

Meeting Summary

Following is a summary of issues discussed at the DJS Stat on March 11, 2011. Analysis is provided by StateStat and the Governor's Delivery Unit (GDU).

Follow-Up

- **Continuum of Opportunity Reentry Program and Services (CORPS) Program.** (GDU Goal 5) BCPSS recently confirmed that they anticipate opening the school on schedule (February 28th). The goal is to have 120 youth enrolled by March 31, 2011, and then enroll 40 youth/ month to reach the overall 400 youth enrollment goal by October 2011.

DJS was also notified that the CORPS grant has been approved for extension to December 2011 (the full 12-month award period), and that they have been awarded an additional 3 million dollars, representing a total award of over 6 million.

- **MSDE.** According to a fiscal note that DBM provided for StateStat, "General funds supporting education programs at DJS would transfer to MSDE as MSDE assumes control of educational programming at DJS facilities. General fund expenditures could increase significantly between FY 2006 and 2013 for MSDE to operate and upgrade education programs at DJS facilities." The panel asked DJS to comment and provide an update on their collaboration with MSDE.

Placements

- **JJMU Preliminary Report.** The JJMU Annual Report for 2010 was provided to StateStat recently. DJS' response memo was submitted as well. The issues discussed in this report are placement population, safety & security, services for girls, and the Cheltenham Youth Facility (CYF). Due to the length of the report, this EBM will address Services for girls and the Cheltenham Youth Facility.

Girls Services-

According to the JJMU report, Girls services are 'disproportionately affected by lack of DJS resources'. The report also discussed the fact that there is a shortage of alternatives to detention for girls; as well as a lack of shelters. The report highlights overcrowding at both Waxter and Noyes' girls programs.

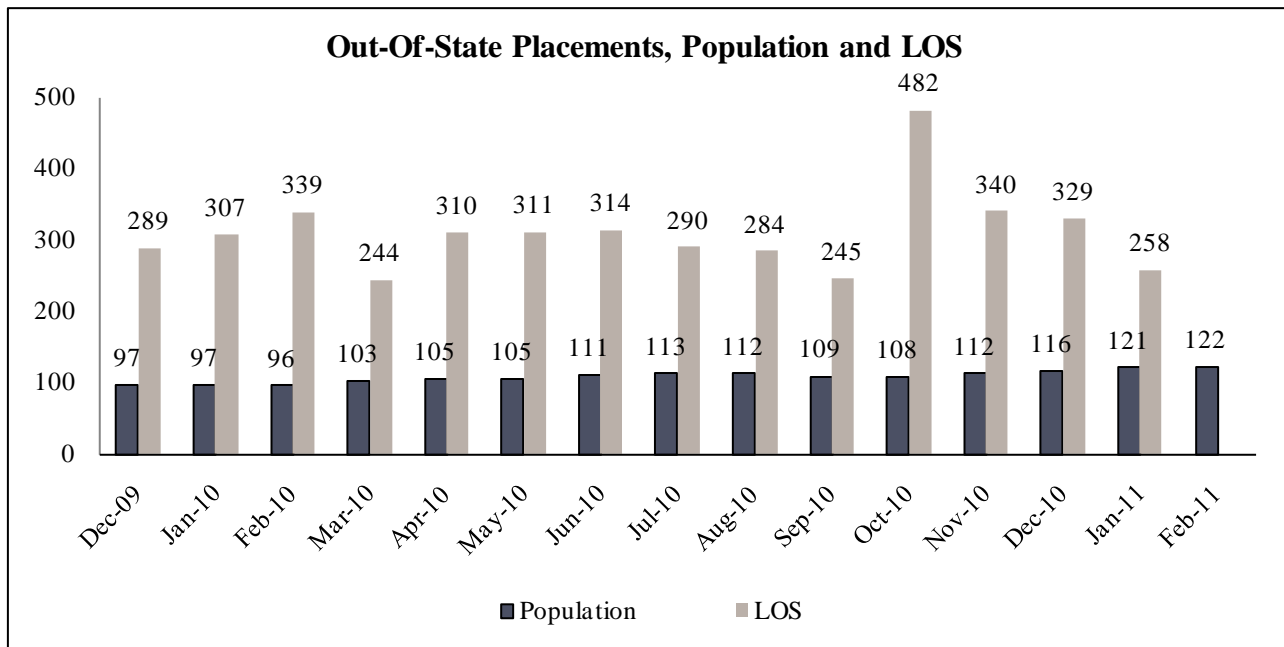
The report suggests that girls, in the long-term program at Waxter, should be removed and placed into an appropriate program. Waxter could then be used for detention only. The JJMU suggests that girls in a committed care program would benefit from not comingling with the detention population and that they could focus more on their long-term goals, educationally and/or vocationally.

In the DJS response memo to the JJMU, they mention that as of February 14, 2011, there are only 8 girls placed in state and 1 girl is placed out-of-state. DJS also reports that several cosmetic changes have taken place within Waxter and that a Girls' Services Task Force has been created recently to address services for female youth committed to DJS. DJS will provide a timeline for the implementation of new girls' services at the next Stat.

- Victor Cullen.** DJS was asked to provide an update on changes that have taken place at Victor Cullen after the Superintendent was replaced. The Cullen superintendent had been the direct supervisor of the previous (acting) superintendent and in that capacity was working on the changes (shown below) prior to assuming the position in November 2010. DJS stated that things are going well at the facility and that most of the items below are already in use.

▶ Protocol for unsuccessful discharge of youth was clarified and implemented
▶ Protocol for home pass was revised to specify expectations that youth must meet during the pass
▶ Overtime controls were tightened (all overtime must be approved by the superintendent unless it is to maintain minimum coverage)
▶ Physical plant: Major renovation of unused space for a youth game room and removal of a glass greenhouse, a safety hazard that was in disrepair
▶ Increased youth programming including community service projects, off-grounds trips and enrollment in college courses
▶ Interdisciplinary Treatment Team process strengthened
▶ RAP (Response Abilities Pathways) training for Resident Advisors by Reclaiming Youth International was initiated
▶ Significant strengthening of and integration into treatment model of facility social work services
▶ Strengthening aftercare component (this is ongoing with participation of all regions)
▶ Staff accountability throughout the facility resulted in replacing the Group Life Director, disciplinary action addressing time/attendance and job performance, and referral to State Medical Examiner of all staff on long-term medical leave
▶ Initiated revision of facility policy and procedure manual (completion by 2/1)
▶ Developing a training schedule to reduce bottlenecking at the end of the year and reduce overtime for travel to external training sites
▶ Enhancement of MSDE vocational programming by adding "Serve-Safe" and computer repair; researching cosmetology certification

- Out-of-State Placements and Length of Stay.** The chart below addresses the population in out-of-state placements and the length of stay for the youth. The length of stay has declined in the past four months from a rate of 482 in October 2010; which was the highest rate since StateStat began measuring length of stay. However, the population rose to its highest point since February of 2008. DJS stated that the main concern is the procurement of secure placements.



- DJS was asked to provide profiles for youth in December 2009 who were in out-of-state programs and provide details on the difference between those youth and ones in placement in December of 2010. They were also asked to look into how many of the 121 out-of-state placement youth in January 2011 are on VPI.

DJS reports that managers regularly review in and out of State placements: the Per Diem reduction process insures a review of youth with longer LOS's. DJS reviewed a census of youth in all committed placements for Feb 1, 2011, and for each six month period prior, back to Feb 1, 2008. Overall, the profile of youth in out of State placements remains consistent over the past few years, though there are a few items to note for the current (1/2/11) census:

Over the past three years, DJS in-State Group Home population dropped by 34% (82 youth). Over the same period, the number of youth in staff- and hardware-secure programs rose by 78 youth. Some of this surge was taken up by the opening of Silver Oak Academy (+46 youth), and a ramped up Victor Cullen capacity (+19 youth), but the remaining increase went to out of State programs. DJS believes that the increase in out-of-State population does not reflect a surge in new high risk youth coming to intake, but rather a shift from placing such youth in non-secure in-State group homes (where they might AWOL or otherwise fail), and using the new MCASP assessment, these youth tend now to go to the more secure programs. A look at the offense and placement history, and VPI status of the OOS population seems to bear this out:

Out of State youth average 2.2 prior committed out of home placements as of Feb 1, 2011. This is a small drop from the norm which had remained between 2.4 and 2.6 over the past three years.

- 2/1/11 2.2
- 7/1/10 2.5
- 2/1/10 2.6
- 7/1/09 2.4

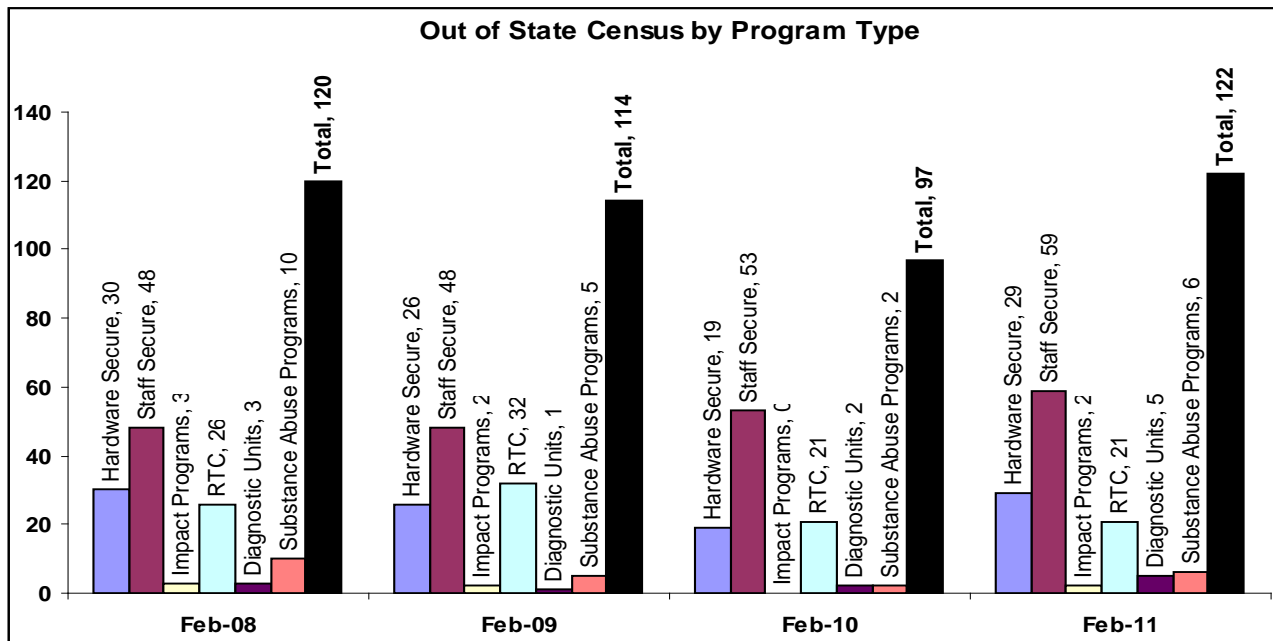
- 2/1/09 2.6
- 7/1/08 2.5
- 2/1/08 2.4

Out-of-State youth average 11.1 referrals to DJS intake prior to their current placement, which is also a slight drop from the norm:

- 2/1/2011 11.1
- 7/1/2010 12.3
- 2/1/2010 12.6
- 7/1/2009 12.3
- 2/1/2009 13.4
- 7/1/2008 13.6
- 2/1/2008 12.5

VPI youth currently (Feb 1, 2011) make up 62% of the OOS population. This is about the same as a year ago, but it is much higher than the same time the two years before that: 39% on 2/1/2008 and 52% on 2/1/2009. However, the in-State committed population has remained consistently around 24% VPI over the past three years.

There has been a slight decline in the population of out-of-State youth in RTC's, though the numbers are small to begin with, and placements are based on youth assessed mental health needs.



Evidence Based Services

- **Utilization.** (GDU Goal 5). The following chart details utilization of Evidence Based Services by DJS through February 23rd 2011. The panel will note that utilization of EBS slots is at **91.7%** (298 filled/ 325 total active slots). At a recent DJS budget meeting, DJS and DBM agreed that the goal for EBS utilization would be 85%.

Apart from the 325 active slots, DJS reported that 52 slots are currently offline (including the 10 MST slots offline in Prince George's County), mostly due to staff vacancies. DJS reports that two therapists have been hired for both of the lost positions in Prince George's County, and they have completed their initial training. Each therapist will begin serving 2 youth/ families this week, and their caseloads will gradually be increased until all 10 slots are filled by April 1st.

Description	Total	MST	FFT	MTFC-A
# of Contracted Slots	377	105	267	5
# of Slots Offline [staff vacancies or slots not online]	52	6	46	0
# of Active Slots	325	99	221	5
% of Contracted Slots Available	86.2%	94.3%	82.8%	100.0%
# of Active Cases/Families	298	95	199	4
% Filled of Active Slots	91.7%	96.0%	90.0%	80.0%
# of Vacancies	27	4	22	1
# of Youths Pending Admission	22	4	17	1
# of Active Cases (including Youths Pending Admission)	320	99	216	5
Projected Increase in Utilization (if the youths pending admissions are admitted)	98.5%	100.0%	97.7%	100.0%
% of Contracted Slots Active	79.0%	90.5%	74.5%	80.0%
Total is as of February 23, 2011				