

Terms and Concepts

Absent Without Leave (AWOL): A youth who absconds from a non-secure residential program.

Accountability Incentives Management (AIM): A structured statewide system of responses to deter negative behaviors and encourage positive behaviors of youth under court-ordered community supervision. AIM seeks to reduce technical violations of supervision by ensuring certain, fair, and immediate responses to youth that promote successful completion of supervision.

Adjudicatory Hearing: Proceeding before a juvenile judge or master to determine the truth of allegations made against a youth. If the allegations concerning the commitment of a delinquent act are found to be true, the youth may be adjudicated delinquent.

Aftercare: Supervision and individualized treatment services provided to youth in the community following discharge from a residential program. A youth is assigned an aftercare worker at the time of commitment.

Automated Statewide System of Information Support Tools (ASSIST): DJS client database.

Average Daily Population (ADP): Daily population of youth in residential placement (state or privately owned) averaged over the number of days in the year.

Average Length of Stay (ALOS): Average total number of days in residential placement between admission and release. Youth detained in more than one facility during a contiguous stay are counted as a single placement.

Case Management Specialist (CMS): DJS staff who provide case management services to youth in community and residential settings. Case managers provide supervision, develop treatment plans, link youth with necessary resources and services, monitor progress, and modify treatment plans as needed.

Central Review Committee (CRC): A central committee, authorized under the Continuum of Care Legislation, that convenes weekly to hear case reviews of youth at risk of removal from a committed placement, direct changes in the youths' provision of services, and make youth placement transfer decisions. Members include the Directors of the Behavioral Health and Resource Offices, the Executive Directors of Residential Placements and Community Supervision, and a representative from MSDE.

Certificate of Placement (COP): The document which reflects a youth's placement location, services, and authorizes payment for services.

CHALLENGE: A behavioral management program implemented in DJS' residential facilities with the goal of developing pro-social behavior and individual accountability/responsibility using a token economy and social skills education to incentivize positive behavior.

Child In Need of Assistance (CINA): A youth who has been physically, sexually, or emotionally abused or neglected by a parent or other person responsible for the youth's care.

Child In Need of Supervision (CINS): A youth who commits an offense that, if committed by an adult, would not be a crime (e.g. truancy, run-away or "ungovernable").

Commitment versus Admission: A commitment is a court order placing a delinquent youth in DJS' care. The youth is usually placed into an out-of-home program, but may also be provided services at home. An admission occurs when a juvenile physically arrives at a facility and is officially entered into the facility's rolls. An admission may occur days/weeks after the juvenile is committed to DJS (in the interim, a youth is considered to be on "pending placement" status – see Pending Placement). A single admission to an out-of-home program could be the result of multiple commitments (e.g. a juvenile may be committed by more than one court, or have multiple charges with "committed" dispositions). Thus, the number of commitments will not equal the number of admissions to committed programs.

Community Detention (CD): A program monitored by DJS in which a delinquent child or a child alleged to be delinquent is placed in the home of a parent, guardian, custodian, or other fit person, or in shelter care, as a condition of probation or as an alternative to detention (ATD). Community detention includes electronic monitoring.

Complaint: A written statement made by any person or agency to a DJS intake officer, which if true would support allegations of a juvenile petition.

Continuum of Care: The continuum of care spans in-home probation supervision with services, community-based out-of-home treatment, and state and privately-operated secure programs, all designed to address youth needs, and the factors that led the youth to delinquent behavior. Legislation passed in 2012 authorized DJS to transfer youth directly from one facility/program to another facility/program (of equal or higher security level) without first asking the court to modify the commitment order.

Day/Evening Reporting Center (D/ERC): A program that serves youth as an alternative to detention. Youth are required to report daily to ensure the youth is monitored and gets back to court for hearings.

Delinquent: A youth who has been adjudicated for an act which would be a crime if committed by an adult and who requires guidance, treatment, or rehabilitation.

Detention: Temporary, short-term (1-30 days) physically secure housing of youth who are awaiting court disposition and require secure custody for the protection of themselves or the community and/or to ensure court appearance.

Detention Hearing: A court proceeding to determine whether a youth shall be placed in or continued in detention.

Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI): An assessment of a youth's risk to reoffend and/or fail to appear for future court dates used to guide whether the youth should be detained, placed in a detention alternative, or released to a parent/guardian.

Direct Care Staff: An employee whose primary duty is to provide direct supervision of youth.

Disposition: The action taken by the juvenile court that outlines whether the youth requires guidance, treatment, or rehabilitation and, if so, the nature of such assistance that an adjudicated youth will receive. (Note: In adult courts, this is known as a "sentence.")

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC): A rate of contact with the juvenile justice system among youth of a specific minority group that is significantly different than the rate of contact for whites (i.e., non-Hispanic Caucasians) or for other minority groups (*See RRI definition*).

Ejection from Committed Placement: A youth's removal from an out-of-home placement upon determination that he/she failed to comply with the rules and conditions of the program. Following an ejection a youth may require a new out-of-home placement. A youth may remain in detention pending a new placement.

Electronic Monitoring (EM): A statewide program providing close monitoring of youth in the community as an alternative to residential placement/detention. Youth wear an ankle bracelet that electronically monitors their movement and compliance to established location parameters. This may involve the use of global positioning systems (GPS).

Escape: Absconding from a secure DJS residential program (including youth centers) or detention facility (including Community Detention).

Evidence Based Services (EBS): Programs that have been found to be effective based on the results of rigorous evaluations.

Family Centered Treatment (FCT an EBS): A family preservation model of in-home treatment provided by Institute for Family Centered Services, Inc (IFCS). The IFCS team utilizes FCT to help families learn and adopt positive behavioral patterns.

Felony vs. Misdemeanor: In Maryland a crime is either a felony or a misdemeanor. Generally, felonies are the more serious of these two types of crimes. However, there is no clear line for determining whether a crime is a felony or misdemeanor based on the statutory maximum penalty associated with the offense. Unless specified in a statute or the offense was a felony at common law, a crime is considered a misdemeanor. Most statutes specify whether a crime is a misdemeanor or a felony. Common law crimes retain common law grades as either felonies or misdemeanors unless changed through the legislative process. The General Assembly may choose to label a statutory crime a felony or misdemeanor independent of the amount of punishment the statute provides. The General Assembly may also choose to change the status of a crime from a misdemeanor to a felony or a felony to a misdemeanor.

Fiscal Year (FY): The time period measured from July 1st of one year to June 30th of the following year. FY 2015 runs from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

For Authorization of Formal Petition (FAFP): DJS has statutory authority to screen all juvenile complaints referred. A case not resolved or diverted through an informal agreement by DJS intake officers will result in an FAFP that requests the juvenile court take action on the complaint.

Functional Family Therapy (FFT - an EBS): An outcome-driven prevention/intervention program for youth demonstrating the entire range of maladaptive behaviors such as delinquency, violence, substance use, Conduct Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, or Disruptive Behavior Disorder. Flexible delivery of service is provided by one or two person teams to clients in home, clinic, school, juvenile court, community-based programs, and at re-entry from institutional placement.

Global Positioning System (GPS): A global navigation satellite system that provides location and time information for youth monitored with a global positioning system receiver.

Group Home: A residential program licensed by DHR, DJS or MHA/DHMH to provide 24-hour supervised out-of-home care for 4 or more youth providing a formal program of basic care, social work, and health care services.

Hardware Secure Facility: A facility that relies primarily on the use of construction and hardware such as locks, bars, and fences to restrict freedom.

Informal (or “Pre-Court”) Supervision: An agreement between DJS and a youth and family to enter into counseling and/or DJS monitoring without court involvement.

Intake: The process for reviewing a complaint against a youth and determining whether the juvenile court has jurisdiction and whether judicial action is in the best interest of the public and/or the youth. During intake, youth and their family may be offered services.

Juvenile Court: A division of the Circuit Court in Maryland.

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI): A best practice model that addresses inappropriate and unnecessary use of detention and reduces the failures of juveniles to appear in court. A primary goal of JDAI is to reduce overcrowding in detention centers by safely maintaining youth in the community in detention alternatives without jeopardizing public safety or increasing the number of youth who fail to appear for court.

Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (JJMU): The Unit, administratively housed in the Office of the Attorney General, investigates the needs of children under the jurisdiction of DJS and determines whether their needs are being met in compliance with State law. This includes evaluating conditions of facilities housing youth, reporting on treatment of and services to youth, and investigating allegations of child abuse.

Maryland Comprehensive Assessment and Service Planning (MCASP): MCASP uses integrated case management to assess youth’s risks and needs throughout their DJS involvement and develop interventions to accomplish the goals of public safety and youth rehabilitation. MCASP enables DJS to strengthen individualized service plans for youth and families and match them with appropriate services/programs; to track youth progress; and to ensure that each youth receives the level of supervision consistent with his or her risk to public safety.

Maryland Evaluation and Treatment Services (METS) formerly SMART: A web-based platform that provides key case management functions, including assessments, contacts, and treatment service planning in coordination with the DJS ASSIST system.

Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC): Under DPSCS, MPCTC is vested with the authority to set standards of initial selection and training for all governmental law enforcement, correctional, parole and probation, and juvenile services employees in the State of Maryland, and to otherwise upgrade the professionalism of these officers. MPCTC provides certification and on-going training to DJS staff.

Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC - an EBS): A cost-effective alternative to group or residential treatment, committed placements, and hospitalization for youth with chronic anti-social behavior, emotional disturbance, and delinquency. Community families are recruited, trained, and closely supervised to provide youth with treatment and intensive supervision at home, in school, and in the community; clear and consistent limits with follow-through on consequences; positive reinforcement for appropriate behavior; a relationship with a mentoring adult; and separation from delinquent peers.

Multidisciplinary Assessment Staffing Team (MAST): A specialized regional diagnostic team responsible for assessing and evaluating youth who are detained and at risk of out-of-home placement, prior to disposition. Following the in-depth review, the MAST prepares security and treatment recommendations to the juvenile court. The MAST includes a psychologist, social worker, community and facility case managers and supervisors, resource specialist, MSDE, and individuals from other disciplines as needed.

Multisystemic Therapy (MST - an EBS): An intensive family- and community-based treatment program that addresses the serious anti-social behavior of juvenile offenders. The major goal of MST is to empower parents and youth with the skills and resources needed to independently resolve the difficulties that arise in coping with family, peer, school, and neighborhood problems. Intervention strategies include family therapy, structural family therapy, behavioral parent training, and cognitive behavior therapies. MST is a home-based model of service delivery.

Operation Safe Kids (OSK): A collaboration between the Baltimore City Health Department, DJS, and other state and city agencies to provide intensive community-based case management and monitoring of high-risk juvenile offenders to prevent them from becoming victims/perpetrators of violent crimes and to ensure they have tools to become productive adults.

Pending Placement: A temporary placement status for youth who have been committed for placement in an out-of-home residential facility and are awaiting placement. Youth may be pending placement in a variety of settings including: detention, home, home with additional services, home under community detention and/or electronic monitoring, family shelter care, structured shelter care, acute care hospitals, or psychiatric respite care programs.

Petition: A formal written request filed with the juvenile court alleging that a child is delinquent, in need of supervision (CINS) or in need of assistance (CINA).

Placement versus Admission: A placement is based on a decision made by an intake officer or judge to place a youth into detention or a committed program. An admission occurs when a youth physically enters a facility either through direct placement or through transfer. Thus, during one placement, a youth may have several admissions and these counts will not match.

Pre-Adjudication Coordination and Training (PACT): PACT Evening Reporting Center serves youth 14 to 17 years of age in Baltimore City as an alternative to detention. It utilizes a youth development model and works to collaborate with participants, their families, DJS, and other partners to develop a plan to address the underlying issues which lead to anti-social or delinquent behavior.

Probation: Court-ordered supervision of youth in the community requiring youth to meet court-ordered probation conditions (general and case specific), including, for example, school attendance, employment, community service, restitution, counseling, or participation in substance abuse treatment.

Recidivism: Subsequent juvenile/adult criminal involvement of youths released from committed residential programs/placed on probation.

Relative Rate Index (RRI): A measure of Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) with the juvenile justice system. It is a standardized tool for measuring disproportionality at the various contact points (arrest, court referral, etc.) that youth have with the police and DJS. For example, RRI compares the arrest rate for White youth with the arrest rate for youth of a specific minority group. In its simplest form, the RRI is simply the rate of activity involving minority youth divided by the rate of activity involving majority youth.

Resident Advisor: DJS staff position that provides supervision, support, care, and monitoring of youth placed in DJS-operated facilities.

Residential Treatment Center (RTC): A mental health facility for children and adolescents with long-term serious emotional, behavioral, and psychological problems. RTCs provide intensive services and should only be considered when therapeutic services available in the community are insufficient to address a youth's needs. In addition to Maryland RTCs, DJS uses a variety of out-of-state providers, including RTCs funded through Medical Assistance, with rates set by the Maryland Interagency Rates Committee, and facilities that are not RTCs and serve moderate-to-high-risk multi-problem youth. These are youth who may be exhibiting moderate psychiatric symptomatology and aggressive behavior, or who have histories of unsuccessful/repeated placements and/or hospitalizations. Treatment models vary depending on the client focus of the program but all provide individualized treatment plans, are comprehensive in services, highly structured, treatment oriented, and behaviorally focused.

Residential Treatment Service Plan (RTSP): A structured treatment planning tool to guide treatment services for youth placed in DJS-operated committed programs.

Resolved at Intake: A determination that furthering the case by forwarding it to the State's Attorney's Office for formal processing would be disadvantageous to the interests of the youth and to public safety.

SafeMeasures: An analytic service provided to DJS by the National Council on Crime & Delinquency to improve its community case management system. SafeMeasures pulls data from DJS's existing databases and creates visual indicators and reports to ensure that case managers and supervisors are meeting the agency's requirements for effective community supervision.

Shelter Care: Temporary, short-term (1-30 days), non-secure housing of youth who are awaiting court disposition. Shelter beds serve as an alternative to detention or other short-term circumstance where family or other housing is not available.

Social History Investigation (SHI - formerly PDI): The written study of a youth and his/her family that is presented to the juvenile court. A Social History Investigation emphasizes social and legal histories as well as the domain areas of: family functioning, substance abuse, mental health, somatic health, education, employment, and life skills.

Spotlight on Schools (SOS) Program: An initiative to place case managers on-site at certain key schools across the state. DJS Spotlight workers monitor and respond immediately to attendance issues, referrals for disruptive behavior, suspensions, and drop-out issues for

youth under DJS supervision, and offer prevention and early intervention services to other at-risk students. In addition, SOS workers provide immediate, on-site intake services for students involved in delinquent activity.

Staff Secure: Residential programs where youth movement is controlled by staff supervision rather than by restrictive architectural features.

State Advisory Board: The Board consists of 19 members appointed by the Governor for three-year terms. The Board recommends to the Secretary of Juvenile Services policies and programs to improve State juvenile services. The Board helps plan development, use of resources, and helps inform the public of the Department's work.

Treatment Service Plan (TSP): A written document identifying treatment objectives, services, and service linkages that address the needs of the youth and family. It also examines the safety and appropriateness of the youth's placement, guides DJS's recommendations to the juvenile court for permanency planning (where appropriate), and monitors level of supervision and services required.

Under 13 (U-13) Initiative: A school-based intervention designed to provide support and services for juvenile offenders ages 12 years and younger through collaborative partnerships between DJS, Baltimore City/PG County Public Schools, the local Department of Social Services, and other child-serving stakeholders.

Ungovernable: Defined by the Juvenile Court Statistics as being beyond the control of parents, guardians, or custodians or being disobedient of parental authority (i.e. CINS juveniles who are truants from school, violate curfew laws, or run away are ungovernable).

Violation of Probation (VOP): A hearing conducted by the court to determine if the conditions of community supervision have been violated. A VOP is considered a technical violation if it does not involve a new delinquent offense.

Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI): Implemented in January 2008, VPI provides intensified levels of supervision and targeted services for youth at highest risk of being victims/perpetrators of crimes of violence. This initiative incorporates a level system and continuum of graduated responses to ensure that immediate and appropriate actions are consistently applied when youth are non-compliant.

Youth: The preferred term for individuals under 18 years of age as used by DJS.

Commonly Used Acronyms

ADP	Average Daily Population
AIM	Accountability Incentives Management
ALOS	Average Length of Stay
APD	Assistant Public Defender
ART®	Aggression Replacement Training
ASA	Assistant State's Attorney
ASSIST	Automated Statewide System of Information Support Tools
ATD	Alternatives to Detention
AWOL	Absent Without Leave
BCDC	Baltimore City Detention Center
BCJJC	Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center
BMHS	Baltimore Mental Health Systems
CD	Community Detention
CDS	Controlled Dangerous Substances
CHHS	Charles H. Hickey, Jr. School
CINA	Child In Need of Assistance
CINS	Child In Need of Supervision
CJCA	Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators
CJIS	Criminal Justice Information System
CMS	Case Management Specialist
CMSS	Case Management Specialist Supervisor
COMAR	Code of Maryland Regulations
COP	Certificate of Placement
CRC	Central Review Committee
CYF	Cheltenham Youth Facility
D/ERC	Day/Evening Reporting Center
DBM	Department of Budget and Management
DDA	Developmental Disabilities Administration
DHMH	Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
DHR	Department of Human Resources
DJS	Department of Juvenile Services
DMC	Disproportionate Minority Contact
DPSCS	Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
DRAI	Detention Risk Assessment Instrument
DRAP	Detention Reduction Advocacy Program
DRG	Data Resource Guide
EBP	Evidence Based Services
EM	Electronic Monitoring
FAFP	For Authorization of Formal Petition
FCT	Family Centered Treatment

FFT	Functional Family Therapy (an EBS)
FY	Fiscal Year
GOC	Governor's Office for Children
GOCCP	Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
GPS	Global Positioning System
ICFA	Intermediate Care Facilities for Addictions
IRC	Interagency Rates Committee
JCR	Joint Chairmen's Report
JDAI	Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative
JJDPA	Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act
JJMU	Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit
LESCC	Lower Eastern Shore Children's Center
MAST	Multi-Disciplinary Assessment Staffing Team
MCASP	Maryland Comprehensive Assessment and Service Planning
METS	Maryland Evaluation & Treatment Services (prev. SMART)
MHA	Mental Hygiene Administration
MSDE	Maryland State Department of Education
MST	Multisystemic Therapy (an EBS)
MTFC	Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (an EBS)
MYRC	Maryland Youth Residence Center
NCCD	National Council on Crime and Delinquency
NFS	Non-Fatal Shooting
OJJDP	Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention
OPD	Office of the Public Defender
PREA	Prison Rape Elimination Act
RA	Resident Advisor
RICA	Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents
RRI	Relative Rate Index
RTC	Residential Treatment Center
RTSP	Residential Treatment Service Plan
SAB	State Advisory Board (DJS)
SAO	State's Attorney's Office
SOS	Spotlight on Schools Program
TFC	Treatment Foster Care
TGH	Therapeutic Group Home
TSP	Treatment Service Plan
VOP	Violation of Probation
VPI	Violence Prevention Initiative
WMCC	Western Maryland Children's Center