

Meeting Summary

Agency: DJS

Following is a summary of issues discussed at the DJS Stat on August 13, 2010. Analysis is provided by StateStat and the Governor's Delivery Unit (GDU).

Follow-Up

- **Miami Juvenile Assessment Center visit.** DJS was asked to follow up on a DJS staff trip to Miami, Florida to discuss the Miami/Dade County Juvenile Services Department. DJS provided the following summary during the Stat meeting:
 - DJS was interested on how Miami officials deal with parental refusals and they stated that Miami has a two step approach outlined in their statute which allows for the release youth to a "responsible adult" in the event a parent/guardian is not available. The statute also indicates that the responsible adult cannot have certain felonies on their criminal record. Accordingly, the responsible adult is finger printed prior to verify whether the youth can be released to that individual. Lastly, their statute allows for the prosecution of an individual in the event they lie about their identity. Miami-Dade has parents sign a form that they have been put on notice about that statute. DJS spoke with the Maryland State's Attorney in respect to this issue and the State's Attorney's Office agreed that it would be helpful to have a law in place to allow for them to prosecute individuals who provide false identity.
- DJS also stated that they will continue to spearhead the Parent Refusal Committee meetings to determine the best practices to be adopted and develop a comprehensive plan. This issue involves several other agencies and key players such as the State's Attorney's Office, the Police Department, the Family League of Baltimore City and the Baltimore City Health Department. Therefore, all agencies must be a part of the development of the compensative plan.
- DJS stated that they wanted to learn from Miami/Dade about providing targeted services for younger youth offenders? Miami has two programs focusing on younger youth: "The Young Offender Project" (YOP) and Stop Now and Plan (SNAP).

DJS states that YOP implements different assessments for youth under the age of 13. YOP also has separate caseworkers who have been trained by experts who specialize in working with younger children to train these staff. They are currently working with law enforcement to pursue local legislation that would prohibit the arrest of any youth under 12 years of age.

SNAP was developed in collaboration with the Child Development Institute to provide young at-risk youth with the opportunity to develop specific skills and techniques to monitor and control their behavior, to make good decisions and to consider the consequences of their actions.

DJS will work with DHR and Baltimore City partners to develop a plan on the best approaches to work with and divert younger youth.

- At a previous StateStat, DJS said that the diversion programs seen in Miami/Dade could complement what Maryland DJS and the Baltimore City Police Department are already doing in Baltimore City. DJS was asked to provide a comprehensive description of what diversion programs DJS and BPD already have, and how DJS plans to adapt what was seen in Miami/Dade to already-existing MD programs. DJS discussed the following:

A BCJJC Diversion Program:

Youth arrested for nonviolent misdemeanor offenses would be provided the opportunity to participate in a diversion program as an alternative to formal intake and referral to the Department of Juvenile Services. Trained Diversion Assessment Specialists, who will be co-located at the BCJJC, will screen appropriate youth for diversion eligibility. Those identified as eligible and willing to participate, will be assessed and referred to appropriate diversion services based on assessment results. Diversion eligible juveniles and their parent/guardian who agree to participate in a diversion program will be required to sign a diversion contract. These youth and their charges will not be referred to intake.

Youth and families will be referred to programs that provide evidence-based strategies for prevention and intervention. Diversion partners include:

- Baltimore City Teen Court
- Community Conferencing Center
- BSAS and BSAS funded adolescent treatment programs
- BMHS and BMHS funded mental health system
- Baltimore City Youth Service Bureaus

To be eligible for diversion, the juvenile must be:

- A Baltimore City resident between the ages of 8 and 17
- Arrested for a non-violent, misdemeanor offense

Exclusionary criteria include:

- Previous arrest for a crime of violence
- Current or previous arrest for charges of handgun possession
- Current arrest for charges of 3rd or 4th degree sex offenses
- More than 3 prior arrests
- Referred to a diversion service provider for two previous arrests

Baltimore has similar infrastructure as Miami but what is different is the resources and services they have available to treat youth who have been diverted. DJS will continue to work with the City and the Family League of Baltimore on this issue.

- **Information Sharing.** DJS was asked to provide an update on information sharing with Washington DC and they stated the following:

The next step was for DC to determine what databases contained the following information:

- Court Dispositions
- Parental Information

- Current Address
- Legal Status
- Caseworker Contact Information
- Photo of the Youth
- Outstanding Warrants
- Offense History

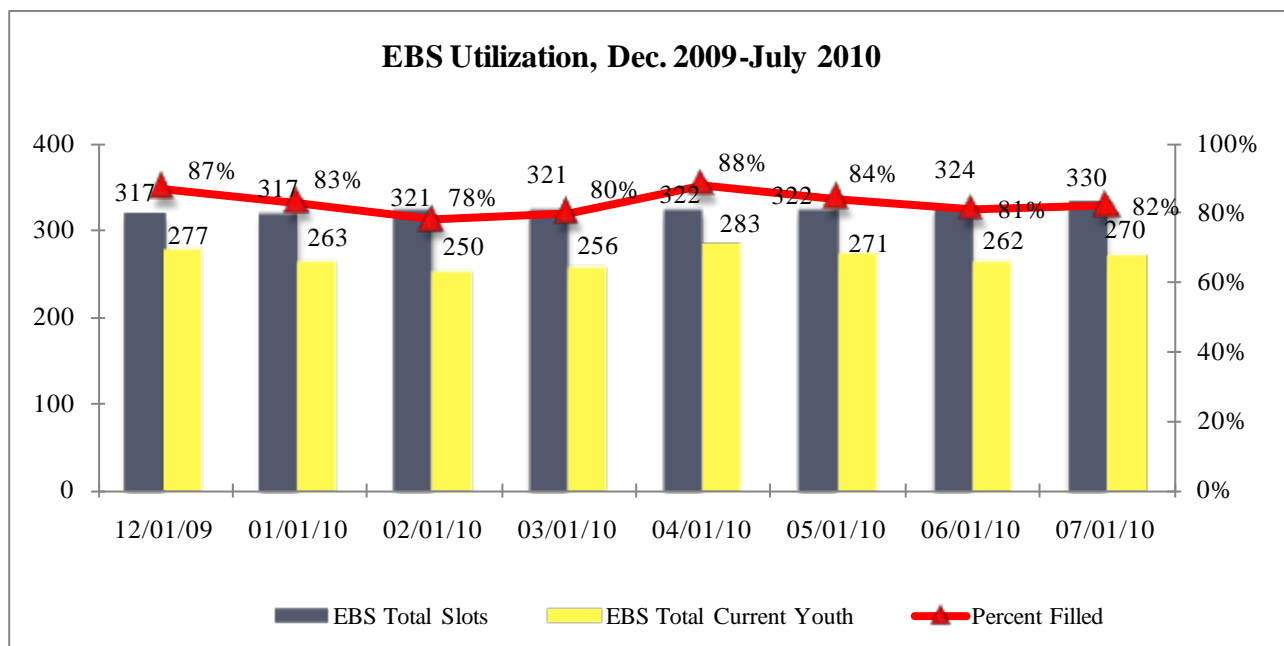
DJS sent a follow-up email to the Executive Director of the CJCC and left him a voicemail to determine their progress and schedule the respective agencies to then assign IT staff to develop the best plan to electronically share the information.

Case Review

- 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 case, they were going to refer the matter to a consultant whose expertise is juvenile offenders and a case study was to be complete. DJS was told to provide an update on the case study once it was completed.

Evidence Based Services

- **Utilization.** The following chart details utilization of Evidence Based Services by DJS through July 1, 2010. EBS slots increased slightly in July (daily snapshot for July 1), to **82%**. DJS provided an update on these numbers.



- DJS was told that the set target moving forward would be to maintain utilization of EBS slots at 90%. When asked to breakdown how they were going to achieve 90% utilization, DJS responded:

Strategies to facilitate and sustain 90% EBS utilization involve mechanisms for communication and coordination at the case worker and system levels, data reporting and analysis, training, and monitoring. Specific strategies include:

EBS Utilization Strategies	
Strategies	Actions
Identification of Eligible Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Complete the EBS Family Assessment as a required component of staffing for out-of-home placement and step down planning · Include consideration of EBS eligibility as required component of resource staffings and case reviews
Collaboration with Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provider participation in resource staffings and/or case reviews · Maintain close contact with provider throughout referral process to identify youth unavailable for treatment due to detention, enrollment in other services, AWOL · Maintain at minimum weekly contact with providers to track data on referrals, census, wait list, upcoming discharges, and case specific issues
Active Focus on Expediting Referrals, and on Case Progress and Program Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · “Hand off” between case worker and therapist to support family · Monitoring of weekly reporting by provider of time from referral to admission · Reporting and ongoing analysis of outcomes
Training and Technical Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provider presentations of EBS model to DJS case worker and other regional staff to enhance understanding of eligibility and outcomes · DJS and provider presentations of EBS model and outcomes to judiciary, SAO, public defenders

- **Slot Transfer from Baltimore City to Prince George’s County.** There are 20 MST slots being transferred to Prince George’s County. DJS reports that training for these slots started on May 17 for the new therapists and they will start taking youth in early June as planned. The program is expected to reach full capacity serving 20 youth no later than the beginning of August. When last reported, 12/20 slots were filled.
- **Additional Functional Family Therapy (FFT) Slots in Baltimore City.** An RFP was released in conjunction with Baltimore Mental Health Systems to fund an additional 75 FFT slots in Baltimore City. In their follow-up, DJS submitted the following **revised** timeline for implementing the slots:
 - July 20, 2010- Execute Contract with vendor
 - September 27, 2010- Staff hired & trained

➤ September 30, 2010- Begin taking youth

- **EBS Outcomes.** DJS reports that they are working with Innovations Institute on a MST outcomes report. The MST outcomes study is tentatively scheduled to be completed on September 1, 2010. The Innovations Institute has also been providing DJS monthly process and short term outcome reports for FFT. DJS reports that by the end of the calendar year the FFT data systems will be in position to provide longer term outcome reports.

Violence Prevention

- **Operation Safe Kids (OSK).** The chart below shows the total amount of spaces in the OSK program as well as the spaces filled. DJS was asked to discuss program expansion and they stated that rates fluctuate from week to week but they noted that they began to be closer to capacity beginning this calendar year and they expect to be at this rate from here on out.

