable policies/laws went into effect. For example, having a line on graphs that include historical data when the Criminal Justice Reform Act was passed and Raise the Age. It was also reported that the webpage should indicate when data started to be collected, if it was not always.
- Department of Youth Services (DYS) Admissions
 - Ms. Johnson showed the group that DYS graphs were able to be filtered by Fiscal Year or Calendar Year. This causes some issues with “half years” being reported which could be confusing for consumers of this information. It was recommended

by the group to get rid of the 2014 half year data and just report the full fiscal years data after that point. There was a brief discussion around how often agencies will submit this data and have it reflected on the website. Every 6 months to a year was the initial suggestion.

- Ms. Johnson explained that previous iterations of this data included more crossed data, but due to data cell size suppression (confidentiality) concerns, they decided to keep the data separated.
- The group had a discussion surrounding the definition of “commitments” and “first-commitments” and what this webpage would be reporting on.
- Ms. Johnson reported on Detention admission, First-time commitments and YES program admissions. It was suggested that since the YES program services kids with a different mission that detention and commitments, it should be visualized differently. For example, for the YES program individuals mentioned rate is more important than volume.
- The group had a discussion on whether or not gender should be reported as two separate graphs or a stacked bar chart. Individuals indicated wanting to be able to visualize the percent of all admissions.
- Individuals provided feedback for titles for charts, colors, font size and spacing between bar charts.
- Ms. Johnson presented the DYS geographic presentations. We continued to discuss how to best visualize geographic information for this webpage. Ms. Johnson noted that some of the youth detained are from out of state. The group provided recommendations on how to visualize that data. Some people suggested it did not need to be visually represented, but just noted in the content. Other suggestions included a “mini country map” in the bottom corner of the visualization or visualizing the surrounding New England states. Again, it was brought up that the web page will need to use census data to normalize this.
- Ms. Johnson showed the group the current way charge type is being displayed by grouping grid levels together from less serious to more. The group mentioned that having grid level, offense type, and misdemeanor/felony is all important to report out. It was added that visualizing how many youth are categorized as “Youthful offenders” might be helpful as well. It was explained that not all agencies report out offense case types with the same categories. Some individuals suggested combining certain offenses that could be reported together to help address that issue. The offenses listed represent “most serious offenses” at all levels. It was brought up that long-term goals might include showing all charge/case levels for a youth. The group also suggested supplying demographic information for the charge type visualizations as well.

Data Website Content:

--Ms. Threadgill explained that since we were running low on time that individuals should provide feedback (for accuracy and overall readability) on the entire document, their specific agency, or any other part of the document written thus far. We will address the content more in the next meeting.

Data Definitions and Reporting Alignment

JPAD Data Subcommittee Meeting Minutes—Approved by Data Subcommittee on 2/19/2020

--Ms. Threadgill mentioned another project this group could work on: data definition and reporting alignment. She acknowledged that there are data dictionaries this group (and others) have developed, but there has been less collaboration regarding on how individual agencies will report that data. For example, race and ethnicity is collected and reported differently depending on which juvenile agency is doing the reporting.. The group agreed that this was a project of interest. Ms. Threadgill reported that by next month we will supply examples of how this works in other jurisdictions and other best practices. She posed questions to the group to think about between now and the next meeting.

--The next data subcommittee meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2020 from 2-4:00pm at 600 Washington St.

Adjournment: 3:55PM