



OFFICE OF ADULT & JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

Semi-Annual Report



Colorado Evidence-Based Practices Implementation for Capacity (EPIC) Resource Center

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Colorado Evidence-Based Practices Implementation for Capacity (EPIC) Resource Center in collaboration with the Office of Adult & Juvenile Justice Assistance (OAJJA) presents this semi-annual report describing the status and progress made on this partnership. EPIC is providing OAJJA with technical assistance regarding Juvenile Diversion, Restorative Justice, and Justice Assistance Grants. The milestones, described herein and as determined to date, have partially been met. The next steps include:

- Support the Restorative Justice Council efforts to build a consistent and effective implementation infrastructure, expand programming, provide training and support,
- Determine the need to deliver implementation workshop to JAG awardees
- Help OAJJA support current and newly awarded Diversion programs as the needs arises
- Continue to attend JJRC meetings and contribute to the work of assigned subcommittees

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you and for your continued commitment to the successful implementation of this work. We look forward to our continued partnership.

INTRODUCTION

The Colorado Evidence-Based Practices Implementation for Capacity (EPIC) Resource Center has been collaborating with the Office of Adult and Juvenile Justice Assistance (OAJJA) on several projects since 2017. These include(d):

- ❑ Create a landscape assessment of Division of Criminal Justice-funded Colorado Juvenile Diversion programs
- ❑ Support implementation of evidence-based practices at Juvenile Diversion sites as requested
- ❑ Instill Implementation Science language, principles, and understanding into the Justice Assistant Grants proposal and grant evaluation processes

This report summarizes work completed toward accomplishing each of these goals.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

[Landscape Assessment of Colorado Juvenile Diversion programs](#)

Juvenile Diversion is targeted to youths who have become involved or are in danger of becoming involved in the justice system, and is designed to redirect youths from formal processing while holding them accountable for their actions. On behalf of OAJJA, EPIC visited 16 Juvenile Diversion programs throughout the state of Colorado, all but two of which were funded through the Colorado Department of Public Safety's Division of Criminal Justice at the time of the visits. The EPIC team conducted in-person interviews and compiled the findings and recommendations into a report, [Summary of Colorado Juvenile Diversion Practices, 2019](#), as a first step toward developing a list of best practices for the field.

[Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices for Juvenile Diversion Sites](#)

On April 18-19, 2019, OAJJA hosted a two-day DCJ Juvenile Diversion Program Training focused on a number of topics and networking. They recruited EPIC to assist with some of the planning and to present on the topic of equity and implementation at the retreat. In October of the same year, OAJJA and the Colorado Restorative Justice Council co-hosted a Juvenile Diversion and Restorative Justice Conference held at the Ralph Carr Colorado Judicial Center. Again, EPIC assisted in the planning and led two workshops focused on creating implementation teams and how to identify and partner with "hidden" community resources to lead and support local diversion efforts. Additionally, OAJJA and EPIC have agreed to partner to help support current and newly awarded programs as the needs arise.

[Colorado Restorative Justice Council](#)

In early 2020, EPIC began a formal partnership with the Colorado Judicial Branch's Restorative Justice Council to provide full implementation support to help define and document a model of restorative justice that contains consistent and effective elements across programs, cultivates community interest and expansion, provides training, and builds infrastructure in order to advance this evidence-based practice throughout the state. The Council also

collaborates with the Colorado Coalition for Restorative Justice Practices (CCRJP) and any other pertinent partners as is fitting to achieve these goals, and EPIC will do the same.

[Justice Assistance Grants Incorporation of Implementation Science](#)

In 2017, OAJJA recruited EPIC to help them incorporate implementation science principles into the Justice Assistance Grant requirements in order to enhance the success of the funded projects. This work was designed to be a 4-pronged process:

- 1) Assist OAJJA staff in modifying application requirement language to include implementation considerations
- 2) Provide the JAG Board an overview on Implementation Science for consideration in the review process
- 3) Provide a webinar to potential applicants to prepare them to address these considerations
- 4) Provide a more intensive workshop to awardees to incorporate IS principles into their efforts.

Numbers 1-3 were accomplished, but due to federal restrictions on the release of funding since 2018, number 4 was put on hold. Because these funds have recently been released, EPIC and OAJJA will now revisit the direction of that last element.

[Juvenile Justice Reform Committee](#)

EPIC was invited to attend monthly JJRC meetings as part of DCJ staff. They were also asked to participate on two subcommittees of this legislatively mandated effort: the Outcomes Working Group and the Diversion Working Group, tasked with determining a risk screen to be used statewide, among other things. EPIC's role on these subcommittees is to contribute to discussions and provide implementation guidance as appropriate. The JJRC and its subcommittees continue to operate during COVID-19 as video conferencing was already built in due to its statewide membership. To date, the Committee has been directed to maintain its schedule for decision-making concerning juvenile justice policies, unless response to COVID-19 makes it impossible.

[NEXT STEPS](#)

EPIC and OAJJA's partnership began in 2017. As can be seen in the tables above, the partnership has made strides forward in several domains. Next steps for all projects described above will be:

- Support the Restorative Justice Council efforts to build a consistent and effective implementation infrastructure, expand programming, provide training and support,
- Determine the need to deliver implementation workshop to JAG awardees
- Help OAJJA support current and newly awarded Diversion programs as the needs arises
- Continue to attend JJRC meetings and contribute to the work of assigned subcommittees