

Office of the Child Advocate
Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board
Data Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Thursday October 13, 2022
10:30am-12:00pm
Meeting held virtually

Subcommittee Members or Designees Present:

- Nancy Brody (DCF)
- Barbara Kaban (CPCS)
- Dana Bernson (DPH)
- Sana Fadel (CfJJ)
- Dave Chandler (DYS)
- Matthew Broderick (DMH)
- Kim Occhiuti (DCF)
- Rachel Wallack (Trial Court)

OCA Staff:

- Melissa Threadgill
- Kristine Polizzano
- Taylor Loyd
- Jessica Seabrook
- Alix Rivière

Other Attendees:

- Jenyka Spitz-Gassnola (DYS)
- Joshua Dankoff (CfJJ)
- Noor Toraif (DYS)
- Jillie Santos (CfJJ)
- Meg Danisewich (DYS)
- Katie Perry-Lorentz (DYS)
- Hannah Reuter
- Rachel Gwaltney (CLM)
- Gwynne Morrissey (DYS)
- Other members of the public

Meeting Commenced: 10:33 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 hear a presentation from Dana Bernson after voting on the September meeting minutes.

Approval of September Meeting Minutes

Ms. Polizzano asked if anyone had any questions or feedback regarding the September 8, 2022, meeting minutes. The group did not offer any feedback or objections. Nancy Brody, Dana Bernson, Barbara Kaban, Melissa Threadgill, and Kim Occhiuti all voted in the affirmative. Rachel Wallack abstained. No one voted against the meeting minutes.

The September meeting minutes were approved.

Guest presentations on administrative data centers by Dana Bernson, Special Analytic Projects Director on the Department of Public Health's Public Health Data Warehouse (PHD).

Ms. Polizzano introduced the presenter Dana Bernson, Special Analytic Projects Director on the Department of Public Health's Public Health Data Warehouse (PHD).

Ms. Bernson began by introducing herself. She then presented on the Department of Public Health's Public Health Data (PHD) Warehouse, including:

- An overview of the functions and history of PHD Warehouse, which was created in 2017 to collect, record, and analyze population health trends with a priority in fatal and nonfatal opiate overdoses.
- A description on the process for linking government data sources and which sources are used, including public health, public safety, criminal justice, medical claims and hospital sources.
- An example of how the linked dataset was used to create new legislation. Ms. Bernson explained a key finding was that individuals with a history of incarceration are at very high risk of opioid related overdose death. Legislation was put in place requiring 7 of the county jails and several prison facilities to provide medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD). DPH along with the Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network team is currently evaluating the impact of this legislation.
- The lessons learned and next steps for the data warehouse.

Question & Answer

Ms. Polizzano thanked Ms. Bernson and welcomed members to ask questions.

Members asked if DYS, or any other child-serving agency was submitting data to the PHD. Ms. Bernson explained that currently, there is limited data on children. She added that there are a lot of child data sets that the PHD is interested in but not using yet. This would require additional agencies to submit data to the PHD.

Members wondered about the limitations of some of the datasets used, including the medical claims dataset that includes residents in Massachusetts who have insurance, but does not report data for those who do not have insurance. Ms. Bernson explained DPH is exploring other ways of combining state population datasets to create a more "complete" population dataset.

Ms. Bernson added that there is one core memorandum of understanding that all data-submitting agencies sign. If necessary, any additional agreements are included in an agency- specific data use agreement appendix.

Members asked if any of the data could be subpoenaed. Ms. Bernson explained personal identifying information is assigned to the data so there is no way to respond to a subpoena with detailed information. She added that PHD is not subject to public record law.

Members asked if an academic background is required for using the datasets created by the PHD. Ms. Bernson told the group that DPH and the PHD are continuing to improve and work with other organizations outside of academic institutions and state agencies. One way they are trying to address this gap is through the creation of the Community Advisory Board. Ms. Bernson explained that other state agencies would not need an academic partner or need to go through the Notice of Opportunity (NOO) process which is for external partners. Any non-state agency requesting use of the data would need to go through the NOO process that the DPH has set up.

Last, members discussed the opportunity for the JJPAD and PHD to partner to support the Board's study into crossover youth (youth with both child welfare and juvenile justice system involvement). Ms. Bernson indicated that she is interested in that conversation, and the first step would be for agencies in the JJPAD to enter into data sharing agreements for the PHD.

Ms. Polizzano thanked Ms. Bernson for her presentation and provided an overview of administrative data centers study timeline. Ms. Polizzano then transitioned the conversation towards review and discussion on the FY22 Annual Data Report.

FY22 Annual Data Report Discussion:

Ms. Polizzano begins with overview of FY22 Annual Report and summary of admissions data including changes in admissions from FY21-22, FY19 (pre COVID), and FY18 (pre CJRA). This overview included:

- How many youth cases do not reach adjudication each year
- Juvenile Court Process points: applications for complaint, delinquency filings, arraignments, adjudications and sanctions
- DYS Process points: overnight arrest admissions, detention admission and first-time commitments

Some members asked about the estimated calculations presented and suggested further conversation with the OCA.

Member asked how weapon and person charges changed over time. Ms. Polizzano explained that weapon and person are different offenses but there are increases across all categories across the board. She added that person and weapons offenses were slightly up compared to their pre-pandemic numbers.

Concluding remarks:

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

Adjournment: 11:58 AM