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## 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 behavior that promote successful completion of supervision.

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

**Admission:** See definition for “commitment versus admission” and “placement versus admission.”

**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.

**Alternatives to Detention (ATD):** Community-based program options that provide structured supervision and accountability of youth who would otherwise be detained pending adjudicatory hearings in the juvenile court.

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

**Average Daily Population (ADP):** Daily population of youth averaged over the number of days in a given time period.

**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.

**Behavioral Health Diversion Initiative (BHDI):** An initiative funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to screen and divert youth for mental health services.

**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 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 the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

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

**CHALLENGE:** A behavior modification program focused on improving youth behavior and maintaining safety and security for youth in DJS detention facilities. It helps youth develop positive behaviors through a system of rewards and support and teaches youth to take responsibility for their behavior. In DJS committed facilities the program has been updated to incorporate PBIS principles and was renamed STARR in 2018. It is slated to be modified in detention facilities.

**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 is habitually truant, disobedient, ungovernable, or who commits an offense applicable to youth only.

**Commitment versus Admission:** A commitment is a court order placing a delinquent youth in DJS’ care, which usually results in placement into an out-of-home program, but in some cases services may instead be provided in home. An admission occurs when a juvenile physically arrives at a facility and is officially entered onto the facility’s roster, and this normally occurs some weeks after the court order. A single admission to an out-of-home program could be the result of multiple commitments - a juvenile may be committed by more than one court, or be committed on multiple charges - and a youth may be admitted to several programs under a single commitment order. Thus, the number of commitments will not equal the number of admissions to committed programs.