

## **Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice Webinar Meeting**

Friday, August 10, 2012

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) convened its second webinar meeting of the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice (FACJJ) on Friday, August 10, 2012, at 3 PM Eastern Daylight Time. The purpose of the meeting was to provide input to the National Juvenile Justice Evaluation Center (NJJEC) about its proposed activities, to hold concurrent phone conferences of the FACJJ subcommittees, and to plan for the second in-person FACJJ meeting to be held October 18-19 in Washington, DC. Prior to the meeting, Reggie Robinson, FACJJ chair, e-mailed FACJJ members the agenda and guidance to help members prepare for the webinar.

### **Call to Order**

Robin Delany-Shabazz, OJJDP's Designated Federal Official for the FACJJ, called the meeting to order and welcomed webinar participants and observers on behalf of OJJDP. Michelle Duhart-Tonge, of the National Training and Technical Assistance Center, provided a webinar tutorial. The webinar was attended by 15 FACJJ members and OJJDP staff. A number of non-FACJJ members listened and viewed the webinar as observers but did not actively participate.

### **Updates**

Mr. Robinson welcomed FACJJ members to the webinar and noted that since the last webinar in April, the FACJJ has organized subcommittees and most have convened by phone at least once. He reviewed the agenda and did a roll call of participants. He then introduced Catherine Pierce, senior advisor to the OJJDP Administrator. Ms. Pierce thanked FACJJ members for their input and suggestions for the OJJDP Program Plan. OJJDP is focusing on disproportionate minority contact (DMC), family and youth engagement, childhood trauma, the need for more research, development of more publications, stronger outreach and communication, and more staff engagement.

She also gave an update on the revision of the 1997 document *Sharing Information: A Guide to the FERPA and Participation in Juvenile Justice Programs*. FACJJ members provided input for the revision at the April webinar. Ms. Pierce said OJJDP hopes to have the draft revision ready for review in late August or September and asked FACJJ members to help review the document. She also discussed the proposed OJJDP reorganization, noting that the Human Resources division has approved the reorganization chart, which goes next to the Assistant Attorney General of the Office of Justice for approval. Finally, she said the Attorney General's Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence, a U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) priority, expects to release a report at the beginning of January.

### **National Juvenile Justice Evaluation Center**

Dr. Carrie Williamson, a research associate at the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA), gave an overview of the National Juvenile Justice Evaluation Center (NJJEC). The evaluation center is a project of JRSA, which is a national nonprofit organization of state Statistical Analysis Center directors, researchers and practitioners from government, academia, and criminal justice organizations. JRSA conducts policy research and provides training and technical assistance to states and localities. NJJEC was created to help states, localities, and tribes increase their evaluation capacity; expand and improve performance measurements; and implement evidence-based practices.

The evaluation center conducted a needs assessment and found that states and localities need assistance in sustaining effective programs, conducting cost-benefit analyses, establishing baseline data, adhering to an evidence-based program model, and developing performance measures. Feedback from a series of webinars, including one held specifically for tribal practitioners, indicated that practitioners want free and locally accessible training and technical assistance; information about logic modeling and evidence-based programs that address policies and practices; and tools to help with logic model templates, risk assessments, and pre- and post-tests.

Dr. Williamson invited FACJJ members to suggest ways the evaluation center can better serve State Advisory Groups (SAGs) and juvenile justice and tribal practitioners. She electronically polled FACJJ members for their suggestions about the center's proposed project activities. Members were asked to select three areas they considered the highest priorities for future webinars. Members ranked evaluation methods, implementing evidence-based practices, and program sustainability, respectively, as the top three areas that need to be addressed. The second polling question asked FACJJ members to rank components of sustainability that should be addressed in sustainability resources, such as a webinar. Members ranked demonstration of positive results as the most important topic, followed by a tie between program improvement and community support/evaluation. Diversifying funding was ranked third.

Dr. Williamson also illustrated how NJJEC can help the FACJJ address its youth justice priorities. For example, the evaluation center can help practitioners who are implementing evidence-based practices develop performance measures, plan for sustainability, determine how to implement a program with sustainability, and decide when a program is ready to be evaluated. In the area of information sharing, NCJJE can help practitioners determine how to collect useful data, rather than a smorgasbord of data, that can be shared across agencies, and use data to demonstrate positive results to stakeholders. One of the difficulties in addressing DMC, another FACJJ priority, is collecting data that is systemic because DMC is an issue across juvenile justice systems. Practitioners and policymakers need quality data collected across agencies so that they can demonstrate both the problem and progress. NCJJE would like to use the DMC issue as an example in its upcoming "Extending the Evidence: Collecting Data on Policies and Practices" webinar.

She also asked FACJJ members to answer three open-ended questions about how NCJJE could address the needs of the SAGs and the FACJJ. In response to a question about concerns and challenges SAGs face regarding performance measures and evaluation, respondents identified a number of issues including the need for common performance measure definitions, meaningful process and outcome evaluations, the inclusion of cost analyses in evaluations, and the involvement of stakeholders (including judges and prosecutors) in performance measurements.

They were also asked what the SAGs' most pressing needs are when it comes to performance measures and evaluation. Respondents noted the difficulty in finding funding to evaluate court-based programs; and the need to provide training and technical assistance to local practitioners working to implement evidence-based programs; information on ways jurisdictions can share results; simpler tools to track performance measures, especially in areas with a lack of staff support; and assistance for practitioners in rural settings. The final question asked for specific suggestions on ways NCJJE could work with the SAGs to support their research and evaluation

needs. Recommendations included being proactive by reaching out to SAGs to help them determine what their needs are; providing SAG-specific training regarding the complexities of evaluation; and visiting SAG meetings to explain NCJJE's mission and how the center can help SAGs. Dr. Williamson invited members to visit the JRSA website at [www.jrsa.org](http://www.jrsa.org) and the NJJEC website at <http://www.jrsa.org/njjec/index.htm>.

### **Subcommittee Meetings and Reports**

Following this presentation, Mr. Robinson directed each of the five FACJJ subcommittees to meet for 30 minutes concurrently by phone to discuss their purpose statements, proposed activities, and a selection process for adding non-FACJJ members to the subcommittees. After the phone conferences, each subcommittee reported out to the entire FACJJ.

**Youth Justice and Schools:** Dean Williams, subcommittee chair, reported the proposed purpose of the subcommittee "is to inform and support efforts that are intended to bring the school discipline issue (i.e., expulsion, suspension, disengagement) to the forefront of policymakers and the public at large. Efforts that build consensus on best practices or model programs will take on special importance as the subcommittee believes appreciation of existing research needs highlighting." The subcommittee decided on this purpose statement after discussing activities the subcommittee could do that won't duplicate what other groups are doing and that can make a difference in a short timeframe. The Council of State Governments has a consensus-building initiative on school discipline issues, and the FACJJ subcommittee has discussed working with the council on this project. The full FACJJ unanimously endorsed the Youth Justice and Schools Subcommittee purpose statement and activities through electronic voting.

**Evidence-based Youth Justice Practices:** Subcommittee chair Dalene Dutton said this subcommittee's purpose "is to advise the FACJJ on matters related to the study, dissemination, and effective implementation of data, research, and evidence-based effective youth justice programs, priorities, and practices." The subcommittee suggested identifying outcomes for youth that aren't necessarily focused on recidivism but on other positive outcomes such as gainful employment. Other priorities include identifying gaps in research and money available for funding research; dissemination and translation of effective practices; and information about evaluation and ways to connect community-based organizations with the technical assistance and tools they need to evaluate their efforts. The subcommittee also wants to make sure the FACJJ considers equity and diversity issues and communicates with other bodies advising OJJDP and DOJ. The full FACJJ unanimously endorsed the Evidence-based Youth Justice Practices Subcommittee purpose statement and activities through electronic voting.

**Youth Justice and Information Sharing:** FACJJ Chair Robinson reported this subcommittee has not been convened and organized due to a number of difficulties. He suggested eliminating the subcommittee, assigning its members to other subcommittees, and making the entire FACJJ available to work on information sharing issues. One of the first activities would be a review by FACJJ members of the revised draft of the FERPA report as noted earlier by Ms. Pierce. The full FACJJ unanimously endorsed this idea via electronic voting.

**Youth Justice and Family Engagement:** Pat Berckman was the only member of this subcommittee available to attend the conference call along with OJJDP staff. She said the subcommittee's purpose statement initially focused on research related to program development. During the conference call, a suggestion was made to add advocacy to the purpose statement.

The subcommittee also wants to work with OJJDP's work group on family engagement and examine family engagement models. One possible non-FACJJ group to include in this subcommittee's work is the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA). It was also noted that a lot of work on family involvement is being done in the mental health field. Because of proposed changes to the purpose statement and other suggestions that came up during the conference call, this subcommittee was not ready to put forth a purpose statement for approval at this webinar. Instead it will present a purpose statement at the October meeting.

**Youth Justice and DMC:** Committee chair Christine Rapillo and Andrea Coleman, OJJDP's DMC coordinator, jointly reported on this subcommittee. Ms. Coleman presented a purpose statement that proposed the subcommittee would work directly with OJJDP. A question was raised as to whether a FACJJ subcommittee can advise OJJDP directly. Ms. Delany-Shabazz responded the subcommittees are to advise the FACJJ, which in turn will advise OJJDP. With this caveat, the purpose statement now reads the subcommittee "will work with the FACJJ to further OJJDP's efforts to identify and reduce disproportionality in the juvenile justice system and related systems. The subcommittee will work with the FACJJ to identify local efforts and best practices that have shown success in decreasing DMC in their localities and help further efforts and encourage innovation in the area of DMC reduction, including efforts to provide technical assistance in developing best practices." The subcommittee noted the need to identify and work with other child-serving systems and initiatives related to DMC; share information among groups that are working to reduce DMC; develop a system to review all OJJDP activities and assess their relevance to DMC; develop and share a list of successful communities, organizations, and strategies for addressing DMC; and encourage and promote data resources and data display methods. The full FACJJ unanimously endorsed the revised Youth Justice and DMC Subcommittee's purpose statement and activities through electronic voting.

**Youth Subcommittee:** Chair Haley Reibold reported this subcommittee has held numerous conference calls and developed a purpose statement and a list of proposed activities. The purpose statement "is to support OJJDP and the FACJJ in institutionalizing youth voice at the federal, state, and local levels to ensure that the voices and perspectives of youth—especially those in the juvenile justice system—impact and influence juvenile justice policy and practice." The subcommittee is interested in sponsoring regularly scheduled youth-led webinars and listening sessions, identifying and pursuing opportunities to involve more youth in OJJDP activities, developing publications on promising youth practices, and developing a curriculum to help youth navigate the juvenile justice system. The subcommittee's major proposed activity is to collect and disseminate information about youth directly involved in the juvenile justice system to address the misconception about youth in the system and to report on the positive results OJJDP-funded programs are having. There was some discussion about support and resources available for these activities and this issue will be discussed at the October meeting. The purpose statement of Youth Subcommittee was unanimously approved by the full FACJJ through electronic voting.

### **Next Steps**

Following the subcommittee reports, Mr. Robinson asked FACJJ members to continue to think about a process to invite non-FACJJ members to join the subcommittees as an important way to

expand the FACJJ's expertise. He asked OJJDP to set up a conference call with the FACJJ chair and co-chair and subcommittee chairs to discuss this issue.

Mr. Robinson discussed the agenda for the face-to-face FACJJ meeting in October in Washington and asked for suggestions. In addition to discussing adding non-FACJJ members to the subcommittees, Mr. Robinson and co-chair Rob Lubitz have discussed asking FACJJ members to talk about promising activities that are happening in their states. The October meeting will also include an update on OJJDP's program plan and breakout subcommittee sessions. It was suggested that OJJDP address the budget challenges the office is facing. Ms. Delany-Shabazz reminded members that OJJDP can bring in speakers for the meeting.

### **Closing**

Mr. Robinson thanked everyone for the work they are doing in the subcommittees, reminding members that subcommittee work is the backbone of any group. He also reminded members that they will be asked shortly to review and provide feedback on the revised information sharing document discussed earlier in the meeting. This review will be FACJJ's mechanism for advising OJJDP about information sharing.

The webinar was adjourned at 6:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time.