

November JJPOC Meeting Minutes

November 21st, 2024

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Legislative Office Building 1E

Zoom Option Available

Attendance

Amy Marracino

Anthony Nolan

Betty Ann MacDonald

Brian Hill

Charles Hewes

Christina Ghio

Christina Quaranta

Colleen Violette

Curtis Eller

Daniel Karpowitz

Derrick Gordon

Elizabeth Bozzuto

Gary Roberge

Heriberto Cajigas

Jillian Gilchrest

Jodi Hill-Lilly

Joshua Bernegger

Martha Stone

Melanie Dykas

Michael Williams

Paul Cicarella

Ray Dancy

Renee Cimino

Sharmese Walcott

Talitha Coggins

Tammy Nguyen-O'Dowd

Thea Montanez

Toni Walker

Veron Beaulieu

TYJI Staff

Abbie Stolls

Andrew Zhebrak

Brittany LaMarr

Danielle Cooper

Donna Pfrommer

Emily Bohmbach

Erika Nowakowski

Eva Ott-Hill

Izarelli Mendieta-Martinez

Jacqueline Marks

Jamie Perkins

Michaelangelo Palmieri

Paul Klee

Ryan Connick

William Carbone

Welcome and Introductions

Representative Toni Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Overview of the Meeting

The November monthly meeting consisted of a presentation from P20WIN, the Cross Agency Data Sharing JJPOC Workgroup Annual Report presentation, an update on the Equity Dashboard, with the review of the JJPOC recommendations being pushed to the next JJPOC monthly meeting due to time constraints.

Acceptance of JJPOC Meeting Minutes

Representative Toni Walker asked for a motion to accept October 17th, 2024's meeting minutes. The motion was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Updates

There were no formal updates given at this meeting. The contents of the meeting's agenda were briefly overviewed.

P20WIN

Representatives from the Office of Policy and Management's Data and Policy Analytics Unit (DAPA) presented an update on their P20WIN initiative. The mission of DAPA is to support the collection, analysis, coordination, and sharing of data to support the Connecticut state government's capacity. Programs involved in DAPA are the GIS Office, P20WIN, Open Data, Research and Evaluation, and the State Data Plan.

P20WIN (The Preschool through 20 Workforce Information Network) is Connecticut's statewide longitudinal data system administered by OPM that was created to evaluate the education and workforce data and student outcomes. The program has since been expanded beyond just the education and workforce fields, including but not limited to, Department of Labor (DOL), the Office of Early Childhood (OEC), and Department of Children and Families (DCF). Currently, P20WIN includes membership of 15 agencies. P20WIN is a federated system therefore the data an organization collects remains at the organization until a request is approved.

The Crossover Youth research was presented, which originated from entities at UCONN. Crossover youth, in the original study, is defined as "youth, who, at any point, are involved with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems" with DCF involvement being defined as either "at least one substantiated maltreatment allegation" or "youth with at least one out-of-home placement in DCF care" and juvenile justice involvement being defined as "having at least one case in the Juvenile Justice system at some point in time." The current work being conducted through DAPA regarding crossover youth involves engaging DCF and CSSD with an interest in testing new data matching methods, which includes privacy-enhancing technology (PET) partnering with Georgetown University's Massive Data Institute and Arsenio. Currently, the data request and data-sharing agreement is currently in the process of being developed. The analytical plans of the current crossover youth work are to evaluate the match rate using current P20WIN and PET strategies and using the original descriptive analysis of the crossover youth population.

P20WIN is also conducting current work involving disconnected youth. This work originated outside of government completely. The original study was conducted by the Boston Consulting Group with support from the Dalio Foundation. Disconnected youth refers to “an individual who is fourteen (14) to twenty-six (26) and who is an at-risk student, or not enrolled in high school (has not obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent, has obtained a high school diploma, or its equivalent but is unemployed and not enrolled in adult education program(s), institution of higher education or otherwise pursuing postsecondary education, or a workforce training or certification program, including an apprenticeship program) or is incarcerated. This disconnected youth study found that 119K youth are considered “disconnected” or “at risk” in Connecticut. The findings of this research have been used in many instances of municipal communication and advocacy. A recommendation was provided to include data from the Department of Social Services (DSS), Department of Corrections (DOC), Court Support Services Division (CSSD), and the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS). P20WIN is now replicating this original study on disconnected youth to gain an updated number that is more representative of the current number of disconnected or at-risk youth, with new agencies being included in the data.

Public Act 24-45 states that the P20WIN Executive Board “shall submit an annual report on disconnected youth and establish a plan for a data intermediary.” The annual report is currently in development that will provide an overall count of disconnected and at-risk youth with specific breakdowns based on demographics and subgroups. The report is expected to be completed in January 2025. The data intermediary plan is expected in early 2025 and includes “providing technical support; creating data sharing agreements; and building and maintaining the infrastructure necessary to share data between nonprofit organizations serving disconnected youth.”

An update on the cross-agency information sharing work was presented as well. Public Act 23-137 tasked OPM in collaboration with other organizations with the creation of a secure online portal that is meant to facilitate cross-agency data sharing. The purpose of this portal is to improve service delivery for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. After conferring with partners on the scope of this work, OPM was advised to move away from creating an online portal and instead invest in the implementation of a “data enablement service,” which resembles the work efforts at P20WIN. Essentially, this service will allow the establishment of real use cases to match data for specific purposes and needs.

A clarifying question was then asked by a committee member regarding the purpose for the change of the online portal to the data enablement service, in which

an answer was provided explaining that there were no real use cases found that need immediate data sharing abilities and it is common for agencies to not have their data updated in real time. Therefore, the service instead allows for real use cases to be identified, and the appropriate data sharing to be completed.

Another question was asked regarding the use of DCF involvement as a substantiation or replacement for crossover youth and whether it would be possible to include the families that were diverted to the FAR track, which would not be considered a substantiation but would still provide concerns for the family's needs. Another related question was asked about the rationale behind the substantiation vs an out-of-home placement given that at the time of the original study DCF was substantiating risk in families. Regarding the question asked about the rationale for the dimensions used for being considered crossover youth, an answer was provided explaining that the methodology will remain the same as the original report but due to policy changes the elements that are being measured can be adjusted. The P20WIN representatives will take the feedback offered back to the other members conducting the renewed study to potentially alter the data request.

A question was proposed by a member of the JJPOC regarding the operationalizing of the term "juvenile justice case" in terms of the study update and replication. A tentative response was given stating that referrals to the juvenile court that were subsequently diverted to a juvenile review board are included in this definition, but further confirmation will be made.

A representative from the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) wishes for DESPP to be involved in the data collected during the P20WIN replication study.

Cross Agency Data Sharing Workgroup Annual Report

The chairs of the JJPOC Cross Agency Data Sharing Workgroup and a representative from CSSD presented their annual report. The statistics in this report are descriptive and are not in any way an evaluation of any program or system. These statistics are intended to depict system changes over time.

Through 2024 Q3, 4692 delinquent referrals were made to juvenile court with an estimated additional 1458 during Q4 with an estimated total of 6,150 referrals, resulting in an over 22% decrease compared to 2019. Since 2014, every non-COVID year has seen a decrease in referrals each year and the system remains 54% of what it was ten years ago. Through the lens of race and ethnicity, the proportion of Hispanic youth has continued to contract over the past few years, specifically in the

post-pandemic years. During these years, the number of Hispanic youth referrals has not increased, unlike what has been observed for White and Black youth, which is more prevalent and apparent in the larger cities such as Waterbury, Bridgeport, and Hartford. As an improvement for data collection for 2025, the implementation of the U.S. Census Bureau's latest guidance around race and ethnicity data collection. In terms of gender, the system has maintained a 70-30 split in terms of court referrals. During the pandemic there was a slight increase in referrals for males and a slight decrease in referrals for females, but post-pandemic years have stabilized back to the pre-pandemic split.

Regarding charge type, most of the system's contraction has occurred at the lower end of charge severity due to increased diversion efforts over the past ten years with a 57% reduction in misdemeanor referrals. Felony referrals fluctuate annually but on average there are roughly 2000 each year. Resulting from the decreased misdemeanor referrals is an increase in the percentage of felony referrals: 33% of the court referrals have been for felony offenses which is an increase from about 19% in 2014. The top ten charges of 2024 (which make up roughly 60% of charge volume) were presented as well, with the most common offense being assault in the third degree, which has increased since 2023. Compared to 2017, there is a notable decrease in total referrals for each of the top ten charges. Referrals for motor vehicle related theft have decreased from 2023 for both drivers and passengers.

The 2024 trend of school-related referrals to juvenile court in comparison to other school years were presented, which shows a 19% decrease from the 2023 school year and a 40% decrease from the 2019 school year.

An estimation of 910 pre-disposition detention admissions is projected through the end of 2024 which represents a 63% decrease from 2013. The supervision level as a percentage of supervision probation cases were presented which indicates a larger proportion of young people on probation present higher levels of risk. On a quarterly basis, the dispositions to probation with residential placement levels have remained below pre-pandemic levels with most placements to a REGIONS hardware-secure facility.

The most common program referral for young people on probation is Linking Youth to Natural Community. Regarding the completion of supervision without re-arrest, this percentage has remained relatively stable. Adjudication rates in the year following the start of supervision remain below 50% for young people classified with Tier 1-4 risk levels.

A question was asked by a JJPOC member regarding whether there was a measured correlation between the decrease in school-related referrals and school resource officers. This information is not currently known and would likely need input from other organizations but could be determined in future research. Another question was asked regarding whether calls were tracked along with arrests, and it was clarified that calls were not tracked, only referrals to juvenile court.

A youth asked whether there was a difference between the referrals from urban schools compared to rural schools. An answer was not able to be provided in detail but can be provided at a later date.

A question was asked about whether it is known why there are decreases in the trends of successful completion of supervision without re-arrest. It was explained that the proportion of youth that are on supervision in more recent years are riskier, so as the system has contracted with the removal of lower-level offenses results in the removal of lower-risk youth. Therefore, the youth that are on probation tend to be riskier compared to previous trends. Although a riskier population has been observed, the success rate has remained relatively stable. At the time of being asked, the question of whether different methods being enacted at the time of decrease was not able to fully be addressed but a more thorough answer can be provided at a later time after more analysis and data collection.

A youth asked a question about whether it is known why New Haven, Connecticut has seen a large amount of motor vehicle thefts. There are likely a number of factors that contribute to this, but a specific answer was not able to be provided. It was pointed out by another JJPOC member that New Haven is arresting more passengers than any other jurisdiction, which could be a cause of such high rates seen in the area.

A question was asked whether it was known how many of the young people that were referred are chronically absent or considered special education. Currently, probation officers are reaching out to their youth's school districts on a monthly basis to inquire about absenteeism, school attendance, and engagement. This data is being recorded to provide snapshots of the youth as they go through their probation services.

A question was then asked if there was record of when arrests are made regarding the time of day. Currently, that data is not known but events that occur at school are being recorded even after school hours.

JJPOC members began to reflect on the successes and improvements that have been made over the past ten years of JJPOC, including community organization implementation and policy changes, along with next steps for future work. A concern was brought to the JJPOC regarding the accessibility of services, which continues to be a significant issue facing juvenile justice and children's behavioral health. A question was asked by one of the attending youths regarding why exceptions are not made for the more severe behavioral health cases. Prioritization by risk is often the intention but waitlists are such an issue due to their length that it is not always possible due to the contracts and structure of the services. Further concerns were addressed as well regarding funding for services and the behavioral health workforce shortage that is being experienced nationwide.

A question was asked whether data is available regarding where the youth being arrested reside. It was then clarified that information is available on the city of residence of the youth at the time of arrest, the town where the offense occurred, and the police department who effected the arrest.

Equity Dashboard Update

An update on the Equity Dashboard was presented which is a public-facing dashboard that breaks down the available data by municipality. Initially, four measures were identified and prioritized with two being released in 2023 and the third being released in July 2024 which is in regard to detentions. Data for the detention measure is available from January 2019 to June 2024 currently with updates soon expected for the most recent 2024 quarter. The goal of the dashboard is to provide a tool to look at and analyze regarding disparities across gender, race, and ethnicity. The relative rate index was presented and is defined as a detention rate calculated by detentions divided by total referrals. This measure is then compared to the white detention rate to determine where disparities exist regarding race within the system.

Currently, the Equity Dashboard's current development stage is with the development of the fourth measure, Non-Judicial Handling, and is expected to be implemented in Spring 2025.

JJPOC Recommendations

The JJPOC Recommendations will be presented and discussed at the December 19th, 2024, monthly JJPOC meeting due to time constraints.



Making connections. Informing solutions.

Next Meeting:

Hybrid Model Option (In person and available over zoom) VOTING MEETING
December 19th, 2024
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM