

Meeting Summary

Following is a summary of issues discussed at the DJS Stat on November 4, 2011. Analysis is provided by StateStat and the Governor's Delivery Unit (GDU).

Follow-Up

- **Southern Maryland Facility.** At the previous Stat, DJS mentioned that they were in the process of finding a moderator for another hearing in reference to the Southern Maryland Facility. DJS also stated that they would be sending out a letter to the community in an attempt to answer citizens' concerns. DJS reported during the Stat that they believe that the hearings went well and that they understand the concerns of the community. DJS will be meeting with the Commissioners of to discuss how to proceed further.
- **Prince George's County.** A concern was raised at a recent Educational Summit in Baltimore city that there were school placement delays for DJS youth returning to the community from placement. DJS, as a follow-up item, was asked to provide a follow-up on what is being done in Prince George's County in terms of youth coming back into the community from placement.

DJS reports that on September 21, 2011, DJS held a forum with the Prince George's County Schools. The group identified what was working well and where improvements were needed:

What is working:

Spotlight on Schools Workers located in 20+ High Schools

- Provide supervision to youth on probation.
- Problem solves issues with students and the school.
- Accessibility provides improved communication between PGCPS and DJS.
- Advocate for youth.

MSDE Court Liaison embedded in DJS

- Helps problem solve educational issues.
- Accessibility provides improved communication between PGCPS and DJS.
- Assists with kids transitioning back into PGCPS.

What needs to be improved:

- Youth not having the proper documents to register for school.
- Delay in receiving school records for kids returning from placement.
- Getting records from the schools.

The issues identified in Prince George's County were consistent with the problems identified in the other counties. Accordingly, DJS is developing a proposal to make the paperwork and process uniform across the State. Secretary Abed will be presenting this proposal at the next statewide Superintendents' meeting. The panel may wish to ask DJS to explain the specific actions that will be taken to address students' educational needs.

- **Educational Services Lag Time Survey.** In addition to the Prince George’s County update, DJS was asked to take a small sample (from any jurisdiction) and show how long it is taking for youth returning to the community from placement to receive their educational services.

Original Sample (please refer to end notes):

During February, 2011, n=118 youth were discharged from a residential program. A random sample of n=26 youth was selected for analysis. Each youth was looked up individually in ASSIST database. The Education Profile (that lists school start dates) was reviewed along with case manager notes, supervisory reviews, and resource staffing reports. The ASSIST review revealed that six youth had not been released to the community and they were therefore excluded from the sample. The average age of the sample at release was 17.4 years (median=17.2 years).

Upon release, 30 percent of the sample had already earned their GED or high school diploma. An additional youth earned his high school diploma shortly after release (June, 2011). School start dates were available for three youth in the sample; who constituted 15 percent of the sample. These three youth resumed school between two and 16 days post-release. There was evidence based on case notes that 10 percent (or two youths) were attending school, but the school start date was not entered into ASSIST. Two youth were planning on taking the GED (10 percent). Note n=6 youth had a special education need at some point in their educational history.

All Youth Less Than 16 (with February, 2011 Community Release):

Given that youth who have reached the age of 16 are not legally required to attend school and may choose to work instead, all youth released to the community in February, 2011 and under the age of 16 were examined (n=18 youth).

An exact school start date was available for 50 percent of these youths. The average number of days between program release and school start date was six days.

Examination of case notes indicated that seven youths were in fact attending school post-release although an exact start date post-release was not provided. One youth continued school at RICA as a day-time student so participation was continuous. One youth had an appointment to register for school eight days after release. School participation for one youth was not mentioned until June, 2011 (when a request for detention was made for disrupting school activities). Case notes referring to school participation for the remaining four youths ranged from nine days to 18 days. Note that over half of the youth in the sample had a special education need at some point in their educational history.

¹ Other outcomes: (a) AWOL (n=1); (b) Detained/placed (n=1); (c) Moved to PA (n=1); (d) Case closed (n=1); and (e) unclear (n=2).

² Other outcomes: (a) unsatisfactory compliance /detention within one month; detention – June, 2011 (n=2).

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 the case of a youth who was killed while under DJS supervision. DJS was asked, as a result of this review, to speak with the State’s Attorney’s Office about data sharing amongst agencies as well as new protocols for waivers.

Placements

- William Donald Schaefer House.** A case review was done in August a youth who had absconded from William Donald Schaefer House. There are concerns over supervision at Schaefer House due to the fact that during the weekend of October 21st, another youth absconded from the facility. The Baltimore Police Department is making this matter a high priority warrant.

Schaefer House is a small facility in comparison to other DJS facilities and the fact that there have been two AWOL youths in a two month period is a disturbing matter. DJS stated that they will provide updates at the next Stat on what they are doing to address absconders.

- Warrants.** In addition to the subject of how DJS is handling respondents who obtain multiple charges, there is a concern about how DJS is handling cases where youth's are obtaining multiple warrants. Data obtained from the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice shows that as of September 21st, there were 83 respondents with multiple warrants in Baltimore City. DJS stated that they know about these youths and they are prioritized.
- Pending Placement.** The chart below shows the average daily population for youths that are committed as well as those pending placement. DJS will provide a timeline showing their action plans for pending youth. DJS was also asked to see if youth placed out-of-state, who are in non-secure placements, would have been placed at Victor Cullen if the program was not at capacity.

