COLLECTING AND ANALYZING DATA NOTETAKING GUIDE

SAMPLE JUVENILE JUSTICE BENCHMARKS:

- The amount of time between each hearing or process step, the total time from affidavit to disposition and from disposition to case closure, aggregately and by judge, to determine if the system is timely;

- The number of, lengths of time, and reasons for continuances, aggregately and by specific judge, prosecutor, and public defender which are components that determine whether the system is timely;

- Comparison of detainment and court-ordered dispositions for youth with similar charges and characteristics, aggregately and by detention intake staff and judge to determine whether the system is just;

- The percentage of cases diverted to informal resources that never return to the court system after completing the diversion intervention; and of those that do return, analysis by type of offending behavior, length of time between completing diversion and return to the system, service intervention, and service provider to determine if diversion is successful and for whom
Sample Juvenile Justice Benchmarks

• Who is filing status offenses and for what reasons to determine if the resources of the juvenile justice court are being used appropriately;

• The percentage of youth who are adjudicated on one petition but never return to the juvenile justice court system after completing their court-ordered disposition; and of those who recidivate, analysis by type of offending behavior, length of time between completing disposition and return to the system, and what service interventions and service provider were used to determine if the system is preventing recidivism;

• The percentage of youth brought to juvenile detention but not admitted, who brought them, why they were not admitted, and an analysis of whether those youth eventually ended up in detention prior to completion of the disposition hearing, and if so, why, to determine if resources are being used efficiently;

• Analysis of whether racial and ethnic disparities are occurring at any juvenile justice court decision point to determine if the equitability of system decision-making processes need to be further explored;

• Analysis of the number of offenses by number of offenders to determine the percentage of youth responsible for the majority of offenses and their characteristics to determine where the system’s resources are needed most.