

Office of the Child Advocate
Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board
Data Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 8, 2023
11:30-1pm
Meeting held virtually

Subcommittee Members or Designees Present:

Laura Lempicki (MPS)
Joe Mulher (CPCS)
Rachel Wallack (CLM)
Sana Fadel (CfJJ)
Nancy Brody (DCF)
Kim Occhiuti (DCF)
Michael Ames (CLM)
David Chandler (DYS)
Dana Bernson (DPH)

OCA Staff:

Arianna Turner
Kristi Polizzano
Morgan Byrnes

Other Attendees:

Patricia Bergin (EOPSS)
Kathleen Bitetti (OSA)
Audrey Hermann (Rep. Livingstone)
Barbara Kaban (CPCS)
Nancy Brody (DCF)
Sofia Ozaeta (CfJJ)
Joshua Dankoff (CfJJ)
Daniel Rosenthal (DYS)
Lindsey Sagasta (DPH)
Lisa Lindquist (OGR)
Baqar Husain (DPH)
Melanie Malcom
Miranda Parrish
Michael Kilkelly

Meeting Commenced: 11:32 AM

Welcome and Introductions:

Ms. Polizzano welcomed the attendees to the Data Subcommittee meeting. Members and attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of October Meeting Minutes

Ms. Polizzano asked if anyone had any questions or feedback regarding the October 11, 2023, meeting minutes. The group did not offer any feedback or objections. Sana Fadel, Laura Lempicki, Joe Mulhern, Nancy Brody, Kim Occhiuti, and David Chandler all voted in the affirmative. Rachel Wallack abstained. No one voted against the meeting minutes.

The October meeting minutes were approved.

FY23 Annual Report Data Presentation & Discussion

Ms. Polizzano introduced the data, explaining that the presentation would look at available FY23 juvenile justice data to date and the changes in admissions since FY22, FY19 (pre-covid) and FY 18 (pre-Criminal Justice Reform Act).

Ms. Polizzano reviewed the types of data included in this year's report, highlighting the newly added data categories, and provided an outline of the upcoming presentation.

Overall Juvenile Court Data Trends Since FY22, FY19, FY18

Ms. Polizzano provided a data summary of the juvenile court process points, noting an increase in juvenile justice system use in FY23 compared to FY22 due to a rise in misdemeanor and felony cases. She then began presenting the FY23 Juvenile Court Data.

Ms. Polizzano noted that in later iterations of the data analysis, totals for certain process points would include both delinquency cases and youthful offender cases, and therefore increase slightly. Members discussed how this would impact overall analysis.

One member asked for clarification that the data presented on felonies and misdemeanors was representative of all of FY23. Ms. Polizzano confirmed. Another member asked for clarification about misdemeanor and felony case data. Ms. Polizzano explained that the number of misdemeanor cases was lower than the number of felony cases to begin with, making the increase in misdemeanors look comparatively more drastic.

Ms. Polizzano continued presenting on the juvenile court data trends, including the following data categories:

- Offense severity
- Number of cases across process points

One member requested to review the raw data for the trends presented. Ms. Polizzano stated that the raw data would be shared with the subcommittee later on. Another member asked about the probation case types included in the data set.

Ms. Polizzano welcomed questions on the high-level data overview she presented.

One member suggested including in the JJPAD annual report the types of data included year to year to showcase positive trends in data availability. Ms. Polizzano thanked them for their suggestion.

One member requested clarification about the misdemeanor data, asking if the increase was due to youth engaging in more criminal activity or due to increased reporting of youth. Ms. Polizzano shared that she would like to analyze overall change at different process points to see where the differences in the data lie. She stated that it is currently too early to determine where the change is coming from.

One member noted the decrease in caseload since FY19 and stated that it would be helpful to know where that decrease is coming from. Ms. Polizzano stated that data would be shared in upcoming slides in the presentation.

One member noted a large increase in pretrial probation year to year and stated that it could be an important trend to explore further.

One member asked if the caseload data was new or if it was data from Tableau. Ms. Polizzano shared that the data is the existing monthly caseload data.

Ms. Polizzano then welcomed Ms. Byrnes to present the pretrial data.

Pretrial Data Trends

Ms. Byrnes introduced herself to the group and provided a data summary of the pretrial process points. She presented overnight arrest data, which are decreasing overall, and clarified the definition of overnight detentions for a member.

Ms. Byrnes then continued presenting on pretrial data, discussing the following data categories:

- Overnight admissions
- Pretrial supervision cases
- Pretrial detention
- Bail

- The need level of youth who were detained

Ms. Polizzano welcomed questions and takeaways, and none were raised.

Fact-finding Hearings and Post Adjudication Data Trends

Ms. Polizzano provided a data summary of fact-finding and post-adjudication data and presented data in the following categories:

- Fact-finding dispositions
- Probation case starts
- Violation of probation notices
- First time commitments
- The need level of youth with first time commitments

Ms. Polizzano welcomed questions.

One member asked if the JJPAD annual report would include recommendations on where the board would like the trends to go. Ms. Polizzano shared that as of now, the board does not have recommendations on this data and that the annual report is usually a descriptive document used to inform the board's work plan.

Members discussed including data on pleas and plea bargaining, the large increase in probation numbers, and the high level of new Department of Youth Services (DYS) commitments for low level offenses. Ms. Polizzano shared that data on pleas is not currently available.

One member provided perspective on the large portion of commitments due to lower-level person related offenses, stating that they are largely driven by assault and batteries.

Race/Ethnicity and Sex Assigned at Birth Data

Ms. Polizzano presented data summaries on sex assigned at birth and race/ethnicity.

One member asked about comparing arraignments to complaints and shared their views on the value of using arrest data. Ms. Polizzano shared those applications for complaint data includes information on summons and arrests and stated that the data will be broken down further into those categories, once the data become available.

Ms. Polizzano welcomed questions.

One member asked why the "multi-race" and "other race" categories are grouped together. Ms. Polizzano explained that those were the categories provided when the data was shared.

Other Child-serving Systems' Data Trends

Ms. Polizzano presented a data summary on other child-serving systems' data trends. She then presented on the following data categories:

- CRA filings
- Juvenile Court Clinic referrals
- DMH full service authorization
- DMH limited service
- BSAS admissions

Ms. Polizzano welcomed questions, thoughts, and concerns about the data presented.

One member asked why filings were not used as the base comparison point for arraignments. Ms. Polizzano stated that she will make that adjustment in the annual report.

One member asked if adults can access the BSAS process and if so, if the adult admission numbers also increased. The member stated it may be helpful to compare increases on the youth side to the adult side. Ms. Polizzano shared that this data is for youth admissions only. She acknowledged this may be an interesting analysis to do for BSAS and DMH adult programs.

Concluding remarks:

Ms. Polizzano reminded members of the next meeting on December 1. She informed members that they will receive a data draft, including any new data, on November 24 for their review. Ms. Polizzano welcomed questions, and none were raised.

Ms. Polizzano thanked everyone for their input and adjourned the meeting.

Adjournment: 12:47 PM