



MEETING MINUTES

Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

7:30am – 9:00am

In Person Location: *Executive Office Building*

(101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850)

Auditorium (Located on the Lobby Level of the Building)

&

Virtual: [Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only): [+1 443-692-5768,,269416772#](#)

Phone conference ID: 269 416 772#

Members Present: Dawn Luedtke (Chair), Florence Jewell (Vice Chair), Jeff Waldstreicher, Stefan LoBuglio, Eric Schneider, Maxwell Uy, Marc Yamada, James Bonifant, Ben Stevenson, Marielsa Bernard, Karen Bushell, Richard Madaleno, *Earl Stoddard (Staff)*, *Lindsay Bolt (Minute Taker)*

(Online)- John McCarthy, Shan Anderson, Monica Martin, Carole Brown, Sean Mukherjee, Shakirra Hayes, Darryl McSwain, Lori Garibay-Aquino

Members Absent: Kurt van der Walde, Jeff Ewart, Sherri Koch, Jason West, Mary Schaller, Gail Roper, Mark Sroka, Antonio DeVaul, John Nesky, Shakirra Haynes, Marcus Jones, Debra Grandy

Guests: Darren Francke, Susan Farag, Keena Jones, Arnecia Moody, Willie Parker-Loan, Ivan Downing, Lisa Mandel-Trupp, Tamera Bulla, Shawn Toller, Michael Pratt, Troy Plummer, Dr. Kisha Davis,

1. General Business

Dawn Luedtke, Councilmember,
CJCC Chair

Summary

- Review of 3/26/2025 Minutes for approval

Action:

- Board votes (18 Yes, 0 No) to approve the 3/26/2025 Minutes

2. Standing Agency Updates

- Circuit Court (Judge Bonifant)
 - Open Pending Criminal Matters: 911 as of 4/30/2025
 - 132 New Filings
 - Closed 134 cases
 - Open Pending Juvenile Cases: 145 as of 4/30/2025
 - 34 New Filings
 - Closed 46 cases
 - We are still down 2 judges
 - Only Judge Ryon's position is currently posted
- MCPD (Chief Yamada, and Assistant Chief Francke)
 - After the recent shooting in DC, MCPD reached out to our local faith based organizations to provide increased patrol, which the community appreciated.
 - Noted Major Crimes numbers are down, homicides are up.
 - Main area of concern is the organized crime, specifically auto part thefts
 - Non Contact Shootings with Juveniles contain high numbers of shell casing but no contact
- State's Attorney (John McCarthy)
 - Met with Superintendent Thomas Taylor and their general counsel, Robyn Seabrook to discuss mutual issues; John is pleased with the line of communication
 - Flagged for Chief Yamada and Sheriff Uy that we should be looking at the Public Safety MOU since we have had a recent change in MCPS administration
 - Noted his office is now fully staffed!
 - Highlighted his office saw a great turnout for the Expungement Clinic in Lincoln Park early this month, where they partnered with folks from the Public Defender's Office, County Legal Aid, and Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
- Public Defender (Sean Mukherjee)
 - Pleased to have participated in the Expungement Clinic
 - Pleased to see so many of the CJCC members in the room at the Statewide Summit on Behavioral Health last week
 - Highlighted the need for County assistance in staffing Problem Solving Courts

3. Subcommittee Reports

- Juvenile Justice Trends Subcommittee
 - Stefan provided an overview of the work the CJCC Juvenile Justice Trends Subcommittee took on between March 2024 to September 2024

Dawn Luedtke, CJCC Chair
(Lead: Stefan LoBuglio)

See PowerPoint and Report enclosed at the end of the Minutes

Questions/Feedback from CJCC members:

- Discussion regarding changes to the Juvenile Justice laws having a significant impact on the Data; MCPD no longer has the ability to talk with Juveniles
- MCPD notes they are seeing more 10/12 year olds committing crimes; example of the kid under 13 who had burglarized more than 21 times and all the Police could do was hand the child over to their parents, McCarthy notes this juvenile is still active even after turning 13 years old
- CM Luedtke noted that MCPS converted ParaEducators to Full time staff vs Contractors; we are seeing many K-3rd Grade teachers ill-equipped to handle these young disruptive children
- Dr. Stoddard noted that the County has been in talks with the State about offering money to support services at Noyes and that he and others are meeting with DJS today to discuss the new diversion (case management) pilot; DJS has given Montgomery County 2 dedicated DJS staff for this effort
- Public Defender Mukherjee noted future meetings should include a representative from their office

4. Briefing: Legislative Review of Criminal Justice related legislation

Sen. Jeff Waldstreicher,
District 18, Montgomery County

- Montgomery County needs to highlight our great Closure Rate as it relates to MCPD cases, which is not true of many other local jurisdictions!
- Expansion of the Drone and Automated License Plate Recognition (LPR) program
 - Within Sen. Waldstricher's district, Westfield Wheaton is interested in how they could better utilize the LPR
- Sen. Waldstreicher reviewed several key pieces of legislation that **passed** this year:
 - **Organized Retail Theft Act of 2025** – SB0011/HB0179
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0011?ys=2025RS>
 - <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/legislation/details/hb0179?ys=2025rs>
 - **Trafficking Regulated Firearms – Felony Classification** -SB0443
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/legislation/details/sb0443?ys=2025rs>
 - **Wrongful Detainer Bill** – SB0046
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/SB0046>
 - Speeds up the process for getting fake leases (squatters) out

- **Sgt. Kepp Bill**
 - HB0744
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/HB0744>
 - SB0590
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/SB0590>
 - **Abhishek Bill-Expungement Reform Act of 2025 – SB0432**
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/SB0432>
 - **Second Look Act – HB0853**
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/legislation/details/hb0853?ys=2025rs>
 - Sen. Waldstreicher reviewed several pieces of legislation that did not pass but hopes to next year with reworking:
 - Fentanyl Death Bill – SB0604
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0604?ys=2025RS>
 - Highlighted that as a parent in the County:
 - he would like the Schools to consider differentiating the needs of schools as to whether SROs are needed or not, more should be added for those Schools in need
 - discussion around some assaults in schools not being classified as a routine school fight but rather directed to MCPD if the seriousness of the assault warrants it
 - For the full list of Bills signed in 2025 -
<https://governor.maryland.gov/news/Pages/bill-signings.aspx>
5. Subcommittee Reports Dawn Luedtke, CJCC Chair
- Legislative Subcommittee (Lead: Sheriff Max Uy)
 - Sheriff Uy reviewed several pieces of legislation the subcommittee reviewed:
 - UVISA– Uplifting Victims and Immigrant Safety Act
https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccllims/DownloadFilePage?FileName=2850_1_26024_Bill_26-24E_Signed_20250212.pdf
 - Montgomery County Council passed legislation that removes the county’s previous 10-year limitation on assisting crime victims in their pursuit of U visa applications, aligning local policies with federal and state laws that have no such statute of limitations.
 - Maryland Values Act – HB1222
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/HB1222>

- Highlighted that Montgomery County does not prioritize the 287(g) Program
- Courtroom Security – Minimum Adequate Security Standard- HB0789
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Legislation/Details/hb0789?ys=2025RS>

6. Wrap-Up and Adjourn

Dawn Luedtke, CJCC Chair

- Meeting adjourned at 8:55am (Stevenson)

*Next **Full Commission** Meeting: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 (7:30am-9am)*
In Person Location:** Executive Office Building (101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD) **Auditorium
***& Virtual** via Microsoft Teams link*

Montgomery County Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission

Juvenile Justice Subcommittee

Final Report

June 23, 2025

In March 2024, in keeping with its mission to advance the wellbeing and safety of county residents, the Montgomery County Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission (CJCC) appointed an ad hoc Juvenile Justice (JJ) subcommittee to investigate the rising incidence and seriousness of youth-involved crimes over the past several years. The County is fortunate to have a corps of expert and dedicated professionals at state and county agencies who participated in the ad hoc group and who are committed to the rehabilitative and restorative mission of juvenile justice. They rigorously advocate for services and the success of justice-involved youth while upholding the rights of victims and principles of accountability.

Over a 15-month period between March 2024 and June 2025, the ad hoc subcommittee met to examine data and interview stakeholders. Our committee's charge was to obtain and review the data to seek an accurate understanding of juvenile justice in our county without the filter of exaggeration or defensiveness. This report shares the recommendations of our group based on our examination of that data at a July 10 2024 data summit and extensive interviews and outreach with the MoCo courts, MCPS, MoCo police, the SAO, the OPD, DHHS, MD DJS, and family members over the past 15 months.

CJCC Juvenile Justice Subcommittee Recommendations

1. Montgomery County (MoCo) needs to assume a larger role in the intake and assessment processes and delivery of services for its youth¹ in the JJ system;
2. MoCo and the MD Dept. of Juvenile Services (DJS) must address youth accountability both in their criminal conduct and in their engagement in court-ordered treatment;
3. DJS needs to consider re-opening the Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center in Rockville to serve detained MoCo male and female JJ youth who are currently placed outside the county and to expedite the transfer of the youth held in the county jails;
4. MoCo needs to develop a coordinated review process and create a data dashboard to assess the functioning and performance of the juvenile justice system.

¹ Youth in this report refers to individuals 17 years of age (YOA) and younger unless otherwise described. The juvenile justice system does detain older individuals under 22 YOA who are facing adult charges and/or are waiting transfer to an adult correctional facility.

Overview

On any given day, an average of 240 Montgomery County (MoCo) youth fall under the supervision of the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (DJS). Thirty of these youth are in DJS detention facilities; twenty are in treatment beds; and 190 are under community supervision. Over the course of FY24, 1,400 complaints for MoCo youth involved in criminal activity were filed with DJS.

These youth are both anonymous and well known to county agencies. Many of these youth have struggled in MoCo schools (MCPS), and schools have struggled with them. MoCo Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has worked with many of these youth and their families and provided services. Yet neither MCPS nor DHHS know that the youth are under DJS supervision. The state's juvenile justice statute specifically prevents these agencies from accessing even basic information due to privacy concerns.

Years ago, the county eliminated its county-run juvenile justice division under DHHS which regularly interfaced with MD DJS. Juvenile justice is run by the MD DJS in Montgomery County and in all Maryland counties. MD DJS receives all juvenile complaints, conducts initial assessments, and recommends dispositions and selects and directs cases to the courts. The agency staff and its contractors bear the full responsibility of detention, supervision, and providing education and treatment services both pre- and post-adjudication.

The county's major role in juvenile justice is law enforcement. The Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) is often the first agency to encounter youth as they enter the juvenile justice system. MCPD files over 90% of the juvenile complaints from the County to DJS, and its electronic filings are immediately copied to the Office of the State's Attorney (SAO). However, the SAO and the police may not know the disposition of the complaints for several weeks. By statute, DJS must respond to complaints within 25 days, and its responses are sent by US mail.

Private defense attorneys may be engaged by family members at the time of a complaint. For families unable to afford a private attorney, they depend on the state's Office of Public Defender (OPD). However, the OPD in Montgomery County does not become aware of a case until a petition is filed by the State and a Preliminary Inquiry is set by the court in cases where the family has applied for assistance from the office. In cases where the OPD is already representing a youth, DJS may file a "notice of a new referral," but it is for

information purposes only, and OPD does not receive any information about complaints that do not result in a court hearing.

In court, judges also report not having full information about cases. One judge described not having a case file on a youth already on DJS supervision who had committed a serious offense and who was appearing in court the next business day as required by statute. Another judge described an overriding sense of working in an isolated “bubble,” with critical information lacking as to whether or when the supervised youth might engage in services. The judge also gave an example of a youth who was placed on probation for seven months but who had received no treatment for the first half of that period. The judge also expressed frustration when juveniles entered the courtroom appearing “high” or under the influence of drugs. The judge lamented the court's powerlessness to ensure that youth are immediately treated and do not overdose after leaving the courtroom.

Public Safety vs. Rehabilitation in Juvenile Justice

Among key stakeholders in the county’s juvenile justice system, there is a consensus that many of the youth are not receiving timely services of sufficient dosage, frequency, or fidelity to alter their trajectory towards the adult criminal justice system. There is also concurrence that communication between the agencies lacks timeliness and coordination.

The disagreement concerns whether the juvenile justice system is sufficiently holding youth accountable for criminal activities. MCPD and SAO believe that DJS assessment processes and policies do not consistently detain those youth committing the most serious and violent offenses, nor sufficiently monitor those under community supervision. They have criticized recent legislative reforms to the juvenile justice system as being overly protective of youth, to the detriment of the youth and to public safety. They cite shielding laws that have established a minimum charging age for youth and procedural changes that restrict police from speaking with youth without the presence of a guardian or attorney, which they believe signals to youth that they can commit crimes with impunity.

The Office of the Public Defender and the Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice (CJJ) offer a contrary view. They consider that the juvenile justice system is too punitive with too many youths charged as adults. They cite Maryland statutes that require youth to be charged as adults for 33 specific criminal offenses. They claim that the recent legislative changes to reform sentencing for misdemeanors have now ushered in greater instances of police overcharging. They give the example of how, instead of charging youth

with second-degree assault/thefts, MCPD may charge youth with first-degree assault and felony robbery to force DJS to forward the case to the court. Detained youth, they argue, are held too long and drain DJS of its limited resources at the expense of the many more youth with less serious cases. As evidence that punitive policies are ineffective for juveniles, they cite the many medical studies on the plasticity of adolescent brain development for support of a more restorative treatment plan.

This tension between the rehabilitative and public safety focus in juvenile justice is endemic. On June 9, 2024, as this report was finalized, the *Washington Post* reported on the resignation of the MD DJS Secretary who has been a champion of rehabilitative programming and reducing youth detention populations. He has been criticized for allowing his agency to forego detaining youth who have committed serious and violent crimes. And yet, there is a body of research on his side that shows the deleterious effects of youth detention and the widespread instances of abuse that occur in the youth detention facilities nationwide. On the same day of the MD DJS Secretary's resignation, the *Washington Post* also released a series of articles critical of the DC Department of Youth Rehabilitative Services (DYRS) for the operation of its detention centers and the failure to provide youth with comprehensive treatment programs. The series cites multiple cases in which youth continued to offend, resulting in actions leading to their deaths or to serious and deadly victimization of others.

These recent developments add urgency as well as opportunity for Montgomery County to redefine and expand its role in all aspects of juvenile justice in the county.

CJCC Ad Hoc Committee

In March of 2024, the CJCC created an ad hoc committee on Juvenile Justice. Its creation was prompted by discussions at the CJCC about several high-profile JJ cases. Shielding laws had prevented the arrest of a youth who committed a serious case of arson in Clarksburg. Youth were making bomb threats to schools without accountability. The State Attorney remarked on a vehicle theft case involving a youth and then added that his office hadn't been informed of the youth's seven prior incidences of auto theft. The MCPD Police Chief at the time remarked that juvenile crime and unaccountability were at the highest level in his 37 years of service.

These cases paralleled reports of national cases of an outbreak of juvenile crime that many ascribed to the pandemic, and specifically to the de-coupling of youth from the school system. As stated above, our subcommittee's charge was to obtain and review the data to

seek a more accurate understanding of juvenile justice in our county that spoke for itself, free of the exaggerations or defensiveness that can characterize the national discourse on this topic.

Our ad hoc group consisted of representatives from the courts, police, DHHS, and CJCC public members. In the six months between March to September 2024, our eight-member group met monthly. During our meetings we were joined by representatives from DJS, SAO, MCPS, MCPD, County Council Staff, Street Outreach Network (SON), MoCo Commission on Criminal Justice (CJJ), and the MoCo Department of Correction and Rehabilitation (DOCR). We attended CJJ meetings, and one of us spent a day following the juvenile justice docket and met with juvenile justice judges and magistrates to gain their perspective as well as to hear from the attorneys and families of the youth at these hearings.

All agencies were extremely cooperative and helpful in sharing data, explaining the juvenile justice system and pointing out their respective challenges. In July 2024, the committee held a data summit at MCPD headquarters attended by 25 agency representatives and the DC CJCC. The summit provided an opportunity to review and analyze updated FY24 data. This report incorporates data received up through Q3 of FY25 (March 31). Eight data charts and tables are attached.

On May 28, 2025, the chair of the JJ Subcommittee Chair presented its findings to the full Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission. Subsequently, the Office of Public Defender provided comments on the subcommittee's draft report. This report incorporates written and oral feedback from the presentation materials. Given the complexity of the juvenile justice system, the subcommittee sought expert guidance to "fact check" this report and assumes the responsibility for any errors. With the submission of this final report, the CJCC JJ Subcommittee has completed its work and is sunsetting.

Ad Hoc Committee Findings

1. The number of MoCo youth involved in criminal activity remains high and is rising, particularly for violent crimes and felonies;
2. MoCo youth are not consistently engaged in timely, quality, coordinated, or intensive services mandated by the court and MD DJS;
3. MoCo DHHS and MCPS do not provide direct services to youth in the JJ system, despite constituting the county's largest service coordinators and providers;

4. The Juvenile Justice system is not sufficiently holding youth accountable for criminal activity² and for adhering to their treatment plans.
5. MoCo youth are detained too far from home, families, and attorneys;
6. MoCo inadequately tracks and analyzes juvenile justice data to assess the operation and performance of the juvenile justice system.

MoCo Juvenile Justice Statistics

The latest juvenile justice statistics from 2017 to 2024 show an increase in youth involvement in serious and violent crime while misdemeanor offenses have fallen. Figure 1 shows that all three offense categories follow a “V” shape: they fell precipitously in the four fiscal years prior to the pandemic (2017 – 2021) and then rose afterwards. Comparing fiscal year 2024 with 2017 statistics, juvenile crimes of violence have increased 6% and felonies 18%. In the same period, the number of misdemeanors fell by nearly 50%. While felony and violent offenses increased, the total complaints in all offense categories decreased 30% from 1,996 to 1,387 because misdemeanors constitute a much larger fraction of offenses.

Figure 2 shows the stark increase in youth violent and felony offenses. The number of juvenile complaints for robbery quintupled from ten to fifty over the seven quarters from Q1FY23 to Q3 FY24.

The MCPD quarterly statistics from January 1, 2017, to March 31, 2025, show an overall decline in juvenile arrests and citations, with a sharp drop during the pandemic year and a more gradual uptick over the past three years (Figure 3). The SAO and MCPD believe these statistics under-report juvenile criminal activity as they do not include crimes committed by youth under thirteen years of age who are shielded from prosecution, nor do they include youth held in jails facing adult charges. Court data of juvenile delinquency and children-in-need-of-assistance filings parallel the police data with a lag due to criminal justice processing time (Figure 4).

County jails have also experienced an increase in the population of youthful offenders in custody over the past year. Figure 4 shows the average daily population (ADP) of individuals 21 YOA and younger rising from about 100 to 151. The subset of 17 YOA has also risen and the ADP for this group has fluctuated between 8 and 21.

² The Office of Public Defender and the MoCo Commission on Juvenile Justice do not agree with this finding.

MD DJS average juvenile caseloads in Montgomery County increased nearly 50% from FY22 to FY25 (Figure 6) which reflects the 60% increase in juvenile justice complaints during this time period (Figure 7). Some of the sharp increases in caseloads and complaints are due to the courts resuming normal operations from the pandemic. However, the juvenile crime intake complaints received by DJS in the first three quarters of FY 25 indicate that juvenile crime remains a significant concern in Montgomery County (Figure 8). In this period, DJS recorded 867 intake complaints: 200 for crimes of violence, 123 for felonies, and 544 misdemeanors.

The rise in serious juvenile crime was confirmed anecdotally at the subcommittee's meetings. On 3/20/24, DJS shared that they were receiving an increase in referrals for youth who have been processed through the adult system for more serious crimes. At the 4/17/24 meeting, the DHHS Street Outreach Network (SON) leaders reported an increase in serious crime, noting that Black youth were disproportionately involved as victims.

Barriers to Juvenile Justice Program Engagement

Several barriers prevent JJ youth from receiving timely and quality education and treatment services contracted by DJS.

Family Challenges: As youth require guardians to follow-up with service providers and to bring them to appointments, conflictual relationships with family members, family work commitments, and lack of resources may interfere with youth engagement with their service plans. During a court hearing, a JJ subcommittee member witnessed the mother of a JJ youth relating the difficulty of taking time off from work to bring her son to appointments, on top of her frustration and inability to persuade him to participate in the intakes and programming.

Fragmented and diminished providers: The treatment community was significantly reduced and fragmented by COVID and the legalization of cannabis. Some programs were defunded and others saw their clients evaporate. Fewer providers are available for drug treatment, mental health, education, and vocational services. The poor coordination of services results in a paradox where existing limited services are not being fully utilized, and some service providers report having capacity but not receiving timely referrals.

Over the course of our committee meetings, we learned that one of the primary substance abuse providers was offering drug treatment services virtually rather than in-person through May 2024, to the great consternation of the judges. Judges also pointed out a

dearth of employment-focused programs. Psychiatric juvenile treatment beds were cited as the resource in greatest demand and among the most expensive resources in the system.

Lack of Enforcement and Accountability: A third barrier to youth treatment engagement is lack of enforcement and accountability. The courts shared concerns that DJS progress reports often aren't provided in advance of hearings and may not include information about services. Months can go by between hearings before courts learn that the JJ youth haven't even begun programming. By its own admission, MD DJS case management system is archaic and needs replacement. The Office of Public Defender offered a different view that DJS was hampered in supervising and managing cases due to the frequent court hearing and reports.

The subcommittee also noted positive developments with programmatic services:

- The DJS-contracted Evening Reporting Center in Rockville received praise for its programs and services as it allows youth to work and/or attend school while still receiving treatment;
- DJS has changed its program delivery model to front-load services for youth, particularly those who are not detained or placed in secure treatment settings;
- DJS indicated that Maryland's expanded Medicaid program has improved the ability to match youth to services and programs which had been hampered by insurance and 3rd party payer issues previously;
- During the subcommittee's work, the MoCo was able to procure additional youth psychiatric beds and DHHS established a liaison position with the courts

DHHS Programs

Montgomery County agencies provide few services to youth in the juvenile justice system and depend on DJS to do so. Previously, MoCo DHHS had a Juvenile Justice Division that directly interacted with DJS. The department was abolished and its duties subsumed by DHHS crisis center. At the subcommittee's meetings, DHHS shared that its resources are focused on all families and youth in MoCo, and it is reluctant to devote services to JJ youth who are served by DJS. Yet DHHS and MD DJS use many of the same treatment providers whose services may overlap with youth and families.

In policy and protocol, DHHS should be receiving referrals from DJS for those complaints where DJS determines not to forward the case to the courts. This represents 90% of cases. Prior to the pandemic, DJS would make the referrals during a cross-over process which was

a monthly meeting between DHHS and DJS. At the April 2024 CJCC JJ Subcommittee meeting, the DHHS Street Outreach Network leader reported receiving few referrals from DJS and shared that COVID significantly interrupted the communications between judges, DJS, HHS, and providers, and that even three years later, they have not recovered to pre-covid levels.

DHHS and MCPS do provide treatment and education services to youth under 22 YOA held in the Montgomery County jails which includes youth 17 YOA and younger. This proves to be a difficult population to serve due to their volatility and short and unpredictable stays. A 6/5/25 story by National Public Radio pointed out the large number of juveniles held in Maryland adult jails due to a statute that requires criminally charging them as adults for specific violent offenses. The story describes how many of these youth are held in restricted housing and receive few services because the jails are not designed to house juveniles. The jails must abide by a federal statute that requires juveniles to remain out of “sight and sound” of adults, which limits the ability of the institution to move the youth throughout the facility to receive programs and services.

MCPS Education Services

Juvenile justice research literature cites school retention and achievement as the most effective strategy to reform youth involved in criminal behavior. However, privacy laws and policies restrict MCPS from knowing which of its students are involved in the juvenile justice system. The exception is for those charged with a statutorily defined “reportable crime” and this information is carefully controlled.

Over the 15 months of our subcommittee outreach, MCPS, DJS, and OPD expressed concerns that the knowledge of JJ involvement in other cases might lead a school to bias disciplinary actions towards expulsion. However, this also means that considerable MCPS resources for students with behavioral challenges, including MCPS high school wellness centers, social workers, and alternative school networks, are not coordinated with MD DJS treatment plans. Schools are also disadvantaged in that the information about arrests in non-reportable cases is often known by the student and parent populations but not by school officials, and this asymmetry in information knowledge can lead to disruptions in school operations.

MCPD works with DJS on those youth leaving detention centers and helps to secure treatment beds for those who will be returning to the school system. In practice, this is a very small number, as many of those in detention centers will be sent to adult facilities

upon their 22nd birthday, and few of those released into the community have an interest in returning to school. MCPS does have an assigned liaison to the juvenile court, and the judges depend on the liaison to garner information about addresses and prior school engagement.

Detention and accountability

MCPD and SAO believe that juveniles who commit serious and violent crime should remain detained and have expressed frustration that DJS often chooses to release offenders at the initial review stage. DJS uses the Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI) to create a risk score to predict youth re-offending and failure to appear in court based on the answers to several questions. In 2013 and 2017, the instrument was updated to incorporate additional criteria and to take into consideration the gravity of the current and past offenses. DRAI results are used to create a recommendation for release, or for community-based alternatives to detention (ATD), or for secure detention. ATD and secure detention recommendations are reviewed by the court on the next business day.

The SAO and MCPD are concerned that the DRAI continues to underestimate the public safety threat posed by some juveniles and fails to recommend secure detention even in the most serious crimes. They report that even in cases of DJS youth under community supervision who are re-arrested, DJS often recommends release at the next-day court hearing. Over the past year, the SAO has increasingly utilized an “override” power to force DJS to detain youth accused of the most serious crimes. MCPD also shared that in filing the most serious youth complaints, they must resort to pressure the DJS intake worker by detailing the gravity of the case and victim impact to persuade DJS to detain the youth.

The other concern of the SAO and MCPD are the shielding laws that prevent charging youth below the age of 13 except for certain proscribed crimes. At the CJCC May 28, 2025 meeting, the MCPD related a case of a 12-year-old who had stolen 23 vehicles from dealerships. Upon apprehension, the youth reminded the police officers of the state law that prevents officers speaking to him directly without a guardian or attorney present, revealing an all-too-frequent familiarity with the law without any acknowledgement of accountability. Also recently, the MCPD reported on the arrest of several female youth who were picked up for robbing multiple residents in Silver Spring. On their release to the custody of their parents based on DJS’ assessment, they were recorded on video loudly taunting the officers that they would “be back the next day” to pick up where they left off.

Montgomery County youth detained by DJS are placed in facilities outside the county and far from their families. Temporarily, they may be held in the County's adult correctional system. Male youth are detained in the Charles Hickey School in Baltimore and the Cheltenham Youth Detention facility in Prince George's County. With the closing of the Thomas Waxter Center for Girls in 2022, DJS no longer has a female detention facility. Instead, MoCo female youth are held in one of several secure treatment facilities located several hours away in Western Maryland. Several stakeholders indicated that MoCo youth were considered targets by other youth in these facilities.

County officials have asked DJS to establish an intake office in the county to improve accountability and timeliness in issuing Juvenile Justice complaints rather than having all intakes occur in the Baltimore office. Judges have requested timelier and more complete progress reports on JJ program involvement in advance of court hearings. The County has also inquired about DJS's plans to re-open the Alfred D. Noyes Childrens Center located in Rockville to serve MoCo youth among other populations. Noyes has the advantage of being located next to the state's primary pediatric residential behavioral health program known as the Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents (RICA). In the 2025 legislative session, DJS was allocated funding for Noyes, but DJS has not yet announced its plans for the facility.

The OPD also agrees that Noyes should be re-opened to allow family members and attorneys greater access to visit detained youth. They also hope it will expedite the transfer of juveniles charged as adults to a juvenile facility, mitigating the trauma of extended harmful exposure to the adult system. They caution that opening the facility should not lead to increasing the number of youth detained.

At the May 28, 2025 CJCC meeting, the SAO provided a reminder that Noyes was a troubled facility when it was opened which was one of the reasons for its closure by DJS. It had difficulty retaining qualified staff, and county law enforcement resources were regularly called to respond to fights and other disturbances. In re-opening Noyes, the SAO advised carefully reviewing the staffing and programmatic plan, and to consider a greater county involvement in its operation.

MoCo Juvenile Justice monitoring and data tracking

Montgomery County does not regularly review or analyze juvenile justice data. The County's Commission on Juvenile Justice (CJJ) has a large volunteer board appointed by the County Executive and has indicated that the board and the assigned DHHS staff member

do not have the capacity to track data. DJS is represented on both the CJJ and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission (CJCC), but neither of the commissions have requested regular reports and analyses on the county youth supervised by DJS.

While DJS is the primary data-gathering agency for JJ, the MCPD, SAO, the courts, and DOOCR also have important data that should be regularly reviewed and analyzed together. DJS gathers and presents extensive data, but the agency is limited by its antiquated information system and limited staff resources. DJS data reports are excellent but are often published months after the end of the fiscal year. DHHS and the Commission on Juvenile Justice should be regularly involved in monitoring juvenile justice data and receiving and analyzing reports.

Conclusion

Montgomery County can and should play a larger role in coordinating and providing effective services to MoCo youth in the juvenile justice system. DHHS and MCPS, along with other county agencies, can partner more directly with the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, and address gaps in services and quality among provider networks.

DHHS can consider re-establishing a juvenile justice division to coordinate intake and treatment services with DJS. During the July 2024 data summit, the Courts, MCPD, MCPS, SAO, DHHS, and DJS voiced support for holding regular multi-disciplinary meetings to ensure maximum coordination and services on JJ cases. Together, they can advocate for additional treatment beds which remain in short supply, and which are among the costliest of the resources needed. MCPS can utilize its wellness centers, licensed social workers in most schools, and its network of alternative schools to serve this population. As stated, keeping youth engaged and completing school constitutes the most effective juvenile justice program available.

MCPD and SAO need to continue to develop their relationship and procedures with DJS to ensure that juvenile justice complaints are swiftly and appropriately reviewed. Re-establishing a DJS intake office for MoCo would prove beneficial in developing closer working relationships and improved information exchanges. For those youth whose offenses and behavior mandate their detention, DJS can/should consider alternatives to sending MoCo youth hours away to Baltimore and Cheltenham, and in the case of young women, to Western Maryland. Re-opening Noyes and coordinating services with RICA should be explored.

Finally, Montgomery County should establish a juvenile justice review process and a data dashboard to allow accurate monitoring of juvenile justice data and performance. Over the course of this project, the subcommittee was impressed by the talents and cooperation of the data analysts of the DJS, the courts, MDPD, SAO, and DOCR. These analysts should be brought together to develop a data collection and reporting system on the juvenile justice system in the county. Currently, DJS and MCPD provide the most complete information on intakes and offenses; other data is needed to monitor the effectiveness of services.

With this report and presentation, the CJCC Juvenile Justice Committee has completed its work and mandate. The Committee appreciates the assistance it received from DJS, MCPD, MCPS, DHHS, SAO, Courts, OPD and DOCR. All the staff in these state and county agencies were unfailingly professional, skilled, responsive, and committed to the rehabilitative and restoration goals for the juvenile justice system. We remain optimistic that the work of the Committee and its report will advance the expert and coordinated services and support that MoCo youth in the juvenile justice system need and deserve.

Appendix A: Data Figures and Tables

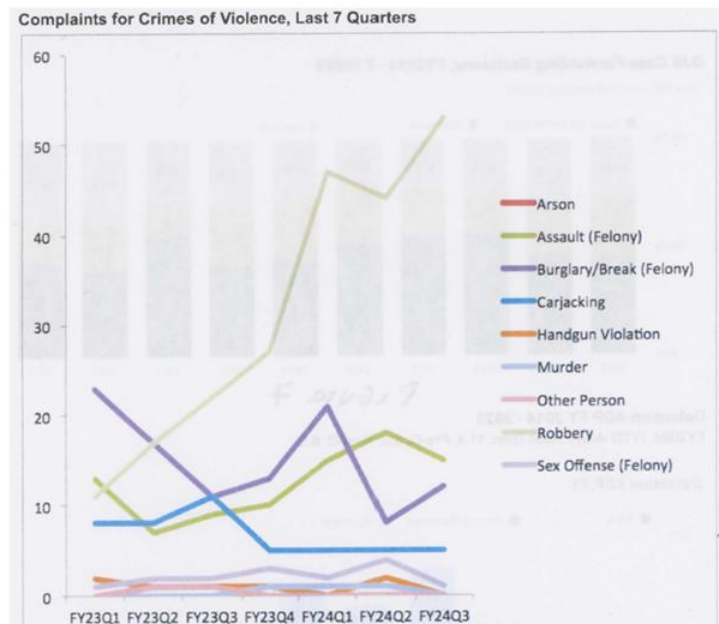
Figure 1

Juvenile Crimes of Violence & Felonies increase; Misdemeanors decrease
FY2017 – FY2024



MD DJS 2024 Data Resource Guide, Montgomery County Juvenile Complaint Data, FY2017-2014

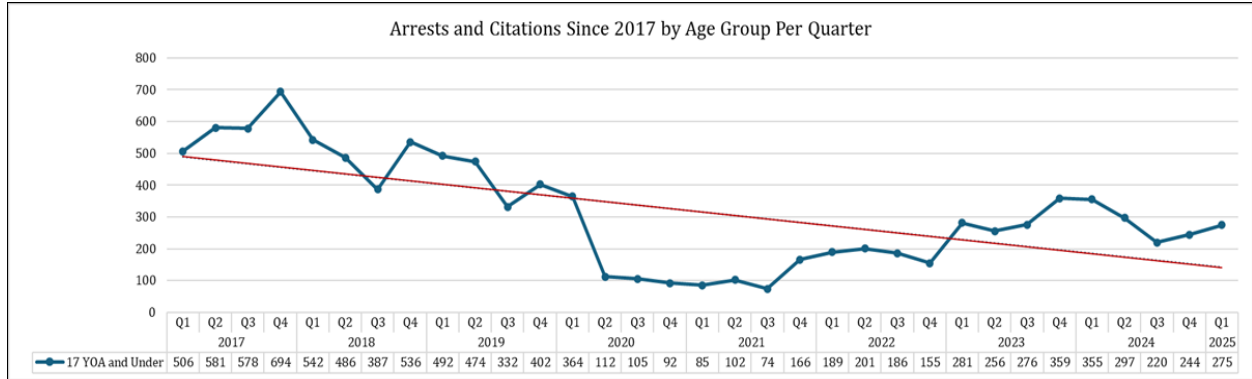
Figure 2



MD DJS Statistics provided 7/10/24 Juvenile Justice Data Summit.

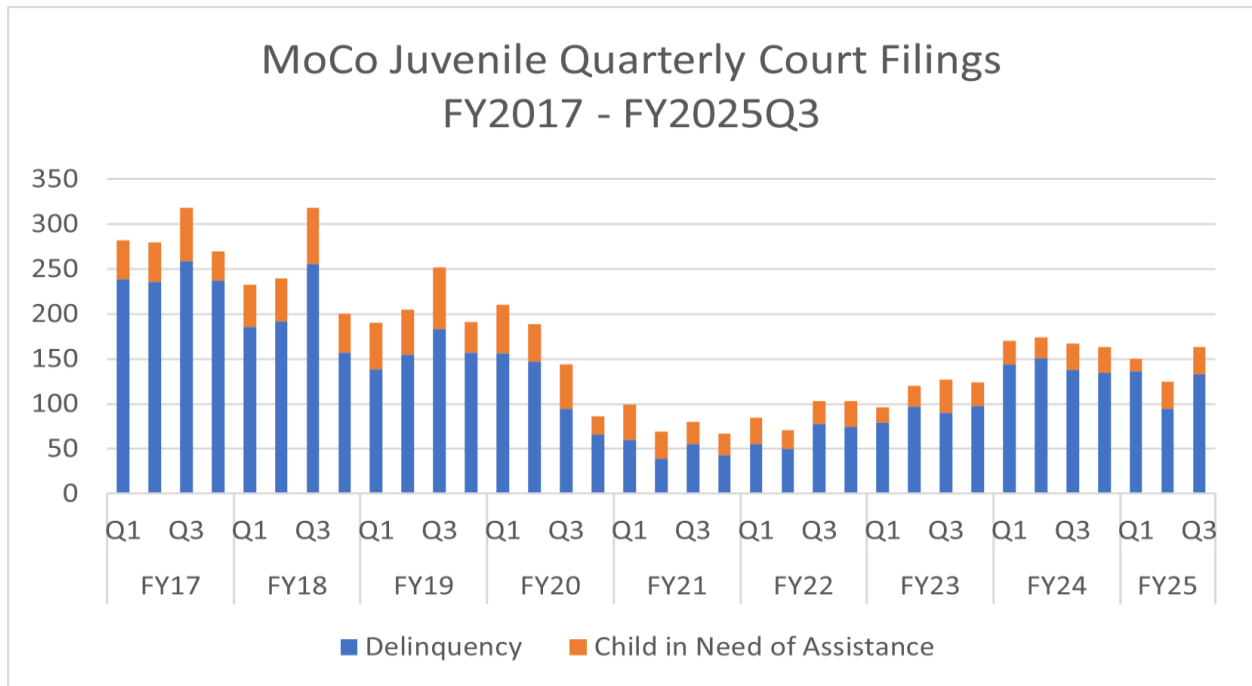
Figure 3

MCPD Juvenile Arrests & Citations Decline 2017-2025
Possible underreporting due to JJ legislation and pandemic



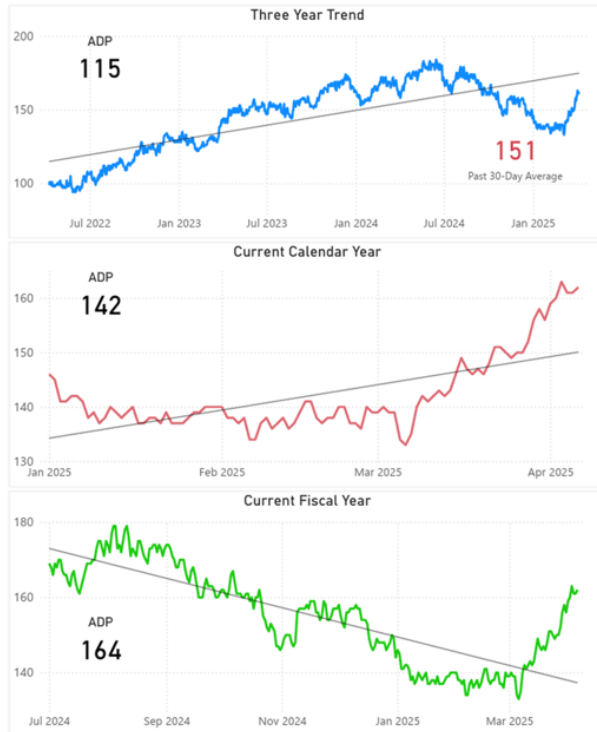
MCPD, Calendar Year Data, 4/29/25: Arrests and Citations for youth increased from September of 2024 (220) to March of 2025 (275). This is well below the recent peak of 359 recorded in January 2024. Also, 275 represents a 60% decrease from the 694 recorded in the fourth quarter of CY 2017.

Figure 4



MD Court Statistics, Maryland Judiciary, Research and Analysis, 4/14/2025.

Figure 5

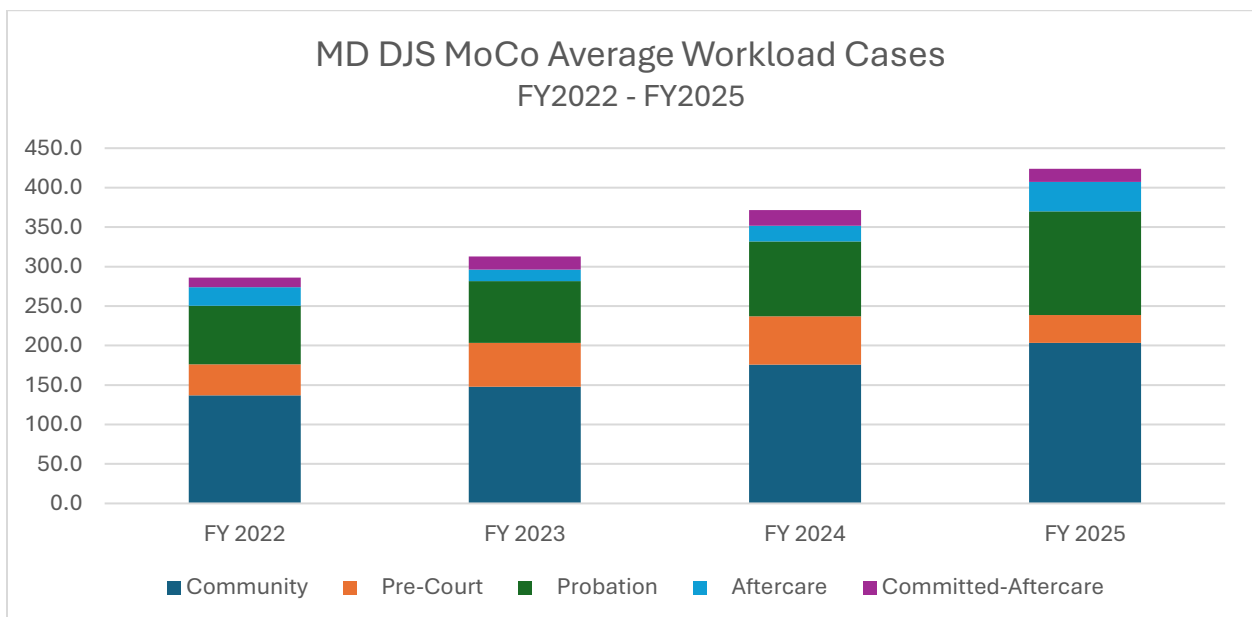


MoCo Jail Youth Population 21 YOA and younger **Increasing**

1. Three-year trend
2. Current calendar year
3. Current fiscal year

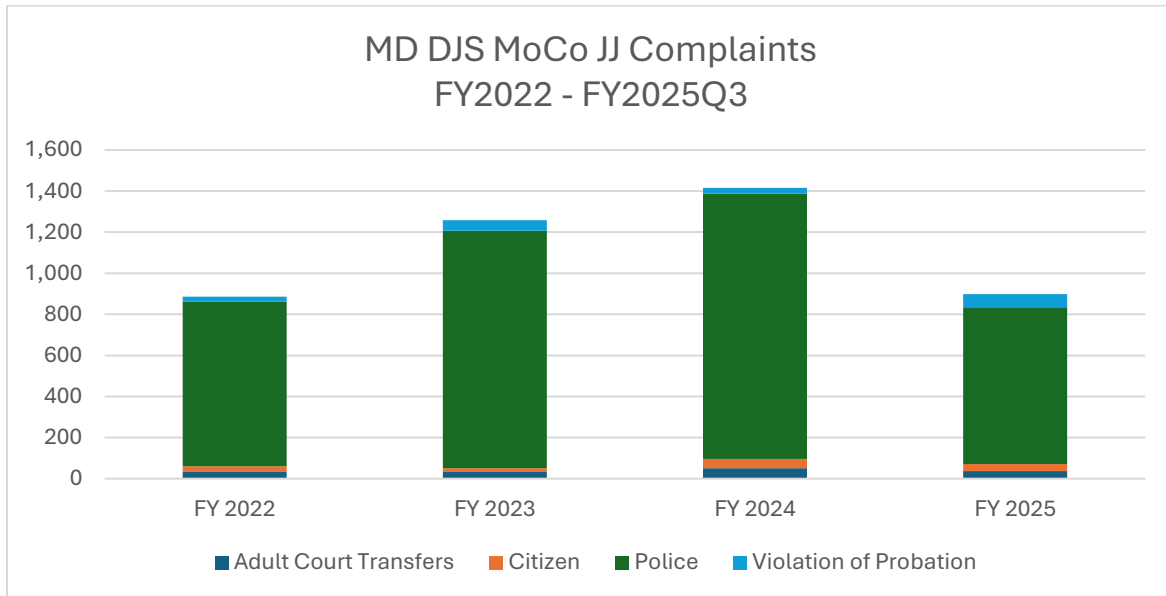
MoCo DOCR 4/7/2025.

Figure 6



MD DJS Data, 5/2/2925: MD DJS average caseload increased 48% from FY 2022 (286) to FY25 (424).

Figure 7



MD DJS Data, 5/2/2925: MoCo JJ complaints increased 60% from FY 2022 (886) to FY2024 (1,415) with the MCPD making over 90% of the complaints. FY2025 data is incomplete and noncomparable

Figure 8

**MoCo Juvenile Violent, Felony, and Misdemeanor
FY25 (Q1-Q3) Intake Complaints**

| | | Complaints | Totals |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------|------------|
| Crime of Violence | | | |
| | Person-to-Person | 195 | |
| | Property Offenses | 5 | |
| | subtotal | | 200 |
| Felonys | | | |
| | Drug Related Offenses | 2 | |
| | Person-to-Person | 2 | |
| | Property Offenses | 113 | |
| | Uncategorized Offenses | 6 | |
| | subtotal | | 123 |
| Misdemeanors | | | |
| | Drug Related Offenses | 39 | |
| | Person-to-Person | 239 | |
| | Property Offenses | 233 | |
| | Uncategorized Offenses | 33 | |
| | subtotal | | 544 |
| Totals | | | 867 |

MD DJS, May 2, 2025

Montgomery County CJCC Juvenile Justice Subcommittee

Findings / Recommendations

June 23, 2025

CJCC Juvenile Justice Subcommittee


– created
3/1/24

-sunset
6/4/25

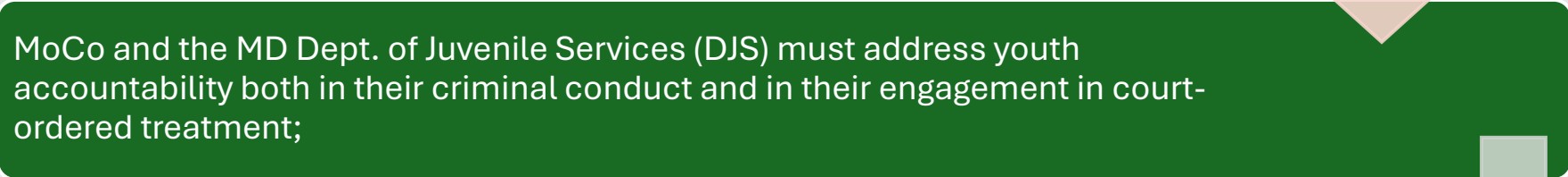
- Eight members
 - Courts
 - Police
 - HHS
 - MoCo Commission on JJ
 - Public Members
- Additional representation
 - MD DJS
 - SAO
 - Schools
 - MoCo DOCR
- Monthly meetings till 9/24
- July 2024 Data Summit
- Data sources till March 31, 2025
 - DJS
 - Courts
 - Police
 - DOCR
- CJJ Meetings
- Observe JJ Magistrate Docket
- CJCC Presentation 5/28/25

Recommendations

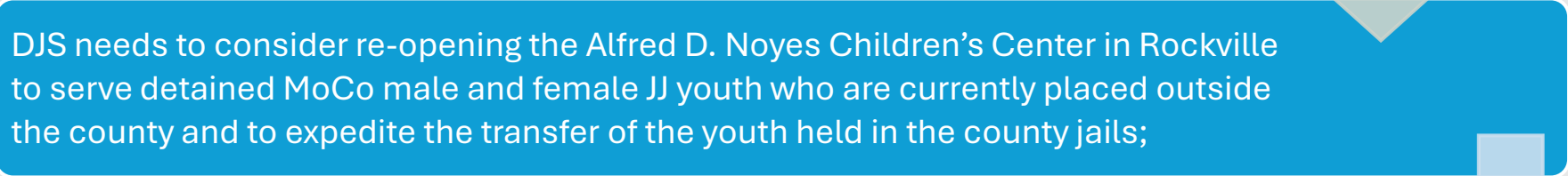
Montgomery County (MoCo) needs to assume a larger role in the intake and assessment processes and delivery of services for its youth in the JJ system;

An orange rectangular box with rounded corners. A light orange arrow points downwards from its bottom right corner towards the next box.

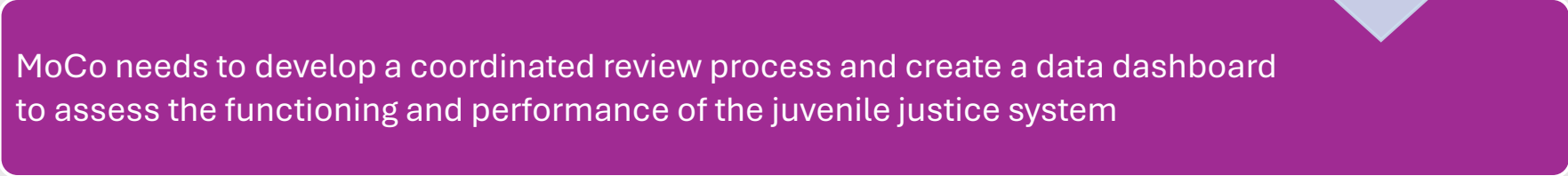
MoCo and the MD Dept. of Juvenile Services (DJS) must address youth accountability both in their criminal conduct and in their engagement in court-ordered treatment;

A green rectangular box with rounded corners. A light green arrow points downwards from its bottom right corner towards the next box.

DJS needs to consider re-opening the Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center in Rockville to serve detained MoCo male and female JJ youth who are currently placed outside the county and to expedite the transfer of the youth held in the county jails;

A blue rectangular box with rounded corners. A light blue arrow points downwards from its bottom right corner towards the next box.

MoCo needs to develop a coordinated review process and create a data dashboard to assess the functioning and performance of the juvenile justice system

A purple rectangular box with rounded corners. A light purple arrow points downwards from its bottom right corner.

Finding:

Juvenile crime is increasing and become more serious and violent in MoCo

Crimes of violence and felonies have increased since 2017

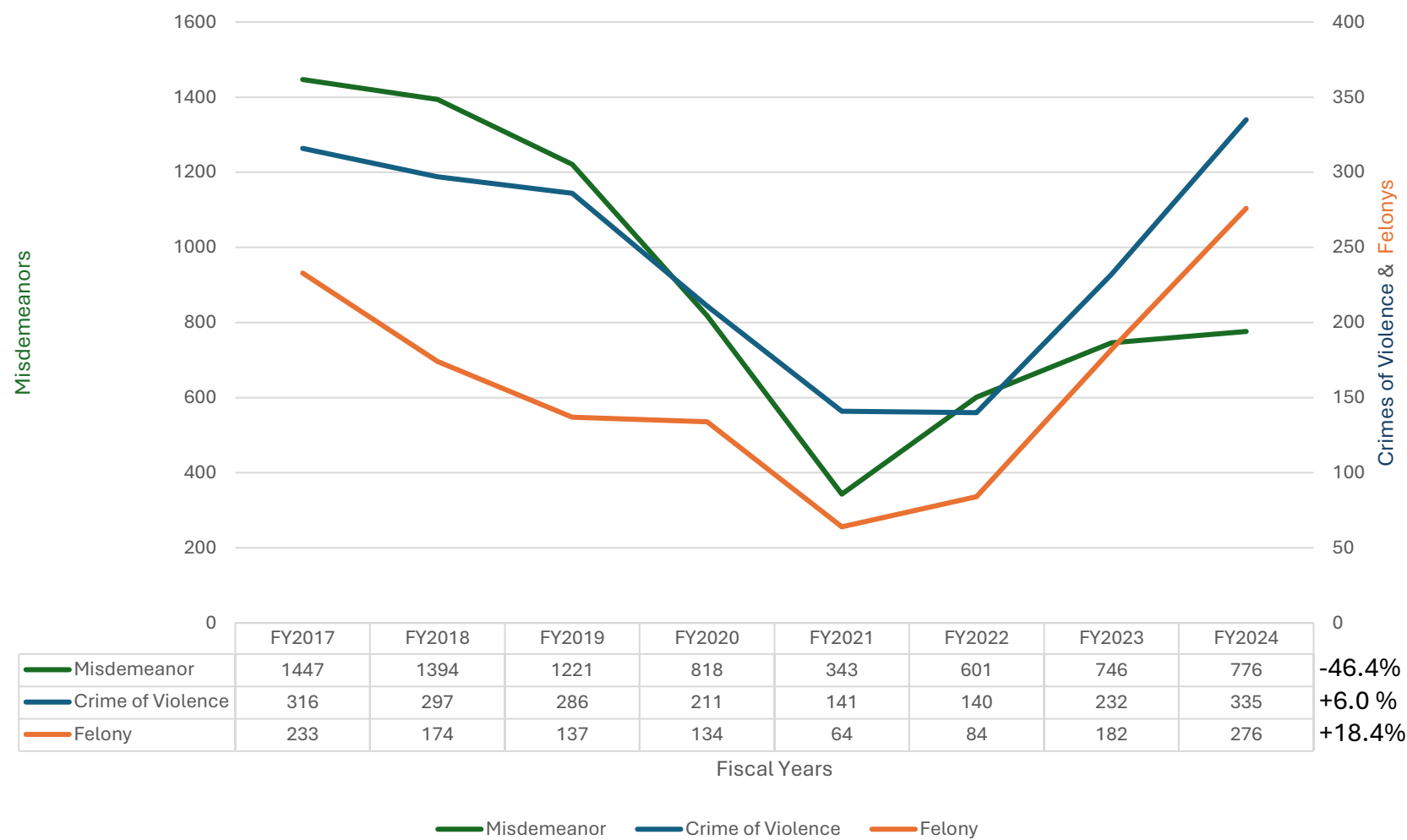
Misdemeanors have nearly halved since 2017 partly due to state legislative changes and COVID

MoCo youth jail population (21yoa and younger) has increased over the past three years

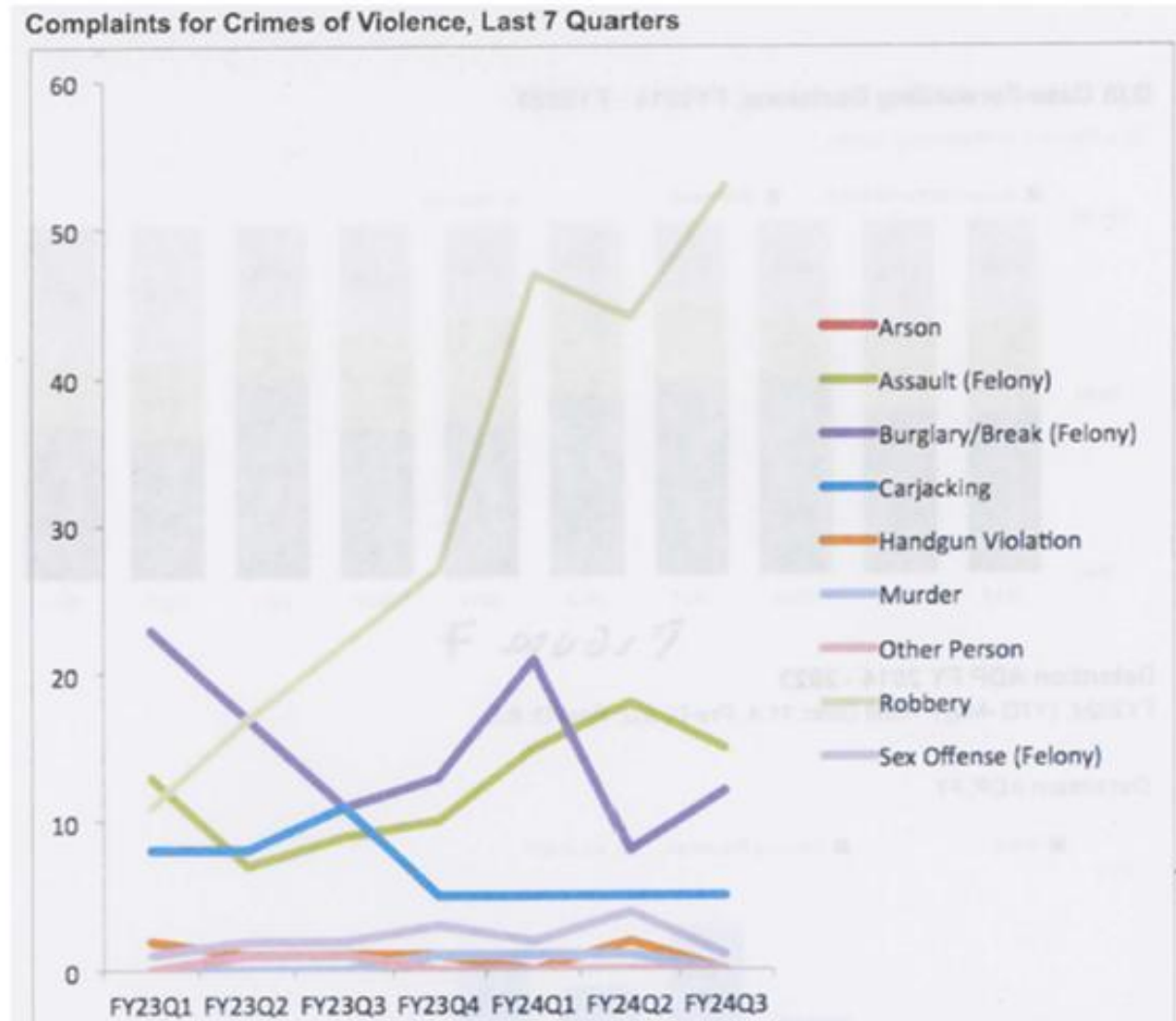
MD DJS average caseloads have increased nearly 50% over the past three years reflecting the 60% increase in juvenile justice complaints

Juvenile Crimes of Violence & Felonies increase; Misdemeanors decrease

FY2017 – FY2024



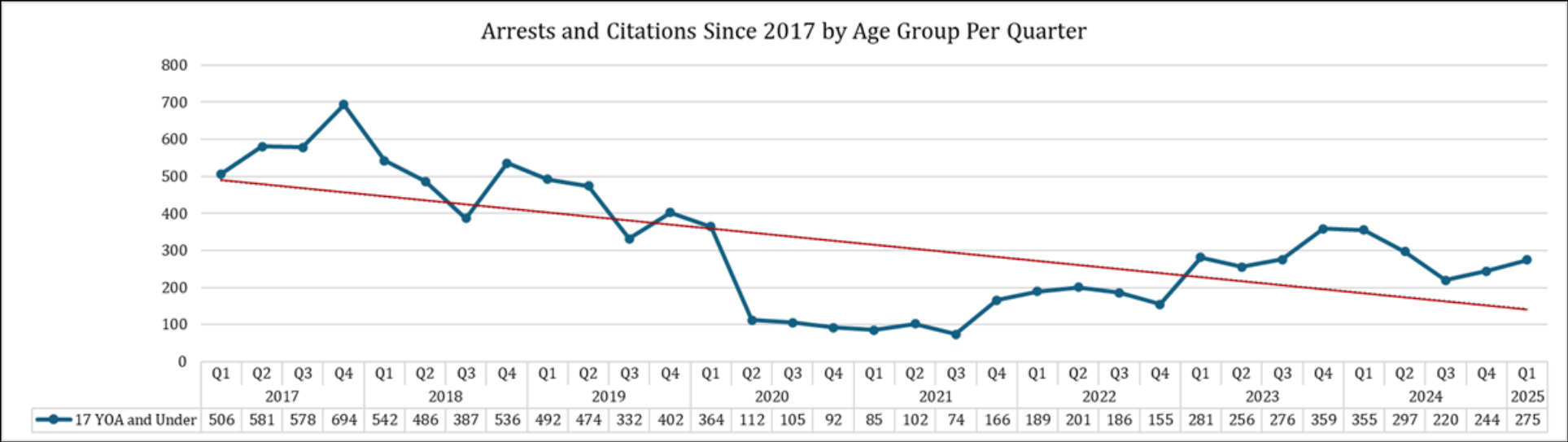
Juvenile Robbery Quintuple FY23Q1 – FY24Q3



MD DJS Statistics
provided 7/10/24
Juvenile Justice
Data Summit

MCPD Juvenile Arrests & Citations Decline 2017-2025

Underreporting due to JJ legislation and pandemic ?



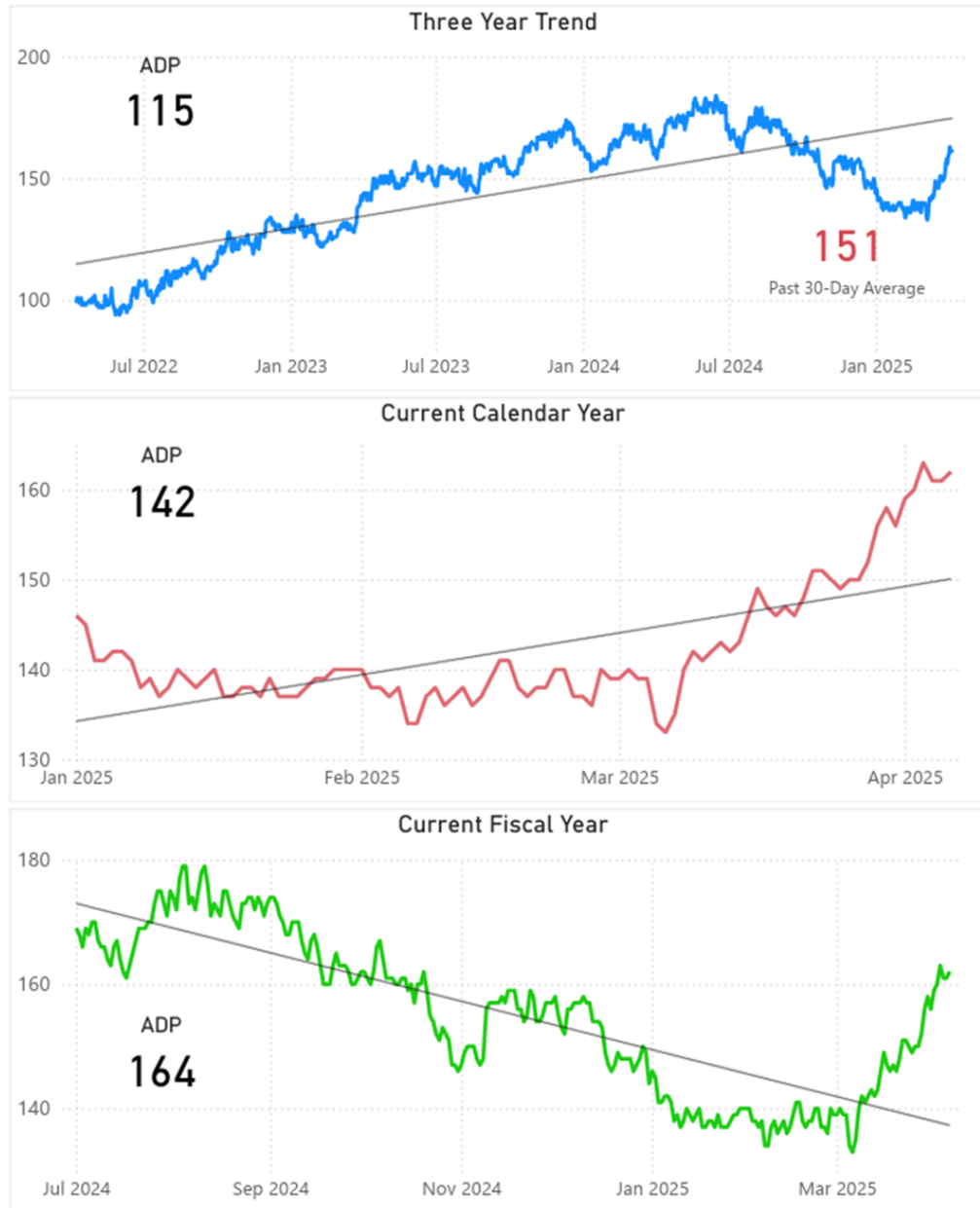
MCPD, Calendar Year Data, 4/29/25: Arrests and Citations for youth increased from September of 2024 (220) to March of 2025 (275). This is well below the recent peak of 359 recorded in January 2024. Also, 275 represents a 60% decrease from the 694 recorded in the fourth quarter of CY 2017. Maryland Juvenile Justice shielding legislation that raised the age below which juveniles could not be charged with crimes and other legislative changes reducing sanctions for misdemeanor offenses may explain this significant decline in juvenile arrests and citations. It may inaccurately infer that juvenile criminal activity decreased when in fact the converse occurred but police were restricted in administering arrests and citations.

MoCo Jail Youth Population 21 YOA an younger

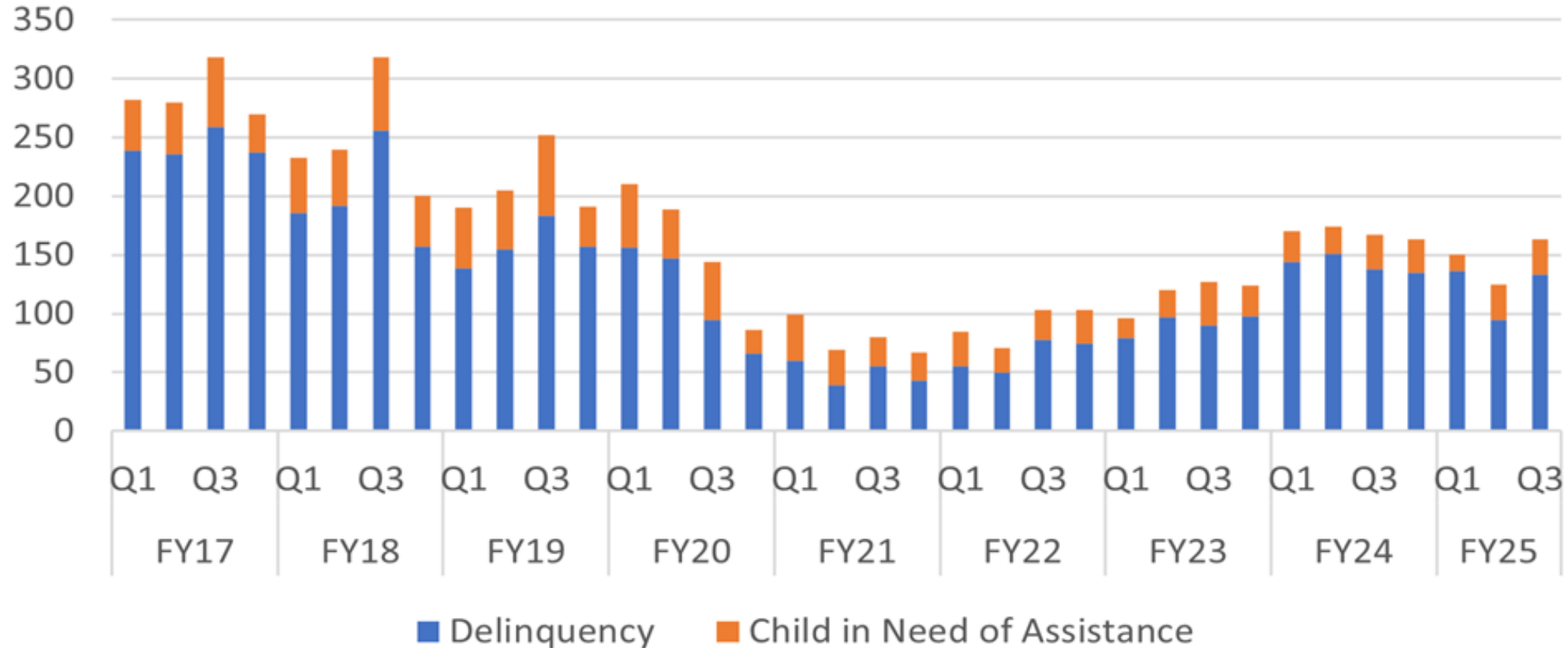
Increasing

1. Three-year trend
2. Current calendar year
3. Current fiscal year

MoCo DOCR 4/7/2025.



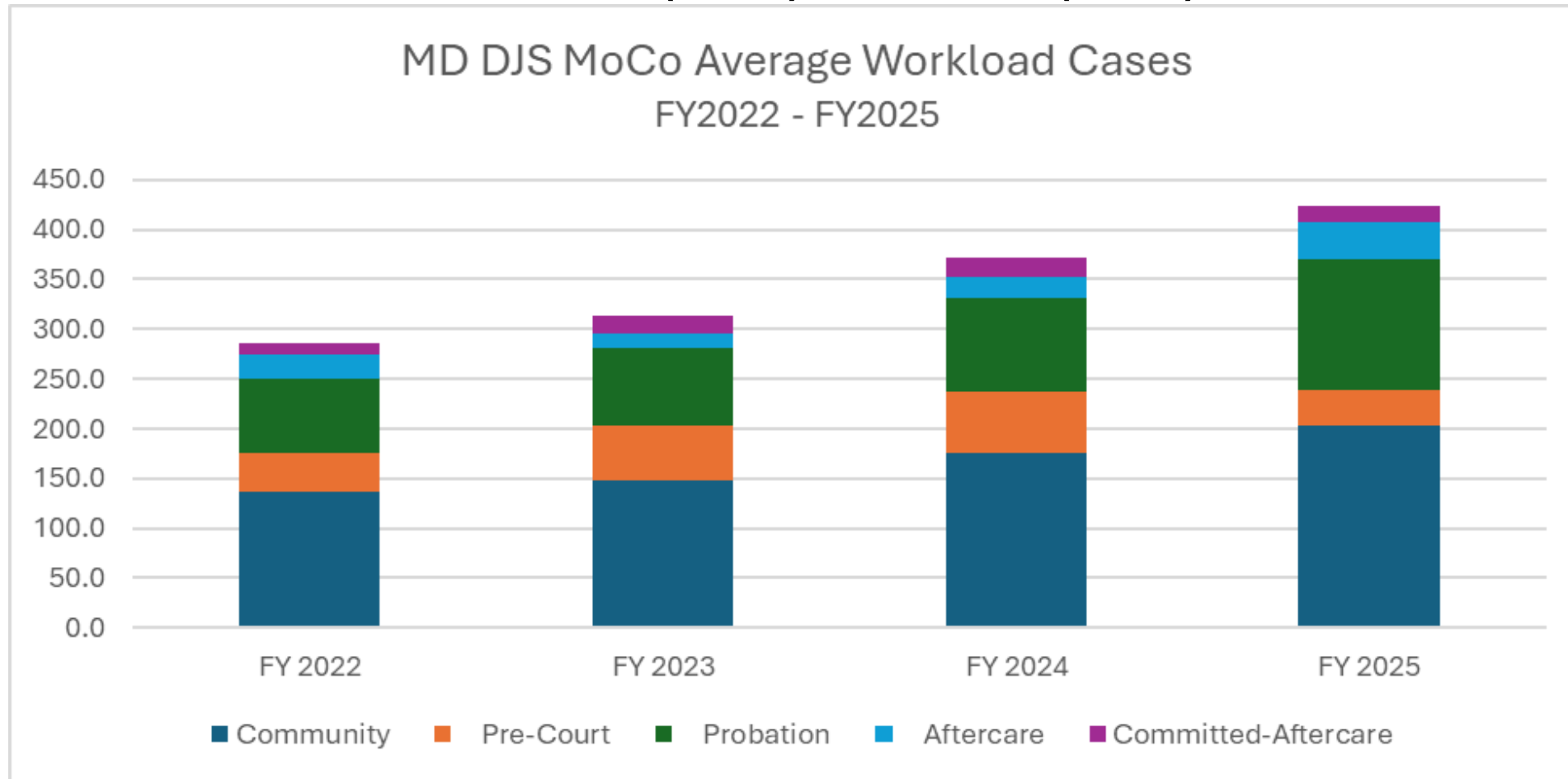
MoCo Juvenile Quarterly Court Filings FY2017 - FY2025Q3



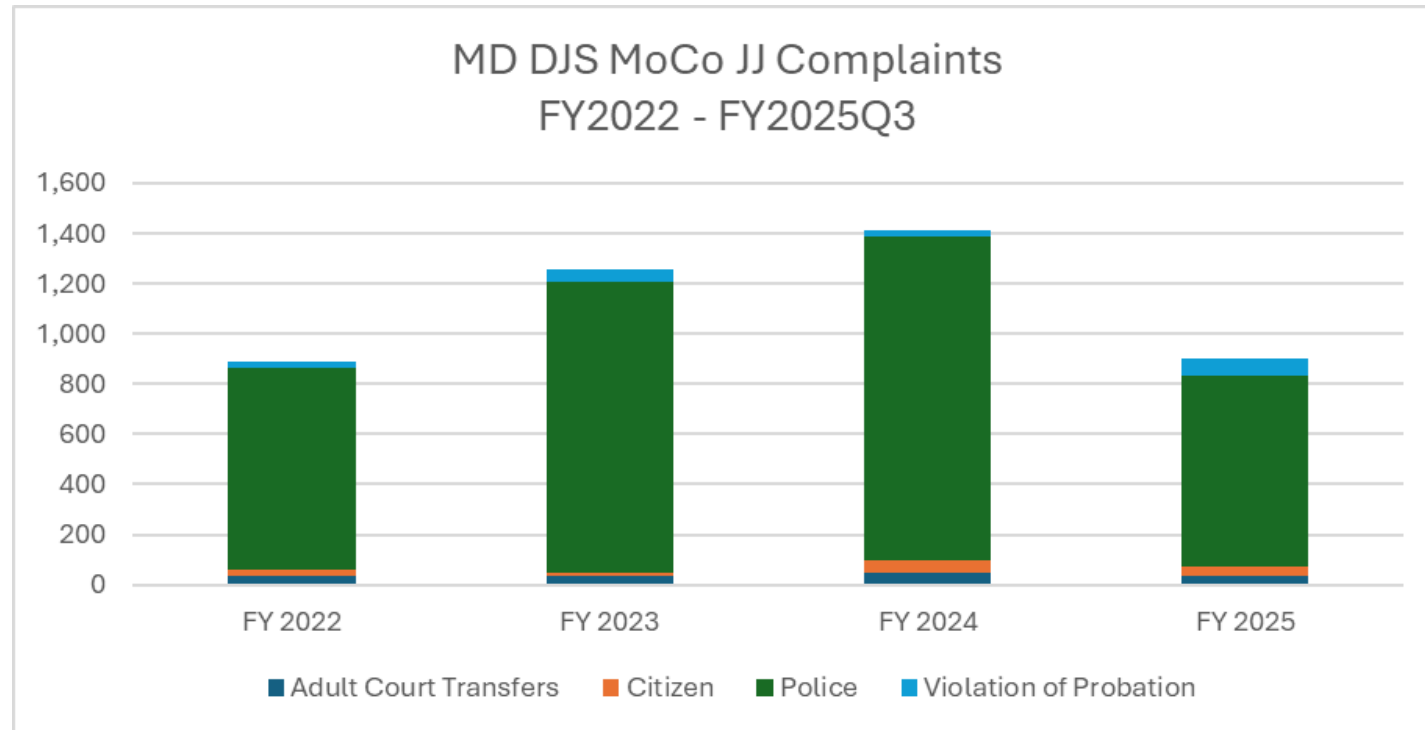
MD Court Statistics, Maryland Judiciary, Research and Analysis, 4/14/2025: Quarterly court filings for Delinquency and Child in Need of Assistance parallels the police arrest and citation data with an expected lag due to criminal justice processing times.

MD DJS average caseload increased 48%

FY 2022 (286) to FY25 (424)



MoCo Juvenile Justice Complaints Increase 60% FY 2022 to FY2024



MD DJS Data, 5/2/2025, FY25 data is incomplete and noncomparable.

MoCo Juvenile Violent, Felony, and Misdemeanor FY25 (Q1-Q3) Intake Complaints

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| | Person-to-Person | 239 | |
| | Property Offenses | 233 | |
| | Uncategorized Offenses | 33 | |
| | subtotal | | 544 |
| Totals | | | 867 |

Finding:

JJ Youth
are not
complying with
court-ordered
treatment plans

Families unable/unwilling to ensure youth comply with treatment plans

Fewer quality treatment providers since COVID and scarcity of treatment beds

Judges do not have up-to-day progress reports at hearings

MD DJS has obsolete case management system and uses US mail for notification

Finding:

MoCo health
and school
departments do
not provide
direct services
to youth in the
juvenile justice
system

MoCo Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the MoCo Public Schools (MCPD) do not track or provide direct services to youth who enter and remain in the juvenile justice system

DHHS and MD DJS do not coordinate treatment contracts despite using the same service providers

MCPS is informed of juvenile complaints only for mandatory “reportable” offenses and by policy and privacy laws is not aware of most youth who are under MD DJS supervision

MCPS resources for students experiencing behavioral challenges including high school wellness centers, school licensed social workers, and alternative schools are not coordinated with MD DJS

Finding:

**Youth
committing
serious crimes
are not being
held
accountable**

DJS assessment instruments and policies support releasing youth at the time of apprehension in all but the most extreme cases and can lead to further victimization

MoCo juvenile complaints are filed in MD DJS Baltimore intake office which is not knowledgeable about MoCo providers and stakeholders

MoCo detained youth are placed in facilities far outside of the county and are subject to bullying by youth from other jurisdictions

MD DJS's Noyes in Rockville should be reopened to serve MoCo detained youth and coordinate services with the state's primary behavioral health program for adolescents (Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents) which is located adjacent to Noyes.

Finding:

MoCo Agencies
and Commissions
do not track
juvenile justice
data or the
effectiveness and
functioning of the
juvenile justice
system

MoCo Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission (CJCC) and the MoCo Commission on Juvenile Justice -- which is staffed by DHHS -- does not track JJ data

MD DJS collects and analyzes JJ data but its official reports lack timelines which limits their usefulness

Underreporting of JJ crime statistics are due to state law shielding laws that prevent arrest of youth below a specified age and juveniles held and charged as adults

Data from MCPD, SAO, Courts, DJS, and DOCR should be compared, reviewed, and analyzed regularly by county agencies and commissions and MD DJS

Summary

MoCo agencies should play a larger role in JJ services

- MCPS can utilize its wellness centers, social workers, and Alt schools
- DHHS can coordinate services to youth and families with MD DJS
- Create multi-disciplinary/cross agency case review meetings

MD DJS can seek changes including:

- Reestablish a MoCo intake office for complaints
- Open up Noyes and keeping MoCo youth in the county
- Update technology systems and improving court communications

MCPD and SAO can develop a juvenile justice data collection and reporting system in partnership with DJS, Courts, and DOCR