

Colorado Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Council

Federally mandated State Advisory Group (SAG) of 28 Governor-appointed members representing the following disciplines: community service providers, office of behavioral health (substance abuse and mental health), youth corrections, child welfare, probation, judges, education, higher education, defense bar, office of child's representative, district attorneys, research/evaluation, school safety resources center, CO Commission on Indian Affairs, law enforcement, house of representatives, and youth (7).

A major responsibility of the JJDP Council in conjunction with the DCJ is to regularly undertake an analysis of the "state of the state" of delinquency prevention and intervention programs and policies. This analysis serves as the basis for the development of a three-year comprehensive state plan for the improvement of the juvenile justice system and prevention of juvenile delinquency as required by the JJDP. The purpose of this plan is to coordinate, develop, implement, monitor, and evaluate state and local efforts to improve outcomes for troubled youth through addressing pressing issues, gaps in services, and funding reductions that threaten the progress that has been made in the areas of delinquency prevention and intervention. Collaboration and coordination with other state and local juvenile justice and delinquency prevention efforts are keys to this plan.

JJDP Council Priorities, 2012-2014 Accomplishments & 2015-17 Plans

Over Representation of Minority Youth in the Juvenile Justice System

Goal: Prevention of delinquency by addressing contributing factors that may lead minority youth to enter the juvenile justice system.

- Collected DMC RRI matrix data to look for changes in DMC; developed a report and disseminated data to allow for comparisons from year to year and across decision points at state and local levels.
- Provided funding and assistance to two urban (2nd and 18th JD) jurisdictions to complete a DMC case study of one juvenile justice decision point.
- Offered funding and assistance but received no applications from any rural jurisdictions.
- Provision of TA and training statewide.

2015-17: Continuation of same goal

Appropriate Holding of Juveniles through Comprehensive Compliance Monitoring

Goal: Maintain compliance with Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders, Separation of Juveniles from Adult Inmates and the Removal of Juveniles from Adult Jails and Lockups.

- Completed compliance monitoring of facilities which do or could hold juveniles securely.
- Determined compliance with core requirements, presented findings to JJDP Council. Highlighted concerns regarding valid court order compliance; worked with Council on truancy pilots (see JJ System Improvement).

2015-17: Continuation of same goal for 2015-17 but waiting for new guidance being issued by OJJDP regarding changes to monitoring

Native American Programming

Goal: To support juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programming with the American Indian Tribes and expand our support to the non-reservation based Native American population in Colorado.

- Funds awarded to Southern Ute Indian Tribe for juvenile justice programming.

2015-17: Continuation of same goal for 2015-17 and also planning for visit with Ute Mountain Indian Tribe to discuss JJDP Act compliance needs and possible funding to address juvenile justice programming needs.

Juvenile Justice System Improvement Efforts

GOAL 1: To prevent low risk-high needs (LRHN) children and youth from unnecessarily entering the juvenile justice system or penetrating deeper into the juvenile justice system.

- Based on HB 13-1021 (CCJJ), one truancy prevention (La Plata Youth Services) and three Truancy Solving Court (1st, 16th and 18th JD) pilots were funded. The prevention pilot is focused on youth who meet the definition of being truant but have not yet been filed on in court and the truancy problem solving court pilots are focused on youth who are truant and have been filed on in court. In 2013 there were 275 truants held in detention, in 2014, that number is estimated to be 205, a 25% reduction.
- A study was funded to look at the outcomes for youth who have been detained as a result of a truancy court involvement as well as other questions that will allow for improved programming for truants. The following questions will be answered: 1) Does truancy precede or follow initial detention admission? 2) Are truants who receive a detention sentence more likely to have a subsequent juvenile offense (other than truancy) relative to truants who did not receive a detention sentence? 3) How likely is it for a youth to be involved with DHS prior to having a truancy filing? 4) Does the likelihood of graduation or current enrollment differ for students who did and did not receive a detention sentence? 5) How do other factors including age, race, ethnicity, number of court appearances, and judicial district affect the likelihood of a detention sentence for youth with a truancy filing? Anticipated completion date of September 30, 2015.

2015-17: Continue funding pilots, collecting data and disseminating results of both pilots and truancy and detention study.

GOAL 2: Develop a state system that supports well-implemented evidence-based programs and practices matched to need at the state and local/community level focused on at-risk and system-involved youth. The long-term goal of this project is to improve outcomes for at-risk and system-involved youth and their families as evidenced by: reductions in recidivism; reductions in out-of-home placement; improvements in family functioning; decreased mental health problems; and improved educational outcomes.

- Committee convened in October 2013 to discuss Implementation Science and its role in ensuring and sustaining quality implementation of services and programs that facilitate the use of evidence-based practices and principles. Specifically, the Committee explored how Implementation Science can be used to forward the EBPP goals and inform the framework to accomplish its work.
- An EBPP statewide survey which was administered to representatives of youth serving organizations, divisions and departments to learn more about the landscape of EBPP, as well as, challenges and barriers in implementing EBPP and gaps in Colorado's EBPP infrastructure. Sixty-four individuals completed the Juvenile Justice Evidence-based Principles and Practices in Colorado Survey. With a few exceptions, there were almost no survey responses from the Southern quadrant of the state, a partial reflection of the dearth of EBPP utilization in that part of the state.
- The Committee worked with Brian Bumbarger, Director of Penn State's Resource Center for Evidence Based Prevention and Intervention Programs and Practices, who was instrumental in developing a partnership between the Prevention Research Center at Penn State and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, to discuss additional opportunities for

technical assistance, share the resources that Colorado has to forward these goals and potential vision for this work, and to discuss strategies to implement this work based on the learning generated from Pennsylvania's experience

- Members of the EBPP committee are working with the Governor's Office which is partnering with the PEW Foundation on strengthening EBP efforts in Colorado (Results First).
- Key EBPP committee members attended a MacArthur EBP Implementation Academy to learn about key issues for implementing EBPs in the juvenile justice system and then translate those key messages and lessons learned into a Colorado framework. This framework then became the basis of the plan of action for expanding EBPs for justice involved youth in the state as outlined in the following bullets.

2015-17: Currently in process of selecting a vendor to accomplish the following-

- Plan and implement data mapping process at the state and local levels.
- Create a statewide picture of at-risk and justice-involved youth and their behavioral needs.
- Plan and host a statewide summit to introduce the 22 Juvenile Services Planning Committees (JSPC) or other cross-disciplinary collaborations (i.e. CMPs) servicing at risk of or delinquent youth and critical partners (state agencies, universities, etc.) to the vision for this work and the planning process.
- Develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) for selection of pilot JSPC sites to map local data and develop evidence-based system of based needs.
- Strengthen partnerships and support for project.
- Develop work plan for future work of the EBPP Committee.

GOAL 3: (CCJJ endorsed) Improve outcomes for LRHN and other youth and families by promoting the professional development of system actors from judges to prosecutors to direct service workers by addressing the training needs through the creation of practices and competencies for juvenile justice professionals.

2015-17:

- Finalize practices and competencies for juvenile justice professionals;
 - Develop a partnership with a national organization to coordinate a set of practices and competencies for professionals working with justice involved youth.
 - Create interagency agreement for practices and competencies.
- Review current training curriculums for competency content.
 - Develop a comparison of recommended core competency areas with existing trainings held by agencies working with justice involved youth.
 - Review comparison for areas of needed training additions.
- Provide cross agency training opportunities to ensure availability of training to juvenile justice professionals.
 - Develop cross agency training opportunities and methods to remove training opportunity silos.
 - Develop an electronic system to communicate training opportunities.

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP LIST

(Updated January 8, 2015)

(Dates shown are original appointment dates, * = youth member)

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