# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

# EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

# OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES AND JUSTICE GRANTS

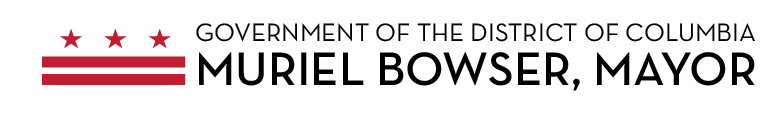
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# Title II Formula Grants Program

# State Plan 2021-2023

# Approved and adopted by the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG/DC SAG)

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1. **Introduction**

The District of Columbia Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG) is the State-Administering Agency (SAA) responsible for the implementation of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) and the management and administration of Title II Formula funds. In this capacity, OVSJG manages development and revision of the District’s three-year plan and facilitates the District’s state advisory group, locally known as the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG).

The JJDPA requires each state advisory group to periodically analyze its juvenile justice system and to review delinquency prevention and intervention programs and policies. This analysis then serves as the basis of the three-year plan and related updates. The purpose of this plan is to identify the needs of youth and families in our community, identify system assets and gaps, and create a plan for implementing responses and strategies that meet identified needs or fill system gaps. The ultimate goal of the plan is to prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system and/or prevent further involvement for system-involved youth.

1. **Program Narrative** 
   1. **District of Columbia Juvenile Justice System Description**
      1. *System Stakeholders*

The District of Columbia’s juvenile justice system involves a core group of stakeholder agencies, including the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), the DC Superior Court (DCSC) Family Division and Court Social Services Division (CSSD), the Office of Attorney General (OAG), the Public Defender Service (PDS), and the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS). Each agency has a distinct purpose with respect to public safety, rehabilitation, and restoration.

MPD has arrest authority for juveniles, as well as the ability to divert youth pre-arrest to alternative support programs outside of the juvenile justice system. MPD’s Youth and Family Services Division, Juvenile Processing Center has the responsibility of processing juveniles who are arrested. When youth arrive at the Juvenile Processing Center, MPD notifies the parents or guardians. MPD may release the youth to his or her parent to appear in court at a future date or hold the youth and transport him or her to a processing center for intake by CSSD. During intake, CSSD provides a series of assessments, which are used to develop recommendations for the purposes of advising the DCSC on release conditions or need for detention and consults with the OAG. The OAG is the juvenile prosecutor that makes decisions on charging and diversion of juveniles that have allegedly violated District law or have been identified for status offense behaviors. Similarly, the Public Defender Services (PDS), private attorneys, or attorneys appointed by the Court, represent juveniles throughout their court-involvement.

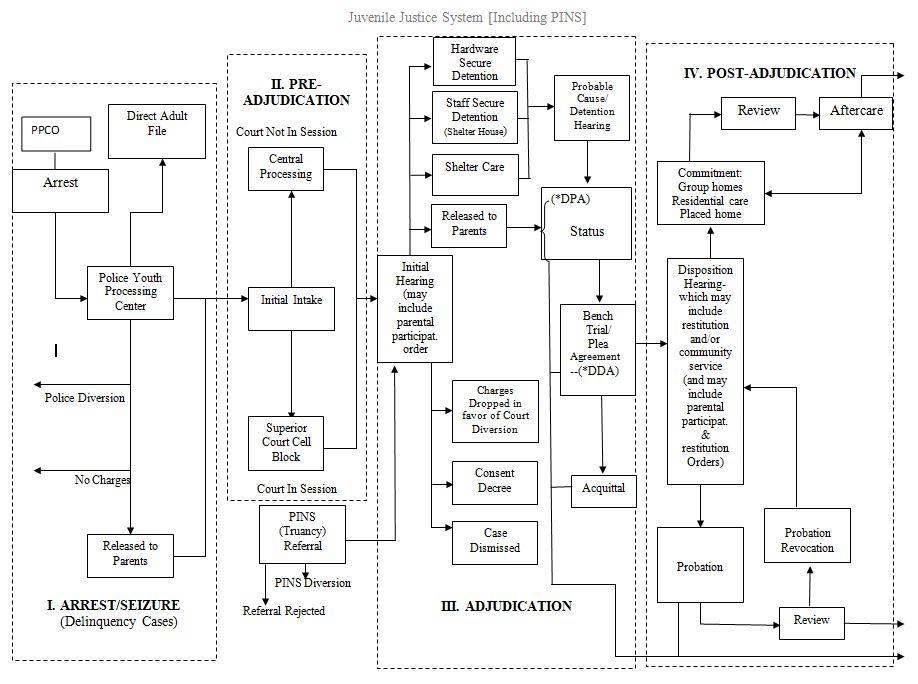
The DCSC is responsible for adjudicating juveniles for violations of the law consistent with the city’s juvenile code, other statutes, and the Constitution of the United States. When the Court finds that a youth has committed a delinquent act or is in need of supervision, then the Court will determine whether the youth should be placed on probation with CSSD or committed to the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS).

The CSSD is the juvenile probation agency, operated under the DCSC, and is responsible for supervising juveniles involved in the District’s juvenile justice system from the time that they are arrested through any probationary period ordered by the Court.

The DYRS is the cabinet-level agency responsible for care and supervision of youth involved in the District’s juvenile justice system. For youth in the pre-adjudication phase, DYRS operates the Youth Services Center, the District’s secure detention facility, as well as shelter care facilities for youth awaiting formal adjudication in the Court. Post adjudication, DYRS supports youth committed to its care by the Court through intensive case management and rehabilitation programming.

Relatedly, the DC Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is an independent agency that is charged with facilitating collaboration among the local and federal criminal justice agencies in the District. To that end, the CJCC convenes the District's Juvenile Justice Committee, which serves as the executive body charged with setting juvenile justice strategic priorities for the CJCC. The CJCC also operates the District’s Statistical Analysis Center responsible for conducting research and analysis on various juvenile justice issues. Additionally, the CJCC facilitates training and technical assistance sessions for juvenile justice professionals in the District.

In addition to government agencies, there are also a number of community-based organizations that exist across the District providing services for youth at-risk of entering, and those diverted from the juvenile justice system. The cooperation and partnership among these agencies is vital and further strengthened by collaboration.

* + 1. *System Flow Map*

Source: The Office of Attorney General

(See Appendix A for System Flow Map Key and Term Definitions)

* + 1. *Use of Assessments in Decision Making*

Risk and needs assessments are conducted for youth at various touch points in the District’s juvenile justice system. These assessments support determinations of placement or supervision level, as well as guide service referrals for system involved youth.

When youth receive their initial intake after being taken into custody, they receive a set of assessments delivered by the CSSD. Among those, CSSD utilizes the Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI), which is a validated tool used to determine if a young person is a flight risk or likely to recidivate. The information gathered using this assessment tool results in a numerical score and becomes part of the CSSD recommendation to the Court on whether to detain a young person while awaiting adjudication.

During the adjudication process, the Court may order additional assessments through the Child Guidance Clinic. The Child Guidance Clinic is a branch within CSSD that is designed to meet both the needs of the Court and its staff for the purposes of providing comprehensive clinical and forensic psychological evaluations. The Child Guidance Clinic supports the Court by providing assessments related to competency, violence or sex offender risks, psychological evaluations, neuropsychological evaluations, and psychoeducation evaluations.

If a young person is adjudicated and committed to DYRS, they will receive another assessment of risk level through the Strategic Decision Making (SDM) system. SDM assists DYRS in identifying the appropriate level of restrictiveness for committed youth. In the SDM system, an evidence-based instrument classifies each committed juvenile into one of three risk levels (*e.g.,* high, medium, or low) based on the relative likelihood that he or she will commit a new offense. SDM takes into account various factors, including offense severity, number and type of prior adjudications, number of out-of-home placements, school discipline/attendance, substance abuse issues, and peer relationships.

While the SDM is used only at the point of initial commitment, DYRS regularly monitors each youth committed to its care using a functional assessment tool called the Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS). The CAFAS is a tool delivered every 90 days to assess the impact of service delivery and rehabilitative care on the functioning of the child and family.

* + 1. *Additional and Specialized Needs Assessments*

The CSSD also developed the Sex Trafficking Assessment Review (STAR), an empirically validated screening tool used to identify youth at risk commercial sexual exploitation. The tool is used during the pre-trial screening process to identify risk of sexual exploitation and support referral to appropriate programs and services.

Moreover, when a youth is detained at YSC awaiting adjudication and/or disposition by the courts, he or she receives comprehensive behavioral health screening by a qualified health professional upon admission to the facility. The screening process includes completion of an Initial Medical Screening and Risk Assessment and the MAYSI-2, a behavioral health screening tool. In addition to a comprehensive medical and behavioral health screening, all new admissions are assessed for behavioral health challenges by a Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP) using the DYRS Behavioral Health Intake Form within 14 days of admission. Based on the results of these assessments, a problem-behavior list and treatment plan is generated. If, following assessment, a QMHP determines that a youth requires acute behavioral health services beyond those provided by DYRS facilities, the youth is transferred to an inpatient psychiatric hospital. If a youth flags in the substance abuse scale of the MAYSI-2, the GAIN-Q[[1]](#footnote-1) screening or other empirically equivalent substance abuse screening tool is administered within five days of the youth’s commitment to DYRS. Youth who are identified as having substance abuse disorders receive substance abuse education and counseling on-site. Those not confirmed to have substance abuse disorders receive substance abuse education through psycho-educational groups.

In addition, the DYRS Health Services Administration is also on-site at secure facilities and provides care to youth in need of further mental health services with a range of treatment services when clinically indicated, including:

1. Development of an individual treatment plan;
2. On-site crisis intervention;
3. Individual and group counseling;
4. Psychiatric assessment;
5. Psychotropic medication management;
6. Referral to an off-site facility for acute psychiatric assessment and/or inpatient treatment; and
7. Discharge planning
   * 1. *Utilization of Assessments to determine placement and service needs of system-involved youth*

With the information collected from assessments, decision makers determine the most appropriate placement for a youth. Typically, youth can continue to successfully remain in the community and the following options are available for placement of a youth:

1. Home Placement - If the Court releases a youth to the community to live with a parent or approved guardian pre-adjudication or on probation post-adjudication, the youth is monitored by Court Social Services and must comply with the Court’s release conditions. In the case of a committed youth post-adjudication, a youth can also be placed with a parent or guardian and a DYRS case manager monitors the youth’s activities and refers the youth to support services. Youth are required to attend school and/or have full-time employment.
2. Group Homes - DYRS contracts with providers to house youth in a structured, homelike residential setting. These programs, which are staffed 24-hours per day, are single-sex and typically house six to 10 youth. Although youth reside full-time in the program, they attend local schools, participate in family visits, and receive support services within the community. Group Homes provide supervision, counseling services, structured recreational activities, and programs designed to promote positive development.
3. Therapeutic Foster Care/Extended Family Homes - Youth reside with a foster family in a private home with their activities monitored. Youth receive individual, group and family counseling, and attend school and/or hold jobs within the community.
4. Community-Based Shelter Homes - When appropriate, DC Superior Court judges can place youth in an alternative to secure detention during the pre-adjudication phase of their case. Shelter homes, which are under contract with DYRS to provide supervision and services, operate as a key alternative to detention. Judges use detention alternatives such as this one to ensure that youth show up on time to their scheduled court appointment and remain crime-free while their court case is being processed.

For certain young people who are committed to DYRS and residing in the community, a young person may be required to wear a GPS device as part of the agency’s electronic monitoring program. Electronic monitoring technology allows the agency to track the location of an individual in real time to ensure that he or she is complying with any pre-determined travel restrictions or curfews. DYRS receives alerts when a youth is not where he or she is supposed to be and may contact families for information about their youth’s whereabouts. DYRS also partners with MPD in locating and picking up youth when necessary.

In addition to community-based placements, the District’s juvenile justice system maintains an array of secure placement options for youth deemed high risk or with identified special needs that cannot be supported in a community-based placement. These options include:

1. New Beginnings Youth Development Center (NBYDC) - NBYDC is a 60-bed secure residential treatment facility in Laurel, Maryland for young people found to be involved with the most serious and/or chronic offenses. Youth at NBYDC participate in the DC Model program, which provides long-term supervision, rehabilitation, and community reintegration planning. Some of the specific services at NBYDC include screening and assessment, onsite medical and dental care, trauma-based behavioral health care, individual and group counseling, substance abuse counseling, education at the onsite Maya Angelou Academy, workforce and vocational training, structured recreational activities, and family engagement and visitation programs.
2. Youth Services Center (YSC) - YSC is an 88-bed secure residential facility, located in northeast DC, which provides youth with 24-hour supervision, custody, and care. YSC is a short-term detention facility typically utilized to detain youth in the pre-adjudication phase or when a committed youth is detained under a court order or custody order and is awaiting appearance in court. YSC cares for youth awaiting appearance in juvenile court and youth whose cases have been transferred to adult court. Available services include diagnostic screenings, onsite medical care, individual and group counseling, education provided by the DC Public Schools (DCPS), structured recreational activities, and family engagement and visitation programs.
3. Residential Treatment Centers (RTCs) - An RTC is a secure treatment facility for youth with specific mental health, behavioral, or substance abuse needs. RTCs provide specialized educational and behavioral modification programs in a structured, supervised environment. Depending on the treatment progress of the individual youth, RTC placements typically last from six to 12 months and are located outside of DC (out-of-state placement).

### Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF) - A PRTF is a non-hospital facility for youth with prescribed psychiatric needs. Placement at a PRTF requires a multi-disciplinary team meeting and must be approved through the DC Department of Behavioral Health.

* + 1. *Efforts to provide alternatives to secure placement in DC and to reduce time awaiting placement*

The standard for placement for all youth that are committed to the DYRS is the least restrictive environment, consistent with public safety. Thus, community placement is first considered before a decision is made to place a youth outside of his/her community or home. Youth are typically placed at home or in community-based settings and are connected to community-based supportive services (*e.g.,* mentors, family engagement supports, mental health counseling, structured recreational activities, etc.). For youth placed in the community, DYRS develops a treatment plan with input from the youth and his or her family, engages the young person in supportive service connections, and executes a community placement agreement that outlines expectations for the young person while placed in the community. This agreement is explained to the young person and his/her family and is signed by the youth and a parent or guardian. The treatment plan, placement, support services, and the community placement agreement are all tools and related processes that work together to ensure that each young person has the best chance to succeed in a placement at home or in the community.

For out-of-home placements or youth awaiting placement in a residential treatment setting, DYRS works hard to ensure that contracts (called human care agreements) are current and in place with funding secured so placements can be made expeditiously. DYRS works closely with CSSD and other sister agency partners to secure all necessary paperwork and evaluations required for placement consideration (*e.g.,* functional and risk assessments, educational history, medical and behavioral health history, juvenile court records, etc.). DYRS facilitates the submission of placement applications to the residential facilities identified as appropriate for a young person. Once accepted, DYRS also provides transportation for youth to the identified placement he or she is accepted to. DYRS continues to works with youth while awaiting placement to prepare the youth and his/her family for the transition and ensure that the youth is getting their educational, health, and recreational needs met while awaiting placement.

* 1. **Juvenile Crime and Needs Analysis** 
     1. *Data on system involvement*

Over the past several years, data collection, data reporting, and data sharing in the District has improved, enabling the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG) to review a robust set of data and statistics on juvenile system involvement for the juvenile crime and needs analysis. The following tables and data provide details and trends on juvenile justice system involvement among District youth from 2018-2020. The data collected is organized according to the phases of system involvement, as outlined in the system flow chart and map above (*e.g.,* arrests and charges, diversions, referrals for court involvement, adjudications, and case outcomes). In addition to the data collected at these system touch points, the District identified and reviewed information and data from local health and education partners, as well as reviewed relevant reports and information from our local justice partners and stakeholders.

# Part 1: MPD Arrests January 1, 2018 - September 30, 2020

*Source: MPD Data Submission - provided quarterly*

Summary Observations and Analysis:

* Approximately 70 percent of youth arrested were male and 30 percent of youth arrested were female in 2018.
* Approximately 78 percent of youth arrested were male and 22 percent of youth arrested were female in 2019.
* Approximately 85 percent of youth arrested were male and 15 percent of youth arrested were female through September of 2020.

*Source: MPD Data Submission - provided quarterly*

*Source: MPD Data Submission - provided quarterly*

Summary Observations and Analysis: Overall for arrests, 16 and 17 year olds were the most frequently arrested year over year, accounting for:

* Approximately 60 percent of arrests in 2018 (928 out of 2,336 arrests);
* Approximately 60 percent of arrests in 2019 (1996 out of 3,312); and
* Approximately 72 percent of arrests in 2020 (1061 out of 1,472).

# Part 2: Diversions (ACE) – January 2018 to October 2020

*Source: DHS Data Submission*

*Note: This data is based on youth arrested for delinquency charges only and does not capture diversions for status offense behaviors (explored further below).*

*Source: DHS Data Submission*

Summary Observations and Analysis: Diversion opportunities were typically offered to females at a high rate than males in comparison to arrest rates.

* Among all diversions in 2018, females made up 42 percent of diversions (but only 30 percent of arrests) and males made up 58 percent of diversions (as compared to 70 percent of arrests).
* Among all diversions in 2019, females made up 41 percent of diversions (but only 22 percent of arrests), and males made up 59 percent of diversions (as compared to 78 percent of arrests).
* Among all diversions in 2020, females made up 33 percent of diversions (as compared to 15 percent of arrests), and males made up 67 percent of diversions (as compared to 85 percent of arrests).

# Part 3: CSSD Intakes – January 2018 to October 2020

Summary Observations and Analysis: Data from 2020 shows an overall decline at all touch points, except for an increase in releases (likely impacted by COVID-19). Looking at the previous years of 2018 and 2019, the data appears to reflect that even when there were more intakes (potential cases), no paper filing decisions and diversion options were provided to youth at high rates.

# Part 4: Adjudicated and Delinquent Cases – January 2019 to December 2020

*Source: SMD/DCSC Data Submission*

Summary Observations and Analysis: There has been a significant decline in adjudications with delinquency findings in FY20 (likely due to COVID-19 challenges and related policy changes made due to the pandemic).

# Part 5: Case Outcomes of Probation or Commitment – January 2019 to October 2020

*Source: Strategic Management Division/DCSC Data Submission*

Summary Observations and Analysis: Youth are placed on probation at higher rates than commitments but both dispositional options decreased through October of 2020 (again possibly impacted by COVID-19).

# Part 6: Involvement in Juvenile System Touchpoints by Race/Ethnicity

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Touchpoint** | **White** | **Black or African American** | **Hispanic/ Latino\*** | **Asian** | **American Indian/ Alaska Native** | **Other/ Mixed** | **All**  **Minorities** | **Unknown** | **Total** |
| **Juvenile Arrests** | 11 | 2,562 | 186 | 2 | 0 | 0 | **2,750** | 68 | **2,818** |
|  |
| **Diversion** | 21 | 453 | 41 | 2 | 1 | 1 | **508** | 0 | **529** |  |
|  |
|  |
| **Pre-trial Detention** | 12 | 2153 | 171 | 8 | 0 | 6 | **2238** | 1 | **2126** |  |
|  |
| **Disposition Commitments** | 0 | 741 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **761** | 0 | **761** |  |
|  |
|  |

***FY2018***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Touchpoint** | **White** | **Black or African American** | **Hispanic/ Latino\*** | **Asian** | **American Indian/ Alaska Native** | **Other/ Mixed** | **All**  **Minorities** | **Unknown** | **Total** |
| **Juvenile Arrests** | 13 | 2818 | 204 | 8 | 0 | 0 | **3047** | 12 | **3055** |
|  |
| **Diversion** | 7 | 584 | 84 | 1 | 1 | 5 | **676** | 2 | **683** |  |
|  |
|  |
| **Pre-trial Detention** | 8 | 1979 | 116 | 3 | 0 | 19 | **2118** | 1 | **2126** |  |
|  |
| **Disposition Commitments** | 0 | 929 | 58 | 0 | 0 | 5 | **992** | 0 | **992** |  |
|  |
|  |

***FY2019***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Touchpoint** | **White** | **Black or African American** | **Hispanic/ Latino\*** | **Asian** | **American Indian/ Alaska Native** | **Other/ Mixed** | **All** | **Unknown** | **Total** |
| **Minorities** |
| **Juvenile Arrests** | 16 | 2697 | 227 | 9 | 0 | 0 | **2933** | 56 | **3005** |
|  |
| **Diversion** | 34 | 775 | 72 | 6 | 0 | 0 | **853** | 0 | **887** |  |
|  |
|  |
| **Pre-trial Detention** | 5 | 905 | 64 | 3 | 1 | 5 | **978** | 1 | **984** |  |
|  |
| **Disposition Commitments** | 0 | 794 | 46 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **848** | 0 | **848** |  |
|  |
|  |

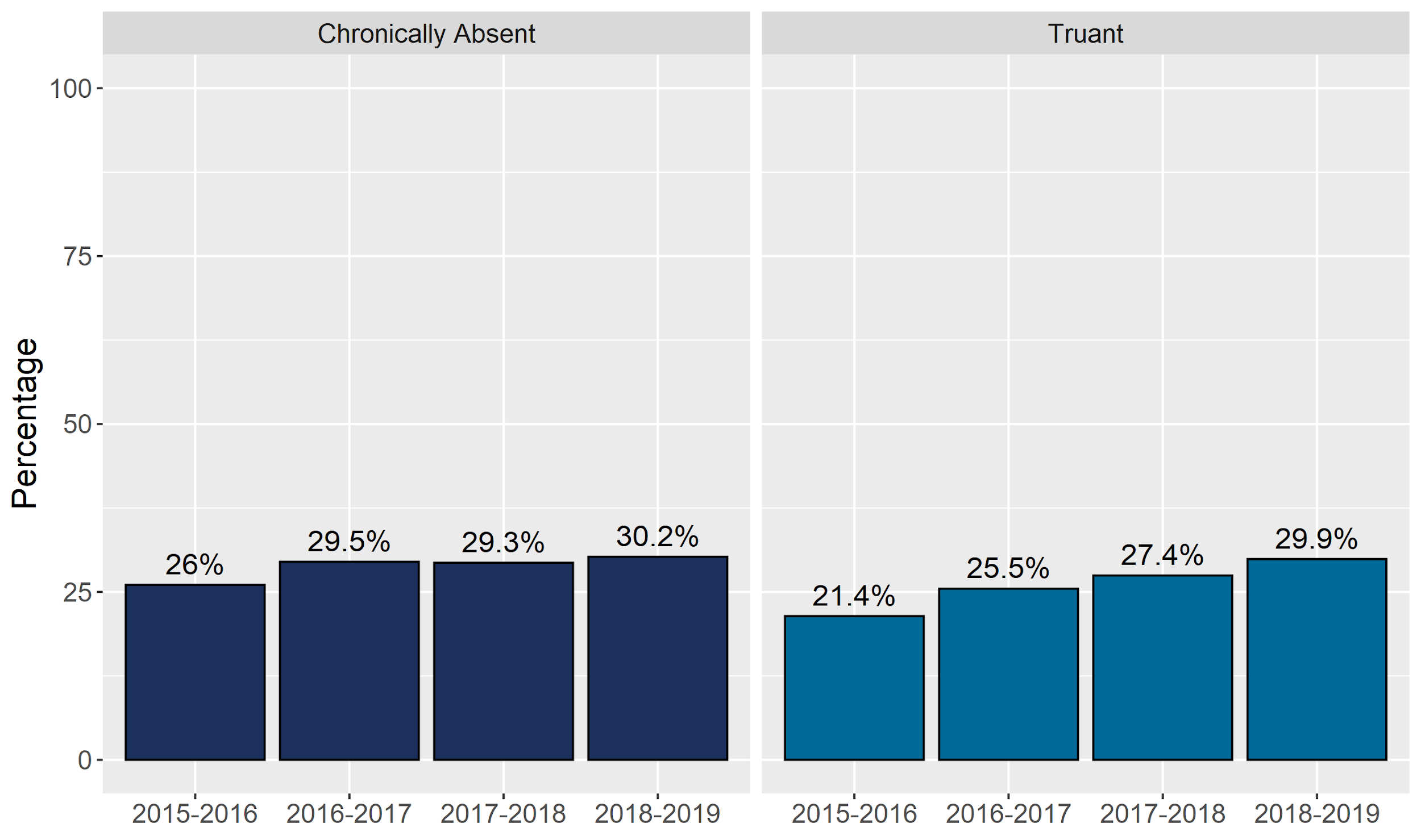
***FY2020***

Summary Observations and Analysis: DC consistently sees that Black or African American youth are engaged at higher rates than all other races at the points of arrest, detention, and commitments. This continues to align with the findings of the Districts 2019 Racial and Ethnic Disparities Action Plan, where DC reported that more than 92 percent of the juveniles who are arrested, detained pre-trial and committed to DYRS are Black or African American, even though Black or African American youth make up 55.4 percent of the District’s juvenile population. Black or African American youth is the only racial group that is overrepresented in the juvenile justice system compared to their percentage of the total juvenile population.

* + 1. *Status offenses: Truancy*

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) annual attendance report provides analysis on chronic absenteeism and truancy in the District. Key definitions include:

* + ***Chronic Absenteeism:*** *when a student is absent – either excused or unexcused – for 10 percent or more of instructional days a student was enrolled across all schools and sectors in a given school year.*
  + ***Truancy:*** *the accumulation of 10 or more unexcused absences across all schools and sectors in a given school year.*

**Chronic Absenteeism and Truancy Rates - 2015-2019 School Years**

20,258 Students

23,376 Students

22,317 Students

22,370 Students

18,477 Students

22,460 Students

18,477 Students

18,484 Students

15,215 Students

Source: Office of the State Superintendent: Attendance Report SY 2018-2019

Summary Observation and Analysis: Over the span of four years, truancy rose by 8.5 percentage points, reaching 29.9 percent in 2018-19.

Critically, the 2019-2020 attendance data is not included above. In 2019=2020, there were 21,224 students recorded as chronically absent and 12,642 students recorded as truant. These details are not included in the chart because during the 2019-2020 school year and in response to the COVID-19 public health crisis, DC’s Mayor Muriel Bowser instructed schools in the District to move from in-person instruction to distance learning after March 13, 2020. At the time of that announcement, it was unclear how long students would stay in a distance learning posture, and OSSE made the decision not to collect attendance while students attended school through distance learning. Thus, there is no student-level attendance collected after March 13, 2020. Therefore, the chronic absenteeism and truancy data should not be compared to the other year over year data found in the chart, since it does not encompass a full school year term.

* + 1. *Status Offenses:* Runaway

The District also reviewed data on system-involvement for youth engaging in runaway behavior, specifically examining CSSD intakes and OAG prosecutions.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CSSD Intakes for Juvenile PINS/Runaway Behavior**   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | **CY 2018** | **CY 2019** | **CY 2020** | | **Total Intakes** | 2734 | 2014 | 1502 | | **Total Intakes (w/only PINS charge)** | 48 | 51 | 42 | | * Runaway | 14 | 16 | 8 | | * Fugitive from parent | 30 | 29 | 27 | | * Other PINS charges | 4 | 6 | 7 | | **Total Intakes (PINS + delinquent charge)** | 0 | 2 | 0 |   Source: CSSD Data Submission  **OAG Prosecution Decisions: PINS/Runaway by Calendar Year** | | | | |
| **Papering Decision** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **Grand Total** |
| No Paper | 20 | 24 | 7 | 51 |
| Paper | 33 | 14 | 5 | 52 |
| PPCO\* declined | 4 | 4 | 6 | 14 |
| PPCO issued and remains outstanding | 1 | -- | 1 | 2 |
| Pending | -- | -- | 8 | 8 |
| **Grand Total** | **58** | **42** | **27** | **127** |

Source: Office of the Attorney General, Juvenile Division

\* *PPCO – Pre-Petition Custody Order*

Summary Observations and Analysis: DC noted a decline in overall intakes and prosecutions for runaway behaviors with the steepest decline appearing in 2020 (possibly due to COVID-19 operational and policy changes). Generally, the declining numbers of PINS or status offenses cases entering the juvenile justice system aligns with the District’s legislative and policy-based reforms, which are explored in more detail below.

* + 1. *Status Offense Reform Data Review and Efforts by the JJAG*

Over the course of 2019-2020, the JJAG reviewed local status offense data and local and national research on strategies to reduce system involvement for status offense behavior. The JJAG provided the Mayor with a report and a set of recommendations for improvement of our local system in February 2020. The JJAG report, titled “Create New Opportunities for Persons In Need of Supervision (PINS) to Succeed Without Legal System Intervention,”[[2]](#footnote-2) proposes removing the juvenile justice system as a possible response to status offense behaviors and strengthening a community-based set of services to meet the needs of youth and families. The JJAG identified key principles central to its recommended alternative, provided concrete ideas for how to implement a continuum of recommended responses to these behaviors, and outlined outstanding questions crucial to successful implementation in the report.

Data Sources Reviewed by JJAG

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Agency Source** | **Data Reviewed by JJAG** | **Key takeaway from data reviewed** |
| **DC Superior Court, Family Court Operations Division** | Number of PINS cases filed in FY18 and FY19 (post CYJAA) | The number of PINS cases entering the Family Court has declined significantly since the passage of CYJAA. |
| **DC Superior Court, Family Court Operations Division** | Average length of time for PINS case from charging to disposition | The length of time for adjudication or until a case is disposed varies widely for PINS cases, but can be more than a year in some instances. |
| **Office of the Attorney General** | Number of PINS referrals received in FY18 and FY 19  Of the referrals received, the number of cases filed, cases not filed, and cases diverted in FY18 and FY19 | The vast majority of truancy and runaway cases are diverted to ACE.  The data from the education system on the number of eligible truancy cases does not match the number of referrals that OAG receives (more youth are eligible than are actually referred). |
| **Office of the State Superintendent/ Public Charter School Board** | Attendance and Truancy numbers | Thousands of young people are eligible for truancy charges in the Family Court. |
| **Criminal Justice Coordinating Council** | System responses and demographic data related to runaway youth, missing persons (youth), and youth absconded from placement. | Most missing person cases are from Wards 5, 7, and 8. The vast majority of missing youth do NOT already have support service connections in place when initially entering the system as a missing person case. |
| **Metropolitan Police Department** | MPD interactions/stops for curfew violations | MPD interactions with youth violating the curfew laws remained steady in 2018 and 2019 (more than 500 interactions in both years). |
| **Department of Human Services** | Family Functional Therapy (FFT), ACE, PASS Crisis and Stabilization Team (PCAST), STEP and Parent Adolescent Support Program (PASS) program data | These programs currently serve about 1000 youth annually. Maximum caseloads vary by intensity of the program. ACE succeeds in reducing re-offense rates. PASS succeeds at increasing school attendance rate. |

In addition to local data, JJAG reviewed guidance and best practices from local and national experts related to status offense reform and developing stronger community-based support. Examples include:

1. *Beyond the Walls: A Look at Girls in DC’s Juvenile Justice System[[3]](#footnote-3)* documents concerning increases in the number of Black girls entering DC’s juvenile justice system, including for status offenses.
2. The Urban Institute facilitated a conversation on funding opportunities for alternative community-based services with the JJAG based on its guide*,*[*Promoting a New Direction for Youth Justice: Strategies to Fund a Community-Based Continuum of Care and Opportunity*](https://www.urban.org/research/publication/promoting-new-direction-youth-justice-strategies-fund-community-based-continuum-care-and-opportunity)***.[[4]](#footnote-4)***
   * 1. *Key Takeaways from the Data and Significant System Trends*

Overall, the District took note that there have been fewer juvenile arrests, case filings, and dispositions during FY20. While it is likely that policy changes made with respect to COVID-19 contributed to the decline in numbers, other potential contributing factors include: policy changes established by the Comprehensive Youth Justice Amendment Act[[5]](#footnote-5) or the new MPD Juvenile General Order 205-01,[[6]](#footnote-6) and related system improvements, such as the OAG Juvenile Section Hotline. These system changes and improvements are examined further below.

* + 1. *Additional Reports Reviewed*

Outside of the court-based or prosecutorial data reviewed and the school-based truancy date reviewed, the District was able to access and analyze several additional information resources and reports that supported its juvenile crime and needs analysis. These resources included:

1. The CJCC Root Causes of Juvenile System Involvement Report (2020)

CJCC conducted a multivariable regression analysis using the administrative data to identify factors that have a statistical impact on the likelihood of juvenile justice system involvement and disseminated the resulting report in November 2020. Through this work, CJCC built upon existing research to examine the statistical association between certain Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), such as abuse, neglect, poverty, exposure to violence, and neighborhood safety and other risk factors for juvenile justice system involvement identified by previous research, such as demographics, educational experience, and mental health and learning disorders. The study found that age, gender[[7]](#footnote-7), race[[8]](#footnote-8), homelessness[[9]](#footnote-9), child abuse or childhood neglect[[10]](#footnote-10), grade retention, school suspensions, unexcused absences from school, enrollment stability[[11]](#footnote-11), externalizing or comorbid mental or behavioral health disorder diagnoses[[12]](#footnote-12), and living on a gun violence hot block are factors with a statistically significant impact on a young person’s likelihood of juvenile justice system involvement.

In addition to administrative data, CJCC collected feedback from justice-involved youth and community stakeholders in the report. Feedback collected from community stakeholders and youth through interviews and focus groups also highlighted that peer influence can affect a youths’ decision to engage in delinquent behavior, as well as uncertainty about the future and a lack of exposure to alternatives. The report also highlights recommendations and lifts up themes or strategies for system improvement collected from conversations with youth and community stakeholders. Some highlights of the feedback collected include: a need for more navigation support to support access high quality programs and support services, preference for strength-based approaches to case management and service referrals, expressed need for income opportunities for youth as young as age 14, and expressed need for access to emergency resources that help families meet basic needs outside of the justice system.

1. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2019)

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)[[13]](#footnote-13) is a survey of health-risk behaviors conducted in middle and high schools every two years in the District and around the United States. YRBS is unique in that it is not administrative data, but rather a survey collection tool that gathers and aggregates information reported directly from youth. The 2019 YRBS report covers five risk behavior categories: (a) Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs; (b) Mental and Emotional Health; (c) Nutrition and Physical Activity; (d) Disease Prevention / Sexual Health; and (e) Safety and Violence. Particularly relevant to this report and our analysis was the safety and violence information.

Highlights from student reported data include:

* At the high school level, Black students reported missing school because they felt unsafe at double the rate of their white peers, and Hispanic/Latinx students at more than three times the rate of white students.
* Academic achievement was associated with lower rates of violence. Students who received mostly As reported being in a fight much less than their peers who received mostly Fs.

The data showed the continued need for inclusive policies and programs that support safe schools and communities for all students.

* 1. **Analysis Overview: Key System Challenges and Problem Statement**

Analysis of the data and system information collected demonstrates that the District is experiencing a decline in arrest, an increase in diversion opportunities, and a decrease in youth engaging in the deep end of the justice system (probation and commitment). However, the data trends also demonstrate that truancy continues to rise, and that we continue to see high rates of disparities for Black or African American youth being involved in the juvenile justice system.

Further, the CJCC Root Cause analysis findings further support that education-related challenges such as suspensions, enrollment stability, unexcused absences and grade retention have a statistically significant impact on justice system involvement, as well as that race, specifically being Black or African American, has a statistically significant impact on justice system involvement. Additionally, the data and reports reviewed consistently identified feedback from stakeholders expressing that the District has many resources, but there is not public awareness or there is poor coordination and communication among various systems and stakeholders that prevent the community from fully engaging or accessing available resources. Thus, JJAG plans to utilize future Title II formula funds to achieve goals that are focused on upstream juvenile delinquency prevention services and supports, supporting improvements in coordination and collaboration within the system and with external stakeholders, and compliance with the core requirements with a focus on impacting racial and ethnic disparity reduction efforts.

1. **III. State Plan Goals**

The District is focusedon expanding resources that meet the needs of all youth, including youth at risk of system involvement, youthful offenders of delinquent acts, and youth engaged in status offense behaviors. The District is also committed to advising on programs and local policy that prevent system involvement for young people and to identifying existing strategies and exploring new or enhanced strategies that reduce racial and ethnic disparities in our juvenile justice system. Thus, JJAG, on behalf of the District of Columbia, will continue to focus on delinquency prevention, compliance monitoring for the four core requirements, and racial and ethnic disparity reduction work in the 2021-2023 District of Columbia State Plan.

The District of Columbia’s goals for the three-year plan include:

1. To develop and strengthen preventative services and advise on local policy changes designed to reduce the number of youth entering the juvenile justice system.
2. To improve the juvenile justice system through coordination, strategic resource allocation, technical assistance, and collaborative planning.
3. Maintain District compliance with the four core requirements of the JJDPA.
4. **Acknowledgement of Existing Strategies and Coordination Efforts in the District**
5. *Past funded programs*

Under past state plans, the District’s Title II formula funds were implemented to similarly focus on delinquency prevention and system coordination. Examples of existing and continuing efforts include:

1. Access Youth’s Restorative Justice in Schools program is designed to provide trauma-informed, evidence-based interventions for at-risk high school students at Ballou High School in order to reduce suspension rates, school-based arrests, and ultimately reduce juvenile delinquency and justice system involvement. While the Restorative Justice (RJ) program is focused on empowering students to develop the socio-emotional skills they need to avoid arrests and/or suspensions for negative behaviors, the program also improves students’ classroom achievements and increases engagement by providing a safe, nurturing environment in which at-risk students can confront the underlying reasons for their negative behaviors. Access Youth utilizes the Check and Connect model, recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as an effective program model for keeping youth in school and preventing dropouts. In addition, Access Youth’s Life Skills curricula, EQ-1©, is a scientifically validated model for understanding and improving emotional intelligence and targeting the social and emotional functions that at-risk students need in order to stay in school and out of the justice system.
2. The Multi-cultural Career Internship Program (MCIP) – MCIP provides trauma-informed mental health services and wraparound supports to at-risk youth at the Columbia Heights Educational Campus in Washington, DC. The MCIP program predominantly focuses on gang and substance abuse intervention and prevention for the youth they serve. Through partnerships with the Office of Victims Services and Justice Grants and the Addiction Recovery and Prevention Administration DC (APRA), MCIP employs the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) strategies that include: (1) information dissemination, (2) delivery of life and social skills lessons that include decision-making, refusal skills, critical analysis (*e.g.,* of media messages), and systematic judgment abilities, (3) the use of alternatives to offset the attraction to, or otherwise meet the needs usually filled by—gang involvement, alcohol and drugs, (4) problem identification and referral, (5) adherence to the community-based approach of problem solving, and (6) proactively working to change community standards and attitudes that influence destructive behavior among at-risk youth. MCIP staff members are also trained to deliver Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress (SPARCS) and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) to support delinquency prevention for the young people served.
3. Open City Advocates (OCA) is another community-based non-profit that delivers juvenile reentry services and coordination. OCA consists of attorneys and mentor-advocates (college and graduate school students) that participate in pre-release planning meetings to ensure that the youth’s rights are respected and that his or her school, housing, and support services appropriately meet the young person’s needs and expressed interests. Once the youth returns to the community, OCA maintains regular contact and takes active steps towards supporting youth in reaching their goals and maintaining compliance with their required community-placement conditions.
4. Alternatives to Court Experience (ACE) program is a diversion programs operated by the Department of Human Services (DHS). ACE is a collaborative effort among DHS; Court Social Services Division (CSSD), the District’s juvenile probation department; the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD); the Office of the Attorney General (OAG); the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH); and community-based service providers. Under appropriate circumstances MPD diverts youth to ACE prearrest. In addition, when OAG elects not to prosecute youth who have committed status offenses and/or have been arrested for low-level delinquency offenses, they offer youth the opportunity to participate in the ACE Diversion Program. ACE assesses the needs of each diverted youth, links youth and their families to individually tailored services, and monitors successful program participation. ACE’s comprehensive intake and outreach efforts ensure that diversion services selected for each youth match their needs and are most appropriate to address the underlying issues that led to their diversion. The ultimate goal of the program is to minimize the likelihood of reoffending, by addressing the behaviors or challenges that led to system-involvement, and to give youth the opportunity to avoid a juvenile record.
5. *Other Existing Supports and Coordination Efforts (not Title II funded)*
6. Family Engagement

DYRS developed a family resource guide called "What Love Looks Like, A Voice for Your Family"[[14]](#footnote-14) in 2017 in an effort to provide pertinent information, insight, and descriptions of the structure, operations, programs and services the agency offers. The publication also identifies various opportunities for collaboration and partnership with DYRS in support of youth committed to the agency. Some of those opportunities include:

* 1. Family engagement and visitation for youth in secure settings:
     + The Youth Services Center (YSC) is a pre-adjudication facility that engages youth and families through supervised visits weekly. The youth and family members are also invited to special programming and holiday events offered by DYRS or the YSC School.
     + The New Beginnings Youth Development Center (NBYDC) is a post-adjudication facility that engages families through supervised visits three days per week. The families are invited to participate in family engagement events several times throughout the year, where families partake in a therapeutic social visits consisting of games, sports, music, food and family photos. NBYDC also engages families in holiday and school events.
  2. Family Support Services for Committed Youth to DYRS:

All Youth Committed to DYRS are assigned a credible messenger[[15]](#footnote-15) to assist with family and community engagement. For each committed youth, Credible Messengers can provide optional family engagement and support specialists to provide crisis support and system navigation support to care givers. Family Engagement Specialists can also support family members in connecting with education, health, and employment resources to support overall family stability.

* 1. Family Support Groups:

DYRS operates a regular parent support group called Anchored in Strength to connect parents in the care of DYRS with each other and with a guided support group.

* 1. Family and Caregiver engagement in the case planning for youth:

DYRS youth and their parent/caregivers are engaged in a regular case review process called Team Decision Making. In a Team Decision Making (TDM) meeting, parents, the youth’s family members, extended family and other support persons, foster parents (if the child is in placement), service providers, other community representatives, and the caseworker come together every 90 days to create, review, and amend a plan for every youth committed to DYRS. The purpose of the meeting is to share all information which relates to the youth, including but not limited to; safety, functioning of the family, strengths, challenges, placement, goals, and mental health treatment. The goal is to reach consensus on decisions regarding the youth, which includes ensuring that the parent or guardian agrees with the plans and action steps identified. TDM allows everyone involved to have a voice and understand the basis for decisions. Parents and guardians are a critical member of the team that will provide information, insights, and ideas which are terribly important to the success of the youth throughout commitment.

1. Reentry Support Planning

For youth in care at DYRS’s long-term residential treatment facility, New Beginnings, DYRS is responsible for writing a discharge summary for each youth preparing for return to his/her community. Prior to release, DYRS holds a Team Decision Making meeting for reentry planning to flesh out goals, placement, and support services needed to ensure successful transition. After that meeting, the DYRS Case Worker creates a formal “Reentry Plan” that covers where the child will be placed, educational placement, whether electronic monitoring is needed, plans for employment or vocational training, conditions for community placement, such as drug testing or curfew, and referrals for any related support service needs.” The discharge summary from New Beginnings along with the reentry plan is presented to a DYRS case management supervisor for signature and approval. Once all signatures are obtained, an authorization for release is provided to New Beginnings and DYRS transports the youth to YSC. From YSC, the youth is released to a parent or guardian, or to a group home staff member.

In addition to DYRS procedures, service providers also support youth in the reentry process. DYRS connects all youth in its care with Credible Messenger Mentors, who meet with youth during the reentry planning process and remain with the youth throughout their commitment in the community. Credible Messengers help DYRS connect youth to resources, engage youth in pro-social activities, and promote the development of positive relationships for youth in their home communities to ensure successful reentry.

Open City Advocates (OCA) also supports juvenile reentry services and coordination. OCA consists of attorneys and mentor-advocates that also participate in pre-release planning meetings to ensure that the youth’s rights are respected and that his or her school, housing, and support services appropriately meet the young person’s needs and expressed interests. Once the youth returns to the community, Credible Messengers and OCA maintain regular contact and take active steps towards supporting youth in reaching their goals and maintaining compliance with their required community-placement conditions.

In support of educational placement and reentry planning for youth in residential treatment outside of DYRS facilities, DCPS, DYRS and the Office of the State Superintendent for Education have developed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and codified a process to monitor students who are placed in residential placements. DYRS notifies DCPS of the date and location where students are placed. DCPS specialists then monitor and support academic progress of students in out of state facilities. The DCPS Student Placement and Specialized Instruction teams work with DYRS to ensure that educational supports are provided to general education and special education students who are temporarily placed in out-of-district facilities. This includes the appropriate and timely transfer of all academic records from previous placements, transcript information, report cards, progress reports, IEP/504 Plan updates and any evaluations that are completed. DCPS’ Office of Teaching and Learning conducts transcript analysis and the acceptance of completed coursework by DCPS.

Upon students’ return to the community, the same discharge summary and reentry planning steps are taken to prepare a young person to return to the community as outlined above for youth returning from New Beginnings. Educational placement is provided by the Office of Student Placement of DC Public Schools. The Office of Student Placement also provides support to schools and students once the students enroll in a DCPS school.

1. Community-based Services

Community-based services are made available to youth and families that come into contact with the juvenile justice system in the District at all levels of system involvement (school-based, law enforcement diversion, pre-adjudication, prosecutorial diversion, post-adjudication, etc.). Many services are offered in the community, through District agencies and nongovernmental organizations, and can be accessed by anyone who meets program requirements. Community-based services include:

* family counseling
* individual therapy
* mentoring
* emergency shelter and longer-term housing support
* medical care
* tutoring
* education advocacy (e.g., to meet special education needs)
* case management
* parenting education and support
* recreation and creative arts opportunities
* workforce development

Examples of community-based supports in place for court-involved youth include:

* 1. The Credible Messenger Initiative is a transformative mentoring program for youth committed to DYRS. Credible Messengers are community members who share similar experiences with the youth and families served by DYRS. The Credible Messenger approach draws from restorative justice practices and peace-building principles. Through this initiative, credible messengers serve as one-on-one transformative mentors and family engagement specialists.
  2. DYRS operates two Achievement Centers in Northwest and in Southeast Washington, DC. Consistent with the Positive Youth Justice (PYJ) framework, the Achievement Centers foster pro-social engagement and opportunities for career development, life skill attainment, and healthy living. The Achievement Centers also serve as the home of the Youth Engagement Specialists who work one-on-one with youth to help them succeed. Achievement Centers offer a variety of services, including both drop-in and structured wraparound services for youth, their relatives, previously committed youth, and community members. Youth connected to the Achievement Centers participate in various programs such as culinary arts, physical fitness activities, workforce development, and academic assistance programs that include GED classes and other skills-based programming.
  3. CSSD operates five community-based hubs called Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) centers throughout the city, where youth on probation or being supervised pre-adjudication access case management support, probation supervision, family support services, mentoring, tutoring, skill-building classes, counseling, and related rehabilitation programs.
     + Southeast Satellite Office (SESO) houses the Southeast Balanced and Restorative Justice Drop-In Center (BARJ)
     + Northeast Satellite Office (NESO) houses the Northeast Balanced and Restorative Justice Drop-In Center (BARJ)
     + Leaders of Today in Solidarity (LOTS) houses the LOTS Balanced and Restorative Justice Drop-In Center (BARJ)
     + Southwest Satellite Office (SWSO) houses the Southwest Balanced and Restorative Justice Drop-In Center (BARJ)
     + Persons-In-Need-Of-Assistance (Status Offender)/Juvenile Behavioral Diversion Program houses the Status Offender Balanced and Restorative Justice Drop-In Center (BARJ)

1. Gender Specific Supports

The JJAG did not identify gender-specific services as a priority but efforts are ongoing throughout local units of government to identify and implement meaningful care and supports that are responsive to the different needs and interests of young men, young women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex, and gender non-conforming (LGBTQI-GNC) youth.

One example includes the DC Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Reallocation application for 2020, where the District outlined intended efforts to train secure facility staff, develop a guidebook, and implement improved safety management practices in custodial settings that are focused on gender responsivity. This initiative is focused on supporting staff and management at DYRS’ two secure facilities in providing appropriate safety management and treatment for LGBTQI-GNC individuals housed in these settings. The training and implementation approach DYRS is working towards for gender responsiveness goes beyond the principles of "do no harm." The training brings implicit biases to the forefront to be addressed, regarding assigned sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation. The gender responsivity initiative seeks to integrate specific tools and measures to promote gender equality in facilities as it relates to the care, custody, and management of all individuals in custodial care settings.

1. Training for System Staff to Eliminate the Use of Unreasonable Restraints

DYRS prescribes training and development requirements for all secure facility and direct care staff, facilitated by the DYRS Office of Professional Development. The training curriculum aids in eliminating dangerous practices such as: unreasonable restraints and isolations within the juvenile correctional and detention facilities. Staff members also receive training annually on implementation of Kirkpatrick’s Model of Learning Evaluation, DYRS’ chosen behavior management and evaluation system.

The Kirkpatrick Model is an evidence-based model to evaluate behavior modification interventions, such as personal development curriculums for youth or even the use of time outs on a young person. When utilizing Kirkpatrick model DYRS measures the effectiveness of interventions on four levels: Reaction, Learning, Behavior and Results. The Reaction level evaluates whether the participants responded favorably to the intervention. On the Learning level, DYRS measures what participants learned (through curriculum or intervention), what they think they'll be able to do differently as a result, how confident they are that they can engage in expected actions or behaviors, and how motivated they are to make changes that have been outlined. The Behavior level assesses how the knowledge and skill curriculum delivered to the young person are actually incorporated through observation, interviews, and data analysis. Lastly, on the Results level, evaluation is aimed at looking at the agency outcomes, benefits, or final results of implementation of interventions.

DYRS also maintains a policy on the use of room confinement that outlines the circumstances in which the intervention may be utilized, sets time limits on the intervention, and prompts staff to engage a health or mental health professional in certain circumstances.

1. Education and Justice Partnerships

The Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG) Show Up, Stand Out (SUSO) Program​​ has partners working with 56 elementary and middle schools in the District to support increased attendance among District students. The SUSO program engages with young people both at school and through home visits outside of school hours (including weekends), when it is more likely that staff can connect with families to address truancy. In addition, OVSJG piloted a parallel program in six District high schools that concluded in school year 2019-2020. This program continues to support 6 high schools and feeder middle schools in the SY2020-2021.

Moreover, the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), in partnership with District sister agencies, plays a unique role as the Local Education Agency (LEA) providing education while students are detained or incarcerated. However, it is the obligation of all LEAs to ensure that students transitioning from correctional facilities are timely served upon their re-entry to the community. To facilitate these transitions, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), DCPS, and DYRS developed an interagency agreement and mechanism for data sharing to support educational services for youth in correctional facilities. In addition, OSSE’s Division of K-12 Systems and Supports has a dedicated point of contact whose role is to support the timely sharing of information, address systemic challenges on behalf of transitioning students, and help ensure that the District meets its educational obligations to all students.

Another education partnership is accomplished through coordination of Title I Part D of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which provides formula funding annually to states to support neglected and delinquent youth. OSSE in partnership with DYRS, administers these funds to support educational and vocational support services for youth housed in DYRS secure facilities or in their transition from a secure facility to a community placement. Funds are typically used to deliver educational programs, purchase educational support technology, provide educational or vocational assessments to youth, and enhance vocational programs at DYRS’ on-site charter school at New Beginnings Youth Development Center.

Finally, youth involved in the juvenile justice system experience many disruptions to education, which makes it difficult for them to achieve their educational goals. Some of these students are placed outside of the District of Columbia for treatment or are transferred to multiple schools within the District, and therefore experience challenges enrolling in school, obtaining transferrable credit, and receiving special education and related services. In recognition of these ongoing challenges, the District created The Office for Students in the Care of D.C. (SCDC) to support students who come into contact with the child welfare, juvenile justice and criminal justice system and ensure they receive high quality educational and workforce development services and supports that address their needs, build on their strengths and empower them to succeed. SCDC is charged with coordination and engagement forstudents who are under the care and custody of any of the following agencies:

* Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS)
* Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (federal adult probation agency)
* Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia (federal adult supervision agency)
* Family Court Social Services Division (CSSD)
* Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA)
* Department of Corrections (DOC – local adult corrections)
* Federal Bureau of Prisons

1. Health and Human Services and Justice Partnerships

In collaboration with the formal juvenile justice system, the District also engages at-risk youth in the Alternatives to Court Experience (ACE) program and Parent and Adolescent Support Services (PASS) program, which are diversion programs operated by the Department of Human Services (DHS).

As noted previously ACE is a collaborative effort among DHS, CSSD, MPD, OAG, DBH, and community-based service providers. When MPD diverts youth to ACE prearrest or when OAG diverts post arrest, they refer youth to the ACE Diversion Program. ACE assesses the needs of each diverted youth, links youth and their families to individually tailored services, and monitors successful program participation. ACE’s comprehensive intake and outreach efforts ensure that diversion services selected for each youth match their needs and are most appropriate to address the underlying issues that led to their diversion. The ultimate goal of the program is to minimize the likelihood of reoffending by addressing the behaviors or challenges that led to system-involvement and to give youth the opportunity to avoid a juvenile record.

The PASS program also serves District families of youth who are committing status offenses. PASS works cooperatively with families and service providers to reduce challenging behaviors before child welfare and/or juvenile justice intervention is needed. PASS employs several evidence-based approaches to supporting families, including strength-based intensive case management, Functional Family Therapy in partnership with DBH, and the Transition to Independence Process (TIP) in partnership with DBH (a case management system for older youth with emotional and behavioral challenges). All youth receiving PASS services have access to community support services such as mentoring, tutoring, and after-school programming.

1. Mental and Behavioral Health Partnerships

In 2018, the DC Superior Court launched HOPE Court, a specialized court in the Family Court that is designed to respond to the unique needs of youth who are identified as having been sexually exploited or at risk of being exploited. HOPE Court stands for Here Opportunities Prepare you for Excellence. HOPE Court is a trauma-informed court that follows a treatment-court philosophy. Any youth with a delinquency, status offense, or child abuse/neglect case is eligible to be considered for participation in HOPE court, and the program provides youth with status offense and delinquency cases a way to divert or dismiss their case or close their probation early. Unlike in many other jurisdictions, youth who have been sexually exploited in the District are treated as victims and are not subject to prosecution under the prostitution statutes. Therefore, the youth charged with delinquency offenses in HOPE Court are youth who are charged with a wide-range of delinquency offenses that may be related to their sexual exploitation.

Moreover, the Family Court in partnership with DBH also operates the Juvenile Behavior Diversion Program (JBDP). This is a mental health-based solution or specialty court that provides intensive case management to youth in the juvenile justice system that have serious mental health concerns. The Court has three tracks for youth with varying levels of system-involvement:

* Track I: (Pre-Plea): This track is available for first time offenders with nonviolent charges. The youth’s case is petitioned, but does not proceed to a trial or plea and the youth does not have to admit guilt. In order for a youth to be eligible for this track, the youth must not have had any prior cases that have been petitioned. Successful completion of this track will result in the youth’s case being dismissed without adjudication.
* Track II: (Pre-Disposition): This track is available for youth who enter a plea and who then agree to conditions that must be met in order for the case to go no further. As part of the plea agreement, youth who successfully abide by the conditions for the agreed upon period of time make an unopposed motion to withdraw their plea and then the government dismisses the case.
* Track III: (Post Disposition): This track is available for youth with medium level offenses or who have previously been provided the opportunity of probation or Consent Decree. The youth must be placed on probation with successful completion of JBDP as a condition of that probation rather than being committed to DYRS.

In addition to court-based programs, the DBH School Mental Health Program offers prevention, early intervention, and clinical services to youth and their families at 161 public and charter school campuses throughout the District. Through this program, clinicians support students, families, teachers, and other school staff by providing on-site counseling, education, and training.

1. Child Welfare Partnerships and Supports

The Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) Families First DC Initiative has identified community-based providers and is engaged in planning for ten Family Success Centers in targeted neighborhoods with high rates of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect. Family Success Centers will coordinate primary prevention services to families who walk in seeking support.

1. **Policy-based System Improvements Implemented during the Prior State Plan**

The District, like many states around the nation, is moving away from punitive responses and toward strength-based approaches, reflecting current understanding of adolescent brain development, trauma, cultural responsiveness, and what works to change the behavior of youth.

The science and research on adolescent development and behavior is a key component of the how the District provides prevention programming, responds to, and intervenes with system-involved youth. Evidence-based practices and developmentally appropriate responses to youth behavior have also been at the forefront of the District’s system reform efforts in recent years. One example is the impact that science and research had on the passing of The Comprehensive Youth Justice Amendment Act of 2016 (CYJAA). This legislation was passed unanimously by the D.C. Council in fall 2016 and became D.C. Law [21-0238](http://lims.dccouncil.us/Legislation/B21-0683) in April 2017. The law was a systemic-level effort that enacted the following reforms:

## *Addresses Children Who Enter the Juvenile Justice System*

* Ensures that juveniles are not detained unnecessarily before a court hearing.
* Expands the ability to seal juvenile arrest records.
* Expands voluntary victim-offender mediation services as an alternative to prosecution.

## *Reduces Over-incarceration*

* Protects children under the age of 10 from being committed to the custody of the Department of Youth Rehabilitative Services (DYRS).
* Prohibits the secure detention of “status offenders,” juveniles who commit minor offenses such as running away from home.
* Ends the court’s jurisdiction over status offenders at age 18.

## *Provides Age-Appropriate Sentences for Children*

* Follows Supreme Court precedent by banning the use of juvenile life without parole sentences for youth who are prosecuted as adults.
* Eliminates mandatory minimum sentences for juveniles prosecuted as adults and restores judicial discretion.
* Provides juveniles charged as adults with long sentences an opportunity for release after serving 20 years.[[16]](#footnote-16)

## *Improves the Conditions of Confinement*

* Transfers all detained juveniles who are prosecuted as adults from adult facilities to juvenile facilities run by DYRS.
* Bans the use of disciplinary segregation, also known as solitary confinement
* Sets time limits on the use of room confinement and requires screenings by a health or mental health professional.
* Creates a parent manual to engage and educate parents of detained juveniles.

## *Expands Oversight of Services*

* Allows expanded data sharing between agencies to improve oversight of diversion programs.
* Collects data to evaluate the performance of juvenile justice agencies.
* Requires an analysis of the root causes of juvenile crime.

At the core of this legislative enactment was the consideration of adolescent development and science. Here are a few excerpts from the committee report that accompanied the CYJAA bill when it was enacted by the DC Council:

* “Recent research has shed light on the development of the brain during adolescence. This research has demonstrated that the frontal lobes of the brain, which control executive functions like planning working memory, and impulse control, are one of the last areas of the brain to develop and may not be fully developed until the mid-twenties. This results in teenagers experiencing several behavioral changes, including increased novelty seeking, increased risk taking, and a social affiliation shift toward peer-based interactions. As a result, adolescents have a more difficult time grasping long-term consequences and are more likely to have impaired judgment – both of which are factors in determining criminal culpability and the proportionality of punishment.”
* “This new science has been influential in driving the perspective of the Supreme Court on issues of juvenile sentencing and has undergirded research on the impact of housing juveniles in adult facilities and the negative impacts of room confinement.”
* “Adolescents are not simply young adults. The juvenile justice system should, and increasingly has been recognizing the developmental differences between adolescents and adults must give way to a different approach that recognizes both their reduced culpability and their capacity for rehabilitation and growth.”

These factors were critical in the passing of the CYJAA and continue to guide the District in improving our responses to risky behaviors, in our interventions and programs that support youth rehabilitation, and in our preventative care and service provision for youth and families.

In addition to legislative enactments, many of the youth serving agencies in the District train staff, contractors, and community-based program providers in positive youth development and the Positive Youth Justice Model[[17]](#footnote-17) in order to ensure that this knowledge is infused into our programs and practices.

Other examples of where this research and related best practices around developmentally appropriate and humane treatment of juveniles resulted in shifts in system responses and improvements in policies or programs for the justice system include:

* + - 1. MPD General Order for Handling Juveniles

In January 2020 MPD implemented a new policy and General Order for Interacting with Juveniles, which includes enhancements to current practices, reinforced by additional training for all officers on de-escalation, adolescent brain development, and trauma-informed policing. The new policy demonstrates MPD’s recognition that juveniles are different than adults both physically and psychologically, and that interactions with police can have a significant impact on youth. MPD aimed to implement changes that ensure that all interactions with juveniles are respectful and that all officers factor in the developmental differences when engaging youth.

Through research and collaboration with OAG, MPD has identified practices best suited for the District and is implementing a number of new guidelines, including:

* Prohibiting the handcuffing of juveniles age 12 and under unless the juvenile presents a danger to themselves or others and giving officers discretion in handcuffing juveniles age 13 to 17 based on the severity of the offense and circumstances of the interaction.
* Limiting the arrests of juveniles on scene whenever possible and encouraging officers to apply for a custody order (arrest warrant) when there are no immediate public safety concerns. This policy has already been in place since August 2019 for all school-related incidents.
* Expanding eligibility for juvenile diversion in lieu of arrest by removing criteria that disqualified certain Metro and school-related incidents.
* Consolidating guidance on juvenile policy and procedures into a comprehensive, updated general order.
* Availability of a new OAG Emergency Hotline number available to MPD officers 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to consult with an OAG Juvenile Section Supervisor about field and school arrests, custody orders and warrants.
  + - 1. OAG Juvenile Section Hotline

The OAG Juvenile Section Hotline is a help line for MPD and other law enforcement agencies with arrest powers in the District. If a police officer has a question relating to the investigation or arrest of a juvenile, they have been instructed to call the hotline for advice and direction. Specifically, direction pertaining to the diversion, release, or detention of juveniles who commit delinquent acts is given when officers call the hotline. The hotline is featured in the new MPD General Order on Juveniles, and OAG received its first hotline call on January 14, 2020. The hotline operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is staffed by OAG Juvenile Section managers.

* + - 1. OAG Restorative Justice Program

OAG launched a Restorative Justice Program in 2016 to address the root problems of crime and conflict and offer juvenile prosecutors an alternative to traditional prosecution. This program brings those affected by a crime together with the offenders for a discussion to hold offenders accountable, empower victims, and repair the harm caused by crime. The goals of each conference are to provide victims with greater voice and agency in the process; to build empathy, accountability, consequential thinking, and problem-solving skills in youth; and to resolve the conflict to ensure that it never happens again. A trained OAG restorative justice facilitator works independently with each party involved in a case before bringing them together for the conversation, called a restorative justice conference, where the parties to the conference develop a written agreement about what needs to happen to resolve the matter going forward. The OAG restorative justice facilitator will monitor the agreement for compliance over the subsequent weeks or months and, if the youth is fully compliant, the case is dismissed. If the group does not come to agreement or if the youth fails to do everything agreed to, the case is returned for prosecution. In 2019, the Center for Court Innovation funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, studied OAG’s Restorative Justice Program. They found that the program promoted empowerment and healing for victims and built accountability and understanding among youth charged with crime.

* + - 1. DYRS Policy on Restraints for Pregnant Juveniles

The DYRS policy adopted treatment practices that are modeled from the Bureau of Justice Assistance Best Practices Guide in the Use of Restraints with Pregnant Women and Girls under Correctional Custody (2014) and is aligned with the requirements of the JJDPA. At DYRS secure facilities, youth that are in their first two trimesters are only restrained with restraints positioned in the front by DYRS, and only as deemed necessary, which is narrowly defined in the policy as when the young person possess a threat of imminent harm, during transportation for the prevention of injury or escape, or in the event of a facility emergency for the prevention of injury or escape. Based on this policy, DYRS may not transport a pregnant youth with leg irons or belly chains or use mechanical restraints on pregnant females, which includes pregnant girls in their third trimester and/or during “delivery or during postpartum recovery.”

DYRS’ policy also prohibits the use four-point restraints on any juvenile. To ensure adherence to these policies and appropriate treatment of pregnant juveniles, the DYRS medical department performs assessments and screenings of all youth in secure facilities, and any youth that is determined to be pregnant is afforded treatment accordingly. In these cases, the medical department informs facility and treatment team staff, as well as transportation staff, of the youth’s condition and information about trimester in order to support compliance.

1. **State Plan and Formula Funding Implementation Outline and Selection of Program Purpose Areas**

In pursuit of the stated goals, and acknowledging the robust work that has already occurred and continues to occur in the District, formula funding shall be directed to the following programmatic purpose areas:

* + 1. *Delinquency Prevention:* Comprehensive juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs that meet needs of youth through collaboration of the many local systems before which a youth may appear, including schools, courts, law enforcement agencies, child protection agencies, mental health agencies, welfare services, health care agencies and private nonprofit agencies offering youth services.

Objective:To support with funding, capacity building, best practice research, training and technical assistance, organizations that can fill service gaps in the District’s current spectrum of services for youth at-risk of becoming involved with juvenile justice systems.

Activities: Sub-award to community-based organizations.

* Partner and collaborate with organizations and other District and federal agencies to build capacity and enhance service provision to at-risk and justice-involved youth.
* Identify existing gaps in preventative services for at-risk youth, such as mental health services, substance abuse services, mentoring, and restorative justice programs, and identify specific service focus areas for the funding efforts.
* Incorporate sustainability planning and evaluation capacity development so that organizations have the tools and systems needed to report on program effectiveness and participant outcomes.

Output Performance Measures:

* Number of youth served
* Number of funding proposals received
* Number of programs/partner organizations funded

Outcome Performance Measures

* Substance use: The number and percent of program youth who have exhibited a decrease in substance use during the reporting period, and 6-12 months after.
* School attendance: The number of program youth who have exhibited an increase in school attendance during the reporting period, and 6-12 months after.
* Anti-social behavior: The number and percent of youth who have exhibited a decrease in antisocial behavior during the reporting period, and 6-12 months after.
* Family relationships: Number and percent of program youth who exhibited an improvement in family relationships during the reporting period.
* Number and percentage of youth completing program requirements
* Number and percentage of youth that do not become involved with the juvenile justice systems during the reporting period and 6-12 months after.
* Additional OVSJG/optional measures: Number/percentage of organizations that are able to report on their program outcomes.
  + 1. *Compliance Monitoring:* monitoring for compliance with the core requirements and providing training and technical assistance on the core requirements to secure facilities;

Program Objectives: Develop and implement a monitoring plan that includes all facilities within the District that detain juveniles; ensure that all of these facilities are in compliance with the core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA); and provide training, technical assistance, and accountability measures as needed to address outstanding issues and concerns.

Activities: To fund a percentage of one staff position at CJCC.

* Identify and classify all facilities that may hold juveniles pursuant to public authority for the purposes of compliance monitoring.
* Maintain and update this monitoring universe list for inspection of facilities that securely hold juveniles.
* Conduct on-site inspections of facilities and collect/verify data on juveniles held securely throughout the year.
* Prepare and submit the annual OJJDP Compliance Monitoring report documenting the number and type of compliance violations discovered.
* Conduct workshops, host forums, and provide education and technical assistance as needed for agencies involved in detention of juveniles or implementation of the JJDPA core requirements.
* Assist in the identification and development of data collection protocols for the District agencies to support their ability to demonstrate and report on their compliance.
* Maintain data collection and data sharing protocols and agreements with relevant stakeholders for the purpose of collecting and reviewing court files and detention logs for juveniles.
* Identify and verify data related to detention of status offenders to report on violations or relevant exceptions and generally ensure compliance with Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) requirements
* Identify and verify data related to detention of juveniles in adult holding or detention facilities to ensure compliance with Jail Removal requirements
* Monitor stakeholder agency policies and systems for care and handling of juveniles to ensure compliance with the four core requirements.

Output Performance Measures:

* Number and percent of program staff trained
* Number of hours of program staff training provided
* Amount of funds allocated to adhere to Section 223(A)(14) of the JJDP Act of 2002
* Number of activities that address compliance with Section 223(A)(14) of the JJDP Act of 2002
* Number of facilities receiving technical assistance
* Number of facilities inspected

Outcome Performance Measures:

* Submission of complete Annual Compliance Monitoring Report to OJJDP
* Additional OVSJG/optional measures
  + Number and percentage of program staff with increased knowledge of and that implement best practices around the core compliance program area.
    1. *Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED***):** programs, research, or other initiatives primarily to address the disproportionate number of youth members of minority groups who come into contact with the juvenile justice system, pursuant to the requirement at 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(15).

Objective: To fund a percentage of one staff position at CJCC.

Activities:

* Conduct workshops, host forums, regularly convene stakeholders and provide education and technical assistance for system stakeholders focused on ensuring that the youth in the juvenile justice system are treated equitably on the basis of gender, race, family income, and disability.
* Assist in the data collection, data sharing, and reporting initiatives that support District agencies in identifying racial and ethnic disparities.
* Prepare and submit the annual RED Report, RED Plan, and outcome-based evaluation information to OJJDP.

Output Performance Measures:

* Number and percent of program staff trained on RED
* Number of hours of program staff training provided
* Amount of funds allocated to adhere to RED efforts
* Number of technical assistance trainings or workshops held for system stakeholders

Outcome Performance Measures:

* Submission of complete RED Report and Plan to OJJDP
  + 1. *State Advisory Group Operations:* Activities related to carrying out the state advisory group’s responsibilities under Section 223(a) (3) of the JJDP Act.

Program Objective:To use the resources allotted to the JJAG to further the District’s juvenile justice reform goals through: strategic planning and coordination; peer learning opportunities; training and development; and community and youth engagement.

Activities:

* Hold regularly scheduled meetings of the JJAG and its associated committees for planning, education, coordination, and funding allocation purposes, according to its by-laws.
* Support travel and training costs of members to attend meetings, conferences, and support peer learning opportunities.
* Support technical assistance opportunities for the District’s compliance monitoring, racial and ethnic disparities efforts, and other special initiatives.
* Submit bi-annual reports and recommendations to the Mayor regarding JJAG operations, accomplishments, and compliance.
* Serve as peer reviewers in the OVSJG Request for Applications (RFA) process.
* Hold youth committee meetings to support youth engagement and participation, where food and stipends are provided.
* Seek input from juveniles currently under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system through listening sessions, surveys, focus groups or other information collection means from juveniles currently under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.

Output Performance Measures:

* Number of JJAG committee meetings held
* Number of Youth committee meetings held
* Number of reports submitted to the Mayor
* Number of technical assistance sessions supported
* Number of trainings, conferences, or peer learning opportunities attended utilizing SAG funding
* Number of grants funded with formula funds
* Additional OVSJG/optional measures:
  + Three-year plan and annual updated submitted
  + Percent of JJAG allocation utilized

Outcome Performance Measures:

* Number and percentage of three-year plan program activities implemented (through funding and other support initiatives)
* Additional OVSJG/optional measures
  + Number of community engagement or peer learning opportunities facilitated
    1. *Planning and Administration:* Activities related to state plan development, other rewarded activities, and administration of the Formula Grant Program, including evaluation, monitoring, and one full-time staff position pursuant to Section 222 (c) of the JJDP Act and the OJJDP Formula Grant Regulation;

Objective: Sustain and provide leadership for a state advisory group (Juvenile Justice Advisory Group) that represents all stakeholder groups in the District’s juvenile justice system and for delinquency prevention efforts.

Activities: Support the Juvenile Justice Specialist’s position at OVSJG.

* Distribute formula grant funds to support juvenile justice capacity building, system reforms, and service programming in the District.
* Serve as a responsible administrative fiduciary for Title II funding.
* Monitor the programmatic and financial activity of local sub-grant recipients to ensure fidelity to federal requirements and that funds are being used in the most effective way possible to achieve performance outcomes.
* Provide feedback, technical assistance, and support to grantees to ensure they are meeting their goals and performance measures, and report on these measures to OJJDP and local stakeholders.
* Research and identify evidence-based and other best practices to better inform local solicitations and juvenile justice improvements.
* Monitor progress of four core requirements of the JJDPA and provide recommendations to the JJAG.
* Request technical assistance from OJJDP by submitting training requests on behalf of grantees and increasing accessibility to subject matter experts.
* Funded OVSJG staff will work closely with the JJAG to ensure state plan goals and SAG priorities are supported, SAG membership is maintained in compliance with JJDPA requirements, funding priorities are implemented and bi-annual reports and other recommendations for reform are developed and submitted to the Mayor.

Output Performance Measures:

* Amount of formula grant funds awarded for planning and administration
* Number of FTEs funded with formula grant dollars
* Number of staff trained
* Hours of training provided to funded staff
* Number of sub-grants awarded
* Number or reports submitted to the Mayor
* Additional OVSJG/optional measures:
  + Number of RFAs developed that support programming identified in the three year plan
  + Number of proposals received
  + Number and percentage of sub-grantees that receive desk and site visit monitoring

Outcome Performance Measures:

* Average time from receipt of sub-grant application to date of award
* Number and percent of programs using evidence-based models
* Additional OVSJG/optional measures:
  + Number and percentage of programs funded that support the output and outcome measures identified in the three-year plan
  + Number and percentage of funded programs with concrete, measurable goals identified, and that meet these goals, as assessed through OVSJG program monitoring and external evaluations.
  + Number and percent of programs using evidence-based models
  1. **Data Sharing and Acknowledgement of Challenges**

The District is unique in that it has a juvenile justice system that is bifurcated between local and federal systems. For example, the OAG is the local prosecutorial agency, and the DC Superior Court Family Division that hears juvenile case matters is a federal entity. This prevents the District from creating a single records management system that contains data from all juvenile justice agencies. Thus, there is a significant level of effort required to coordinate, collect, verify, and share data from the various agency partners.

Relatedly, the CJCC is charged with coordination of the various partners, including data sharing efforts, but CJCC is subject to data sharing restrictions under a federal Administrative Order (AO 20-14, previously AO 17-04). Through this order, CJCC is authorized to receive juvenile data as part of its duty facilitate to the Juvenile Justice Data Committee. However, CJCC must get permission from the DC Superior Court to share juvenile data for purposes beyond that committee or the CJCC overarching Juvenile Justice Committee.

Moreover, the District law provides regulations and restrictions on sharing juvenile information and maintaining confidentiality, which can limit the ability of data sharing amongst partners and stakeholders.[[18]](#footnote-18)

* 1. **Consultation with units of local government (SAG and other bodies)**

In accordance with the JJDPA, the District’s SAG consists of between 15 to 33 members appointed by the Mayor. The members have training, subject matter expertise, and special knowledge or experience concerning delinquency prevention, treatment of juveniles in the delinquency system, and a cross-section of youth services and supports that includes behavior, health, and education needs. The composition and membership of the JJAG are specified per the JJAG by-laws. JJAG is currently made up of 22 members, among which 12 are community members and 10 are government agency members. Within the 12 community member appointments, JJAG maintains five active youth member participants.

Government agencies that are represented on JJAG include:

1. Public Defender Service
2. Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services
3. Metropolitan Police Department
4. Office of the Attorney General
5. DC Superior Court/Family Division
6. Locally Elected Official, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for4C10
7. Department of Behavioral Health
8. Department of Human Services
9. District of Columbia Public Schools
10. DC Superior Court/Court Social Services Division

Additionally, the CJCC, which is comprised of the local and federal justice system leaders in the District, identified juvenile justice as one of their strategic priority areas. CJCC staff, including the District’s Compliance Monitor, convenes a number of committees and workgroups that aim to coordinate system stakeholders to identify solutions to system-wide issues and enhance system operations. The CJCC convenes several juvenile justice-related committees and subcommittees, each of which contributes to the goal of limiting juveniles’ exposure to the justice system.

* + *The Juvenile Justice Committee (JJC):* The JJC is charged with setting juvenile justice strategic priorities. The JJC is chaired by the presiding judge of the Family Court Division of the D.C. Superior Court and has several subcommittees and workgroups to help fulfill its goals:
    - *The Juvenile Data Committee (JJDC):* The Juvenile Data Committee meets monthly to identify and seek to understand the trends across each phase of the juvenile justice system, from diversion and arrest to probation and commitment. The JJDC reports key trends to the JJC, which then works to identify solutions, when needed.
    - *Restorative Justice Workgroup (RJ):* The Restorative Justice Workgroup is comprised of District agencies and nonprofits that facilitate restorative justice programs in the juvenile justice and education sectors. The workgroup operates based on a set of common values and principles, and during FY20, the workgroup began planning outreach efforts to help equip vulnerable communities with RJ tools and techniques to address conflicts.
    - *Joint Supervision (JS):* The Joint Supervision workgroup aims to maximize the exchange of information with respect to juveniles who are supervised by or under the care of juvenile justice, child welfare, and criminal justice agencies. Particular attention is given to the most at-risk youth, such as those who have repeatedly committed very serious crimes, and those with mental health or substance use disorder challenges.

The Table below identifies each of the agencies that participate on the various juvenile justice-related committees.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Agency | AGENCY TYPE | JJC | JJDC | RJ | JS |
| Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services | Juvenile Detention, Corrections and Community Supervision | X | X | X | X |
| Office of the Attorney General | Juvenile Prosecution | X | X | X | X |
| Metropolitan Police Department | Law Enforcement | X | X | X |  |
| Office of Victim Service and Justice Grants | State Administering Agency | X |  | X |  |
| Court Social Services Division | Juvenile Pretrial Supervision and Probation | X | X | X | X |
| Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency | Adult Probation, Parole and Supervised Release |  |  | X | X |
| Pretrial Services Agency | Adult Pretrial Supervision |  |  |  | X |
| Department of Behavioral Health | Mental Health and Substance Abuse | X |  |  |  |
| Child and Family Services Agency | Child Welfare | X | X |  | X |
| Department of Human Services | Social Services | X | X | X |  |
| Office of the State Superintendent of Education | Education | X |  | X |  |
| District of Columbia Public Schools | Education | X |  | X |  |
| Public Charter School Board | Education | X |  |  |  |

* 1. **Staffing Plan**

*Juvenile Justice Specialist —Melissa Milchman*

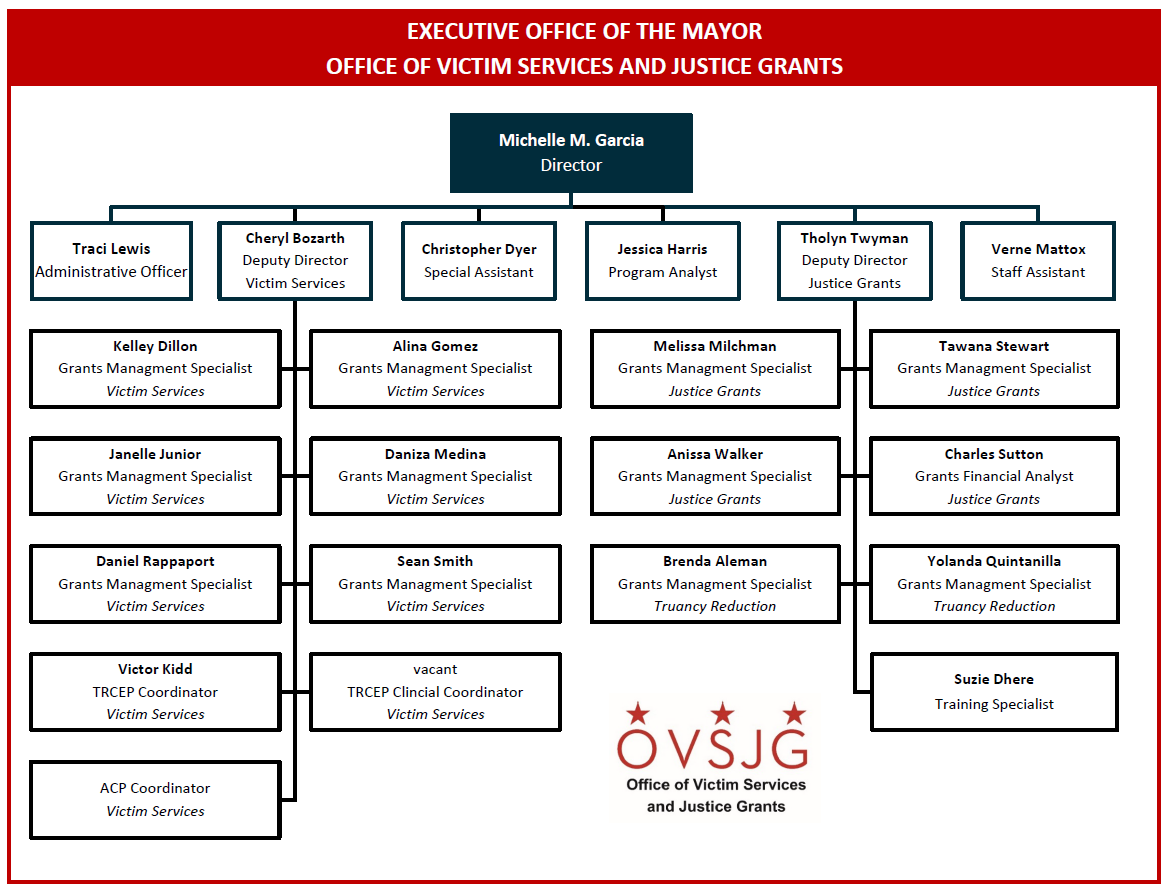
Funding: 70% (local funding), 30% Federal (Title II Formula grant) (100% time) (Match $38,122)

* Responsible for submitting the 3-Year application;
* Monitors the programmatic and financial responsibilities of the grant;
* Works with the RED Coordinator/Compliance Monitor, and ensures compliance of federal funding;
* Serves as a staff and facilitator for the State Advisory Group;
* Completes required OJJDP reports (e.g. PMTs).
* Manages Prison Rape Elimination Act Reallocation grants.

*Compliance Monitor/RED Coordinator— Frank Petersen, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)*

Funding: 25% (local funding), 75% Federal (Title II grant) (75% time). OVSJG sub awards the CJCC Title II funding in support of an FTE position. Funds support 75% of the salary for the Compliance Monitor/RED Coordinator position at CJCC, along with fringe benefits and training and professional development costs for the position.

* Leads data collection for monitoring of core requirements, maintains compliance manual, and develops required OJJDP plans and reports for compliance monitoring and RED.
* Implements the monitoring plan that includes conducting site visits and data collection from facilities within the District that detain juveniles; ensuring that all of these facilities are in compliance; and provide training, technical assistance, and accountability measures as needed to address any outstanding issues and concerns.

OVSJG Org Chart

* 1. **Plans for Compliance Monitoring**

The CJCC employs the District’s Compliance Monitor and Racial and Ethnic Disparities (CM/RED) Coordinator. This staff member is responsible for helping to ensure that the District is in compliance with the four core requirements of the JJDPA. The CM/RED staff member’s responsibilities include identifying and classifying all District facilities that should be included in the monitoring universe, conducting site visits and inspections of those facilities, collecting and analyzing admissions/intake data from each secure facility and the court, providing technical assistance to facilities to help ensure compliance, and completing the annual compliance monitoring and RED reports to OJJDP. The CM/RED staff member must also ensure the District has an adequate system for compliance monitoring, as defined by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

Highlights of recent and continuing efforts and outcomes related to compliance monitoring include:

* In 2019, the District revised its Compliance Monitoring Policies and Procedures Manual in response to OJJDP audit findings and new guidance issued by OJJDP.
* In FY2020, the Compliance Monitor visited 15 facilities for compliance monitoring checks.
* In FY2020, DC submitted its compliance monitoring report to OJJDP indicating that there were zero violations of the core requirements.
* In September 2020, OJJDP provided the District with its compliance determination letter, indicating that “the District of Columbia has provided for an effective system of monitoring.”
  1. **Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Reduction Efforts and Plans**

The data outlined in the Juvenile Crime and Needs Analysis above continues to demonstrate that disparities exist for Black and African American youth in the District’s juvenile justice system. As part of compliance with the core requirements and in an effort to address the disparities identified, various system stakeholders are engaged in review of RED and continue to strategize and collaborate to make an impact on the disparity rates. Examples of these efforts include:

* + - 1. MPD Community Outreach and Elucd Surveys

One way that MPD attempts to impact racial and ethnic disparities is through community outreach and obtaining feedback from the community, specifically by understanding community sentiments about police. One way this is accomplished is through the use of Elucd, a survey tool that invites residents to submit their anonymous responses to MPD. The surveys are delivered via Elucd’s Blockwise, an electronic system that engages city residents through digital advertisements on social media platforms, apps, and websites they use and visit every day. Using census demographic data, Elucd attempts to capture a relevant sample of the District’s population across race, age, sex, income level, and educational attainment. Through a monthly report and electronic dashboard, MPD is able to see the quantified measure of the community’s perception of safety, their trust in police, and their thoughts and concerns on the issues most important to them.

* + - 1. DC Council Commission on Police Reform/Youth Committee

The District of Columbia Police Reform Commission was established by DC Council in 2019 as part of comprehensive police reform legislation.[[19]](#footnote-19) The purpose of the Commission is to examine policing practices in the District and provide evidence-based recommendations for reforming and revisioning policing in the District. The Commission established five sub-committees, one of which is specifically designed to address the role of police in schools, potential alternatives to police in schools, and issues related to policing of youth outside schools. This sub-committee, called the Policing Youth and Police in Schools Subcommittee, is currently working on reviewing the role of police in schools, obtaining feedback from youth, and exploring best practices for alternative responses to youth incidents in schools, such as conflict resolution and restorative justice practices. They are also reviewing violence prevention efforts conducted by non-police groups in the District, as well as undertaking a review of the use of certain practices (e.g. stops and consent searches) on youth in schools and in the community. The subcommittee plans to provide a report to DC Council on their findings and recommendations in April 2021.

* + - 1. JJAG Subcommittee on Racial and Ethnic Disparities

JJAG also recently embarked on a new project to develop a set of recommendations around reducing racial and ethnic disparities in the District’s juvenile justice system, focusing on reducing disparities at the point of arrest. The JJAG subcommittee was created in 2020, gathering partners from government agencies, non-profit organizations, community members, local universities, and youth to support the JJAG in the process of reviewing local data and learning about local and national best practices for reducing disparities. Similar to JJAG’s report on status offense reform submitted in February 2020, JJAG intends to create and submit a report to the Mayor that includes goals, key principles, and strategy recommendations for reducing racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system.

Based on data reviewed and presentations provided by local experts so far, JJAG plans to focus its recommendations for reducing racial and ethnic disparities on identifying ways generally shrink the population of youth involved in the juvenile justice system and in effect reduce the absolute (rather than relative to others) rate of Black or African American youth in the system. Moving forward, the subcommittee will continue to explore and develop specific goals and intervention strategies to recommend to the Mayor, including providing additional support for JJAG’s existing proposal for the removal of status offenders from the juvenile justice system.

* 1. **Plans for Promoting Evidence-based Practices**

The District promotes the use of evidence-based and trauma-informed practices in our community-based programs through the grant making process. In the case of pass-through funding of Title II formula funds, OVSJG promotes evidence-based and trauma informed programming and practices by including targeted language in our grant solicitations or Request for Applications (RFA). Each RFA includes the following language: “OVSJG gives priority consideration to proposals that use evidence-based practices to respond: with strategies that promote social, emotional, and behavioral well-being, and with trauma-informed care of the target population and their families.”

Furthermore, OVSJG invests in training and technical assistance opportunities that support capacity building for grantees and community partners around trauma responsiveness and trauma-informed care. In 2019, OVSJG held a two-day foundational training on trauma for professionals working with victims of crime, justice-involved individuals, and youth at risk for truancy and juvenile delinquency. Training topics included: The Neurobiology of Trauma; Trauma Informed Responses; Vicarious Trauma, and Trauma and Substance Abuse.

In addition to our local government and community-based partnerships, the District’s federal partners have also invested in evidence-based and trauma-informed practices. Specifically, the District’s Family Court is implementing more evidence-based and therapeutic practices in Court processes and proceedings than ever before through specialty courts like HOPE Court and the Juvenile Behavior Diversion Program (JBDP).

As mentioned previously, the DC Superior Court operates HOPE Court, a specialized court designed to respond to the unique needs of youth who are identified as having been sexually exploited or at risk of being exploited. HOPE Court stands for Here Opportunities Prepare you for Excellence. HOPE Court is a trauma-informed court that follows a treatment-court philosophy. In the summer of 2019, the HOPE Court implemented an evidence-based and trauma informed program in partnership with Abby Stavitsky (former DC prosecutor) and Pepper, her accredited assistance dog (a Labrador retriever). HOPE court works with Abby and Pepper to deliver animal assisted interventions that support stress reduction in court proceedings. Pepper primarily supports survivors of commercial sexual exploitation during HOPE Courthearings. However, Pepper is also called on to support young people in other court rooms and in the holding spaces that young people encounter when appearing at the Court. Pepper sits with the young person during the stressful waiting period before a hearing and can even sit with him/her in the court room during a hearing to console them or provide comfort. Pepper’s job is to help the kids feel at ease in the often-stressful courtroom environment.

* 1. **Performance Measures**

Successful sub-recipients are required to collect and report on data for mandatory performance measures on a quarterly basis to OVSJG. Data collected is submitted through OVSJG’s electronic grants management system. ZoomGrants serves as OVSJG’s electronic grants management system. Data and reports collected through ZoomGrants are utilized complete required progress reports in the OJJDP Data Reporting Tool (DCTAT) on an annual basis. In addition, OVSJG collects information on performance measures related to the District’s program-specific areas and relays it to the Mayor and DC Council for programmatic and financial oversight.

Sub-recipients are regularly provided technical assistance throughout the year. The Juvenile Justice Specialist, Melissa Milchman will coordinate with each sub-recipient to ensure timely submission of data to OJJDP as required. OVSJG staff is also responsible for monitoring performance measures during annual site visits.

**Appendix A: System Flow Map Key Terms Dictionary**

***\*Terms are listed and defined alphabetically by section*.**

**ARREST/SEIZURE**

* Direct Adult File – prosecutorial discretion (held by the United Stated Attorney’s Office in DC) to charge persons 16 and 17 years of age as an adult for committing specified offenses
* PPCO – stands for Pre-Petition Custody Order, which is the juvenile equivalent of an arrest warrant
* Police Diversion – police referral to diversion program prior to formal arrest
* Police Youth Processing Center– juvenile police processing facility, called the Juvenile Processing Center (JPC)

**PRE-ADJUDICATION**

* Central Processing- temporary housing for children during non-court hours
* Initial Intake - Court Social Services Division (CSSD), juvenile probation, provides the child with a series of assessments, which are used to develop recommendations for the purposes of advising the Court on release conditions or need for detention and consults with the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), the juvenile prosecutor, on charging and diversion decisions
* PINS (Truancy) Referrals – stands for Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) referrals, which primarily include truancy and running away from parent or guardian
* PINS Diversion – pre-charging referral to diversion program by the OAG
* Superior Court Cell Block- temporary placement for children awaiting a hearing, during court hours

**ADJUDICATION**

* Charges dropped in favor of diversion–post-charging referral to diversion program by the OAG
* Consent Decree – an agreement between the prosecutor and the child, whereby the child voluntarily goes on probation for a specified timeframe without having to admit guilt and the OAG dismisses the case upon successful completion of the probationary period
* DDA – stands for Deferred Disposition Agreement, which is an agreement between the prosecutor and child that if the child pleads guilty and abides by the terms of the agreement, then the government will dismiss the case within a specified timeframe
* DPA- stands for Deferred Prosecution Agreement, which is an agreement between the prosecutor and child that does not require an admission of guilt, whereby the OAG will terminate the case if the child does not incur additional violations of law within a specified timeframe
* Parental Participation Order – an order by the Court that requires the parent to participate in the child’s treatment or rehabilitation, subject to civil contempt for noncompliance
* Shelter care – a court ordered placement for the child’s protection, as opposed to the protection of person or property, or a court ordered placement when no parent or guardian can care for the child

**POST-ADJUDICATION**

* Probation – community supervision by CSSD, which is the probation department of the DC Superior Court Family Division
* Commitment – a legal status where an adjudicated child comes under the jurisdiction of the DC Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS), which exercises custody, care, and supervision of the child in aid of rehabilitation

1. The GAIN assessments support clinical diagnosis, placement, and treatment planning for youth with substance use or substance abuse challenges. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Create New Opportunities for “Persons In Need of Supervision” (PINS) to Succeed Without Legal System Intervention* (2020). District of Columbia Juvenile Justice Advisory Group. doi:<https://ovsjg.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ovsjg/service_content/attachments/JJAG%20PINS%20Alternatives%20Report%20February%202020.pdf.> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Rights4Girls and the Georgetown Juvenile Justice Initiative (2018). *Beyond the Walls: A Look at Girls in D.C.'s Juvenile Justice System*. doi:<https://rights4girls.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/r4g/2018/03/BeyondTheWalls-Final.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Harvell, S., Warnberg, C., Sekala, L., & Hull, C. (2019). *Promoting a New Direction for Youth Justice: Strategies to Fund a Community-Based Continuum of Care and Opportunity.* Urban Institute. doi:https://www.urban.org/research/publication/promoting-new-direction-youth-justice-strategies-fund-community-based-continuum-care-and-opportunity/view/full\_report. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. D.C. Law [21-0238](http://lims.dccouncil.us/Legislation/B21-0683) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. The full order can be reviewed online at [**https://go.mpdconline.com/GO/GO\_305\_01.pdf**](https://go.mpdconline.com/GO/GO_305_01.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Males are more likely than females to become system involved. Sill, K. (2020). *A Study of the Root Causes of Juvenile Justice System Involvement Report*. Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. doi:<https://cjcc.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/cjcc/CJCC%20Root%20Cause%20Analysis%20Report_Compressed.pdf.> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Black youth in the District of Columbia are significantly more likely to become justice involved than youth of any other race or ethnically Hispanic youth. *Id.*  [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Youth who was reported being homeless in accordance with the McKinley-Vento Act have a greater likelihood of becoming justice system involved. *Id.*  [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Youth with CFSA documented histories of abuse and/or neglect are at increased risk of juvenile justice system involvement. *Id.*  [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Changing schools within a school year is associated with a significant increase in the likelihood of justice system involvement. *Id.*  [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. The analysis included indicators for five disorder categories/domains: internalizing disorders, externalizing disorders, internalizing-externalizing comorbidity, psychiatric disorders, specific development learning disorders, and specific developmental motor disorders. The data show that youth diagnosed with both internalizing and externalizing disorders (comorbid) and with externalizing disorders only (no internalizing disorders) are more likely to become juvenile justice system involved. Additionally, the results suggest that having an IEP increases the likelihood that youth with internalizing and externalizing comorbid disorder diagnoses become juvenile justice-system involved. *Id.*  [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*. (2019). District of Columbia: Office of the State Superintendent of Education. doi:<https://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/publication/attachments/2019%20DC%20YRBS%20Report.pdf>

    [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. The resource guide can be reviewed on DYRS’ website at <https://dyrs.dc.gov/page/dyrs-resources-families>. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. "The Credible Messenger Initiative" at the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) is a transformative, mentoring intervention program for youth. Credible messengers are neighborhood leaders, experienced youth advocates and individuals with relevant life experiences whose role is to help youth transform attitudes and behaviors. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. This provision was further amended to 15 years by subsequent legislation. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Butts, Jeffrey A., Gordon Bazemore, & Aundra Saa Meroe (2010). Positive Youth Justice--Framing Justice Interventions Using the Concepts of Positive Youth Development. Washington, DC: Coalition for Juvenile Justice. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Juvenile justice data regulations and restrictions are outlined in D.C. Code §§ 16-2331(c)(5), 16-2332(c)(5), and 16-2334(a)(2). [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. [D.C. Law Library - D.C. Act 23-336. Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Second Emergency Amendment Act of 2020. (dccouncil.us)](https://code.dccouncil.us/dc/council/acts/23-336.html#:~:text=C.%20Act%2023-336.%20Comprehensive%20Policing%20and%20Justice%20Reform,District%20residents%20and%20visitors%2C%20and%20for%20other%20purposes.). [↑](#footnote-ref-19)