

Office of the Child Advocate
Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board
Data Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Thursday November 17, 2022
10:30am-12:00pm
Meeting held virtually

Subcommittee Members or Designees Present:

- Laura Lempicki (Probation)
- Lydia Todd (CLM)
- Nancy Brody (DCF)
- Sana Fadel (CfJJ)
- Dave Chandler (DYS)
- Kim Occhiuti (DCF)
- Matthew Broderick (DMH)
- Rachel Wallack (Trial Court)

OCA Staff:

- Melissa Threadgill
- Kristine Polizzano
- Jessica Seabrook
- Morgan Byrnes

Other Attendees:

- Jenyka Spitz-Gassnola (DYS)
- Kathleen Bitetti (SAO)
- Noor Toraif (DYS)
- Kristina Sladek (Probation)
- Gwynne Morrissey (DYS)
- Other members of the public

Meeting Commenced: 10:32 AM

Welcome and Introductions:

Ms. Polizzano welcomed the attendees to the Data Subcommittee meeting. Members and attendees introduced themselves. Ms. Polizzano explained that the group would review and discuss the FY22 data section of the JJPAD Annual Report after voting on the October meeting minutes.

Approval of October Meeting Minutes

Ms. Polizzano asked if anyone had any questions or feedback regarding the October 13, 2022, meeting minutes. The group did not offer any feedback or objections. Rachel Wallack, Lydia Todd, Nancy Brody, Sana Fadel and Kim Occhiuti all voted in the affirmative. Laura Lempicki abstained. No one voted against the meeting minutes.

The October meeting minutes were approved.

Review & Discuss: FY22 Annual Report Data

Ms. Polizzano welcomed general feedback on the FY22 data section of the JJPAD Board's annual report. A member asked what trends the report will focus on – measuring change over year or what happened since FY18? It was explained that the goal of the data analysis is as follows:

- Comparisons to FY21
- Comparisons to pre-pandemic (FY19) data
- The impact of the 2018 Criminal Justice Reform Act

One member noted that more historic data should be shared (past FY17). It was explained that these data were analyzed in depth in previous annual reports. A member suggested that some of that analysis should be included in this year's annual report to accurately communicate long term trends. It was agreed that other historical data would be added to certain sections.

One member suggested that the report include the number of dismissals that are due to diversion efforts. It was explained that Trial Court dismissal data could not be disaggregated.

Members discussed the Department of Youth Services (DYS)'s data. It was noted that for youth who's bail stipulation states they can only be released from DYS to the Department of Children and Families (DCF)'s custody, their length of stay is longer, when compared to youth who are not in DCF custody. One member noted that this may be due to the lack of available placement options. Members discussed how the pandemic could have impacted this. It was agreed that DYS would pull this data for the OCA to analyze.

Ms. Polizzano then welcomed feedback on the "Studying the Feasibility of an Administrative Data Center" (ADC) section of the annual report. One member asked what ADC model (e.g., state-based or university based) the Board will recommend. It was explained that the group was tasked with studying the feasibility of having an ADC serve as the central coordinator of data for child -serving entities, and therefore do not make any recommendations. The section does note that building on the Department of Public Health's Public Data Warehouse (PHD) would be the least resource intensive for the state.

Members also discussed recommending a centralized administrative database for case management purposes, that would allow for all child serving state entities to access and add to a child's administrative file, eliminating the need for an ADC. Members discussed the feasibility of this option, agreeing it would have benefits. It was decided to add some information on this concept into the annual report.

Members had some questions regarding ADCs, including in what format the data is stored and the procedure for state agencies when they receive a public records request. It was explained that these questions would be sent to DPH for answers.

Ms. Polizzano explained that this group would meet in December to discuss the county breakdowns of the FY22 data as well as a "key takeaways" section. She noted that the draft would be sent out for review on December 1.

Concluding remarks:

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

Adjournment: 11:22 AM