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Report for Juvenile Justice Oversight Council
Submitted by Katie Comstock AOC Director
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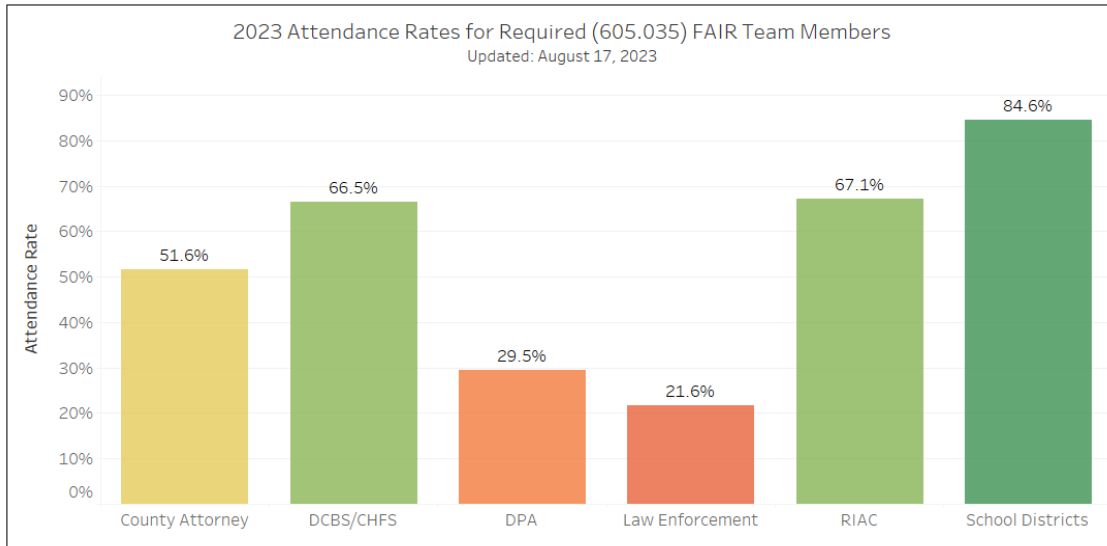
The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is pleased to report its progress on several important juvenile justice initiatives. This report will provide an update on the following:

- Family, Accountability, Intervention, and Response (FAIR) Team Outcomes and Attendance by Mandated Members
- FAIR Team Attendance Improvement Strategies
- Racial, Ethnic, and Equity Disparities
- HB 3 Implementation

FAIR Team Outcomes and Member Attendance

The AOC reports outcomes for cases reviewed by FAIR Teams at each Juvenile Justice Oversight Council meeting.

- FAIR Teams were referred 948 complaints in 2021; 1,932 complaints in 2022; and, as of August 16th, 1,496 in 2023.
- Of the 1,260 complaints closed thus far in 2023 that had been referred to FAIR Teams, 55% of the cases were resolved outside of court while 45% were referred to court.
- The Department for Family and Juvenile Services (FJS) developed a method to track FAIR Team attendance in 2022. FJS also plans to expand the tool to allow Court Designated Specialists to track how the meeting was held – either virtually, in-person, or in a hybrid format.
- FAIR attendance rates for the year-to-date can be seen in the chart below. This data was pulled on August 17.



FAIR Team Attendance Improvement Strategies

To increase FAIR Team attendance the council may consider:

- Incorporating language requiring FAIR member to have a formal appointment to the team by the chief regional judge.
- Continue to regularly include this data in our JJOC reports.

The Department of Family and Juvenile Services plans to:

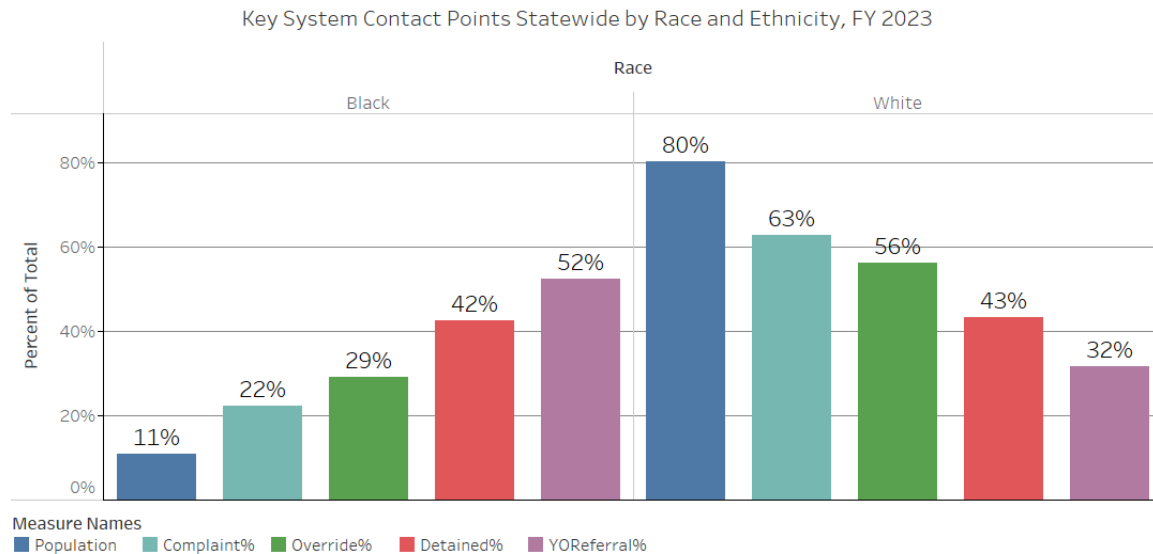
- Explore notification systems to remind members of upcoming meeting dates.
- Review internal policies and procedures regarding reminders of meetings and update accordingly.

Racial, Ethnic, and Equity Disparities

FJS continues to be intentional in addressing racial, ethnic, and equity disparities (REED) wherever they may exist in the juvenile justice system. As a part of these efforts, the Court Designated Worker (CDW) Program creates and implements local county-level action plans across the state, conducts root-cause analyses in counties where disparities are most prevalent, and continuously monitors the program's data at a statewide, regional, and county level. Below are some of the racial disparities that were present in fiscal year 2022:

- While black youth are only 11% of the state's youth population, they are 22% of the complaint filings in the CDW Program – already twice their prevalence in the community at the front door of the program.
 - Specifically, black youth make up 13% of school-related complaints and 27% of non-school-related complaints.

- At the positive contact point of diversion, just 15% of diverted youth are black while 32% of youth not given that opportunity are black.
- Black youth make up 42% of those that are detained at intake and 52% of youthful offender referrals.
- As is demonstrated by the chart below, when moving through more severe contact points – from complaints to youthful offender referrals – the minority becomes the majority.



HB 3

To address the changes by the passage of HB 3, the AOC has been working to finalize manual revisions, form changes, updates to the FAIR Team Guidelines, training requirements, and communication plans. The following areas are currently being addressed:

- School notifications regarding diversion
- Intentional use of the electronic platform for FAIR Team members
- 90-day requirement for FAIR Team action
- Guidance for AOC's CDWs and CDSs on parental cooperation
- Updating the CDW Case Management System (CDWCMS)

Definitions for Consideration

- **Successful Diversion:** A diversion that has been deemed to have met the requirements of agreed-upon action steps and goals to the best of the youth's ability and the complaint has been dismissed.
- **Unsuccessful Diversion:** A diversion in which that youth has failed to meet the requirements of their agreed-upon diversion agreement and the diversion has been terminated.

- **Adjudication:** A formal court hearing to determine the truth or falsity of the allegations in a juvenile petition. KRS 610.060.
- **Disposition:** A hearing, held after and (usually) separately from the adjudication hearing, to determine the action to be taken by the Court on behalf of a child who has been found to have committed a public or status offense. KRS 610.110

In conclusion, AOC will continue to update the JJOC on the ongoing efforts to improve Kentucky's juvenile justice system.