



CJCC Juvenile Justice Technical Assistance Session

Introduction

On March 21, 2019, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) convened a juvenile justice technical assistance session at One Judiciary Square to explore the theme, “Examining the Intent and Implementation of the Comprehensive Youth Justice Amendment Act (CYJAA).” The CYJAA bill passed in December 2016 and became law in April 2017. This groundbreaking act included reforms designed to reduce juvenile justice system involvement, promote information-sharing to inform policy, improve conditions of confinement, and create a process for sentence reviews for juveniles charged as adults who are serving lengthy sentences. The session included 40 local, federal and non-governmental agency professionals responsible for advocating, adjudicating, caretaking, defending, educating, monitoring, prosecuting, and supervising system-involved youth.

Mannone Butler, CJCC Executive Director, delivered opening remarks. Also present were representatives from the Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the Department of Corrections (DOC), the District of Columbia Superior Court (DCSC), Court Social Services Division (CSSD), Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA), United States Parole Commission (USPC), the DC Council, the United States Attorney’s Office (USAO), the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS), Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), United States Marshals Service (USMS), Office of the Attorney General (OAG), and the Public Defender Service (PDS). Director Butler emphasized that the overarching goals of the session included examining the CYJAA provision that transferred custody of Title 16 youth from DOC to DYRS and the requirement that prohibited the secure detention of status offenders. Director Butler encouraged session attendees and panelists to share their expertise, experiences, and ideas and to ask questions. After delivering opening remarks, Director Butler introduced Keith R. Towery, CJCC Juvenile Justice Compliance Monitor.



Director Butler welcomes attendees

Mr. Towery provided an overview of the agenda for the technical assistance session. He also administered an electronic survey designed to glean information about session attendees and their familiarity with the issues, policies, and procedures related to the CYJAA.

Audience Survey

The audience survey demonstrated that participants were familiar with the CYJAA.



Mr. Towery provides an overview of the session agenda

“Which of the following changes did the CYJAA make concerning status offenders/PINS?”

- 81% indicated – **Status offenders can no longer be securely detained**

“Which of the following changes did the CYJAA make concerning Title 16 youth?”

- 84% indicated – **Transferred custody of Title 16 youth from DOC to DYRS**

“Which of the following offenses DO NOT make a youth eligible for being prosecuted as an adult (Title 16)?”

- 80% indicated – **Fare Evasion**

“Which of the following are also provisions in the CYJAA?”

- 4% indicated – **Requires OAG to establish a Victim-Offender Mediation Program**
- 9% reported – **Requires CJCC to conduct a study of the root causes of juvenile delinquency**
- 0% noted – **Prohibits the commitment of children under 10 to DYRS**
- 4% indicated – **Allows for sentence review for individuals who served at least 20 years in prison for crimes committed while under the age of 18**
- 83% reported – **All the above**

Additionally, the survey asked participants about their general impressions of the CYJAA. The results from these questions revealed that participants generally believed that the CYJAA had a positive impact on the fair administration of justice for system-involved youth, although there were several participants who reported no effect or a negative effect. After conducting the survey, Mr. Towery introduced Councilmember Charles Allen, Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety.

Overview Presentation by Councilmember Allen

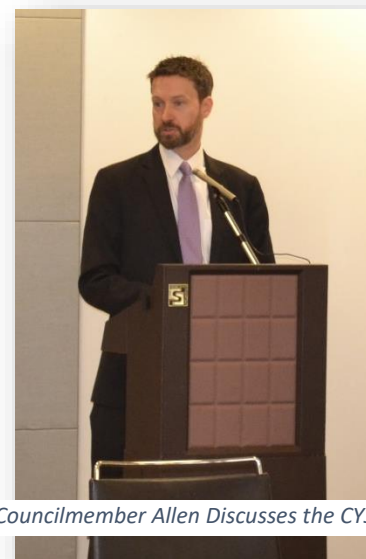
Councilmember Allen provided background information on the legislative process and intent of the CYJAA. He also reviewed critical provisions of the CYJAA. The Councilmember explained that the CYJAA bill passed in December 2016 and became law in April 2017. Parts of the bill were subject to appropriations, and the bill had a fiscal impact of approximately \$1 Million in FY17 and FY18, and \$2.5 Million in FY19 and FY20 due to the transfer of Title 16 youth to DYRS. DC Council appropriated funding for CYJAA implementation for FY17 and FY18, and the executive branch agencies absorbed the remaining costs required to implement the Title 16 transfer.

The Councilmember mentioned that the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety was motivated by similar work that started in other jurisdictions, as well as two growing juvenile justice trends in the nation. One of the trends focused on adolescent development research, decision-making ability, and diminished culpability. The second trend was the visible decline in the number of court-involved juveniles. The Councilmember provided an example of the decline by showing that the number of juvenile cases filed in the District in 2014 was half that of cases filed in 2011. The District has subsequently experienced a steady decline in the average number of juveniles supervised by CSSD and experienced more than a 60% reduction in the number of juveniles committed to DYRS or incarcerated in the Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF).

The Councilmember highlighted the following key provisions of the CYJAA:

- strengthens the presumption against pre-disposition detention of children
- bans the secure detention of status offenders/ends their commitment on their 18th birthday
- transfers “Title 16” youth from DOC custody to DYRS
- prohibits DYRS commitment of youth before age 10
- limits the use of room confinement of juveniles, and bans the use of disciplinary segregation
- establishes a restorative justice program at the Office of the Attorney General
- requires CJCC to analyze the root causes of juvenile delinquency
- eliminates mandatory minimums for juveniles charged as adults
- bans the use of juvenile life sentences without parole
- creates a process for individuals who committed offenses while under age 18, and who have served 20 years, to petition the Superior Court to have their sentences reviewed (the “Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act,” (IRAA))

Councilmember Allen concluded the overview by discussing the Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act (IRAA). He noted that many jurisdictions are moving towards reviewing lengthy sentences for people sentenced as juveniles. Under the current provision, also known as “IRAA 1.0,” the court must consider several factors, including the individual’s age at the time of the offense, characteristics, evidence of rehabilitation, whether they have shown maturity, psychological exams, and history of



Councilmember Allen Discusses the CYJAA

abuse/trauma, as well as the USAO’s recommendations, and the victim’s statement. The court must grant a sentence modification if it finds that “the defendant is not a danger to the safety of any person or the community and that the interests of justice warrant a sentence modification.” In the District, approximately eight individuals have been released under the IRAA, and dozens more have applied. Individuals applying for relief under the IRAA who were previously represented by PDS can obtain PDS assistance with their case. Others are provided the assistance of pro bono, court-appointed counsel. The Judiciary Committee is currently working on “IRAA 2.0,” which aims to reduce the number of years required to be served from 20 to 15. “IRAA 2.0” was passed in December 2018 and became law May 10, 2019. Additionally, “IRAA 3.0 (Bill 23-127)” hopes to change the language “before 18” to “before 25”, thus expanding available relief. “IRAA 3.0” was introduced in February 2019.

After providing an overview of the intent of the CYJAA, Councilmember Allen introduced Kristy Love, Deputy Executive Director, CJCC.

Panel 1: Successes and Opportunities – Transfer of Custody to Title 16 Youth from DOC to DYRS

Kristy Love moderated Panel 1. The panel included the following individuals:

- Katerina Semyonova, Special Counsel for Policy and Legislative Affairs, PDS
- Willie Fullilove, Deputy Director for Secure and Non-Secure Facilities, DYRS
- David Gorman, Homicide Section Chief, USAO
- Quincy Booth, Director, DOC

Ms. Love provided an overview of the first scheduled panel, reintroducing the two provisions (Title 16 and Prohibition to Detain Status Offenders) that would be discussed during the remainder of the session, and specified the purpose of focusing on these two provisions. Ms. Love pointed out that the session would focus on these two topics because they were the ones most frequently discussed during CJCC’s Juvenile Justice Committee and workgroup meetings.



Deputy Director Love Leads Panel 1

Factors that make someone under 18 eligible to be prosecuted as an adult.

Mr. Gorman identified the types of offenses that, if committed by a 16- or 17-year-old, would make the youth eligible for prosecution as an adult. Some of those charges include murder, first-degree sex abuse, and robbery while armed. USAO considers additional factors when exercising its discretion to charge youth as an adult. These factors include age, criminal record, juvenile probation history, past criminal activity, and case facts. Relevant case facts include the heinousness or callousness of the crime, as well as the role of the person charged (e.g. primary); the type of weapon; number of victims; nature of the injuries sustained; viable defenses (e.g. self-defense); identification issues that might weaken the case; and mitigating or relevant facts (e.g. prior relationship with victim or witnesses, such as family relationship). When asked about the increased number of youths being prosecuted as adults, Mr. Gorman stated that while there is no single

cause that can fully explain the increase, some may be linked to crime spikes seen in the District, particularly, the increase in homicides. He believes, however, that the spike in Title 16 filings has leveled off.

Custody of Title 16 Youth Pre-CYJAA. Director Booth explained that DOC did not comingle Title 16 youth with the general population. Title 16 youth were in a separate unit from the adult population called the Juvenile Block. All staff who were assigned to the block received training on how to work with juveniles, and education services were provided to the Title 16 youth such as individual education plans (IEPs) and life skills. The youth were also entitled to religious services, family reunifications, appropriate accommodations, healthcare, mental health, case management, etc. Director Booth also explained that on the Title 16 youth's 18th birthday, DOC would transfer the Title 16 youth to an adult block within the jail (CDF or CTF) or the BOP would take custody of the Title 16 youth and transfer them to a federally operated facility.

Custody of Title 16 Youth Post-CYJAA: Transition of Title 16 Youth from DOC to DYRS. Director Booth stated that the DOC and DYRS were primarily responsible for implementing this transition, but there were other partner agencies that played a role as well, including MPD, DCSC, USMS, and USAO. Many of the preparations, conversations, policy changes and detailed case reviews of Title 16 youth occurred among MPD, the Courts, USAO and other partners, and much of the coordination was facilitated by CJCC through a Title 16 Workgroup. For a smooth transition, DOC detailed their juvenile case manager from the Juvenile Block to DYRS to assist in the transition for six months. By the end of the detail, the staff member accepted a position with DYRS to ensure the continuity of service for Title 16 youth.

Mr. Fullilove mentioned that as the time was approaching to meet the implementation deadline, timely decisions were needed. Every partner worked to understand the legal requirements for this new population at DYRS. Although the work with youth is not different for DYRS, the Title 16 youth and some DYRS staff had some initial anxiety over how the transition would eventually settle. Once DYRS received custody of the youth, they were placed in four designated units, which DYRS refers to as Adult Transitioning Units (ATU). (DYRS also applies this term to its Title 16 population as the ATU population.)

In response to a question from the audience regarding the rate of youth returning to the community after Title 16 filing and the purpose of charging youth as adults, Mr. Fullilove replied that DYRS had custody of Title 16 youth for only about six months. Since this period, DYRS has seen four ATUs return to the community. Mr. Gorman responded to the latter part of the audience member question and replied that the purpose of securing this population is to protect the community, ensure justice for victims, and to hold youth accountable.

An audience member suggested clarifying the CYJAA to allow DYRS to keep Title 16 youth until they have been sentenced. Councilmember Allen reassured the room that he has heard this comment and will think this through with his committee.

Transfer of Sentenced Title 16 Youth and Adult-Aged Pretrial Title 16 Youth back to DOC. Mr. Fullilove recalled that they had eight ATUs who have turned 18 and a few who have transitioned to the BOP. He commented that one of the young men went to court for a status hearing and then came back with an order for DOC transfer. He wanted to clear up the misconception that all ATUs will be sentenced and

ultimately taken into BOP's custody. Some will go to DOC upon turning 18, and if sentenced to incarceration, they will eventually go to the BOP. Some may be sentenced to probation and be supervised in the community by CSOSA, and others could be released if found not guilty or their case is dismissed. He mentioned that the ATU population number grew from 22 to 28 in custody. The maximum capacity at New Beginnings is 32, and at the time of this session, DYRS had 27 ATUs. DYRS is starting to see the regular transfer of their ATUs to DOC after sentencing. The BOP provides a very short window for when they retrieve the ATUs. They notify DYRS that they will pick up the youth within a few days, and DYRS staff will not inform the ATU until BOP is physically at the facility to make the transfer to avoid anxiety on the part of the ATU.

In response to a question from the audience regarding USAO's role in the transfer of 18-year-olds to DOC, Mr. Gorman stated that USAO has historically requested youth be transferred to the appropriate placement once they reach their 18th birthday. USAO is actively seeking this move in most homicide cases. Mr. Gorman stated that USAO's interpretation of the CYJAA is that all Title 16 youth should be transferred at this age.

Successes of the Title 16 Provision. Ms. Semyonova commented that the overall response from youth has been positive. She felt that the real opportunity for the transfer of Title 16 youth to DYRS was the opportunity for them to remain under DYRS care past their 18th birthday. She stated that there was nothing mandating youth removal from a DYRS facility past their 18th birthday, especially since DYRS can manage committed youths' cases up to their 21st birthday. She would also like to see DYRS expand its role and house the youth who would traditionally be sent to a federal facility, such as the BOP's Abraxas secure facility. More specifically, working with BOP to enter into a contract with DYRS to keep District residents under their care within District-operated facilities post-sentencing, including expanding community supervision responsibilities to DYRS to manage those ATUs instead of CSOSA.

Regarding education, Ms. Semyonova observed that the school located in New Beginnings, called Maya Angelou Academy, had more resources than the school within DOC. Title 16 youth had an actual classroom structure and IEP accommodations instead of DOC's standard school work packets. She also commented on the additional youth-centric mental health services available at DYRS. The added services, in her opinion, helped the Title 16 youth become even better prepared to transition to the BOP. For instance, Title 16 youth can become qualified to receive their diploma or GED at New Beginnings, which makes them eligible for programs that require higher education credentials when they arrive at BOP facilities.

Mr. Gorman commented that success is embodied by helping individuals grow following the commission of their crimes and being able to focus on the protection of the community. He expressed that USAO had some initial concerns regarding how DYRS, a youth-serving agency, might handle this new population; however, some of those concerns were alleviated during a USAO site visit to New Beginnings.

Mr. Fullilove felt DYRS is best suited to prepare ATUs for the transition to an adult facility and spoke about the credible messenger work at New Beginnings. He said that these mentors were individuals with lived experiences in the justice system. Mr. Fullilove feels that their inclusion into the programming has been an added benefit for the ATUs. He also described other programs offered to ATUs, such as barbering and carpentry classes and certifications. Each unit has mental health services, treatment managers, and administrators who make referrals for programming. Mr. Fullilove elaborated further to speak on the

impact of staff who work with the ATU youth. In the short time that they are at New Beginnings, staff see growth in some of the ATUs. Some of them had been a part of DYRS previously, and when they become ATUs, staff have witnessed a shift in their mentality.

Concerns Regarding Title 16 Provisions. Mr. Gorman stated that they continue to have concerns about DYRS' ability to manage the Title 16 youth since they have committed more serious and heinous crimes compared to youth who have not been charged as an adult. Examples of their concerns were that DYRS does not monitor phone calls made by this population, and the comingling of Title 16 youth with the juvenile population. Mr. Gorman stated that USAO is also concerned that it would be unable to prosecute assaults on youth or staff members because New Beginnings is in Maryland, and not within their jurisdiction.

Ms. Semyonova stated that it is a difficult transition for the ATU youth who are leaving DYRS and going to DOC when they turn 18. She feels that they are losing all the services at DYRS, and they are going to the general population at DOC with fewer resources. Ms. Semyonova followed up by acknowledging that DOC has come a long way regarding the level of education provided to their inmates but felt that they are not equipped to implement the same intensive approach as a DYRS program, like the Maya Angelou Academy, or the ability to provide youth-centric complete mental health services and IEPs.

Director Booth demurred on the comparison between DOC and DYRS. According to Director Booth, DOC accommodates IEPs developed at New Beginnings, but he said that DOC could not mandate the Title 16 youth to participate in any educational program once they turn 18 and are legal adults. DOC has updated its education programs to include university courses and other credit offerings. Director Booth emphasized that both DOC and DYRS share the common goal of equipping their clients with tools so they would not have to come back to either facility.

An audience member posed a question regarding why Title 16 cases are handled by federal as opposed to local prosecutors. Councilmember Allen responded that per the Revitalization Act of 1997, the federal government had assumed responsibility for some criminal justice functions in the District, including the prosecution of most adult criminal cases and incarceration of DC Code offenders in federal prison. The Councilmember offered that this system does not work well for our residents, as DC residents who are taken into BOP custody are housed outside of the District and the District has no mechanism to hold BOP accountable for how it supervises District inmates. Although costly, statehood would permit the District to regain control over the justice system.

At the end of the statements from the panelists and the audience questions, Ms. Love thanked everyone for their participation and prepared the room for the second panel.

Panel 2: Successes and Opportunities—Prohibiting the Secure Detention of Status Offenders

Councilmember Charles Allen moderated Panel 2. The panel included the following individuals:

- Pauline Francis, Associate Deputy Director of Intake & Delinquency Prevention of CSSD
- Shelia Roberson-Adams, Associate Deputy Director of Pre and Post Supervision of CSSD
- Judge Krauthamer, Presiding Judge of the Family Court
- Willie Fullilove, Deputy Director for Secure and Non-Secure Facilities of DYRS

- Captain Michelle Williams, Youth and Family Services Division of MPD
- Rachele Reid, Senior Assistant Attorney General of the Juvenile Section in the Public Safety Division of OAG
- Nancy Glass, Manager of the Juvenile Services Program of PDS

CYJAA impact on agencies' process.

Captain Williams explained that officers must contact their Watch Commander before transporting any youth under the age of 12 to the Juvenile Processing Center (JPC). Title 16 youth now are processed at JPC, but that is the only change for MPD since the implementation of the CYJAA.

Ms. Reid acknowledged that case processing has changed for OAG. Now, most PINS cases are considered as judicial summons. OAG summons the parent to court to avoid booking and processing the youth.

Very few curfew cases have been petitioned, and truant and runaway cases receive custody orders when they miss their court dates instead of receiving a delinquency charge. MPD typically detains these youth who have active custody orders when they interact with them in the field. OAG also works with the specialized probation officers of the Juvenile Behavioral Diversion Program (JBDP) unit to avoid an MPD arrest.

Ms. Francis responded that now, once DYRS notifies CSSD that a juvenile has a PINS case, the court determines whether to detain or hold the youth until their court date. Since youth cannot be securely detained, Ms. Francis stated that this entire process takes place in YSC's nonsecure setting. The nonsecure side of the facility is a dorm-style setting, near the community room. Determinations are then made about the PINS youth's risks and needs. The CSSD Intake Specialist conducts an interview with the PINS youth, contacts the youth's guardian, provides the youth with the opportunity to make a phone call, and then notifies DYRS of the decision to either hold or release. Based on the availability of space, if a youth is not retrieved by their guardian (or transported back home by CSSD staff), DYRS will either house the PINS youth on the nonsecure side of YSC or transfer them to available shelters or available group-home beds. If the youth remains at YSC, the staff will stay with them until the morning and accompany them to their court hearing.

Judge Krauthamer added that as a result of the legislation, the court had minimized the amount of time youth experience in a secure environment. The Marshals have also reduced the use of handcuffs, even though that is not specified in the statute. Judge Krauthamer commented that there had been a huge culture shift in the way the court responds to PINS youth. The court has increased communications with DYRS and MPD regarding the way they transport and receive PINS youth.

Ms. Glass commented they are aware that training for court-appointed attorneys for PINS should be improved. At one point, PDS helped the court-appointed attorneys with motions. PDS is now looking to

Councilmember Allen Leads Panel 2



help court-appointed attorneys receive more information and advanced notices (including social files if applicable) about PINS cases that they represent.

Future Challenges of the CYJAA. Mr. Fullilove mentioned that DYRS provided training to all their staff, including group home personnel, to understand abscondence issues with PINS youth. During their training, they highlighted the shift away from the conservative approach of locking up PINS absconders to keep them safe towards the preventive approach of doing everything possible to discourage PINS youth from absconding. Mr. Fullilove emphasized that when a youth absconds, all staff must be responsive and willing to complete the required paperwork to request a custody order from the court, even though most custody orders are rescinded prior to receiving a judge's signature. This process has also fostered a better relationship with CSSD. Both agencies were able to collaborate on common problems to find solutions.

Ms. Francis agreed with Mr. Fullilove stating that CSSD and DYRS collaboration has led to new changes, and the relationship continues to grow as they are all operating with a similar understanding and appreciation of their respective works.

Ms. Francis stated that the youth have always been exposed to many services to help them achieve compliance even before the implementation of the CYJAA. She emphasized that CSSD works very hard with all their providers in the community. Their probation officers sometimes work additional hours to connect with their clients, and they utilize electronic monitoring (GPS) as needed. Ms. Reid said that from OAG's practice perspective, they work to ensure that court hearings typically take place after 2pm. Custody orders are usually reviewed in the mornings (at the beginning of the court day), so the team can request continuances if needed into the afternoon and allow all partners time to develop a collaborative approach for addressing the case before the 2pm court session.

Judge Krauthamer commented that he believes there are more runaways and abscondences than reported due to a large number of custody orders that are withdrawn when a youth returns before receiving the judge's signature. He stressed that these youth understand the law, and how to use it to their advantage during the hours when the court is not in session. If a youth returns to their placement before the abscondence custody order is signed, then the placement is required to cancel the request. In general, he expounded on the heightened level of frustration with chronic absconders on the part of judicial officers. He does not believe secure detention was ever the answer to address the needs of this population, but he expressed his concerns that the CYJAA was enacted in the absence of any additional support services, treatment facilities, or treatment-focused group homes to prevent PINS youth from absconding. Captain Williams agreed with Judge Krauthamer's assessment and added that MPD sees the same PINS youth who abscond repeatedly.

Captain Williams stated that the repeat occurrences seen in this population may be due to mental health issues and added that these youth probably also experience or have witnessed some form of trauma. Ms. Reid echoed this sentiment and said that it is prevalent for families and parents to contact OAG, CSSD, and MPD to request that their youth be detained or removed from their home. If the parents are better educated about mental health and other services that can address the behavioral problem, Ms. Reid believes that they may become less reliant on MPD just to lock up their children. It might also allow families and parents to receive resources before having to attend court.

A member of the audience commented that it would be helpful to have representatives from the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) and Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) participate on the panel to available behavioral health programming in the District and different ways in which services can

be funded. Another member from the audience responded, saying that many youths become status offenders when they do not receive services. They believed there was legislation that required CFSA to investigate the youth's home any time a PINS is placed out of the house, but that this legislation is not being enforced. As a response, another audience member stated that these records are confidential, and it is difficult to know the scope of such investigations or the frequency with which they are taking place. The member also clarified that the legislation does not imply that CFSA is required to open a case automatically. Instead, the audience member suggested that the legislation requires CFSA only to investigate. And if there is no parental neglect discovered, then a case will not be created. Ms. Francis commented that when CSSD has PINS youth whose parents refuse custody or if the parents cannot be located, then CSSD will engage CFSA, and that will start an investigation.

The audience provided additional comments regarding their dissatisfaction with in-patient substance abuse care for youth and shared that there are emerging best practices and other creative therapies that are not funded by the DHCF. A member from the audience mentioned that DC's Juvenile Justice Advisory Group would be having a conversation on needs to reduce PINS involvement in the juvenile justice system soon.

Ms. Glass commented on the benefits of removing the PINS population from secure detention. She expressed her concern that many of the PINS are receiving delinquent cases as a result. For example, she explained, "bootstrapping," where a PINS youth removes the GPS ankle bracelet and receives a delinquency charge. Another failure she reported is the placement of PINS youth as overnights, or PINS awaiting placement in the nonsecure community room. She described the nonsecure community room at YSC as a conference room with mattresses on the floor. In the original design plan for YSC, she stated that the nonsecure community room was intended to be the overflow room and not a location to house PINS youth. She felt that in practice, the PINS youth were housed in the room without a program.

Ms. Reid clarified that "bootstrapping" is not occurring with the PINS population. Ms. Reid also said that the PINS unit reviews every PINS case and provides insight to the court to help judges decide on their care. A member from the audience commented that the current legislation still perpetuates "the prison pipeline" issue. Ms. Reid responded that OAG takes PINS cases very seriously and intentionally tries to limit their movement further into the system.

Ms. Robinson-Adams highlighted CSSD's BARJ Drop-In Centers and the services provided for youth. She emphasized that many probation officers are aware of the mental health issues that youth face and are very concerned when the youths runaway. She described the attendant psychological and medical consequences. Such concerns range from missing dosages of their prescribed medication to the possibility of returning with sexually transmitted diseases or pregnancy.

Best Practices in Other Jurisdictions. Judge Krauthamer commented that he has heard about some promising practices in Missouri. He reinforced that our youth are being sent far away for treatment and that this population has not, in general, committed a crime but merely is in need of treatment. He felt that this practice of moving youth so far away from their families could potentially further traumatize the youth. He noted the value of the District finding space locally that can serve individuals overnight and for the long term.

Executive Director Butler brought the panel's attention to conversations on decreasing the status offender to delinquency pipeline and the effect of the legislation. Ms. Glass responded that she guessed the numbers of PINS youth who become delinquents are small, and reports of the pipeline are outliers, anecdotal at best. Ms. Francis stated her observation of a push to keep PINS youth from becoming delinquent. Typically, she added, PINS cases with delinquency charges are often a misdemeanor and remain with their PINS judge without receiving a delinquent jacket. Judge Krauthamer stated that the reverse was true for youth with an original delinquency jacket. Those youth are less likely to have the benefit of having their cases heard before or transferred to a PINS judge.

An audience member asked, "What services should be prioritized to prevent and allow early intervention? Do you have a juvenile youth who has been rehabilitated and can say what worked for them?" Ms. Roberson-Adams responded that youth would come back and talk to their worker about what worked. She said that she especially hears feedback from clients during their exit interview about programming in the mental health court. She stated that she would prioritize mental health concerns and work with the family because they typically will have needs as well. Ms. Francis said it is important to make sure that when a PINS youth comes into the system, they are still connected with services and treatment. Ms. Reid commented that DHS had made a significant investment into their Strengthening Teens Enriching Parents (STEP) team. Their program allows MPD to refer or divert youth to STEP, Parent and Adolescent Support Services (PASS), and they provide a caseworker to work with the family for six months.

Councilmember Allen thanked the panelists and the audience members for the active discussion. He acknowledged the positive steps that the agencies are taking to be compliant with the CYJAA and mentioned that he realized that there are gaps that need to be addressed.

Closing Remarks

CJCC Executive Director Mannone Butler offered closing remarks and thanked the attendees for participating in the session. She reemphasized the District's commitment to making sure young people do not unnecessarily enter the system.