

Meeting Summary

Agency: DJS

Following is a summary of issues discussed at the DJS Stat on July 2, 2010. Analysis is provided by StateStat and the Governor's Delivery Unit (GDU).

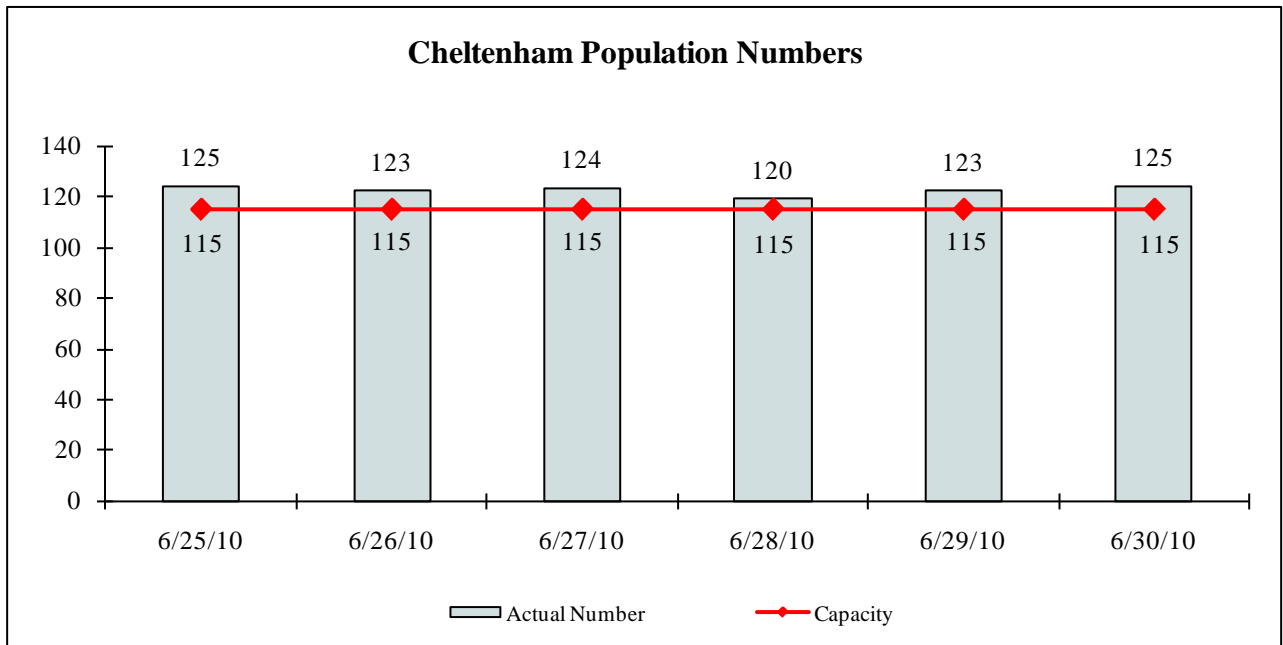
Follow-Up

- **Information Sharing.** DJS began the meeting by stating that they are having an information sharing meeting with officials from Virginia on July 6th and a meeting with DC officials on July 9th.

Placements/Facilities

- **The Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (JJMU) 1st Quarter, 2010 Report.** The JJMU recently released their 1st Quarter facility report for 2010. This report covers findings from January 1st through March 31st of this year. At the previous StateStat meeting, StateStat was made aware that after the report was published and DJS submitted a response to the report. DJS also stated that the JJMU produces quarterly reports and then an annual report at the end of the year. DJS reported that they have 10 business days in which to make corrections, comments, and offer edits. Once DJS sends their comments (which the JJMU refuses to publish as part of their original report) the report is typically released to the public a day or two after.
- **Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center (BCJJC).** The JJMU spent a significant portion of their section, relating to the BCJJC in the 1st quarter report, discussing youth awaiting placement. The report highlighted one youth who, as of 4/8/10, had spent 177 days awaiting placement and 20 other youth who had spent 3 months or more awaiting placement. DJS stated that they will look into this matter and report to StateStat at the next meeting.
- **Cheltenham Youth Facility.** The JJMU report highlights an incident from March of this year where a youth, who was placed in seclusion for almost 24 hours, reported that he was attacked by a staff member. The DJS-OIA investigator in this matter stated that there was "sufficient evidence to prove" that the involved staff member "used excessive force" on the youth. However, an in house Maryland State Trooper at Cheltenham investigated the incident and not only found the physical child abuse to be "not sustained" but the youth involved was charged with 2nd Degree Assault/Battery. DJS commented on this issue and stated that there have been discrepancies between the JJMU and DJS as to what constitutes seclusion and what constitutes social separation. DJS also reported that this incident may have been exaggerated based upon the fact that certain logs at the facility were filled out inaccurately. DJS stated that they are working to have Cheltenham employees log incidents in a timely manner so that all incidents at the facility can be reported in a proper manner.

The JJMU report also addresses overcrowding issues at Cheltenham. The chart below shows the daily population for the last week and as indicated, Cheltenham has been above capacity. DJS stated that the numbers may be high due to the fact that Cheltenham is being used, in many instances, as a sanction for youth through the courts. DJS is working closely with area Judges to determine whether or not this practice can be continued.



Evidence Based Services

- **Breakdown.** DJS was asked to provide a breakdown of EBS slots, including those that are filled, available, vacant, and offline. The following chart was included in their response to StateStat. StateStat recommended that DJS add the average time pending to this chart to determine how long clients are waiting to receive services.

EBS Update – June 25, 2010				
Description	Total	MST	FFT	MTFC
Slots	327	125	192	10
Slots off line (staff vacancies are not online yet)	23	9	12	2
Active Slots	304	116	180	8
# of youth	266	94	165	7
% filled	88%	81%	92%	88%
# of slots vacant	38	22	15	1
# of youth pending	27	21	6	0

- **Additional Functional Family Therapy (FFT) Slots in Baltimore City.** The panel may recall that an RFP was released in conjunction with Baltimore Mental Health Systems to fund an additional 75 FFT slots in Baltimore City. DJS submitted the following timeline for implementing the slots:

- July 1, 2010- Execute Contract with vendor
- August 15, 2010- Staff hired & trained
- September 1, 2010- Begin taking youth

DJS was asked to keep StateStat updated on whether or not they are adhering to the timeline shown above.

Quality Assurance

- Periodically, DJS and StateStat review cases at the meetings as a quality assurance measure. DJS reports changes they have made in their protocols based on the reviews. At this meeting, DJS reviewed a particular case and stated that based on internal assessments of this particular case, they realized that more communication was necessary with the local Social Services agency in order to refer the client and his/her family for an evaluation. DJS believed that this may have been a situation where the local Social Service agency may have had access for in-home services that DJS could not provide.