

# Final Evaluation of the Effect of Juvenile Speedy Trial Emergency Legislation

**Prepared for the Council of the District of Columbia**

**by**

**The Council for Court Excellence**

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## **Section 1: Acknowledgments**

The authors thank the major agencies of the District of Columbia juvenile justice system – the DC Superior Court Family Court, the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, the DC Office of the Attorney General and the DC Public Defender Service – for their cooperation with and contributions to this evaluation of the District of Columbia Juvenile Speedy Trial Equity Emergency Act of 2007, Act number A17-0235. The DC Family Court provided the large majority of the data used in the evaluation, investing considerable time to extract the data from their Courtview system and to ensure the data's validity.

The list of those we interviewed is included in Section 7 of the report, beginning on page 32. The interviewees' concerns for the well-being of the District of Columbia's children and the safety of the community were readily apparent, and the District of Columbia's juvenile justice system is the better for their dedication and energy.

Several Council for Court Excellence temporary research assistants contributed their efforts to this report. The authors specially acknowledge the data analysis and other research assistance provided by Sarah Biglow. We also thank Ashley Mitchell, Christina Murphy, Tyler Gordon and Emma Friedman.

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## Section 2: Scope of Work

This evaluation is provided by the Council for Court Excellence (“CCE”) to the Council of the District of Columbia (“Council”) as the final deliverable for contract number ABO-2008-C-0001, *Study to Evaluate the Effect of Juvenile Speedy Trial Emergency Legislation*. The Juvenile Speedy Trial Equity Emergency Act of 2007 (“the Act”), A17-0235, temporarily amends the law to grant speedy trial rights to children ordered into shelter care. Prior to the Act, District law required a fact-finding hearing within set time frames only for those juveniles ordered into secure detention.

The Council contracted with CCE, a non-profit organization with expertise in juvenile justice, to study, evaluate, and report performance data on the first six months of the Act’s implementation and to make recommendations to the Council on how to proceed with permanent legislation on this issue. The evaluation period is for juvenile detention orders issued at initial hearings in the District of Columbia Superior Court Family Court from January 15, 2008, through July 15, 2008. CCE’s analysis divides the six-month period into two three-month cohorts, in order to assess whether case processing performance improved over time.

The evaluation that follows is organized to address the specific queries articulated in CCE’s contract with the DC Council. The evaluation begins with the evaluation’s Recommendations and Findings, Section 3. Section 4, Introduction and Population Statistics, describes the types of detention orders filed during the six-month study period and the broad demographics of the juvenile population subject to those detention orders. Section 5, Research Findings, addresses six specific queries that the Council asked CCE to address, shown below in items a – f below. Section 6 discusses the project methodology. Section 7 lists the persons CCE interviewed during the evaluation period. The six specific queries addressed are:

- a. The length of time that children spend in both secure detention and shelter care awaiting a plea or fact finding hearing;
- b. The length of time that children spend in both secure detention and shelter care awaiting disposition after a fact finding hearing;
- c. The length of time children ordered to shelter care spend in secure detention while on the shelter home waiting list;
- d. The effect, if any, the provisions of D.C. Official Code section 16-2310(e), as amended, have on the rate at which securely detained children and children ordered into shelter care have their fact finding hearings;
- e. Causes for delays in case processing for securely detained children and children ordered into shelter care, including the frequency of and reasons for continuances; and

- f. The impact of the time frames for conducting fact finding hearings set for in D.C. Official Code section 16-2310(e), as amended, have on public safety.<sup>1</sup>

More broadly, the contract requires CCE to perform the following tasks:

- a. Identify any barriers to compliance with the time frames for conducting fact finding hearings set forth in D.C. Official Code section 16-2310(e);
- b. Recommend whether the time frames for conducting fact finding hearings set forth in D.C. Official Code section 16-2310(e) should be adjusted, determining whether the 45-day speedy trial period for shelter care juveniles is viable, and even if that time frame can be adjusted to match the 30-day period for securely detained juveniles; and
- c. The contractor shall make any other recommendations its authors deem appropriate.<sup>2</sup>

The broad parameters of the CCE evaluation, as described in the Council contract, are to:

1. Prepare and provide to the Council a 6-month study evaluating the effect upon the administration of justice in the Family Court of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia of the time frames set forth in District of Columbia Official Code section 16-2310(e) for conducting fact finding hearings for children ordered into secure detention or ordered into shelter care. The study shall be done in consultation with the Council, the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, and the Public Defender Service of the District of Columbia.
2. Collect data from the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, including Court Social Services, the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, and the District of Columbia Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services. Each of these entities will provide raw data to the contractor related to the implementation and execution of the provisions within the legislation. The contractor shall consult these entities during the study period if the data being provided can be modified to increase the utility of that data for purposes of this study.
3. The contractor shall interact with stakeholders from the juvenile justice system regularly throughout the study period in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the legislative changes. The stakeholders should include, but not be limited to: the Council, the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, and the Public Defender Service of the District of Columbia.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Council of the District of Columbia. Solicitation number Council-08-C-0001. Statement of Work, 2.4(a)-(f). January 18, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Council of the District of Columbia. Solicitation number Council-08-C-0001. Statement of Work, 2.5(a)-(c). January 18, 2008.

<sup>3</sup> Council of the District of Columbia. Solicitation number Council-08-C-0001. Statement of Work, 2.1-2.3. January 18, 2008.

The project deliverables, as described in the Council contract, included:

1. A summary of data collected from the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, including Court Social Services, the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, and the District of Columbia Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, relevant to the focus and intent of this legislation.
2. Interviewing stakeholders to incorporate practitioners' perspectives in the evaluation of the provisions of this legislation on the administration of justice.
3. A written draft of the six-month study shall be provided no later than 30 days following completion of the six-month study period.<sup>4</sup>
4. Following consultation with the Council, the final report shall be submitted to the Council no later than 60 days following completion of the six-month study period.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> CCE submitted its Draft Evaluation to the DC Council on August 15, 2008.

<sup>5</sup> Council of the District of Columbia. Solicitation number Council-08-C-0001. Project Deliverables, 3.1(a)-(d). January 18, 2008.

### **Section 3: Recommendations and Findings**

The Juvenile Speedy Trial Equity Emergency Act of 2007 (“the Act”), A17-0235, temporarily amends the D.C. Code to grant speedy trial rights to juveniles ordered into shelter care. Prior to the Act, District law required a fact-finding hearing within set time frames only for those juveniles ordered into secure detention. The Council of the District of Columbia contracted with the Council for Court Excellence, a non-profit organization with expertise in juvenile justice, to study, evaluate, and report performance data on the first six months of the Act’s implementation and to make recommendations to the Council on how to proceed with permanent legislation on this issue. The evaluation period is for juvenile detention orders issued at initial hearings in the District of Columbia Superior Court Family Court from January 15, 2008, through July 15, 2008.

The principal finding of this evaluation is that the District of Columbia has achieved a high rate of compliance with the new speedy trial deadline for juveniles in shelter care as well as with the previous speedy trial deadline for juveniles in secure detention. It appears to the Council for Court Excellence that this compliance record is a result of several factors:

1. strong leadership and commitment to the goal within each stakeholder agency;
2. the history of collaboration among all stakeholder agencies through their participation together since 2005 in the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative;
3. an increase in public resources devoted to achieving compliance with the Act’s mandate of prompt juvenile case resolution; and
4. a keen awareness among all stakeholder agencies that the six-month performance record was being evaluated for the purpose of this report to the DC Council.

The evaluation found no significant deleterious effects of the Juvenile Speedy Trial legislation on the administration of justice or public safety that should forestall its permanent enactment.

The recommendations and other findings of the evaluation are summarized below.

#### **Recommendation 1: The DC Council should expedite the permanent enactment of the Juvenile Speedy Trial Equity Emergency Act of 2007, with no further modification.**

**Finding 1.a. The District of Columbia juvenile justice system is moving shelter care cases more quickly to adjudication in 2008 than in 2007.** In 2007, only 53% of shelter care cases were adjudicated within 45 days. From January 15 to July 15, 2008, 83% of shelter care cases were adjudicated within the Act’s new 45-day deadline. Discussion of this finding can be found at page 21 of the full evaluation.

**Finding 1.b. Juveniles ordered to shelter care are spending substantially less time in 2008 than in 2007 in secure detention waiting for an available placement in shelter care.** Shelter care wait list times for the 2008 study period averaged two days with a median of one day. By comparison, from January to June 2007, the monthly average length of stay for males – who comprise the largest percentage of these cases – varied from a low of 10 days to a high of 18 days spent in secure detention while awaiting the court-ordered placement in shelter care. Discussion of this finding can be found at page 19 of the full evaluation.

**Finding 1.c. There is no support for reducing any of the 30-day or 45-day statutory Juvenile Speedy Trial time frames to shorter deadlines.** All stakeholder agencies concurred that adjudicating juvenile cases faster than is now mandated would compromise the quality of justice and would consume additional resources that would be better devoted to rehabilitation of adjudicated juveniles.

**Recommendation 2: The DC Council should continue funding the additional attorney positions in the Office of the DC Attorney General devoted to prosecuting juvenile matters as long as the juvenile caseload remains at current levels. Likewise, the DC Family Court should continue to dedicate the additional calendars now devoted to adjudicating juvenile matters.**

**Finding 2.a. There is broad support for the statutory time frames articulated in the Juvenile Speedy Trial legislation and for the positive effects of these time frames on juveniles. However, compliance with the time frames requires more resources than had been devoted to juvenile case processing prior to passage of the Act.**

**Finding 2.b. The stakeholder agencies support the public policy of speedy resolution of juvenile cases. Nonetheless, they caution that, to continue their progress toward meeting the statutory time frames, the resource infusions which accompanied the Juvenile Speedy Trial Act must be maintained as long as the juvenile caseload remains at current levels.**

**Recommendation 3. Because of its oversight responsibility and the public's right to know how government is performing, the DC Council should mandate both continued analysis and routine public reporting of the juvenile justice case processing information covered by this evaluation.**

**Finding 3.a. Systemic case processing information is essential for the stakeholder agencies to understand whether they are meeting the statutory and other case processing timeframes, what resources are required to comply, what problems exist, and how to resolve the problems.** The DC Council needs such information regularly to perform its appropriation and oversight roles. The DC community needs such information to understand how well its juvenile justice system is performing and to build public support for adequate resources.

**Finding 3.b. The data analysis performed by the Council for Court Excellence for this limited case-processing evaluation is not being done currently by the stakeholder agencies.** The Office of the DC Attorney General and the DC Public Defender Service appear to have very limited data collection or data analysis capacity or resources at present. The DC Family Court and the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services appear to have comprehensive electronic databases that should facilitate the regular provision of such data and further study of the DC juvenile justice system. Those databases collect the data but are not currently producing most of the analyses mandated by this evaluation contract. Without continuing to analyze the compliance data, performance on these rudimentary measures may slip rather than continue to improve as it did during the study period.



**Recommendation 4. The DC Council should explore with the DC Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and the Office of the Chief Technology Officer the potential to use the citywide JUSTIS data system as a method to extract and report juvenile justice system data contributed by various agencies, which may also provide valuable trial and plea information not included in this evaluation.**

**Finding 4. There is consensus among stakeholders that there exists key system data to collect and report for both detained and released juveniles.** Such data are the median and average times from initial hearing to adjudication hearing, from adjudication hearing to disposition hearing, and from initial hearing to disposition hearing; the method of case disposition and the proportions committed to DYRS or placed on probation; the reasons for case delay, including continuances; the median and average times children spend on the shelter care waiting list; and others.

**Recommendation 5. For future study, it should become common practice to reflect case processing time in terms of “excludable time.”**

**Finding 5. Excludable time is a case processing measure that subtracts the time on continuance and abscondance from the total length of the case.** “Straight time” includes continuance and abscondance time. It is common for case processing studies to exclude time that is not attributable to systemic performance.

**Recommendation 6. The DC Council should mandate additional study of the DC juvenile justice system as it continues to monitor and promote community understanding of the District of Columbia’s juvenile justice system.** These are described below, in approximate priority order.

**6.a. Study juvenile recidivism.** Currently, there is no evidence that juvenile recidivism data is systematically analyzed and reported by the juvenile justice system stakeholder agencies, though recidivism data is considered on a case-by-case basis in making individual placement and disposition decisions. Without systemic recidivism data, it is impossible to completely understand and evaluate the effects of the rehabilitative policies and programs of the juvenile justice system or to make appropriate resource allocations. The quality and comprehensiveness of the DC Family Court, DC Superior Court Criminal Division, and Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services databases will make such a study feasible. Typical recidivism studies track a cohort of offenders up to three years from the time period of their offense. DYRS reports that it is currently conducting a recidivism study covering new commitments to DYRS for calendar years 2006, 2007 and the first quarter of 2008. It is equally important to study recidivism of juveniles placed on probation.

**6.b. Study the juvenile non-detained population in order to understand the full DC juvenile justice system.** During the six-month study period, almost 75% of all juveniles charged in the Family Court were released until adjudication rather than detained and thus were not included in this study. How quickly do these cases reach adjudication and disposition? What are the pressing issues for this population? How many abscond or fail to appear in court? How many re-offend while waiting for trial or disposition? The

overall demographics of the detained population are striking, with 95% African-Americans and 88% males. What are the demographics of the non-detained population?

**6.c. Study denied continuances.** There was some concern expressed by stakeholder agencies that statutorily permissible continuances were not being granted by the Court, though this concern fell outside of the evaluation's mandate to examine causes of case delay. Continuances with a legitimate statutory basis that are denied may thwart the intent of the legislation.

**6.d. Study patterns of juvenile abscondance and failure to appear.** Juvenile abscondance and failure to appear data are recorded in the Family Court's database and were included with the dataset provided for the evaluation. Abscondance and failure to appear patterns were outside the evaluation's scope, though stakeholders expressed interest in this issue. Further analysis is warranted to determine the frequency and circumstances of abscondance and failure to appear in order for stakeholder agencies to take appropriate corrective action.

## Section 4: Introduction and Population Statistics

The evaluation analyzes DC juvenile justice system case processing data from initial hearing through disposition of those juveniles who are either securely detained or placed in shelter care at the time of the initial hearing. The evaluation does not reflect the frequent and complicated movement of the juvenile population's detention status prior to or after adjudication.

The continuum of major events in a typical DC juvenile case is initial hearing to adjudication hearing (also called fact finding hearing) to disposition hearing. The initial hearing is the first time the case is heard by the DC Family Court. Compared to the adult criminal system, the initial hearing is the equivalent of arraignment, the adjudication or fact finding hearing is the equivalent of a trial or entry of a plea, and the disposition hearing is the equivalent of a sentencing hearing.

In the context of the evaluation, an "adjudicated case" or "adjudication" is the date when court data show that a juvenile trial has been completed or a plea has been accepted. In the Court data a case disposition may occur on the same day as the adjudication hearing or at a later date during a disposition hearing.

The evaluation uses terminology derived from the court data and, because of this, the evaluation uses the term "not guilty" instead of the juvenile law term "not involved." The evaluation uses the term "disposition" to refer to the end result of a case. The term "consent decree," a rarely used form of case disposition, is a form of juvenile diversion in which the Office of the Attorney General will dismiss the case if the juvenile complies with the terms of the consent decree. Finally, for purposes of the evaluation, the general term "dismissal" includes dismissal by the Court, the Government and for want of prosecution.

From January 15 to July 15, 2008, the total number of juvenile cases filed in the DC Family Court was 1,591 cases. Of these, 430 (27%) were detained cases, with juveniles being placed into either secure detention or shelter care at the time of initial hearing; the remaining 1,161 (73%) were released until trial, under the supervision of Family Court Social Services. This study does not include the 73% of juveniles who were not detained before adjudication.

For context, it is interesting to note that there were 1,768 juvenile arrests from January 1 to June 28, 2008, according to statistics available on the DC Metropolitan Police Department website; the number of juvenile arrests for the same time period in 2007 was almost identical. During these two time periods, juvenile arrests represented only 7.5% and 7.2%, respectively, of all DC criminal arrests.

The detained juvenile population is overwhelmingly African-American (95%) and male (88%). Girls were involved in 53 (12%) detained cases during the six-month study. The average age of the study period's juvenile respondents at the time of initial hearing was 16 years.

The study of the 430 securely detained and shelter care cases is comprised of two three-month cohorts. Cohort 1 represents juvenile cases filed between January 15 and April 15, 2008; Cohort 2 represents juvenile cases filed between April 16 and July 15, 2008. Detained case volumes in the two cohort periods are almost equal, with 211 cases in Cohort 1 and 219 cases in Cohort 2. Shelter care cases comprise about one-third of each cohort; secure detention cases, two-thirds. The two cohorts and the total case volume are shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Case volume of the juvenile population detained at initial hearing from January 15 – July 15, 2008.**

<b>Detention type</b>	<b>Cohort 1 Number (%)</b>	<b>Cohort 2 Number (%)</b>	<b>Total Number (%)</b>
<b>Secure detention</b>	139 (66%)	146 (67%)	285 (66%)
<b>Shelter care</b>	72 (34%)	73 (33%)	145 (34%)
<b>Total</b>	211 (100%)	219 (100%)	430 (100%)

The most frequent charges in all detained cases from January 15 to July 15 are presented in Table 2 below. Girls, who were involved in just 12% of detained cases, were most frequently charged with assault offenses: 14 were charged with some form of felony assault and 11 were charged with simple assault. Combined, these charges represent almost half of all charges against girls.

**Table 2: Most frequent charges for all juvenile detention orders from January 15 to July 15, 2008.**

<b>Type of offense</b>	<b>Number (%) of cases</b>
All robbery, including carjacking offenses	73 (17%)
UUV	48 (11%)
All theft	47 (11%)
Distribution / intent to distribute	39 (9%)
Assault with dangerous weapon	37 (9%)
Simple assault	34 (8%)
<b>Total</b>	278 (65% of 430 cases)

Table 3 below shows the adjudication status for the overall population in the six-month study. Eighty-six percent of detention order cases reached adjudication or were dismissed within the study period.

**Table 3: Adjudication status of the detained juvenile population from January 15 – July 15, 2008.**

<b>Adjudication status</b>	<b>Secure detention Number (%)</b>	<b>Shelter care Number (%)</b>	<b>Total Number (%)</b>
<b>Adjudicated</b>	228 (80%)	109 (75%)	337 (79%)
<b>Dismissed, no adjudication hearing</b>	20 (7%)	12 (8%)	32 (7%)
<b>Not yet adjudicated</b>	37 (13%)	24 (17%)	61 (14%)
<b>Total</b>	285 (100%)	145 (100%)	430 (100%)

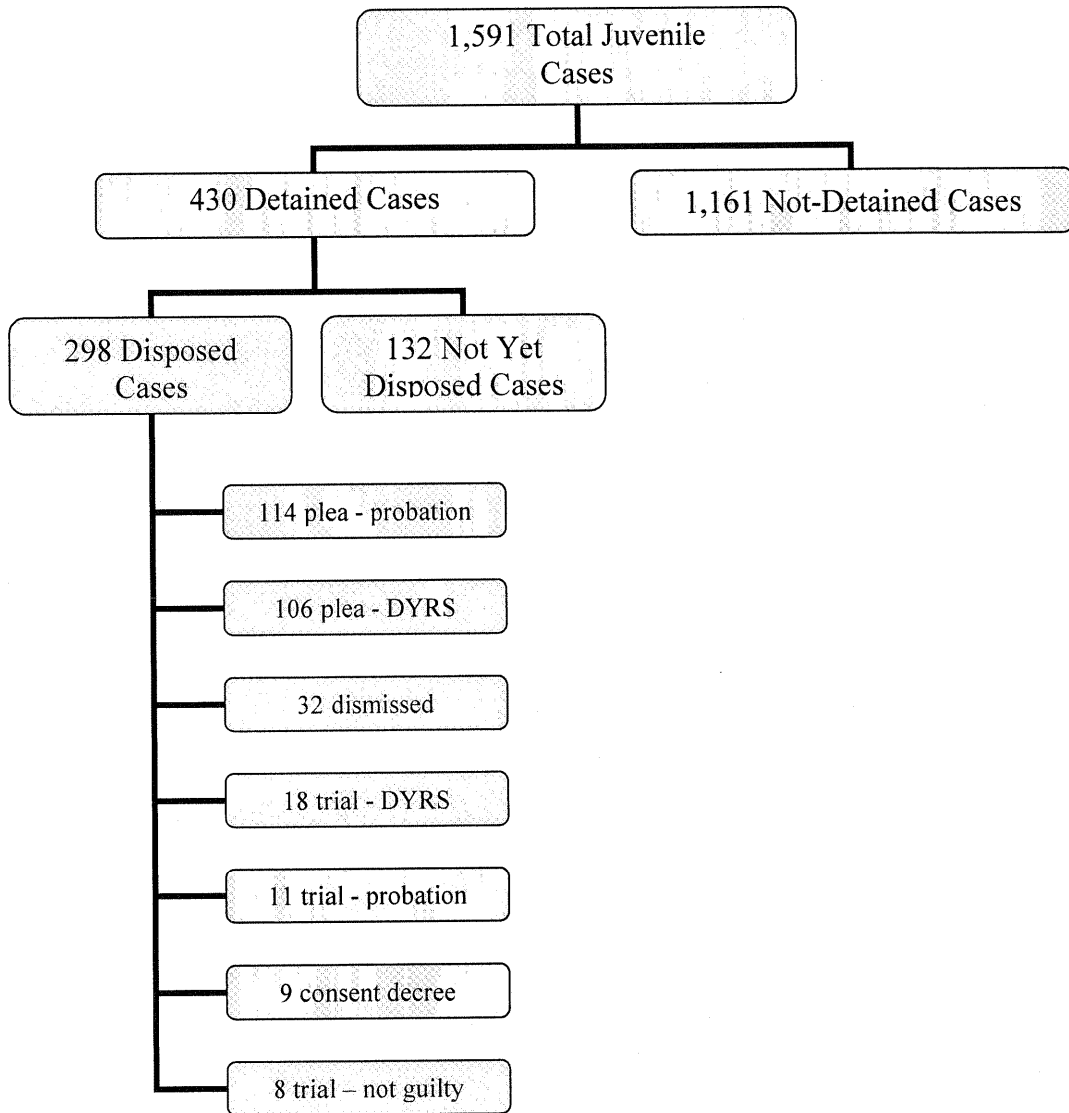
Table 4 shows the types of resolution of the 369 total cases from Table 3 that have been adjudicated or dismissed within the study period. Further discussion of case disposition accompanies Table 8 on page 17.

**Table 4: Types of case resolution for adjudicated and dismissed juvenile detention cases filed from January 15 – July 15, 2008.**

<b>Type of case resolution</b>	<b>Secure detention Number (%)</b>	<b>Shelter care Number (%)</b>	<b>Total Number (%)</b>
<b>Plea</b>	157 (63%)	63 (52%)	220 (60%)
<b>Trial</b>	25 (10%)	12 (10%)	37 (10%)
<b>Dismissed, no adjudication</b>	20 (8%)	12 (10%)	32 (9%)
<b>Consent decree</b>	3 (1%)	6 (5%)	9 (2%)
<b>Adjudicated, but not yet disposed</b>	43 (18%)	28 (23%)	71 (19%)
<b>Total</b>	248 (100%)	121 (100%)	369 (100%)

As shown in Tables 3 and 4, of the 430 detention cases filed during the study period, 61 did not reach adjudication during the study period and an additional 71 cases reached adjudication but did not reach disposition, for a total of 132 detention cases not yet disposed. A flow chart follows, showing the dispositions for each type of case resolution for the 298 detention cases that reached disposition:

**Chart 1: Types of disposition for juvenile detention cases filed from January 15 – July 15, 2008.**



## Section 5: Research Findings

CCE's analysis of 2008 data initially used "excludable time" to measure case processing time. This case processing measure does not count the duration of a continuance or the duration of an abscondance as part of the overall length of a case. However, the DC Family Court 2007 data uses "straight time," a measure that *does include* the duration a case on continuance or when a juvenile absconds. Accordingly, this final report opts to use straight time in order to generate a closer comparison of 2008 and 2007 data. In Recommendation 5, Section 3, CCE urges that future studies use the excludable time measure, which is the measure commonly used in case processing studies.

The evaluation projects adjudication compliance rates for certain Cohort 2 cases: Any case filed late in the evaluation period that can still be in compliance with an adjudication deadline is credited as meeting the deadline.

### **a. Length of time awaiting a plea or fact finding hearing for children in both secure detention and shelter care**

The Juvenile Speedy Trial Equity Emergency Act of 2007 establishes time frames from initial hearing to adjudication hearing for juveniles in secure detention and in shelter care. There are three types of cases articulated in the Act that determine the deadlines for adjudication. These case types and the time frames to adjudication are: (1) 45 days for the most serious charges, which are murder, assault with intent to kill, first degree sexual abuse, burglary in the first degree, or robbery while armed, and the child has been ordered into secure detention before a fact finding hearing;<sup>6</sup> (2) 30 days for charges other than the most serious charges listed in (1) and when the child has been ordered into secure detention before a fact finding hearing;<sup>7</sup> and (3) 45 days whenever a child has been ordered into shelter care before a fact finding hearing.<sup>8</sup> The evaluation disaggregates the data from the six-month study by these three types of cases and further disaggregates the data into two three-month cohorts for purposes of studying whether there were case processing improvements during the study period.

Table 5 addresses secure detention cases with a 45-day statutory adjudication deadline. Table 6 addresses secure detention cases with a 30-day statutory adjudication deadline. Table 7 addresses all shelter care cases, which have a 45-day statutory adjudication deadline.

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<sup>6</sup> District of Columbia Official Code. Section 16-2310, paragraph B. 2001 Edition. 2008 Winter Supp. West Publishing Group.

<sup>7</sup> District of Columbia Official Code. Section 16-2310, paragraph A. 2001 Edition. 2008 Winter Supp. West Publishing Group.

<sup>8</sup> District of Columbia Official Code. Section 16-2310, paragraph C. 2001 Edition. 2008 Winter Supp. West Publishing Group.

**Table 5: Youth Ordered to Secure Detention Between Initial Hearing and Adjudication  
Pre-existing Statutory Deadline - 45 Days (most serious charges)**

<b>Cohort</b>	<b>Total Number of Cases</b>	<b>Average Days to Dismissal or Adjudication Hearing</b>	<b>Median Days to Dismissal or Adjudication Hearing</b>	<b>Cases within 45-Day Time Frame</b>	<b>Cases Exceeding 45-Day Time Frame</b>
1	11	49	44	7 (64%)	4 (36%)
2	14	29	24	12 (86%)	2 (14%)

**Table 6: Youth Ordered to Secure Detention Between Initial Hearing and Adjudication  
Pre-existing Statutory Deadline - 30 Days**

<b>Cohort</b>	<b>Total Number of Cases</b>	<b>Average Days to Dismissal or Adjudication Hearing</b>	<b>Median Days to Dismissal or Adjudication Hearing</b>	<b>Cases within 30-Day Time Frame</b>	<b>Cases Exceeding 30-Day Time Frame</b>
1	128	29	27	87 (68%)	41 (32%)
2	132	25	26	112 (85%)	20 (15%)

**Table 7: Youth Ordered to Shelter Care Between Initial Hearing and Adjudication  
New Statutory Deadline - 45 Days**

<b>Cohort</b>	<b>Total Number of Cases</b>	<b>Average Days to Dismissal or Adjudication Hearing</b>	<b>Median Days to Dismissal or Adjudication Hearing</b>	<b>Cases within 45-Day Time Frame</b>	<b>Cases Exceeding 45-Day Time Frame</b>
1	72	45	39	49 (68%)	23 (32%)
2	73	26	22	72 (99%)	1 (1%)



## Section 5: Research Findings

### **b. Length of time awaiting a disposition after a fact finding hearing for children in both secure detention and shelter care**

#### Time

Time to disposition was not legislated in the Juvenile Speedy Trial statute but was included in this evaluation contract's mandate. DC Superior Court Juvenile Rule 32 states that the disposition hearing in cases of securely and non-securely detained juveniles may be held immediately following adjudication, but requires that disposition be held not more than 15 days after adjudication (though numerous exceptions are permitted).

Analyzing the data using median time, a measure that reduces distortions by cases that are either very short or very long in duration, secure detention and shelter care cases largely meet the 15-day disposition deadlines articulated in Superior Court Juvenile Rule 32. For secure detention cases, Cohort 1 and Cohort 2 cases that had an adjudication hearing reached disposition within an equal median time of 14 days. For shelter care cases, there was an improvement in case processing times from adjudication to disposition: Cohort 1 cases reached disposition in a median of 17 days; Cohort 2, in a median of 13 days

#### Case Disposition Outcomes

While the evaluation contract did not require analysis of case disposition outcomes for juveniles who were detained at initial hearings, the data showed interesting findings. After a plea or trial verdict, dispositions were almost equally divided between commitment to the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services and probation under the supervision of Family Court Social Services: 124 juveniles were committed and 125 were placed on probation.

For juveniles placed in secure detention at initial hearing whose cases reached disposition during the study period – 113 in Cohort 1 and 72 in Cohort 2 – the percentage committed to DYRS, after either plea or trial, is roughly consistent between Cohort 1 and 2, at about 60% of all dispositions. Consent decrees represent 3% of all dispositions; factors such as criminal history and charge severity affect consent decree eligibility.

Most cases are adjudicated by plea rather than trial. Table 8 below shows that 51% of the 185 juveniles placed in secure detention at initial hearing who were adjudicated by plea were committed to DYRS, and 34% of secure detention juveniles who were adjudicated by plea were placed on probation. 14% of the 81 juveniles placed in shelter care at initial hearing who were adjudicated by plea were committed to DYRS, while 64% of shelter care juveniles who were adjudicated by plea were placed on probation.

**Table 8: Method of case disposition for secure detention and shelter care cases that reached adjudication, by Cohort.**

Method of case disposition	Secure Detention		Shelter Care	
	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 1	Cohort 2
<b>Plea – committed to DYRS</b>	58 (51%)	37 (52%)	8 (15%)	3 (10%)
<b>Plea – probation</b>	38 (33%)	24 (33%)	31 (59%)	21 (72%)
<b>Trial – committed to DYRS</b>	10 (9%)	5 (7%)	2 (4%)	1 (4%)
<b>Trial – probation</b>	3 (3%)	1 (1%)	5 (10%)	2 (7%)
<b>Trial – not guilty</b>	3 (3%)	3 (4%)	2 (4%)	0 (-)
<b>Consent decree</b>	1 (1%)	2 (3%)	4 (8%)	2 (7%)
<b>Total</b>	113 (100%)	72 (100%)	52 (100%)	29 (100%)

## Section 5: Research Findings

### c. Length of time children ordered to shelter care spend in secure detention while on the shelter home wait list

During the study period, juveniles spent an average of two days with a median of one day in secure detention following an order to shelter care, a significant improvement from 2007. From January to June 2007, the monthly average length of stay for males – who comprise the largest percentage of these cases – varied from a low of 10 days to a high of 18 days.<sup>9</sup>

Approximately 80% of juveniles waited two days or less in secure detention following a shelter care order, as shown in Table 9 below. Interestingly, the percentage of juveniles waiting one day or less on the shelter care waiting list decreased from 70% to 58% between the two cohort periods. However, while 8% of cases in Cohort 1 spent 10-16 days on the shelter care waiting list, there were no cases of this duration in Cohort 2.

**Table 9: Length of time children ordered to shelter care spend in secure detention while on the shelter home wait list, by Cohort.**

Length of Stay	Cohort 1 Number (%)	Cohort 2 Number (%)
<b>One day or less</b>	51 (70%)	42 (58%)
<b>Two days</b>	8 (11%)	16 (22%)
<b>Three days</b>	4 (6%)	4 (5%)
<b>Four days</b>	1 (1%)	3 (4%)
<b>Five to nine days</b>	3 (4%)	8 (11%)
<b>Ten to sixteen days</b>	6 (8%)	0
<b>Total</b>	73 (100%)*	73 (100%)

\* There were 72 juveniles on the shelter care wait list; in Cohort 1, however, one juvenile had two separate stays of one and ten days on the shelter care wait list.

Examining the data on a monthly basis during the study period shows more significant progress in reducing wait list times. During March 2008, average and median wait list times reached a high of 5 and 3 days, respectively, with wait list times ranging from 0 to 16 days. By the end of the study period, average and median wait list times fell to 1 and 0 days, respectively, with a range of 0 to 2 days.

#### Description from DYRS about the wait list process

CCE asked DYRS for a description of the wait list process, in order to better understand why some juveniles had wait times of less than one day and others had longer waiting periods. DYRS's description follows:

When a youth is admitted to the Youth Services Center (“YSC”), he/she is classified as one of three designations: (1) Regular Secure Detention, (2) Overnighter, or (3) Administrative hold for Youth Shelter placement. A youth

<sup>9</sup> Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Data Subcommittee. Monthly Report from July 2007 – November 2007. Figure 6: *Average Length of Stay in Secure Detention Prior to Shelter Home Placement January 2006 through November 2007*. Page 8.

held in Regular Secure Detention status is ordered into secure detention by DCSC and will likely reside at YSC for an extended period of time (average length of stay = 22 days); an Overnighter is a youth arrested and/or processed when DCSC is not in session and may reside in the YSC until the following day when court is in session, while a youth detained (administratively held) pending shelter placement will likely reside at YSC for only a few days (average length of stay = 4 days).

Examples are provided below to illustrate the difference between youth designated as Overnighters and youth on the Shelter Waiting List: If Joe is arrested on June 1<sup>st</sup> at 2 AM, he will be brought to YSC and may be admitted as an "Overnighter." If so, he will be taken to court and arraigned the following morning. The court orders that he is placed in a youth shelter. Joe is returned to the YSC and cleared by medical staff for shelter placement. If there is a shelter vacancy, he will be placed same day; if not, he will be held administratively in the YSC until there is a vacancy.

Jane on the other hand is arrested on June 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 AM. Because of the arrest time, she is taken directly to the courthouse where she will be processed and arraigned. If during arraignment, the Judge orders that she be placed in a youth shelter, she will be transported to the YSC and cleared by medical staff for shelter placement. If there is a vacancy, she will be placed same day; if not, she will be held administratively in the YSC until there is a vacancy.

While both Joe and Jane will have been admitted and discharged from YSC on June 1<sup>st</sup>, they would have been classified under different designations, Joe as an Overnighter and Jane as an Administrative hold for Youth Shelter placement. (JM: Joe would also be an administrative hold until the placement in shelter occurs).

## Section 5: Research Findings

### d. Effect of the legislation on the rate of fact finding hearings for children in both secure detention and shelter care

Based on data from January 15 to July 15, 2008, the juvenile justice system has shown substantial improvement on timely adjudication. The legislation, collaboration among the major juvenile justice system stakeholder agencies, and increased resources devoted to juvenile cases by the Office of the Attorney General and the Family Court appear to have positively influenced this success.

For both levels of detention, a higher percentage of cases are meeting previously existing and new statutory adjudication time limits in 2008 than in 2007. The average and median times to adjudication have also decreased – significantly in most instances – during the same period. This reduction in times to adjudication has been achieved despite a significant increase in the number of secure detention cases in 2008 compared to calendar year 2007 and a slightly higher number of shelter care cases compared to 2007.<sup>10</sup> It is hard to imagine that the improved performance could have been possible without the increased prosecution and judicial resources devoted to juvenile cases after passage of the Act.

For juveniles ordered to secure detention who were charged with the most serious offenses, shown in Table 10 below, there were 25 cases during the six-month study period compared to 38 cases in all of calendar year 2007, a possible 32% increase if 2008 rates remain consistent for the remainder of the year. Seventy-six percent of 2008 cases met the 45-day adjudication time frame, while just 58% did so in calendar year 2007.

**Table 10: Youth Ordered to Secure Detention Between Initial Hearing and Adjudication  
Pre-existing Statutory Deadline - 45 Days (most serious charges)**

Year	Total Number of Cases	Average Days to Dismissal or Adjudication Hearing	Median Days to Dismissal or Adjudication Hearing	Cases within 45-Day Time Frame	Cases Exceeding 45-Day Time Frame
2008, Jan 15 – July 15	25	38	33	19 (76%)	6 (24%)
2007, calendar year	38	57	42	22 (58%)	16 (42%)

For other juveniles ordered to secure detention, shown in Table 11 below, there were 260 cases during the six-month study period compared to 286 cases in all of calendar year 2007, a possible 82% increase if 2008 rates remain consistent for the remainder of the year. Seventy-seven

<sup>10</sup> Source for 2007 data in Tables 11 - 13: *DC Family Court 2007 Annual Report*. “Median Time Between Events For Juveniles Detained Prior to Trial in 2007.” Page 86.

percent of 2008 cases met the 30-day adjudication time frame, while 62% did so in calendar year 2007.

**Table 11: Youth Ordered to Secure Detention Between Initial Hearing and Adjudication Pre-existing Statutory Deadline - 30 Days**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Number of Cases</b>	<b>Average Days to Dismissal or Adjudication Hearing</b>	<b>Median Days to Dismissal or Adjudication Hearing</b>	<b>Cases within 30-Day Time Frame</b>	<b>Cases Exceeding 30-Day Time Frame</b>
2008, Jan 15 – July 15	260	27	26	199 (77%)	61 (23)
2007, calendar year	286	36	27	176 (62%)	110 (38%)

For juveniles ordered to shelter care, shown in Table 12 below, there were 145 cases during the six-month study period compared to 260 detention orders in all of calendar year 2007, a possible 12% increase if 2008 rates remain consistent for the remainder of the year. Eighty-three percent of 2008 cases met the new 45-day adjudication deadline, while 53% did so in 2007, before there was a statutory deadline for shelter care cases.

**Table 12: Youth Ordered to Shelter Care Between Initial Hearing and Adjudication New 2008 Statutory Deadline - 45 Days**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Number of Cases</b>	<b>Average Days to Dismissal or Adjudication Hearing</b>	<b>Median Days to Dismissal or Adjudication Hearing</b>	<b>Cases within 45-Day Time Frame</b>	<b>Cases Exceeding 45-Day Time Frame</b>
2008, Jan 15 – July 15	145	36	31	121 (83%)	24 (17%)
2007, calendar year	260	59	43	139 (53%)	121 (47%)

## Section 5: Research Findings

### e. Causes for delay in case processing, including the frequency and reasons for continuances, for children in both secure detention and shelter care

The Act prescribes the number of adjudication continuances which parties may request and certain serious cases for which multiple continuances may be requested. The analysis found no instances where the Court granted a continuance not permitted by the Act. The Act also limits the duration of continuances to 30 days. The analysis found 14 cases where the statutory 30-day time limit for adjudication continuances was exceeded. Tables 13-15 summarize the reasons for and frequency of adjudication continuances; Tables 16 and 17 summarize the reasons for and frequency of disposition continuances, for which there are no apparent statutory prescriptions. The reasons cited in Tables 13 to 17 are quoted directly from the Family Court's data system.

#### Adjudication Continuances

For the most serious secure detention cases, with a 45-day adjudication deadline, six cases (or 24% of all the most serious secure detention cases that were adjudicated or dismissed) had a total of eight trial continuances. The reasons for and the frequency of these continuances are shown in Table 13 below. The duration of trial continuances was markedly different between the two Cohorts: in Cohort 1, continuances averaged seven days with a median of four days, while in Cohort 2, continuances averaged 32 days with a median of 32 days.

**Table 13: Summary of secure detention adjudication continuances (45-day cases)**

<b>Reason for Continuance</b>	<b>Cohort 1 Frequency</b>	<b>Cohort 2 Frequency</b>
Attorney unavailable	2	1
Obtain services / programs	1	0
Absence of essential witness	1	1
Conduct / complete investigation	1	0
Evidence Unavailable	0	1
Total	5	3

For secure detention cases with a 30-day adjudication deadline, 24 cases (or 9% of all secure detention cases that were adjudicated or dismissed) had a total of 37 trial continuances. Cohort 2 had fewer than half the number of trial continuances as Cohort 1. The reasons for and the frequency of these continuances are shown in Table 14 below. The duration of trial continuances was similar between the two Cohorts: in Cohort 1, continuances averaged 17 days with a median of 11 days, while in Cohort 2, continuances averaged 12 days with a median of eight days.

**Table 14: Summary of secure detention adjudication continuances (30-day cases)**

<b>Reason for Continuance</b>	<b>Cohort 1 Frequency</b>	<b>Cohort 2 Frequency</b>
Other proceedings regarding child	8	2
Respondent hospitalized	3	0
Attorney unavailable	3	2
Conduct / Complete investigation	2	0
Absence of essential witness	2	1
Psych report ordered	2	0
Drug analysis incomplete	1	0
Scientific tests incomplete	1	0
Discovery incomplete	1	0
Evidence unavailable	1	0
Obtain services / programs	1	0
Respondent not brought to Court by Agency	1	0
Medical Exam not Completed	0	1
Judge Unavailable	0	2
Parent Unavailable	0	2
Respondent/Attorney Conflict	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>11</b>



For shelter care cases, with the Act's new 45-day adjudication deadline, 13 cases (or 9% of all shelter care cases that were adjudicated or dismissed) had a total of 19 trial continuances, all occurring in Cohort 1; there were no trial continuances granted in Cohort 2 cases. The reasons for and the frequency of these continuances are shown in Table 15 below. The duration of Cohort 1 trial continuances averaged 18 days with a median of seven days.

**Table 15: Summary of shelter care adjudication continuances (45-day cases)**

<b>Reason for Continuance</b>	<b>Cohort 1 Frequency</b>	<b>Cohort 2 Frequency</b>
Absence of essential witness	5	0
Conduct / Complete investigation	3	0
Judge unavailable	3	0
Enter plea / consent decree	2	0
Obtain services/programs	2	0
Discovery incomplete	1	0
Attorney unavailable	1	0
Parent unavailable	1	0
Psych report ordered	1	0
Total	19	0

## Disposition Continuances

For all secure detention cases during the study period, 46 cases (or 20% of secure detention cases that had an adjudication hearing) had a total of 86 disposition continuances, with Cohort 2 having one-third the number of disposition continuances as Cohort 1. The reasons for and the frequency of these continuances are shown in Table 16 below. The duration of disposition continuances was similar between the two Cohorts: in Cohort 1, continuances averaged 18 days with a median of 15 days, while in Cohort 2, continuances averaged 16 days with a median of 14 days.

**Table 16: Summary of secure detention disposition continuances**

<b>Reason for Continuance</b>	<b>Cohort 1 Frequency</b>	<b>Cohort 2 Frequency</b>
Obtain services / programs	35	14
Other proceedings regarding child	5	0
Respondent not compliant with court order	4	1
Respondent not brought to Court by Agency/US Marshal	4	1
Medical Examination Incomplete	3	1
Attorney unavailable	3	0
Psych evaluation ordered	3	1
Continued, no report	2	2
Examination of child's mental competency	2	1
Continue drug observation	1	0
Failure to appear / no custody order	1	0
Respondent in other jurisdiction	1	0
Absence of essential witness	1	0
DYRS to obtain placement	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>22</b>

For all shelter care cases during the study period, 30 cases (or 28% of shelter care cases that had an adjudication hearing) had a total of 54 disposition continuances, with Cohort 2 having fewer than half the number of disposition continuances as Cohort 1. The reasons for and the frequency of these continuances are shown in Table 17 below. The duration of disposition continuances was similar between the two Cohorts: in Cohort 1, continuances averaged 17 days with a median of 18 days, while in Cohort 2, continuances averaged 19 days with a median of 14 days.

**Table 17: Summary of shelter care disposition continuances**

<b>Reason for Continuance</b>	<b>Cohort 1 Frequency</b>	<b>Cohort 2 Frequency</b>
Obtain services / programs	22	10
Other proceedings regarding child	6	2
Attorney unavailable	2	0
Continue drug observation	1	0
Examination of child's mental competency	1	0
Medial exams incomplete	1	0
Parent unavailable	1	0
Respondent late	1	0
Respondent in other jurisdiction	1	0
Evaluation unavailable	1	0
Respondent Hospitalized	0	1
Respondent not in compliance with Court Order	0	2
DYRS to obtain Placement	0	2
Total	37	17

## Section 5: Research Findings

### f. Impact of the legislation on public safety and the administration of justice

#### Impact on the administration of justice

We believe the most significant and measurable effect of reduced shelter care adjudication time frames and shelter care wait list times is on the administration of justice. As discussed earlier, the Act has had a positive effect on the administration of justice by moving shelter care cases more quickly to adjudication in 2008 than in 2007. In 2007, only 53% of shelter care cases met the 45-day time limit of the Act; from January 15 to July 15, 2008, 83% of shelter care cases were adjudicated in the 45-day time period.

Shelter care bed utilization is directly affected by the length of time between the initial hearing and adjudication. As discussed in Section 4.c., the Act appears to have influenced an overall reduction in the time that juveniles spend on the shelter care wait list. Shelter care wait list times for the 2008 study period averaged two days with a median of one day. From January to June 2007, the average monthly length of stay for males – who comprise the largest percentage of these cases - varied from a low of 10 days to a high of 18 days.<sup>11</sup> DYRS indicates to CCE that “there is now no shelter list and that there are over twenty vacancies in shelters,” a situation opposite to that prior to the Act’s passage.

#### Impact on public safety

Because prior year data is unavailable, the effect of the legislation on trial, plea and case dismissal rates is unknown. Have the new shelter care adjudication deadlines, and increased attention to other adjudication deadlines, resulted in a greater proportion of dismissed cases because the government does not have sufficient time to prepare? 2008 data shows that 11% of all case dispositions are dismissals – the majority of these are dismissals by the government – and that dismissals occur close to statutory deadlines – a median of 44 days for secure detention 45-day cases, a median of 31 days for secure detention 30 day cases and a median of 43 days for shelter care cases.

Similarly, due to the lack of prior year data, it is unknown whether the legislation affects incentives for juvenile respondents to accept plea offers more readily or if trial rates are increasing. The median time when pleas occur is well before the statutory deadlines, with the exception of secure detention 45-day cases that result in commitment to DYRS. These cases are disposed of in a median time of 46 days, just one day beyond the pre-existing statutory deadline.

The Public Defender Service represented about 25% of juveniles placed into secure detention at the initial hearing; Family Court juvenile panel attorneys presumably represented the other 75%. Of the secure detention cases disposed within the study period, PDS represented 16% of the cases disposed of by trial, 30% of the cases disposed of by plea, and 25% of the cases disposed of by dismissal. The trial percentage is interesting, given that stakeholders, including PDS,

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<sup>11</sup> Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Data Subcommittee. Monthly Report from July 2007 – November 2007. Figure 6: *Average Length of Stay in Secure Detention Prior to Shelter Home Placement January 2006 through November 2007*. Page 8.

perceived their trial rates to be considerably higher. Comparable data for shelter care representation was not available.

Court data shows that a small percentage of detained juveniles re-offended during the study period. Because no similar data is available for 2007, we cannot conclude that the Act has had any impact on this potential measure of public safety.

One way to examine the public safety effects of secure detention and shelter home rehabilitative programs is through a study of juvenile recidivism, which would allow evaluators to track the criminal histories of the juvenile population over an extended period of time and to assess patterns of repeated criminal behavior. The Act's passage could be a variable in such a study.

## Section 6: Methodology

CCE organized its approach to studying the implications of the Juvenile Speedy Trial Emergency Act in the following manner: (1) Stakeholder Interviews and Feedback and (2) Data Collection and Analysis.

### Stakeholder Interviews and Feedback

For the evaluation, CCE conducted entrance interviews with representatives of the following stakeholder agencies: the DC Council, the DC Superior Court Family Court, the Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, the Public Defender Service and. All were cooperative and helpful. CCE conducted additional interviews with representatives of: the District of Columbia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, which has been providing staffing support to the DC Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (“JDAI”) Working Group; the Center for Children’s Law and Policy, which has been providing technical assistance to the JDAI Working Group; plaintiffs’ counsel in the ongoing *Jerry M.* litigation; the Director of the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative; and two attorneys from the Family Court Juvenile Panel bar. CCE summarized in writing each entrance interview.

During the entrance interviews, CCE gathered qualitative information on stakeholder expectations of the Emergency Legislation; assessed the availability of data, including whether the data was agency-specific or inter-agency; and the availability of management reports. The DC Family Court and the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services provided data sets.

CCE found calendar year 2007 data in the Family Court’s 2007 Annual Report and in Juvenile Detention Alternatives Data Subcommittee monthly reports, the latter provided to CCE by the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services. The DC Office of the Attorney General provided CCE with monthly continuance reports, in which are tracked more detailed reasons for juvenile trial and disposition continuances. The detail in the OAG continuance reports could not be verified in the evaluation absent a case jacket review, which was outside of CCE’s scope of work. Thus, that detail was not incorporated into the evaluation. The evaluation utilizes Court data on granted trial and disposition continuances.

Because the vast majority of the data was being provided by the Family Court, CCE transmitted three preliminary data analyses to the DC Family Court Director during the course of the study period and incorporated her comments into the evaluation. On July 29, CCE provided its preliminary analysis to the other major agency stakeholders, including the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Public Defender Service.

With the DC Council’s approval, CCE transmitted the draft August 15 evaluation report to stakeholder agencies in advance of conducting exit interviews in late August and early September 2008. CCE also sought comment from selected attorneys of the Family Court Juvenile Panel Bar. The exit interviews gathered stakeholders’ candid overall perspectives on the Emergency Legislation, whether there are barriers to compliance with the timeframes articulated in the Emergency Legislation, and what refinements, if any, should be addressed before enacting permanent legislation. CCE summarized in writing each exit interview.

## Data Collection and Analysis

Family Court Presiding Judge Anita Josey-Herring provided CCE with a court order authorizing the stakeholder agencies to provide confidential case-specific data to CCE for research purposes. As mentioned above, the two sources of data were the Family Court and the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, with most of the data relevant to the evaluation coming from Family Court data. Both agencies have excellent databases containing a wealth of information, much of which goes well beyond the scope of this evaluation. Inter-agency data tracking appears to be facilitated by a unique identifier number assigned to each juvenile, called an “x-ref” number. CCE divided the total study period into two three-month cohorts in order to analyze whether performance on meeting the Juvenile Speedy Trial Emergency Legislation deadlines improved over time.

Data received from the Family Court was divided into cases ordered into secure detention and shelter care. Data variables from the Family Court included juvenile name, x-ref number, case number, age at initial hearing, gender, race, most serious charge, severity, case status, date of initial hearing, date of adjudication hearing, date of disposition hearing, date of disposition, type of final disposition, Court Order description (abscondance or failure to appear), Court Order issue date, Court Order quash date, placement start date, placement end date, and placement type.

CCE received Family Court data at three separate points during the evaluation period: May 5 for cases filed from January 15 to March 15 (this did not include continuance data); June 6 for cases filed from January 15 to April 30; and July 22 for cases filed from January 15 to July 15. The delay in receipt of the first data set was due to a competing deadline: the Family Court has a comprehensive report on its activities for the preceding calendar year due to Congress by March 31 of each year. Also, the DC Family Court had not previously analyzed this data and had to develop data extraction logic. Before providing each data set, Court staff provided a quality assurance check to verify that data was valid and up to date. Upon receipt of Family Court data, CCE sent a list of secure detention and shelter care cases, including case number, name and x-ref number, to the data staff at the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services to enable them to respond with data on shelter care wait list times.

## **Section 7: List of Persons Interviewed**

### Council of the District of Columbia

Ronald Collins, Assistant Secretary to the Council  
Brian Moore, Legislative Counsel, Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary  
Adam Maier, Committee Director, Committee on Human Services  
Ram Uppuluri, Counsel, Committee on Human Services  
Kevin Hill, Legislative Intern, Committee on Human Services  
John White, Legislative Intern, Committee on Human Services

### DC Superior Court

Judge Anita Josey-Herring, Presiding Judge, Family Court  
Judge William Jackson, Deputy Presiding Judge, Family Court  
Dianne King, Director, Family Court  
Terri Odom, Director, Family Court Social Services  
Joanne Pozzo, Director, DC Courts' Research and Development Division  
Kimberly Beverly, Associate Director, DC Courts' Research and Development Division  
Maura Polli, Law Clerk

### DC Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services

Vincent Schiraldi, Director  
Barry Holman, Director of Research and Quality Assurance  
Carissa Pappas, Research Analyst

### DC Public Defender Service

Laura Hankins, Special Counsel to the Executive Director  
Hannah McElhinny, Deputy Trial Chief, Juvenile Section  
Michael Satin, Supervising Attorney  
Premal Dharia, Supervising Attorney

### DC Office of the Attorney General

Dave Rosenthal, Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Bonnie Hannan, Chief, Juvenile Section  
Barb Chesser, Assistant Chief, Juvenile Section  
Linda Monroe, Assistant Chief, Juvenile Section  
Anthony DeLeon, Assistant Attorney General  
Justin Zimmerman, Assistant Attorney General

### DC Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Nancy Ware, Executive Director  
Mannone Butler, Legal Advisor / Program Analyst  
Diana Calderon, JDAI Coordinator / Program Analyst

### Center for Children's Law & Policy

Mark Soler, Executive Director  
Dana Shoenberg, Senior Staff Attorney



Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Bart Lubow, Director

Jerry M. Plaintiffs' Attorney  
Alan Pemberton

Family Court Juvenile Panel Bar  
Jennifer Bingham  
Robert Lavine