

**Massachusetts Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative
Special Populations Subcommittee Charter**

Purpose

The purpose of the Special Populations Subcommittee is to identify populations that consume significant detention resources and/or would likely benefit from detention alternatives, and are in need of special consideration. The subcommittee will recommend and implement policy and practice changes aimed at these populations.

Committee Membership and Organization

Committee membership is voluntary, and open to any juvenile justice stakeholders. The Committee seeks individuals with experience or expertise in the assessment, development, and implementation of policy and practice of residential and community based juvenile supervision services. Specifically, involvement from DYS, Probation, DSS, DMH, and the juvenile court is essential.

Meetings

The Committee shall meet at least monthly, and more often as its members deem necessary to perform the Committee’s responsibilities.

Committee Responsibilities and Authority

The Committee shall have the following authority and responsibilities:

Phase One

- Based on available data and/or further data collection, identify populations in need of special strategies
- Review strategies that have been implemented for similar populations in other jurisdictions
- Develop recommendations for the statewide steering committee on policy and practice changes that will create appropriate alternatives and/or streamline case processing for selected populations
- Work closely with Case Processing and Detention Alternatives subcommittees to assess how proposed strategies will impact special populations

Phase Two

- For recommendations that the Statewide Steering Committee wishes to adopt, develop an implementation plan and oversee implementation.
- Monitor the impact of any policy and practice changes, report on results, and make any needed changes.

Deliverables

- Subcommittee Work plan
- Report on Target Populations
- Population-Specific Strategies
- Population-Specific Implementation and Evaluation Plan(s)

Authorizing Signatures

As the chair of the Detention Reform Statewide Steering Committee (SSC), I authorize the members of the Special Populations Subcommittee to fulfill the role(s) described above for as long as this charter remains in effect.

SSC Chair

Date

As the chair of the Special Populations Subcommittee, I accept responsibility for the tasks above, and will regularly report progress to the SSC.

Special Populations Subcommittee Chair

Date