

DJS Annual Report: P.R.O.T.E.C.T. Program Implementation

INTRODUCTION

Chapter 20 of the 2021 Laws of Maryland requires the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS or department) to submit a report on the progress made in implementing the requirements of the P.R.O.T.E.C.T. Program to the Governor and General Assembly each year.

RESPONSE

I. Background

The P.R.O.T.E.C.T. Program, as outlined in Chapter 20 of the 2021 Law of Maryland, requires:

1. That DJS partner with the Department of State Police (MSP), the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), and the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) to establish a warrant apprehension task force; and
2. That the Baltimore City Police Department (BPD) and DJS establish and operate collaborative district officer supervision teams to provide intensive supervision, including increased home visits of juvenile offenders.

II. Law Enforcement/BPD Strategies

➤ Warrant Apprehension

The DJS and BPD Warrant Apprehension Task Force (WATF) developed a set of strategies aimed at intervening with youth who are non-compliant with GPS/Electronic Monitoring, AWOL from placement, and/or have an active warrant. The goals of the strategies are to reduce active warrants, reduce youth charged with criminal/juvenile offenses while on warrant status, and reduce youth shot while on warrant status.

Specifically, DJS and WATF have employed intentional communication and intervention strategies to improve outcomes. The communication strategies involve daily email communication between the agencies to identify all active juvenile warrants and include relevant information regarding high-risk youth to improve the likelihood of successful community contacts and apprehension.

The intervention strategies focus on safe and effective community-based contacts and apprehension. Twice a week, DJS staff alongside the WATF, attempt community contacts to apprehend youth with active warrants. If a youth is apprehended, DJS staff will remain with the youth to process the warrant and/or detention authorization to permit WATF officers to return to their community posts as soon as possible. Moreover, to support immediate action and apprehension of a youth due to a violation of their court

order or active warrant, DJS utilizes a dedicated code when calling the 911 operator to ensure the request is escalated as a priority.

➤ **Expand DJS Police Liaison Unit**

DJS and BPD initiated the DJS Police Liaison Initiative in 2021 to strengthen agency collaboration and to support effective public safety and youth engagement initiatives. In addition to DJS staff serving in the BPD Watch Center, DJS placed case management staff in the Western District and Southern District Intelligence Centers in 2021. DJS will place an additional case manager to serve as a liaison in February 2022 in the South Western Intelligence Center.

The DJS Police Liaison Initiative has resulted in the ability for DJS and BPD to develop quick responses to public safety issues, develop interventions to mitigate public safety risk, implement youth engagement strategies, and operationalize information sharing and coordination.

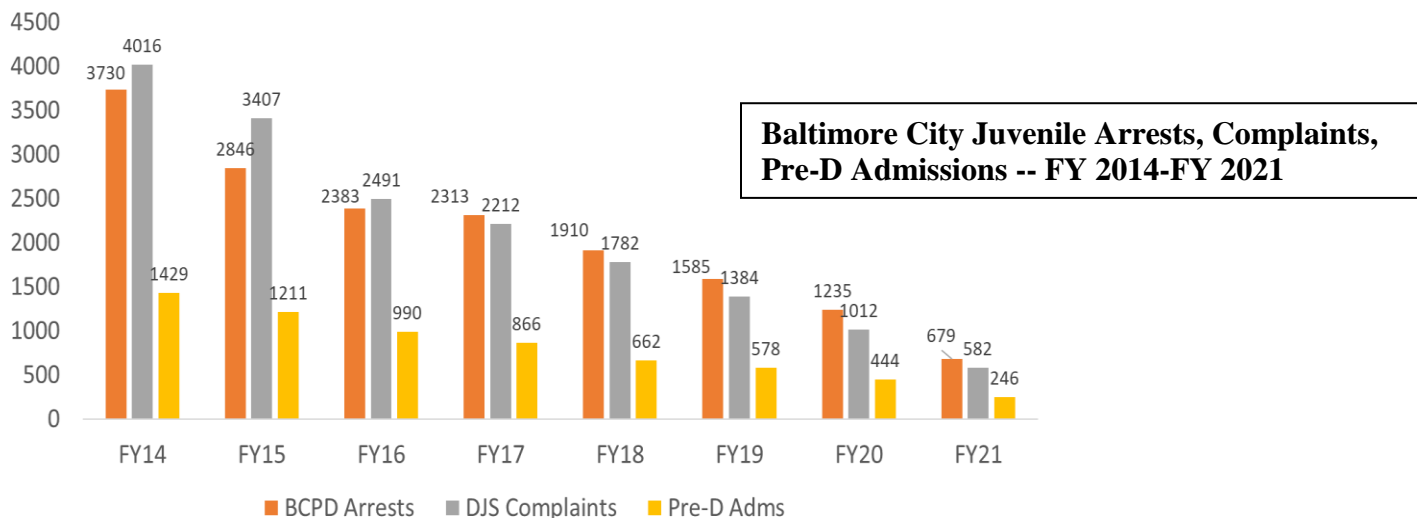
➤ **Curfew Visits**

DJS and BPD conduct curfew checks for youth on DJS intensive supervision and youth on electronic monitoring displaying challenges with program compliance. The joint curfew checks take place four times a month, and the BPD and DJS officers aim to engage with youth in the community and support positive change to achieve supervision compliance.

III. Baltimore City Data

The chart below illustrates the decline in BPD Arrests, DJS complaints and pre-disposition detention admissions (Pre-D Adms). Additionally, over calendar year 2021 DJS saw a 39% decrease in the number of active warrants (from a high of 49 in February 2021 to 30 in December 2021).

Significant Declines in Arrests, Complaints and Detention Utilization between FY2014 and FY2021



- ❖ BPD Arrests Declined 79.8%
- ❖ DJS Complaints Declined 85.5%
- ❖ Pre-Disposition Detention Admissions Declined 82.7%



IV. Conclusion

DJS implemented the P.R.O.T.E.C.T Program strategies through reallocating existing resources. DJS is committed to continuing to work with our partners to collaborate and execute strategies aimed at promoting public safety and positive outcomes for youth and families in Baltimore City.

