

Emerging Issues Organized by Themes

1. DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT

Thirty-four states and territories reported on the emerging issue of disproportionate minority contact (AK, AZ, AR, CO, DE, GU, IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MN, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, SD, TN, VT, VA, WA, WV, WI)

IMPACT

- Minority youth are entering the system more quickly and penetrating more deeply; minority youth are under-represented in treatment programs (AZ, AR, IA, KS, KY, ME, MD, MN, MO, NB, NV, ND, OH, PA, SC, SD, VA, WA, WV, WI)
- Difficulty in collecting data, coordinating among agencies, and availability of needed services (LA)
- Limitations regarding data collection. The varying compatibility between datasets, incomplete records, missing data, a lack of uniformity in racial/ethnic categorization, and a limited number of cases raise questions concerning the validity of the data currently being collected (ME)
- Lack of tribal applications for Native American pass-through funds. DMC Committee has had difficulty with member attendance, and DMC sites need to be expanded throughout the state (MT)
- American Indian youth are arrested and securely detained at a higher rate than white youth. (ND)
- Struggling to incorporate massive quantities of data into a usable format (OK)
- Hard to get leaders to focus on the issue (TN)
- Not well understood in state as it is new issue. Much to be learned in effective early interventions and prevention (VT)
- Best practices for small numbers of youth affected by DMC in rural setting are not developed, and needed (VT)
- Large jurisdiction “cookie-cutter” style approaches are not likely to be effective, possible to implement, or cost-effective in small jurisdiction (VT)

SOLUTIONS

Programs

- AJJAC with DJJ has worked to establish local DMC groups in Fairbanks, and Anchorage, the two sites involved in Alaska’s DMC Pilot Project (Data Collection) (AK)
- Arizona’s Building Blocks Initiative (AZ)
- Annie E. Casey JDAI model (AZ)

- Burns Institute's DMC model (AZ)
- community based alternatives (AZ)
- The Department of Youth Affairs has taken the lead in developing different programs (GU)
- MDOC's new CORIS database system will yield meaningful statistics (ME)
- Using the Burns Institute and the JDAI models in Baltimore City and expanding to an additional four jurisdictions (MD)
- We have implemented some best practice programs (NE)
- Development of local DMC Committees. (SD)
- Community oriented policing and early intervention programs in communities with high minority populations. (WV)

Collaboration

- The utilization of a state university to work in local sites (IA)
- We have identified three sites in Kentucky and are working with the Burns Institute through the state DMC Specialist to address this issue. (KY)
- The office of Justice Programs has designated a full-time DMC Coordinator to lead the DMC efforts both within the OJJDP mandates and in a broader sense, the statewide response to this issue. (MN)
- Nevada is currently working with the Hayward Burns Institute and the Anne E. Casey Foundation to create programming that is streamlined, accessible, and effective. (NV)
- We have contacted states that OJJDP indicated are good exemplars in terms of state plans. We have requested information and curricula they are using to address this issue. (NH)
- Using what the state has learned in this area to share with the rest of the state. (NC)
- Youth-law enforcement forums to bring youth and law enforcement together, to promote dialogue and educate both groups about the culture of the other. (PA)
- The Department of Juvenile Justice in South Carolina (SCDJJ) is working with the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Council, the Children's Law Office, at the University of South Carolina, the Institute for Families and Society at USC, the faith community, and other partners to research and address the DMC issue (SC)

Role of the SAG

- The SAG is funding Minority Family Advocacy Programs. (CO)
- The SAG received technical assistance from DSG (Tom Begich) and has developed a strategic plan to address the issue. (MT)
- State advisory group has established a standing committee on DMC (OH)
- Wisconsin's SAG has put a great deal of money (in excess of \$2 million dollars over the past few years) toward the issue of DMC (WI)

Funding

- Using funds to target DMC issues. (LA)
- Funding has been provided to the state's largest university to research the impact of DMC and explore ways to educate the public and the courts about DMC and the impact it has on the community. (MO)
- Using Formula grant funds to provide resources to target areas to address DMC (NC)
- Juvenile Accountability Block Grant funds are used to support the use of non-secure holdover options for American Indian youth both on and off the Reservation. (ND)
- Need more funds. (TN)
- We have funded a DMC coordinator to focus on identification, assessment, intervention, evaluation and monitoring. (VT)

Training

- Technical assistance from OJJDP (AK)
- OJJDP trainers have provided technical assistance to provide training related to DMC issues. (AR)
- Provide training at state conference (LA)
- Training for law enforcement and juvenile community corrections officers to facilitate the accurate collection of juvenile race and ethnicity data sensitively and consistently (ME)
- The SAG received technical assistance from DSG (Tom Begich) and has developed a strategic plan to address the issue. (MT)
- We have increased training and exposure opportunities to all facets of law enforcement to include judges. (NE)
- The GJJAC has also increased availability of technical assistance and training for jurisdictions regarding DMC (WA)

Meetings/Conferences

- Alaska hired a part-time DMC Reduction Coordinator who attended the Burns Institute on Community Strategies (AK)
- AJJAC and DJJ attend CJA DMC Conferences. (AK)
- AJJAC supported funding for law enforcement representatives to attend the DMC Conference in New Orleans (AK)
- Annual juvenile justice meeting to focus on DMC issues was held on October 2-5, 2006. (AR)
- Annual DMC Conference (IA)
- Annual Governor supported summit to focus on DMC as well as a Native/Tribe Conference brings all parties together to work the issues. (OR)

Evaluation

- Alaska is using the Juvenile Detention Assessment Instrument (JDAI) in its effort to eliminate DMC (AK)
- Objective risk and assessment intake tools (AZ)
- Development of a risk assessment tool for use at intake and detention (IA)

Legislation

- State statute requiring local judicial districts to measure and analyze DMC and address if appropriate at the local level. (KS)
- Implemented uniform station house adjustment guidelines for local police departments as a means for diverting low level offenders from formally entering the system. (NJ)

Local Issues

- DJJ and AJJAC published a brochure on DMC in the Alaska Juvenile Justice System, as an effort to educate the Governor, legislators, and members of the public. (AK)
- Public awareness (LA)

Cultural Issues

- Influx of Micronesian citizens to Guam. Many families relocated here to find a better standard of living and give their children the opportunity to get a better education. Unfortunately, there has been a tremendous culture shock experienced by young people, who not only have to learn to speak English but to adopt social and cultural norms that are not their own. This has led to a disproportionate number of youth being incarcerated (GU)
- Lack of cultural awareness and cultural competence results in more minority youth entering the system (NC)
- Additional resources are needed to provide culturally appropriate programming for American Indian youth both on and off the Reservation (ND)

2. MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT

Twenty-five states reported on the emerging issue of mental health assessment and treatment (AZ, CO, DE, GA, IA, KS, LA, ME, MN, MS, MT, NB, NV, NH, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, PA, TN, UT, VA, WA, WI)

IMPACT

- Significant numbers of youth are diagnosed with mental health disorders yet are not receiving appropriate services. Treatment needs of these juveniles are not addressed when they are returned to community. JJ Treatment staff do not know what treatment has been done or was (un)successful (AZ)
- Re-occurring issue of early and proper assessment of juveniles with mental disorders (DE)

- Lack of mental health treatment for high risk youth (GA)
- Mental Health related funding has been cut. Youth are being forced into the juvenile justice system to access services. This has created a strain on some of the short term services like shelter care and juvenile detention (IA, VA)
- Warehousing juveniles without assessment and treatment. 30% of Pratt county jail inmates would be better suited in a mental health facility. They know right from wrong, but do not have the mental capacity to hold a job or stay on medication (KS)
- Lack of inter- and intra-agency coordination (LA)
- Lack of needed services to help youth whose problems add to the factor in committing crimes (LA, OH)
- Not all youth involved with or at risk of becoming involved with the JJ system are receiving appropriate comprehensive MH, substance abuse, and/or family support services (ME)
- Many youths who enter the JJ system have a MH issue. These youths are seen in the JJ system as NH does not have a separate system for MH relative issues (NH)
- increasing number of juvenile offenders entering the system due in part to mental health issues (LA, MT, NB, NV NM, NY, ND, OH, PA, UT)
- Many children are being shipped to group homes or other residential facilities out of their county of residence; there are even children being sent out of state for treatment. This is extremely disruptive for children and families (NC)
- There is an increasing number of younger and younger children that come through the court system who demonstrate severe behavior problems resulting in school failure; the state is not equipped to handle these kids (NC)
- School drop-out and juvenile crime increases when mental health issues are undetected and untreated (TN)
- Residential beds sorely lacking (UT)
- When youth are not assessed or screened appropriately (or at all), there is a much increased chance of worker bias, youth ending up in the ‘wrong system’ and youth and families not getting matched up with the services that meet their needs. Disproportionate effect on minority youth (WI)

SOLUTIONS

Programs

- Assessment and treatment based on assessment. Education on brain development and negative effect of brain disorders incorporated into treatment and practice. A comprehensive system to record the various mental health treatments a youth received and the results is needed (AZ)
- Need treatment for emergency cases which provide very limited time and help (LA)

- Need Early Screening capabilities and adequate resources to treat identified problems (TN)
- MAYSI-2 is being piloted in three counties in Maine (Kennebec, Penobscot, and Piscataquis). It will integrate comprehensive mental health screening, using the MAYSI-2 screening instrument with case planning and referral linkages for juveniles referred to the Division of Juvenile Services. The project will provide information and guidance to the Forensic Service Evaluators, who will be completing more and more timely court-ordered evaluations as part of this program (ME)
- Department of Human Services is conducting of an assessment of all adjudicated youth (MN)
- Mental health assessment and screening instruments needed (MI)

Collaboration

- State Task Force is resulting in major interagency plan for improved prevention and treatment of mental health (CO)
- Mental Health Services in Shelter Care and Detention Task Force (IA)
- SPA staff serve on a variety of committees for Human Services and Education that work specifically with mental health issues (IA)
- Department of Human Services is setting up the conducting of an assessment of all adjudicated youth. This is the first interagency cooperation between state departments and between the states and counties (MI)
- State implementation team addresses state-level barriers to service coordination, and three PA counties working on local coordination problems. A team of state-and county-level behavioral health, child welfare and juvenile justice officials leads the state (PA)
- Development of local DMC Committees. South Dakota has identified statewide interventions to address DMC as well as community specific DMC interventions in three locations across the state. A DMC Committee has been established in each of the three communities. The DMC Committees utilized community-specific identification and assessment data to identify local factors associated with DMC and to develop community-specific interventions to be supported with Formula Grant funds (SD)

Role of the SAG

- SAG awarded a 3-year formula grant to a circuit wide juvenile mental health court (GA)
- The State Advisory Group funded the research and ultimate training and coordination of a common screening tool used by both Office of Juvenile Services caseworkers and probation officers would use to immediately identify the most immediate needs of a young person as they make contact with law enforcement. This screening tool, the Youth Level of Service Inventory (YLSI) has been implemented (NB)

- SAG is partnering with the Department of Health and Family Services which initially implemented the POSIT screen in 12 counties. With SAG funding, the POSIT is now automated and in place in more than 30 counties and two tribes (WI)
- The SAG and the SAA are partnering with the Department of Health and Family Services on a grant from SAMHSA to further expand the use of the POSIT and then add the GAIN Assessment in those counties that are now using the POSIT. (WI)

Funding

- Juvenile Accountability Block Grant funds are used to support a licensed mental health professional to work with youth placed in the State's correctional facility (NB)
- Formula Grant for DMC committees (SD)

Meetings/Conferences

- Mental Health Summit in May 2006 (WA)

Evaluation

- The Juvenile Detention Centers Association of PA is conducting a Mental Health Assessment of Youth in Detention Project that involves behavioral health screening of all youth admitted to participating detention centers in PA, using the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument, Version 2 (MAYSI-2) (PA)

Legislation

- State legislation is expected to be proposed to increase mental health services for youth, and specifically juvenile offenders (WA)

3. DETENTION REFORM

Nineteen states and territories reported on the emerging issue of detention reform (AL, AZ, DE, GA, KY, LA, MD, MN, MT, NE, NV, NJ, NM, ND, PR, SC, VT, VA, WA)

IMPACT

- The number of youth entering detention is increasing (AL, MN)
- Dually involved youth are not receiving coordinated care; minority youth, mental health, and substance abuse not receiving adequate treatment; reentry fragmented (AZ)
- Large number of status offenders in detention and few resources (KY)
- District or family court judges do not receive intensive training addressing status offenders. Statutes are not written to address the actual practice of the courts with these status offenders (KY)
- No state licensing requirements, DMC issues within detentions (LA)
- Over reliance on detention for probation violations. Lack of objective screening and assessment instruments available at detention centers (MT)

- Detention has become the de facto response for juveniles with mental health issues. Juvenile justice funds continue to be eaten up paying for these youth remaining in detention rather than finding appropriate mental health/substance abuse services. The use of Diversion programs has not expanded to all areas of the state, despite recent legislation allowing this to occur (NB)
- Nevada has seen a decrease in the number of youth detained as well as the decrease in the length of time detained as evidenced by the closing of two wings in Washoe County Juvenile Center and the closing of a 20 bed wing in Clark County Juvenile Center (NV)
- A non-secure holdover program has significantly reduced the number of juveniles held in adult jail facilities and the number of status offenders held securely in either jail or juvenile detention. The State lacks the funding structure and local financial resources to maintain these services (NB)
- Increased number of youth institutionalized with adults (PR)
- South Carolina has seen a 19 percent jump in juvenile detention (SC)
- SCDJJ's own centralized detention center is chronically over-crowded (SC)
- Negative impact of ineffective counsel for low income minority youth on length of detention (SC)
- Inadequate secure and alternative detention placements for youth in both branches of juvenile justice system (adult and child welfare). Short-term detention is co-ed, mixes all types and ages of youth. Secure juvenile detention resources are often used not for detention, but for youth whose needs have not been met by mental health, education, and substance abuse treatment services (VT)

SOLUTIONS

Programs

- Treatment and the use of graduated sanctions (AL)
- Child family teams, revised intake and assessment tools, comprehensive continuous case planning, Arizona's JOLTS information sharing system; reentry specialists; protocols for dually involved or dually adj. youth; specialized staff training (AZ)
- JDAI initiative (DE)
- A Detention Assessment Instrument (DAI) has been developed and is currently being used to guide detention decisions based on new and prior offense history (GA)
- Implementing Family Courts in all jurisdictions (KY)
- Use of JDAI in Baltimore City and possible expansion to other sites. Development of a statewide RAI (MD)
- The Gap Analysis and Facilities Master Plan developed by DSG for the Dept of Juvenile Services (MD)
- JDAI (LA, MN, MT, NJ, NM, WA)

- Day and Evening Reporting Centers, mental health and substance abuse treatment in correctional/detention centers (NV)

Collaboration

- Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the US DOJ and the state of Georgia (GA)
- SCDJJ, the Children’s Law Office at the University of South Carolina and the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council developing two pilot county initiatives (SC)

Funding

- Formula and Block grant funds to projects that provide alternatives to detention, especially in rural areas of the state that do not have many resources (GA)
- Title II Formula funds are used to cover the costs of a statewide holdover program (ND)

Training

- Specialized staff training (AZ)
- Need to arrange training for the Department of Community Based Services as well as other representatives of the court (KY)

Meetings/Conferences

- DMC conference (SC)

Evaluation

- Working with Anne E. Casey Foundation, Youth Law Center and Dr. Rutherford from Arizona Detention Transition Project to implement new, effective evidenced based programs for youth involved in the juvenile justice system (NV)

4. COORDINATION OF SERVICES AND RESOURCES

Fifteen states reported on the emerging issue of coordination of services and resources (AL, AR, GA, KY, LA, ME, MD, MN, MI, MT, NY, NC, TN, VT, WV)

IMPACT

- Services are being duplicated (AR, GA, LA)
- Each of the youth-serving agencies have different enabling statutes, missions, funding streams, information systems, and points of entry and exit. This often results in poor communication, competition for resources, and inconsistent and conflicting priorities (GA)
- “Players” are at the table, but fiscal resources have not been identified (MD)
- Many juvenile justice youths are involved with multiple agencies (MT)
- Lack of knowledge on what programs have been funded by different sources results in duplication and ineffective practices (NC)

- Duplication in cases of dual jurisdiction such as cases of abused and neglected children who are also in delinquency proceedings (NC)
- Fragmentation of funding at the federal level contributes to confusing policies, duplication of services, gaps in services (TN)
- Two state departments have responsibility for youth justice. Each has a different approach and philosophy and do not work well together (VT)
- Community partners spend valuable resources struggling for funds (VT)
- Poor coordination causes lack of services in some areas and duplicated services in others (WV)

SOLUTIONS

Programs

- A state agency is duplicating South Carolina's integrated information sharing system (LA)
- 5 Year Youth Strategy Initiative (MD)
- System of Care developed statewide (AR, MT, NC)
- Regional Youth Planning Boards (LA)
- Statewide regional forums (KY, NY)

Collaboration

- Several systems of care include state, local and community based program providers. The collaboration has caused more implementation of better service delivery for youth (AR)
- State-wide Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Division of Family and Children Services that mandates that local protocols be developed in each community (GA)
- Statewide taskforce. This taskforce has met 5 times since December of 2005. Since this time, a draft Memorandum of Agreement and Release of Confidential information has been completed (KY)
- Workgroups between state and local providers. Work to employ co-location of services and common assessment and reporting systems (NY)

Role of the SAG

- SAG is encouraging communication between communities (WV)

Training

- Training for community to acquire accurate knowledge and skills in order to develop appropriate prevention and intervention programs is being done (ME)

Meetings/Conferences

- Statewide regional forums (KY, NY)

5. SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

Fifteen states and territories reported on the emerging issue of substance abuse treatment (AL, AZ, CO, GA, GU, IA, KS, LA, ME, MS, NV, NC, OR, PR, UT)

IMPACT

- Lack of available resources to provide services (AL, LA, MS, ME)
- Many juveniles entering the system are abusers or substance dependent (AZ, IA, NV, PR)
- Adolescents are underserved in treatment. Need residential and detox treatment services (CO, GA, NC, OR)
- Residential substance abuse treatment beds nonexistent (UT)
- Drug and liquor law violations have increased each of the last 3 years (KS)
- Most women convicted on drug or drug related charges (KS)
- Lack of inter or intra agency coordination (LA)
- Lack of services for marijuana addiction (LA)
- Youth not receiving MH screening, substance abuse screening, or family support services (ME)
- Cuts to mental health funding have impacted substance abuse services for youth (IA)
- Local assessments not effective (NC)
- Lack of treatment providers (ME, NV)
- Not enough treatment for juveniles under 16 (NC)
- Lack of transportation to and from providers (ME)
- Only long term adolescent residential treatment center closed in June 2006 (NV)
- Youth are being detained longer and more frequently in order to provide them with appropriate placement (NV)
- New drugs becoming a problem; methadone (NC), methamphetamine (UT)
- Youth placed in inappropriate programs (UT)

SOLUTIONS

Programs

- Juvenile Drug Court (GU, NV)
- Parental Involvement and Training (NV)
- Wraparound Services (NV)

- Intensive Case Management (NV)
- Vocational and Educational Assistance (NV)
- Restorative Justice Programming (NV)
- Evidence Based Therapy Programs; Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Multi-Systemic therapy, Functional Family Therapy, Multi-Dimensional Therapy (NV)
- Methadone Based Therapy, Mental Health Services, Community Based Programs, Coalision de la Montana and Multifamily Centers (PR)

Collaboration

- CYCC conducted public hearings with juvenile justice stakeholders to determine priority needs (GA)
- CYCC works with the Mental Health Agency to set state priorities for funding (GA)
- Juvenile Drug Court works with the Juvenile Police Section, Dept. of Youth Affairs, Mental Health, Department of Education, Youth social service agencies (GU)
- Collaboration for Youth Development involves state program staff from substance abuse, mental health, education, workforce development, volunteer services, human services (IA)

Funding

- Formula and Block grant funds used by CYCC to fund drug courts, funding drug courts is a state priority (GA)
- EUDL money, Formula Grants, Title V, and JABG for local officials for underage drinking initiatives (IA)

Training

- Full day trainings for those who represent juveniles on adolescent development, mental health, and substance abuse (ME)
- Office of Substance Abuse Providers receive evidence based training, strength-based training, and cognitive behavior and motivational implementation (ME) (ME)
- Need training for staff on reentry issues (AZ)

Meeting/Conferences

- CYCC public hearings with juvenile justice stakeholders throughout the state to determine priority needs (GA)

6. EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES & PROGRAMS

Twelve states reported on the emerging issues of evidence-based practices and programs (AL, AZ, AR, MD, NH, NJ, OK, OR, PA, SC, UT, WI)

IMPACT

- Lack of available resources to provide services (AL)

- EBP's allow the state to identify programs that have accountability to improve the juvenile justice program (AR)
- Many initiatives require EBP's, but cost to implement is prohibitive (MD)
- The state has just started to request that potential grantees use EBP's (NH)
- Outcome measures on EBP's showed mixed results, SAG debating how best to support programs (NJ)
- Difficult to insist that grantees use only EBP's. Discourages innovative new programs and treatment approaches (OK)
- Use an EBP's and model to deal with youthful offenders, but state juvenile facilities still out of compliance with core requirement of sight and sound separation based on age alone (OR)
- Private providers do not know what evidence based means. Providers have no motivation to make changes since they are rewarded when youth stay longer and return many times (UT)

SOLUTIONS

Programs

- Use NIC Correctional Program Checklist and Program Evaluation Protocols (AZ)
- Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) (MD, NJ)
- FFT (MD)
- Potential grantees use Model Program Guide when they begin to develop programs (NH, OK)
- Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (NJ)
- I Can Problem Solve (NJ)
- NFP Program (NJ)
- Nurse Family Partnership Program (NJ)
- Validated Risk and Needs Tool implemented state wide (OR)
- Include requirement to use EBP's on RFP's Applicants at pre-bid conferences asked to use model program link on website (OK)
- Blueprints for Violence Prevention Programs (PA)
- EBP's for incarcerated females (SC)
- Beaufort County, SC EBP for residents of Gullah heritage (SC)
- Need to train staff and policy makers on EBP's (SC)

Collaboration

- Children's Law Office provides technical assistance to counties about DMC and detention reform and national best practices (SC)

- Visit to South Dakota’s juvenile facilities, adopted Truthought curriculum (SC)
- SCDJJ partners with the higher education community (SC)
- Workgroup of state agencies meets to discuss funding issues at the state level, how to affect a statewide system to assess program progress, and how to create partnerships with the academic and research communities to evaluate juvenile justice programs (WI)

Role of the SAG

- SAG encourages best practices (AR)
- SAG supported the formation of MST sites and the creation of the Nurse Family Partnership Program. Outcome shows mixed results, so SAG is debating the continuation of the program (NJ)
- The SAG made EBP’s programming an in-state core requirement (OR)
- The SAG commissioned a study by the University of Wisconsin on cost effective programs focused on juvenile system youth. The study was a meta-analysis and the report is entitled, “What Works, Wisconsin.” The authors and members of the SAG disseminate the report throughout the state. The report is used to discuss issues with county boards and funding agencies (WI).

Funding

- Title II Formula Grant and Title V sub-grantees are encouraged to use EBP’s (UT)

Training

- The Children’s Law Office provides training to counties about DMC and detention reform (SC)
- SCDJJ sponsored staff training by national experts (SC)
- Site visits to jurisdictions with best practices (SC)
- Staff members working with girls in the DJJ receive expert training on trauma, developmental cycles, and case management (SC)

Evaluation

- University of Wisconsin conducted a meta analysis of cost effective programs (WI)

Legislation

- Statewide passage of SB267 requires the phasing in of EBP for all state and federal funds over a four-year funding cycle (OR)

7. FEMALE JUVENILE OFFENDERS

Eleven states and territories reported on female juvenile offenders as an emerging issue (AR, DE, MN, MT, NM, NY, PA, PR, TN, UT, WA)

IMPACT

- Increasing number of female offenders in the system (AR, DE, MN, NM, NY, PA, PR, TN, WA)
- Growth rate of female offenders much higher than of male offenders (MN, PA, WA)
- Intense amount of resources it takes to provide services is a drain on the JJ system (DE)
- Lack of sufficient gender responsive programs (NM, PR, UT)
- Increasing number of girls who are violent, with the average age decreasing yearly (NY)
- Female offenders are committing more serious crimes (TN)
- Not enough resources to deal with influx of female offenders (NY)
- Girls returned home without addressing the core issues of violence, which increases recidivism (NY)

SOLUTIONS

Programs

- Family Court led Delaware Girls Initiative (DE)
- Gender specific programs (MN)
- “Girls Circle” Program (AR, NM, NY)
- Increased programming geared to young girls through mentoring programs and social service organizations (NY)
- Twelve School level prevention centers (PR)
- Department of Family Youth Counselors Program (PR)
- Department of Sports and Recreation “Zone Press” Program (PR)
- Private Organization sponsored programs; Hogar Crea, Girls Specialized Unit (Ponce), Casas de Refugio for victims of domestic violence (PR)
- Started three culturally specific, female offender programs; two for Hispanics and one for Polynesians (UT)
- Developing a female specific assessment tool for girls in the juvenile justice system (UT)
- Need gender specific services and female responsive programs (UT, MT)
- Need programs that are community based and at key times of the day
- Need female specific residential and non-residential programs (UT)
- Need to address cultural issues specific to the group of female offenders (UT)

Collaboration

- JJ Specialist sits on the MN Inter-Agency Adolescent Female Subcommittee of the Advisory Task Force on the Women and Juvenile Female Offender in Corrections (MN)
- Policies, procedures, and protocols developed during PTSD demonstration site activities will be shared with all juvenile courts (PA)
- The PA Female Services Subcommittee developed a vision, mission, and goals for a gender responsive juvenile justice system (PA)

Funding

- Title II and Title V grants for gender specific programming (MN)
- Received funding (source not specified) to become a PTSD demonstration site (PA)

Training

- Girls Circle Training held for juvenile justice workers throughout the state (AR)
- Girls Circle facilitator training requested through DOC (MT)
- Girls Circle training for relevant staff (NY)
- PTSD treatment and educational curricula developed and used to train 7,000 people in the state (PA)

Meetings/Conferences

- GJJAC co-hosting a conference on gender specific services for girls in May 2007. Best practices and policy will be discussed (WA)

Evaluation

- PTSD Demonstration Site in Westmoreland County show how education and treatment on PTSD can be incorporated into a county juvenile justice system. Evaluated by the University of Pittsburgh's Office of Child Development, being refined in compliance with evaluator's recommendations (PA)

8. SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Eleven states and territories reported on substance abuse as an emerging issue (AK, GU, IA, KY, MS, NM, NY, ND, PR, TN, WV).

IMPACT

- Drugs and alcohol a problem in the state associated with high rates of teen suicide, pregnancy, school dropout rates and FASD (AK)
- Youth entering juvenile justice system dealing with substance abuse issues (IA, NM, NY, PR, TN, WV)
- Cuts to mental health funding have effected substance abuse services for youth (IA)

- Resulted in an increase of youth in the court system and the number of youth incarcerated (KY)
- Lack of funds, insurance coverage, and local resources make it difficult for youth to receive treatment (KY)
- Lack of certified alcohol and substance abuse counselors to screen and assess youth for drug use (NY)
- Rate of alcohol abuse for youth above national average. Need earlier attention to prevention activities (ND)
- Alcohol and tobacco most commonly abused drugs. Prescription drug abuse has increased. Marijuana, heroin, crack cocaine and methamphetamine taken on a regional basis (WV)
- Need for education about consequences and how parental substance abuse affects juveniles (MS)
- Need early detection and intervention programs to identify substance abuse as a family issue (TN)

SOLUTIONS

Programs

- OJJDP site visit to assess programs and identify resource needs (AK)
- Juvenile Drug Court (GU, WV)
- State prevention programs include Police Athletic League, ZELDA (Schools free from drugs and arms), ASSMCA Prevention Centers, Administration of Youth Institutions Multifamily Service Centers, The Dry Project, Coalision de la Monta, PROSIC (PR)
- Prevention Resource Officers in local middle schools and high schools (WV)
- DJJ implemented a statewide system of services for probated or committed youth (KY)
- EUDL funding used to increase activities and provide public education about underage drinking
- Need education on legal and criminal effects of possession of illegal substances (NY)
- Need longer rehab and treatment programs. Educate judges and lawmakers on the effects of substance abuse and how it effects decision making of youth (NY)
- Need qualified health professionals to determine recipient employability, child safety, and appropriate referrals for youth mental health assessments (NY)

Collaboration

- Juvenile Drug Court has a working relationship with the Juvenile Police Section, the Department of Youth Affairs, Mental Health, the Department of Education, and youth social service agencies. All parties provide feedback to the court to help develop a

treatment plan for the youth to follow in lieu of more punitive measures like incarceration. This program has a 10% recidivism rate (primarily alcohol related). Youth in this program have an improvement in school attendance and improved family relations (GU).

- Collaboration for Youth Development involves state program staff from substance abuse, mental health, education, workforce development, volunteer services, human services (IA)
- SPA staff assist in grant reading for the Iowa Department of Public Health Substance Abuse Division (IA)
- DJJ implemented a statewide system of services for probated and committed youth (KY)
- Prevention programs collaborate (PR)

Funding

- EUDL funds support substance abuse programs (AK, IA, ND)
- Formula grant, Title V, and JABG used to fund different approaches to underage drinking (IA)

9. REENTRY PROGRAMS

Nine states reported on the emerging issue of reentry programs (AK, IA, KS, NV, NJ, OH, PA, SC, VA).

IMPACT

- Youth may leave DJJ treatment facilities with limited support (AK,
- Recidivism of parolees and probationers. A more family centered approach is needed (NJ)
- More recidivism when there is no aftercare (OH)
- Youth leaving custody age out of the juvenile justice system. Reentry to the community is their last chance to avoid the criminal justice system (SC)
- 75% of youth released from juvenile correctional centers are rearrested within 3 years (VA)
- State supported aftercare programs and services have been cut back or eliminated (PA).

SOLUTIONS

Programs

- Letters of apology are written to victims by juveniles and restitution for victims is a priority. Programs include Victim Offender Mediation Programs. Youth courts have been developed state-wide. Anchorage has a Transitional Services Unit.
- Going Home Initiative, but few youths qualify (KS).

- The Arizona Detention Transition project (ADTP) is a promising program and intensive case management and wraparound services to youth leaving detention including youth parole officers/counselors is also offered (NV).
- “La Bodega de Familia,” is a model developed by Family Justice in Manhattan’s Lower East Side and applied to juveniles during reentry in the state (NJ).
- The Ohio Department of Youth has developed a 25-point strategy for restoration and reentry (OH).
- The state participated in the National Serious and Violent Offender Initiative Demonstration Project” and implemented an aftercare model in 5 counties (SC). From October 2006 aftercare planning and services will be available in 23 of 46 counties serving 75% of paroled juveniles. The model includes planning for reentry, supervision, use of graduated sanctions and case management services.
- Model programs are available in Juvenile Correctional Centers to alter behavior, assist reentry, and assist the child and family after reentry (SC).
- The state has three correctional facilities and 2 county camps for youth in the juvenile justice system (NV).

Local Issues

- Geographic size and scattered population makes establishing reentry programs expensive and difficult (AK).
- Rural judicial districts do not have close placement facilities so family therapy and reentry and reunification are difficult (KS).

Funding

- JJDP Act funding given to local planning entities. Money used to fund tracking and monitoring services, school based liaison and day treatment programming (IA)
- Legislature has authorized small amount of funding for services and training for youth aging out of foster care (IA).

Legislation

- The Legislature has authorized small amounts of funding for the “Going Home Initiative” (KS).

Meetings/Conferences

- State is hosting 3rd Annual Governor’s Summit on Juvenile Justice (NV).

Role of the SAG

- The SAG supported the adoption of the “La Bodega de Familia” model (NJ)

Evaluation

- The model “La Bodega de Familia” is being evaluated by the Rutgers School of Criminal Justice (NJ).

- The state was a part of a national demonstration and evaluation for the program “Serious and Violent Offender Initiative (SC)

Collaboration

- Governor convened an Aftercare Working Group staffed by Juvenile Law Center with high level representation from key stakeholders. The group developed a “Joint Policy on Aftercare that commits signatory agencies to develop and support a comprehensive aftercare system by 2010 (PA)

10. ZERO TOLERANCE

Ten states and territories reported on zero tolerance as an emerging issue (AL, GA, KS, ME, NC, OK, OR, PR, SC, WV).

IMPACT

- Zero tolerance policies increase the number of youth who come into contact with juvenile courts (AL, GA, NC, OK, SC).
- Students involved in the juvenile justice system face suspension and expulsion from school more frequently (ME, NC, OR, PR, WV).
- Because of the fear of school violence, increasingly stringent disciplinary policies have been instituted in schools. Schools and law enforcement officials seem to be working at cross purposes with juvenile justice and child welfare workers. Such policies have a disproportionate effect on juvenile offenders and lead to arrest for relatively minor misbehavior (GA).
- There is no room for error in zero tolerance and it does not allow for common sense (KS) or discretion (WV).
- Short and long term school suspensions lead to growing numbers of unsupervised youth on the street. Suspensions and truancy are related to juvenile delinquency (NC, SC).
- Schools and the court system do not know what to do with juveniles who should not be in the public school setting (NC).
- “Disturbing schools” is the top delinquent act which accounts for front end referrals to family court (2,700 cases a year; the 5th most prevalent reason for pre-adjudicatory detention, the 2nd most prevalent reason for juvenile detention, and the 10th most prevalent reason for commitment to custody) (SC).

SOLUTIONS

Programs

- Alternative schools (NC).
- A variety of state programs are offered; “Rescue on Time,” “Open School (extended school time schedule),” “Quality Education,” “Educating for Peace,” “Cenit,” and a

few private programs; El Nuevo Dia Newspaper and Las Casas de Juventud (Study Centers) (PR).

Training

- The Child and Youth Coordinating Council (CYCC) provided statewide training to School Resource Officers and other law enforcement officials (GA).

Collaboration

- The CYCC seeks a consensus among school, law enforcement, and social service leaders about the philosophical content of training for school and law enforcement officials (GA). The CYCC has 1 staff member to facilitate meetings among school administrators, SRO's, and local juvenile courts (GA).
- The State Education Department and the Juvenile Crime Prevention Program have collaborated to try and find strategies to reduce the drop out problem (OR).
- The State Department of Education and the DJJ collaborated to support new legislation that reduces the number of truancy cases referred to family court—which was high, 3,000 a year at its' peak, now less than 1,000 a year (SC).

Meetings/Conferences

- A conference (based on the success of training for School Resource Officers) was held for school administrators and SRO's to discuss protocols for school safety issues.

Funding

- Title II Formula grant funds used for programs such as “Skills for Responsible Thinking,” and “Collaborative Problem Solving (ME).”

Evaluation

- The Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG) contracted with the Muskie School of Public Policy, Institute for Public Sector Innovation to conduct a survey about school suspension and expulsion rates (ME). It is difficult to get ratios of suspended and expelled students because of differences in data collection among schools and School Administrative Districts (ME).

Legislation

- A law was passed which requires education be provided to youth under age 18 who are held as adults in adult jails (OK).
- SCDJJ introduced legislation to distinguish between two levels of disturbing schools (non-criminal behavioral misconduct and assaultive behaviors). The legislation did not get out of committee in 2006, but will be re-introduced in 2007 (SC). A constitutional challenge to the existing disturbing school statute will be heard by the South Carolina Supreme Court this year (SC).

11. NEW FINDINGS FROM BRAIN AND DEVELOPMENTAL RESEARCH

Four states reported on the emerging issue of new findings from brain and developmental research (MO, NM, OK, UT).

IMPACT

- There is an increase in the number of youth contacted by the juvenile justice system who appear to have substance abuse or mental health issues (MO).
- Youth are spending more time in the system and wasting resources, but are not capable of consequential thinking, empathy, or ends to means thinking (UT).
- More new research needed to link brain development research with risk factors (UT).
- Some serious youthful offenders under state code may lack sufficient psycho-social maturity and should have less severe sentences than adult offenders (UT).

SOLUTIONS

Role of the SAG

- The SAG website includes link to the MacArthur research network and postings of published articles about brain development (OK).

Training

- SAG members have attended workshops on brain development (MO).
- Training is needed about the relationship between brain development stages and risk factors for juvenile justice personnel and policy makers if significant changes are to be made to the system (UT).
- Current research findings are difficult to disseminate to the general public (OK).

Use of Funding

- Funding (source not specified) has been allocated to help juvenile courts deal with mental health issues (MO).

12. GANGS

Four states reported on gangs as a current and emerging issue (AK, MD, NJ, NY).

IMPACT

- There has been an increase in gang related violence in local communities (AK, MD).
- There is also an increase in drug related crimes and early detention related to gang activity (NY).
- A perception of the reality of gang affiliated crime has resulted in increasing support for gang prevention and intervention strategies (NJ).

SOLUTIONS

Programs

- More programs are needed to improve pro-social relationships and positive community ties (NY).
- The Phoenix Gang Prevention and Intervention Curriculum will become a model program (NJ).
- Skills training will be provided to compete for gang related money making opportunities (NY).

Funding

- JABG funds supported attendance at a San Diego, CA conference on prosecutorial issues about gangs, by representatives of the police department, DJJ, DOC, and the DA's office (AK).
- The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, the Governor's Office on Children, and the State Attorney General's Office leveraged state and federal funds to solicit planning and implementation grants in targeted communities (MD).
- The SAG supported the Phoenix Gang Prevention and Intervention curriculum and evaluation in several school districts (NJ).
- The Mayor's Task Force on Gangs was established in Anchorage (AK).

13. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Four states reported on restorative justice as an emerging issue (AK, CO, MO, ND).

IMPACT

- DJJ has made restorative justice part of its' mission statement, with a focus on the needs of the victim and the community. Juveniles are held accountable for their behavior (AK)
- Courts struggle with accountability options and look for effective ways to modify antisocial and destructive behavior (MO)
- Restorative Justice programming has increased the percentage of juvenile court dispositions handled through diversion. Resources are needed to continue the diversion option (ND)

SOLUTIONS

Programs

- The approaches used in restorative justice programs include Victim Offender Mediation Programs and Graduated Sanctions (AK).
- Work Programs and Diversion Programs help offenders pay restitution (CO).
- Victim/Offender Conferencing and Victim Empathy Panels are also used (ND).

Training

- Restorative justice trainers train DJJ staff and make community presentations (AK).
- Training is provided to courts on restorative justice programs (MO).

Funding

- JABG funds are used to cover a portion of the costs of a statewide Restorative Justice program (ND)

14. TRANSFER OR CERTIFICATION TO ADULT COURTS

IMPACT

- 300 of 800 youthful offenders in Oregon Youth Authority Facilities were prosecuted in adult court and then placed in the juvenile corrections system for treatment to protect them from the adult corrections system (OR)
- OJJDP found Oregon's practice with juvenile offenders tried as adults violated the sight and sound core requirement, state is on path to non-compliant status (OR)
- Too many youths transferred to circuit court (VA)
- Age of adult court jurisdiction lowered to 17 years. No evidence of a beneficial effect on lowering crime rates for youth in the state. An adult record for a teen can impact education, employment, and housing (WI)

SOLUTIONS

Programs

- Court diversion is used in all first offenses of a non-serious nature (VT)
- Adult and youth community-based restorative justice practices (VT)
- Secure detention or longer term corrections sentences used rarely (VT)

Collaboration

- Campaign 4 Youth Justice reviews and gathers information about the national view about initiation of all cases for youth under 18 (VT)

15. NATIVE AMERICAN PASS THROUGH FUNDS

One state reported on Native American pass through funds as an emerging issue (OK).

IMPACT

Cultural Issues

- Tribal governments change often so it is difficult to maintain ongoing programs with tribes. In addition, there is little follow through from grantees after a tribal government change (OK).

SOLUTIONS

Role of the SAG

- The SAG presented at the Annual Oklahoma Supreme Court Native American Symposium. As a result of the presentation, the SAG received numerous inquiries and recommended several attendees apply for SAG membership (OK).

16. OTHER ISSUES RAISED BY STATES

Nine states and territories reported on other issues (GU, KS, KY, PR, SD, UT, VT, VA, WI)

IMPACT

- Antiquated Laws/Codes on Juvenile Justice and the Lack of a Residential Treatment facility for youth. (GU)
- Adequate funding for community supervision Top priority of state Juvenile Justice Agency. (KS)
- An increase in the number of sexual offenders entering the JJ system. (KY)
- Non Compliance with federal core requirements in the administration of juvenile justice and the grant management system (PR)
- Early Intervention Issues, Tribal Juvenile Justice Issues, Alternatives to Commitment, and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (SD)
- Almost 50% of youth on our caseloads are sex offenders. Treatment is long, very costly and may not be effective. (UT)
- Prevention of juvenile delinquency (VT)
- Kids without EFFECTIVE LEGAL REPRESENTATION are more likely to be detained and, thus, more likely to be committed (VA)
- Use of thorough, culturally sensitive and appropriate screening and assessment tools for mental health, substance abuse, and other needs to ensure that youth not only get appropriate services, but also that they are served in the appropriate “system” (WI)

SOLUTIONS

Programs

- Development of a screening and assessment process to screen, assess, and identify FASD youth in the juvenile justice system and to collaboratively develop and implement a service system to meet their individual needs

Collaboration

- South Dakota’s Court, Corrections, and Child Protection systems are partnering with the mental health system to implement a system of care so that youth and families have access to effective services when problems first arise and also access to services in the community as alternatives to commitment. (SD)

- Pairing of police school liaison officers with human services workers in a school district where youth of color are arrested, suspended or expelled in alarmingly disproportionate rates. (WI)

Role of the SAG

- The Guam SAG has been advocates for either establishing a local treatment facility or exploring utilization of the Saipan facility as opposed to sending our youth the United States for treatment. (GU)

Training

- Technical training with OJJDP (PR)

Evaluation

- The Department of Juvenile Justice has researched best practices across the U.S. and contacted ATSA and CSOM for data. Kentucky will be a test site for the new MEGA assessment. (KY)
- Standards of practice for lawyers (VA)

Cultural Issues

- Establishment of Juvenile Justice Tribal Advisory Groups (SD)