

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

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Detention Alternatives Subcommittee is to assess the gaps between needed and available alternatives to detention in Worcester and Suffolk Counties, recommend strategies to fill the gaps, and oversee implementation of new or modified detention alternatives.

**Committee Membership and Organization**

Committee membership is voluntary, and open to any juvenile justice stakeholders. The Committee seeks individuals with experience or expertise 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 community-based agencies 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*

- Assess the current need and availability of detention alternatives, based on:
  - Community mapping of resources completed by this subcommittee
  - Data from the Detention Utilization Study
  - Data from the testing of the Risk Assessment Instrument
- Review Detention Alternatives in place in other jurisdictions.
- Develop recommendations for the statewide steering committee on policy and practice changes that will create appropriate alternatives to detention and minimize “net widening” that increases the overall number of youth on supervision, or contributes to disproportionate supervision of certain groups.

*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.
- Work with Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, Data Subcommittee, local steering committees, and other subcommittees as needed.

**Deliverables**

- Subcommittee Workplan
- Community Mapping Report
- Recommendations on Detention Alternatives
- Detention Alternatives Implementation and Evaluation Plan

**Authorizing Signatures**

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

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SSC Chair

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Date

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

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Detention Alternatives Subcommittee Chair

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Date