

## Meeting Summary

Following is a summary of issues discussed at the DJS Stat on October 7, 2011. Analysis is provided by StateStat and the Governor's Delivery Unit (GDU).

### Follow-Up

- **Southern Maryland Facility.** Based on concerns by citizens over the fact that DJS plans to build a detention facility in Waldorf, Maryland, DJS was asked to prepare talking points for a public meeting scheduled for November 1<sup>st</sup>. The public meeting date has been changed and expanded to November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. DJS stated that the talking points are prepared.
- **Quality Assurance Audits.** At a previous Stat meeting, Secretary Abed mentioned that DJS, as a quality assurance measure, would be performing internal audits on all of their area offices beginning at the end of August. An internal audit was completed in the Annapolis office and another is being done in Baltimore which will be followed by a Corrective Action Plan for each site.
- **Community Supervision Overtime.** There was a discussion at the previous Stat about the gradual increase of Community Supervision Overtime use since September of 2008 (when tracking began). DJS reported that the City and Metro Region have the largest usage due to the volume of units on youth and tracking required. Recently, the unit has experienced new vacancies, which has caused more hours.

DJS recently reported that, currently, CD operations have nine vacancies. Three are pending commitment approval and six are pending position vacancy to hire approval in HR. At the next stat meeting, DHR will bring a timeline on when the new staff will be starting.

- **Case Review Follow-Up.** Based on a previous case review, DJS was asked to provide statewide data showing the amount of times HEM and GPS units have been cut-off by respondents. DJS was also asked to provide a list of the consequences that were given once the units were cut. For the month of August, 72 CD/HEM/GPS units were cut off and 58 youths were sent to detention for a 14-30 day period until their hearing was set. Fourteen youth are still missing and on warrant status. Youth are not charged with escape when a bracelet is cut.
- **Legislative Policy Manager.** A new legislative policy manager has been introduced to DJS
- **Waxter to Carter.** Committed girls at the Waxter Center have been transferred to the Carter facility due to accounts of committed girls comingling with detained girls, which is a violation of state law. JJMU is satisfied with the move.
- **Baltimore State's Attorney.** DJS will meet with Greg Bernstein in Baltimore to talk about institutional issues and further collaboration between the two offices.

## Placements

- **Victor Cullen.** Concerns mentioned by the Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (JJMU) 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter and recent Pictorial Report allowed for discussions at recent Stat meetings about incident rates at Victor Cullen. There were spikes in incidents at the beginning of this calendar year but rates stabilized from March through June. However, in July, as indicated below, incident rates rose in Youth-on-Staff Assaults, Group Disturbances, Use of Seclusion, and Use of Restraints.

This section of the memo will highlight the plan that DJS plans to implement, as well as observations made by this worker during a recent trip to Victor Cullen.

- **Incident Spikes at Victor Cullen.** This worker had a conversation with the Superintendent of the Victor Cullen program. When asked about the recent Incident spikes at the facility, the Superintendent stated that he believed that the current behavior modification program, a Positive Peer Culture (PPC), was not working at the facility. PPC programming is based in adolescent developmental research that older youth are most influenced by their peers and less by family and adults as it requires staff to act in a passive role to permit adolescents to resolve conflict independent of adult intervention. The Superintendent stated that the program needs to shift towards a more staff-directed model with a more individualized focus on the youths themselves. Secretary Abed's plan is calling for a move away from PPC. Maryland Child and Adolescent Innovations Institute facilitated focus groups for youth on September 14th and for staff on September 15<sup>th</sup> and a development consultant will work with DJS' staff to draft the program. Upon completion all staff at the facility will be trained. DJS anticipates implementation in December of 2011 and they are working to expedite the schedule. It should be noted that the recent 2011 JJMU Pictorial Report indicated that Victor Cullen does not have the PPC program at this time, however, the DJS response indicated otherwise.

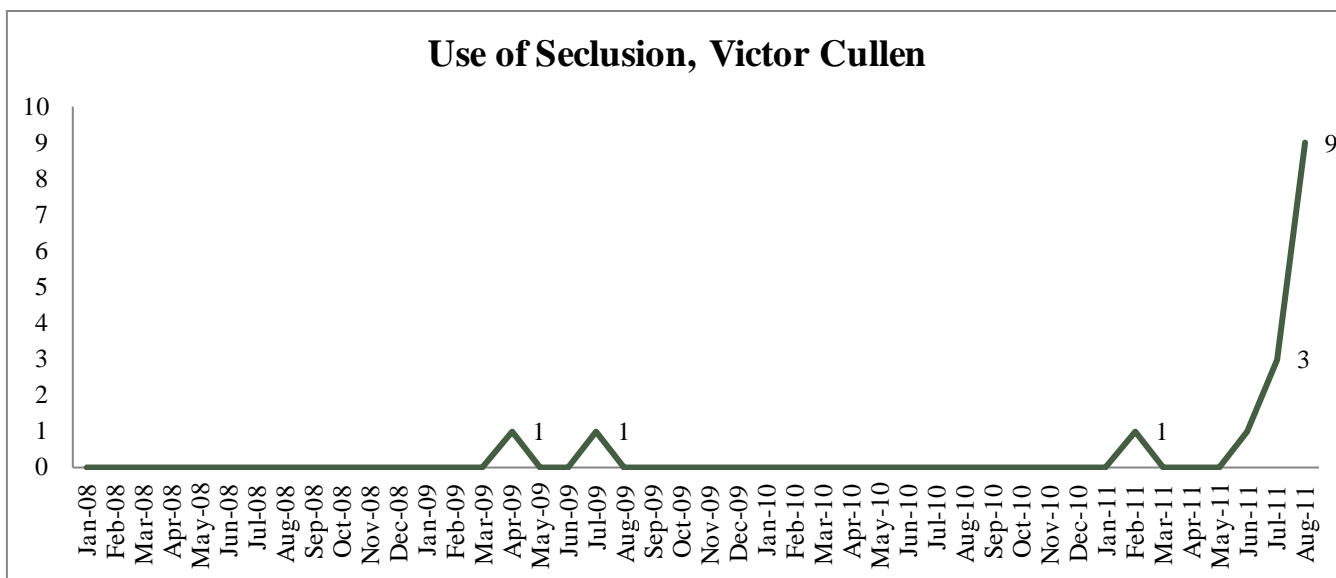
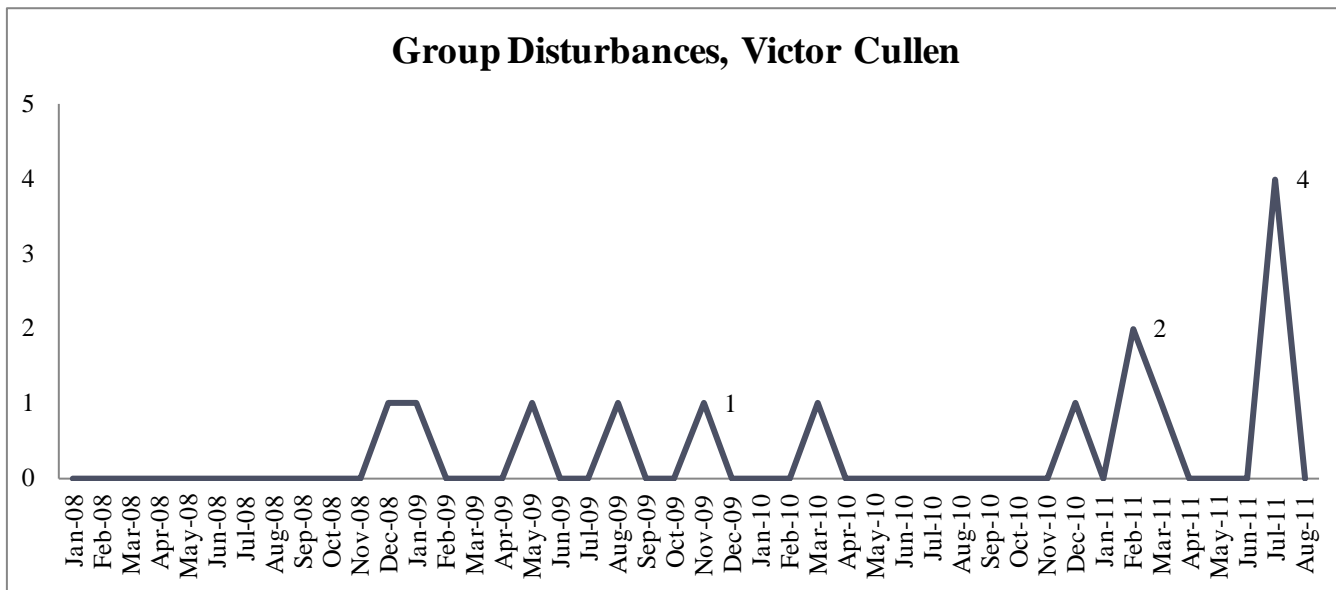
Secretary Abed's plan stated that a number of incidents at Victor Cullen have occurred in youth rooms, in the dining hall, and in school. To better manage group disturbances and reduce restraints resulting of youth running into each other's rooms after bedtime, locks are being installed on living unit doors.

DJS is currently conducting hiring blitzes and they are utilizing contract positions to bring staff on as quickly as possible.

An institutional review committee comprised of the superintendent, principal, mental health personnel, and case management supervisor has been created to begin conducting weekly case reviews. DJS will remove youth from the facility who are being difficult on a consistent basis.

DJS is in the process of changing their behavior management plan, dropping PPC for a new program which will be debuted in December. This program will require behavior contracts to be set for all youth and will eventually rollout to other facilities. Until then, PPC will be used and all doors now have locks to better manage group disturbances. In addition, an Intensive Services Unit will be created and more aggressive youth will be sent out of state instead of Victor Cullen by default. This will allow for better control and management of the facility.

DJS also noted that group disturbances, the use of restraints, and the use of seclusion are all trending downward for the month of September.

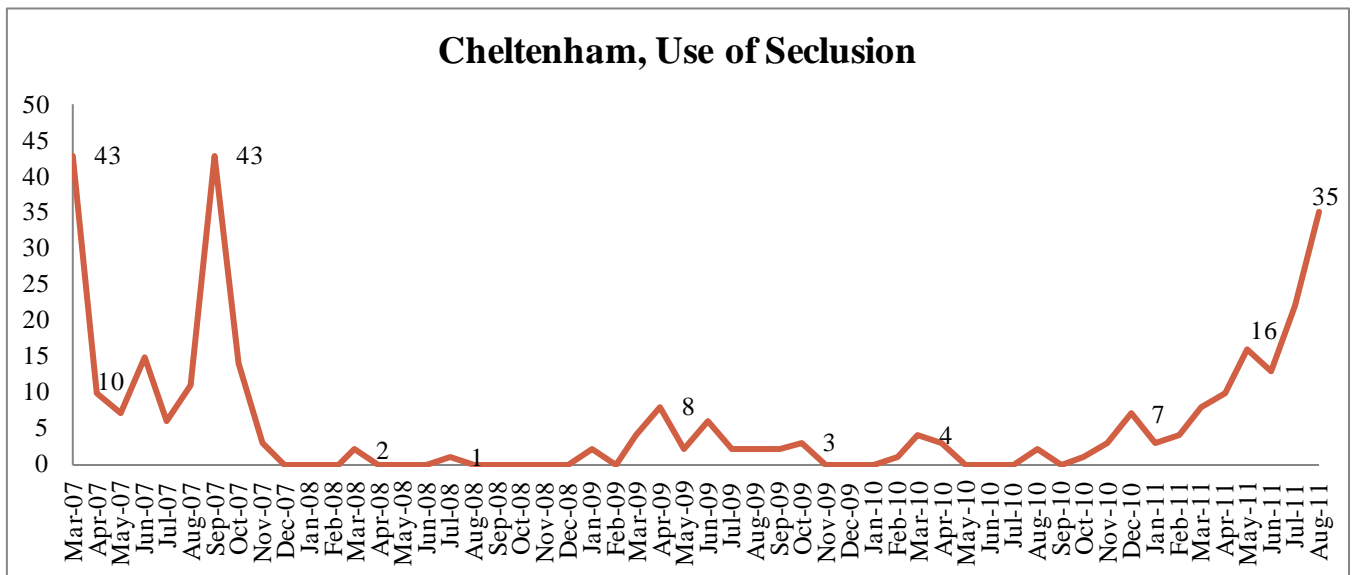
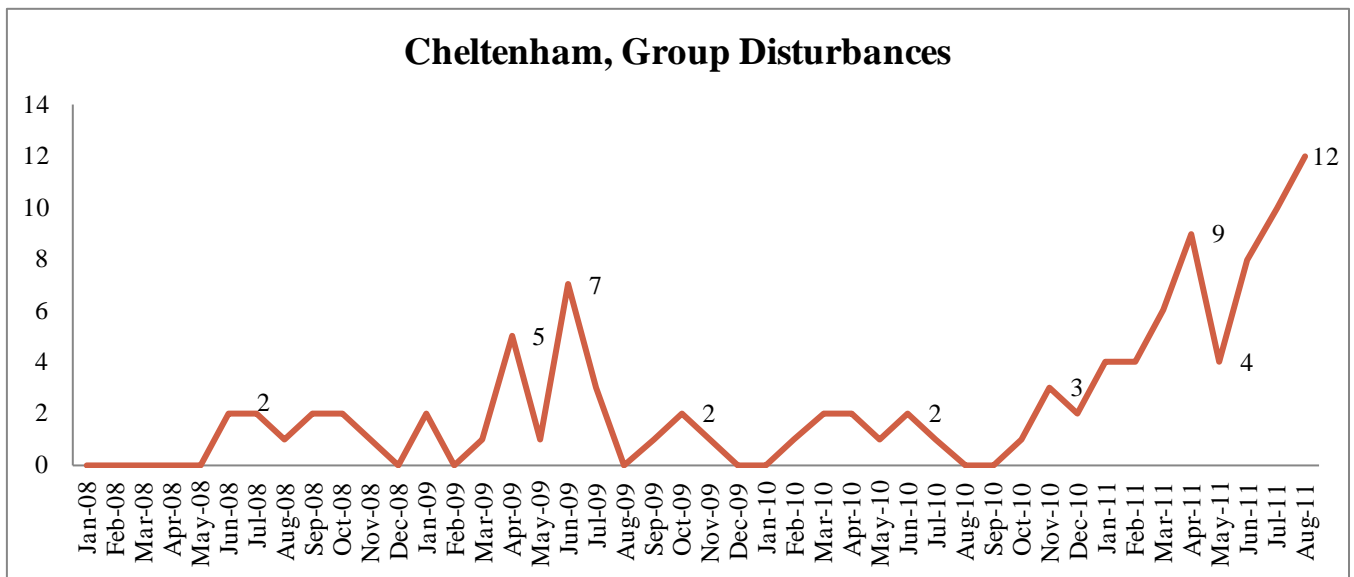


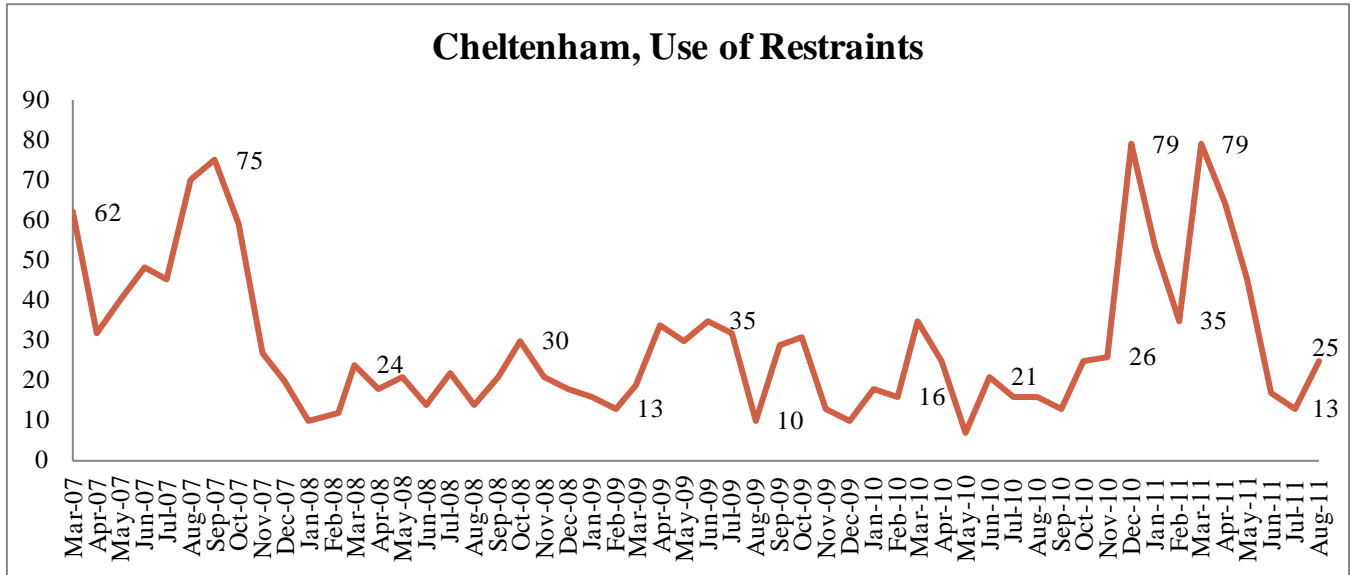
- Cheltenham Youth Facility.** As has been done in previous reports, the JJMU Pictorial Report states that cottages in Cheltenham are severely overcrowded, the plans for a purpose built detention center at CYF seem to have stalled, and the number of aggressive incidents at the facility has increased over the past year.

According to DJS' follow-up response, DJS continues to work on reducing the detention population at Cheltenham by working with the Regional Director about the population spikes and moving youth, when necessary, to avoid overcrowding. A review of daily population reports by this worker indicated that DJS has kept the population at or below capacity for the last three months.

DJS also indicated in their response that due to the age of the facility, Cheltenham is the first facility on the Department's capital plan schedule. DJS stated that they have selected the design company and have received several drawings for consideration to replace the existing campus.

In terms of aggressive incidents, the charts below indicate that there have been upticks in Youth-on-Youth Assaults, Youth-on-Staff Assaults, Group Disturbances, and the Use of Seclusion. It should be noted that the Use of Restraints has dropped significantly since the beginning of this year and that with the exception of restraint use, number of incidents for September are down. DJS did not address the rise in incidents in their response to the JJMU but they did discuss the fact that the facility has a new superintendent. In addition, DJS noted at the meeting that the reason for the uptick in recent incidents could be gang related. In reference to the use of seclusion, DJS has said that appropriate use along with proper oversight is being advocated to empower staff. For the next stat meeting, DJS was asked to map the Cheltenham facility by youth, his offense, and length of stay to help supervisors manage the facility.





- Charges Obtained while in Placement.** DJS submitted data showing the rates of juveniles obtaining new charges while detained or in placement at the previous Stat. DJS stated that they were surprised that the felony rates were so low but there was concern over the fact that there was a high rate of resolutions to cases for youth under Pre-Disposition status. DJS highlighted the fact that there really are no sanctioning methods for youth in placement however they hope to add consequences to new behavior management plans that are currently rolling out.

DJS was asked to provide, as a follow-up item, a breakdown of the 57 percent of respondents whose charges were either Disapproved/Resolved. DJS reports that seven of the charges were disapproved. All the rest were resolved and of the resolved complaints, almost three quarters were Assault 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree. The only other significant numbers were Malicious Destruction and Disturbing the Peace.

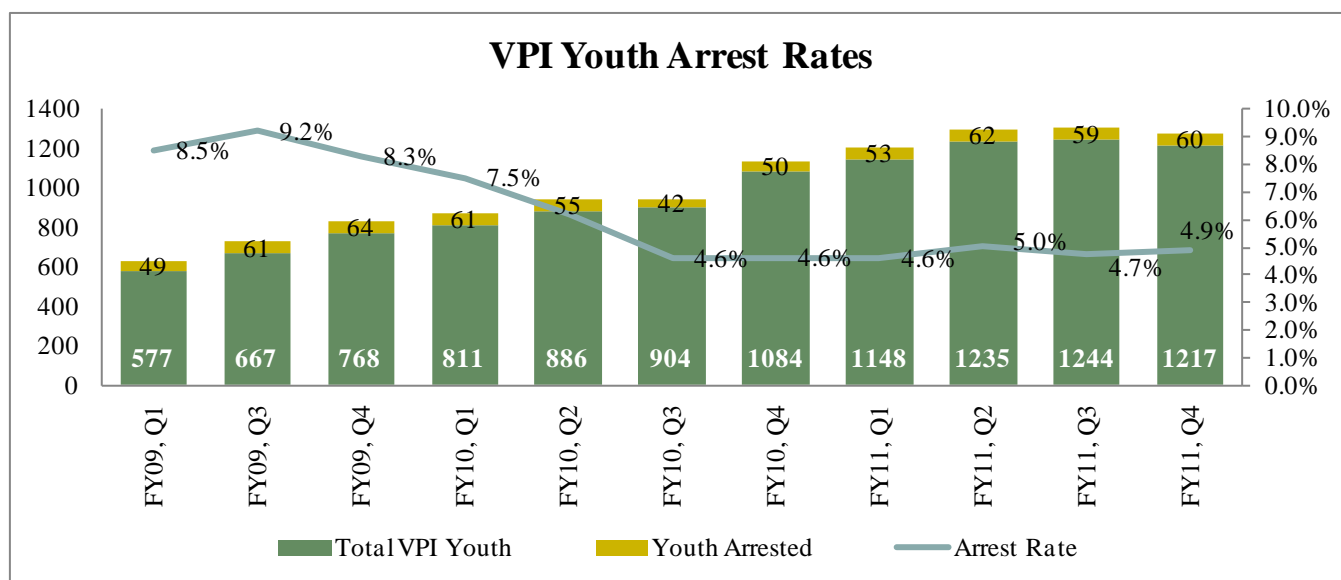
DJS was also asked to report that of the 384 Pre-Disposition Misdemeanor charges that took place overall, how many occurred at the BCJJC? In their follow-up, DJS states that 84 were at BCJJC - about 22 percent. For the next stat meeting, DJS is asked to track the number of charges that are picked up by youth on probation.

Youth Admitted to Out of Home Placement in FY2011, with New Complaints During Placement.							
Placement Type	Intake Decision	Percent	Total	Felony	Misde- meanor	VOP	Other*
All Offenses	<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1400</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1114</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>26</b>
	Disapproved/Resolved	57%	803	1	785	0	17
	Informal	2%	21	1	4	3	4
	Formal	41%	576	39	325	207	5
Pre-Disposition Detention	<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>0</b>
	Disapproved/Resolved	48%	282	0	282	0	0
	Informal	0%	1	0	1	0	0
	Formal	52%	305	13	101	191	0
Pending Placement	<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>
	Disapproved/Resolved	77%	398	1	397	0	0
	Informal	0%	0	1	2	3	4
	Formal	23%	120	4	105	11	0
Committed Placements	<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>22</b>
	Disapproved/Resolved	42%	123	0	106	0	17
	Informal	7%	20	0	1	0	0
	Formal	51%	151	22	119	5	5

\* Other charges include citations, CINS, alcohol, tobacco, and traffic

## VPI

- Arrest Rates.** DJS has had a slight drop in the total amount of VPI youths over the last several months. However, in the final quarter of FY11, the Arrest Rate climbed upwards; as indicated in the chart below. As a follow-up item, DJS was asked if VPI arrests include Violations of Probation (VOP) and they replied that VOPs are not included. DJS stated at the meeting that the goal for VPI Youth Arrest Rates is to remain below 10 percent. There was discussion at the meeting about finding a way to report re-arrest rates for the overall adult general population.



### **DJS & DHR Collaboration**

- **Co-location.** DJS and DHR met to discuss the possibility of collaboration. Specifically, the two agencies talked about the Spotlight on Schools (SOS) program and how best to use Pupil Personnel Workers to identify youth who have intersecting needs. Currently there are 84 total co-committed youth who are on probation and who have a case worker. A few schools have been identified to pilot this collaborative effort. Currently only four students in Baltimore have an active DJS case that also participate in the SOS program. DHR is creating a manual of services to give to DJS for further knowledge and to incubate ideas for future collaboration.