

JDAI News

Newsletter of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

August 2009

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JDAI Staff

Bart Lubow, Director of Programs for High-Risk Youth

Gail D. Mumford, Senior Associate for Juvenile Justice Reform

Julie Pope, Administrative Assistant

JDAI News Team

Heather A. Ford, Editor

Stephanie Vetter, Senior Consultant

Leonard Sparks, Copy Editor

Pena Design, Inc., Production

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Economy Challenges Detention Reform Efforts



The national recession has posed difficult challenges to detention reformers in multiple JDAI sites nationally. As tax revenues have shrunk, these juvenile justice managers have been forced to make deep budget reductions, presenting very difficult choices. Should avoiding public system staff layoffs be their first priority? Even if that means eliminating contract services that seemed essential just a year ago? What about those new partnerships being nurtured with community organizations? (Aren't their employees as deserving as public agency personnel?) And what about those evidence-based programs we just convinced the county council to fund because they would produce better outcomes for the kids? Some managers may even wonder, "Wouldn't it be easier to fill the detention center's empty beds, at least during the budget crunch, rather than struggle to keep detention reforms alive?"

These kinds of dilemmas are real, painful and likely to be with us for several more years. What arguments should be made for sustaining detention reforms?

How are sites coping with budget reductions? What should we collectively be advocating that might provide some relief in the near future?

Detention Reform is Cost-Effective

The strongest argument against un-doing detention reforms is simply that they typically produce more efficient and less costly systems. Detention reform saves money in multiple ways. Some sites have avoided costly construction of new detention facilities; others have been able to shut down units in existing detention centers, saving the dollars associated with operating those beds. Detention alternatives are far less costly – on a daily basis – than secure confinement. Case processing reforms, including the activities of staff like "expeditors," reduce docket sizes and minimize delays. Data-driven policies and programs help to fine-tune the system, maximizing returns on public investments in both programs and personnel.

In many jurisdictions, the case for JDAI's cost-effectiveness has effectively been demonstrated. In those instances,

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Welcome to the nation's capital, JDAI!

We come to Washington D.C. for this year's national inter-site conference in part to acknowledge, as we do annually, the good work done by stakeholders in our host site. Over the past few years, Washington D.C.'s juvenile justice system has undergone many positive changes, including the recent opening of a state-of-the-art facility to replace the infamous Oak Hill Youth Center, long a sad symbol of national problems in youth corrections and the subject of federal litigation and oversight for more than two decades. But the new facility is only one of many accomplishments to applaud. Our host site has, for example, established an array of creative community-based programs, implemented significant case processing reforms, and reduced its secure detention population by 31% since JDAI first began here. Attendees at this year's conference are encouraged to learn more about these efforts as DC stakeholders outline their innovations during multiple sessions.

But we also come to Washington D.C. for another reason: to focus the attention of the federal government on our detention reform movement, its accomplishments, its transformative potential and its desire for new partnerships that can strengthen our collective efforts to improve juvenile justice across the country.

JDAI stakeholders know as well as anyone that juvenile justice policy and practice are primarily determined by decisions and actions taken in state capitals and local courts. But the fact that most of the day-to-day action is based in states and counties in no way implies that the federal government does not have a substantial role to play, nor significant responsibility for the overall direction of juvenile justice in our country. Historically, we have seen the dra-

matic impact that federal leadership can have on our field, as was the case with the passage of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and the subsequent deinstitutionalization of status offenders, the removal of juveniles from adult jails, and the requirement that states address racial disparities.

Unfortunately, for almost a decade now the federal government has played a dwindling role in supporting—much less leading—the field's efforts to respond to pressing challenges now made all the more difficult by the economic crisis. As we wrote in the 2008 Kids Count essay, "...the federal government's role in juvenile justice has suffered from inattention and drift. Funding levels have dropped precipitously; many remaining resources have been allocated to pet projects, rather than innovative programs; and the output of meaningful new federally funded research has slowed to a trickle."

This status quo should not stand, and there is some evidence that it won't. Congress is working to reauthorize the JJDP, considering key changes that would better align federal law with policy and practice innovations the field has already begun to embrace and implement. Other legislative initiatives also give reasons for hope, including Senator Webb's call for a national commission to reconsider our nation's troubling reliance on imprisonment and Congressman Scott's comprehensive bill to promote juvenile justice reform.

Many conference attendees anticipate that recent political changes in Washington D.C. mean that the federal government will soon join hands with juvenile justice reformers at the state and local levels. But, regardless of one's political proclivities, it would be naïve to think that the national government, confronted as it is with multiple wars, economic crisis, global warming and a broken health care system, would prioritize juvenile justice absent considerable prodding from folks like ourselves.

Put another way, we will probably only get from the federal government the support and leadership that we demand and that our work demonstrates that we deserve.

What we seek is relatively simple. We need renewed leadership, especially the appointment of a bold OJJDP administrator who knows what works and who is willing to promote and stimulate best practice. And, we need increased federal funding, to share the fiscal responsibilities now borne almost exclusively by states and counties, but especially to build the field's infrastructure for research, training, technical assistance and professional networks.

JDAI has certainly demonstrated that it deserves the federal government's attention. The most recent results reported by more than 100 sites indicate that reliance on secure detention has been collectively reduced by approximately one-third, without any sacrifice of public safety. Many sites have applied the values and techniques of detention reform to strengthen other components of their systems. Some are the only places in the country that have made measurable progress reducing "disproportionate minority contact". And, many JDAI jurisdictions have saved millions of taxpayer dollars as a result of their reforms.

Our detention reform movement comes to Washington D.C., therefore, to serve notice of its accomplishments and to inform our nation's leaders that juvenile justice policy makers and practitioners across the country—in states and counties of all sizes and in all corners of the country—are reinvigorating the field to improve outcomes for delinquent youth and to enhance public safety. We ask, "Will you join us?"

Bart Lubow

Director of Programs for
High-Risk Youth
Annie E. Casey Foundation



Presiding Family Court Judge Brian Huff, Jefferson County (Birmingham), Alabama

elected leaders and system managers have proven less likely to forsake these proven reforms. Earlier this year, Nevada Supreme Court Chief Justice James Hardesty credited JDAI with conserving costs. In his annual “State of the Judiciary” speech, he told a joint session of the Nevada legislature that because of JDAI the courts have made progress in keeping young people out of the court system and reduced the need to build more detention facilities.

Budget constraints and excess capacity have led several New Jersey counties to consolidate detention services. Three local detention facilities are closing in New Jersey, and youth are being transferred to nearby counties with empty detention beds. This has produced a win-win situation for the counties involved. The JDAI site in Essex County (Newark), for example, will realize \$4 million a year in revenue for housing Passaic County’s detainees. Passaic, in turn, expects to save about \$10 million a year by closing its facility. (New Jersey officials are keeping a close watch for any unintended consequences from these changes.)

Readers are encouraged to review and share Detention Reform Brief 1, *A Cost-Saving Approach*, for basic arguments regarding cost-effectiveness. The brief can be downloaded from the JDAI Help Desk (www.jdaihelpdesk.org).

The Pressure is On!

Regardless of how convinced officials are that detention reform is cost-effective public policy, budget pressures are still causing huge headaches and often precipitating drastic changes. The model JDAI site in Multnomah County (Portland), Oregon, barely avoided a potentially disastrous multimillion-dollar cut in 2009, partly through a dedicated tax increase on car rentals and by working with its unions to freeze wages in order to save positions. Detention personnel also agreed to reconfigure staffing patterns from four 10-hour days to five eight-hour days. Unfortunately, the county ultimately felt forced to shutter its most expensive (and most effective) alternative therapeutic program.

New Jersey, the new model state site, recently returned \$2.1 million of a \$4

million appropriation intended for institutionalizing detention reforms. “Of course we would prefer not to be facing cuts, but New Jersey is 100 percent invested in detention reform,” said Veleria N. Lawson, executive director of the Juvenile Justice Commission.

Needing to address a \$190 million deficit, Dallas County, Texas, may be forced to eliminate a diversion program that has proven effective for more than 35 years.

Jefferson County (Birmingham), Alabama, like many JDAI sites, is confronting calls to slash its juvenile justice budget, but policymakers there are determined to find a silver lining. “We have to make a positive out of this,” said Presiding Family Court Judge Brian Huff.

“First of all, if we merely rely on alternative programs to keep kids out of detention, then these budget decisions will haunt us forever. But if we change the way we operate as a system, we will always be able to limit our use of detention,” Huff said. “Fundamentally

States Alter Fiscal Architecture of Juvenile Justice System

According to a 2009 report by the Justice Policy Institute, “The Costs of Confinement: Why Good Juvenile Justice Policies Make Good Fiscal Sense,” shifting the fiscal architecture of state juvenile justice systems can save money and improve outcomes.

The report profiles six states that encouraged counties to invest in alternatives to incarcerating youth in secure residential facilities. By eliminating or reducing the financial incentive for sending youth to state-funded secure care, the states made it financially beneficial for counties to invest in alternatives.

To read the report visit the Justice Policy Institute website at www.justicepolicy.org.

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JDAI is a change in philosophy and attitude. Most importantly it is a change of behaviors. If we as practitioners stay committed to the new way of doing things, we can survive the budget cuts. We may not have new money or new programs, but we will not go back to locking up low-risk youth.”

Creative Solutions

Two JDAI sites report that they are actually expanding services during these hard times due to creative deployment of federal stimulus money allocated to support detention reform activities.

Washoe County (Reno), Nevada, is running a summer youth employment program that will provide real wages and positive supports to several dozen youth under the juvenile court’s supervision. Marion County (Indianapolis), Indiana, will increase case management services to about 2,500 youth by expanding its reception center from one to three sites with \$575,000 in stimulus money. Indiana officials recently reported that stimulus funds will soon be deployed to expand JDAI to new counties in that state.

A Strengthened Federal Role?

While juvenile justice is largely a state and local responsibility, the federal government can and should make a crucial contribution to promoting and sustaining best practice. Federal leadership is needed now more than ever to ensure that juvenile justice funding is targeted toward programs that are proven effective.

Specific federal actions that could help to relieve pressure on state and local justice operations include:

- Elimination of the “inmate exception” to Medicaid for juveniles, which currently precludes reimbursement for services to youth in custody and delays access to services upon release. Advocates are hopeful that Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius may eliminate this provision soon.
- Passage of “The Youth Promise Act” (H.R.1064 and S. 435) would provide new funds for juvenile justice prevention and intervention programs that are comprehensive, community-centered and evidence-based.
- Restoration of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s budget to 2002 levels would provide an immediate booster shot of funds to states in these difficult times. Reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act seems more important than ever now, if for no other reason than its passage would reinforce commitment to its core requirements and help prevent states from slipping back into bad practices.

More federal policy recommendations are detailed in the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s “Issue Brief: Reform the Nation’s Juvenile Justice System,” available on the Casey website and the JDAI Help Desk at www.jdaihelpdesk.org.

New JDAI Incentive Grant Program

In early 2009, the Annie E. Casey Foundation named New Jersey as the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative’s first-ever Model State Program.

To support and encourage statewide expansion of the JDAI initiative the Foundation is announcing a modest incentive grant program to support site visits to New Jersey as a peer-to-peer learning laboratory for statewide planning and expansion efforts.

The foundation of New Jersey’s success is the time and effort spent on building an effective organizational infrastructure for implementing and sustaining the initiative. Building this infrastructure included collaboration and leadership across state and local levels, developing and deploying staff to support the initiative and promote its goals, and building state and local capacity for effectively using data.

As a learning laboratory, New Jersey will serve as a statewide platform that will provide visiting JDAI sites with examples of how they could approach expansion in their own states and help to identify unique factors and building blocks that could contribute to sustainable expansion.

Following a site visit to New Jersey, JDAI sites will be expected to develop a work plan, establish benchmarks, build an infrastructure and implement an expansion plan.

Sites should work with their team leaders to determine readiness for state expansion and to coordinate pre-application planning. More information on the JDAI Incentive Grant Application is available from Gail D. Mumford, the Casey Foundation senior associate for juvenile justice reform at gmumford@aecf.org.

Washington State Gathers for Conference



An outstanding leader from each of the state's six JDAI sites is traditionally honored at the Washington JDAI Conference. Pictured here is Judge Frank Cuthbertson receiving the Pierce County JDAI Champion Award from Shelly Maluo, the Juvenile Court administrator.

The fourth annual Washington State JDAI Conference focused on the intersection of disproportionate minority contact, poverty and JDAI. The event attracted 300 participants from the state's six JDAI sites and many youth-

serving agencies. The goal was to provide tangible strategies and action steps that attendees could take back to their respective agencies to better address reducing racial disparities.

Keynote speakers included state Supreme Court Justice Bobbe Bridge (retired), the Rev. Greg Boyle of HomeBoy Industries, James Bell of the W. Haywood Burns Institute and Stephanie Vetter representing the Casey Foundation. There were 24 workshops designed to improve effectiveness and provide a forum for sharing innovative policies and practices.

Performances by youth from the Washington State Music Mentors Program, which uses pop music to reduce the involvement of at-risk youth in the juvenile justice system, provided some of the highlights from the two-day event.

For more information contact JDAI State Coordinator Rand Young at Rand_Young@msn.com.

JDAI Strategies Produce Good Outcomes in Norfolk

In its fourth year as a JDAI site, Norfolk, Virginia, is accruing good results by reserving detention for youth who are a public safety risk or have a history of not appearing in court. Overall admissions declined by 34 percent, from 754 in 2005

to 499 in 2008, and average daily population fell by 38 percent, from 90 in 2004 to 56 in 2008. Strict adherence to assessment and screening instruments, a more collaborative approach



Claudette Overton, director of the 4th District Court Services Unit, Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

and data-driven analysis have contributed to Norfolk's success.

Probation violations have been curtailed by 56 percent through restructured policies and procedures. Failures to appear have declined by 69 percent (241 in 2005 compared to 75 in 2008) because Norfolk began contacting parents directly prior to the court dates.

A major factor in detention overcrowding was eliminated when Norfolk stopped the practice of formal court action in truancy cases. In 2004, truant youth were incarcerated for 672 days compared to zero days in 2008.

An expeditor hired to conduct more regular reviews of youth in detention

and manage cases in a timelier manner assisted in reducing the average length of stay by 21 percent between 2004 and 2008. Norfolk also eliminated video arraignments and expanded its use of home arrest and electronic and GPS monitoring.

"Reduced admissions is not our only concern," said Claudette Overton, Norfolk's probation head. "We are working hard to ensure that only the 'right' youth are in detention. Five years ago only 35 percent of the youth in detention were facing felony charges, and today that number is 62 percent."

For more information contact Norfolk JDAI Coordinator Kevin Moran at kevin.moran@djj.virginia.gov.

Minnesota Data Collection Bill Becomes Law



Minnesota State Sen. Mee Moua

Minnesota counties collect uniform data regarding race and ethnicity.

Gov. Tim Pawlenty signed the Juvenile Justice Data Collection Bill (HF 702/SF 561) on May 21, 2009, after a sus-

The Minnesota Legislature took a step toward addressing discrimination against youth of color in the juvenile justice system by passing legislation requiring that

tained advocacy effort by detention reformers and communities of color. State Sen. Mee Moua championed the campaign, which requires that jurisdictions develop a clearer picture of the youth involved in the system and then craft a plan to reduce disproportionate representation of youth of color.

“It is important to know how children are faring at each decision point within the juvenile justice system, by race and ethnicity,” said State Sen. Mee Moua. “As Minnesota grows more ethnically diverse, decision-point analysis is a critical first step to ensuring equity and fairness. Having a fair and equi-

table system is in the best interest of all Minnesotans.”

Youth of color are overrepresented at every key decision point in Minnesota’s juvenile justice system. The arrest rate for minority youth is three times higher than the rate for white youth. African American youth are almost five times more likely to be arrested than white youth. Additionally, youth of color are two and a half times more likely to be detained and two times more likely to be transferred to adult court.

For more information contact Minnesota JDAI Coordinator Angelique Kedem at Kedem@mncounties.org.

Oak Hill Replaced by Rehabilitative Facility



New Beginnings Youth Development Center

In Washington, D.C., a modern state-of-the-art-facility has replaced a notorious, dangerous and run-down institution, ushering in a new era of treatment and opportunity for the youth in the District’s juvenile justice system.

Calls for the closure of the Oak Hill Youth Center have echoed for decades because of the facility’s prison-like atmosphere, deteriorating buildings, poor outcomes and history of violence against youth.

Less than a mile away, the New Beginnings Youth Development Center has the look and feel of a boarding school despite the electronic locks and security staff. The youth wear khaki pants and solid color knit shirts. Their small bedrooms have windows that open. The courtyard, library, gym, ball fields, theater, lunchroom, and classrooms with interactive whiteboards are all designed to provide the least-restrictive, most homelike environment possible while remaining consistent with public safety.

To match the new environment, the District’s Department of Youth Rehabilitative Services adopted Positive Youth Development as a guiding principle, the first juvenile justice agency in the country to do so.

“I tasked my staff to create a space that would maximize the potential for our

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troubled young people to turn their lives around. In New Beginnings, they delivered on that mandate. In my mind this is one of the most decent, humane



and rehabilitative facilities in the country,” said Mayor Adrian Fenty.

“This has been a tremendous undertaking for all involved, from the leader-

Washington, D.C., Mayor Adrian Fenty

ship and shared vision of the mayor to our many supportive stakeholders and employees,” said Vincent N. Schiraldi, director of Youth Rehabilitation Services.

“We are acutely aware of what this facility will mean for our kids. We believe and expect that future outcomes, renewed and productive lives for our youth, and safer communities for all of us will justify the intent and purpose for this facility.”

In May, Schiraldi received the Coalition of Juvenile Justice’s A.L. Carlisle Child Advocacy Award, given annually to an

individual who has made outstanding contributions to youth and to the broader arena of juvenile justice.

Mark Soler, executive director of the Center for Children’s Law and Policy, Shay Bilchik, director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University, and Robert Schwartz, executive director of the Juvenile Law Center, nominated Schiraldi for showing courage and conviction throughout his professional career.

For more information contact Washington, D.C., JDAI Coordinator Diana Calderon at diana.calderon@dc.gov.

Dallas Hosts Talent Contest

Going beyond its traditional role of reducing racial and ethnic disparities, the Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee in Dallas County, Texas, formed subcommittees on parenting, activities and mentoring to better address the personal, family and social needs of minority youth.

A fun mid-winter talent show provided cash prizes for the winners, in

addition to recognition and acknowledgement for 13 youth performers. The prizes, props, electronic equipment, decorations, judges and prize money were donated. Dallas JDAI staff recruited youth through fliers and radio announcements, and also rehearsed the performers.

During the show, the young people brought down the house as they sang,

rapped, stepped and staged dramatic scenes. Parents, family members and friends cheered. A teary-eyed mother said, “Thank you. This is something really nice for our kids to do on a Friday night!”

For more information contact Dallas JDAI Coordinator Mike Lindsay at mllind@swbell.net.

New Mexico Law Supports Detention Reform

A major revision of the New Mexico Children’s Code was signed into law by Governor Bill Richardson on April 7, 2009. The legislation will reduce the inappropriate use of detention and jails in several key ways.

Police are now authorized to deliver youth directly to an alternative to secure detention, such as Reception Assessment Centers. “This change in practice will

keep many low-level youth out of detention,” said Tom Swisstack, director of the Bernalillo County Juvenile Detention and Youth Services Center.

The new state law limits to six hours the time children may spend in adult jail, mandates sight-and-sound separation and requires local jurisdictions to notify federal authorities of all incidents in which children are housed in adult jails.

In addition, youth pending adjudication will no longer be automatically transferred to an adult facility on their 18th birthday. This will protect some youth from ever entering the adult system.

For more information visit the JDAI Help Desk or contact New Mexico JDAI Coordinator Stephen Archuleta at stephen.archuleta@state.nm.us.

Iowa Develops Strategies to Reduce Overrepresentation

In their second year as a JDAI site, and having reduced the number of low-level offenders in detention, Iowa policymakers recently completed a two-year comprehensive statewide assessment of factors contributing to their overuse of detention.

The task force convened by Governor Chester Culver produced a final report that relies heavily on JDAI policy and calls for statewide implementation of detention reform strategies.

Recommendations include repealing a state law that requires a 48-hour dispositional hold; piloting a race-neutral risk screening instrument; ensuring that detention reform is data-driven; and reallocating detention-related cost savings to the funding of adequate alternatives.

A primary goal of the Youth, Race and Detention Task Force was to recommend ways to reduce the overrepresentation of minority youth in detention.

Nearly a third of Iowa's detention population is comprised of youth of color, although only 10 percent of Iowa's youth are minority.

To read the report, or for more information, visit the Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning website at <http://www.state.ia.us/government/dhr/cjjpl/index.html> or contact Dave Kukler at Dave.Kukler@iowa.gov.

St. Louis Reduces Population by 50 Percent

In less than three years, the JDAI site in St. Louis City, Missouri, has seen its detention population fall by more than half, from 102 in 2006 to 50 in 2009. Because St. Louis is a majority-minority city, African American youth account for nearly all of the reduction.

From St. Louis' first days as a JDAI site, the detention review committee set the tone by reviewing daily the files of incoming youth and moving youth into alternatives whenever possible. The site limited detentions of probation violators by strictly adhering to an administrative sanction grid.

The juvenile division of the 22nd Judicial Circuit Family Court opened a five-person detention alternatives office to divert youth from secure detention. The detention alternatives staff assumed responsibilities for detention reviews. They monitor youth at home, at school and in the community, and avoid overnight holds by providing transportation services for low-risk youth.

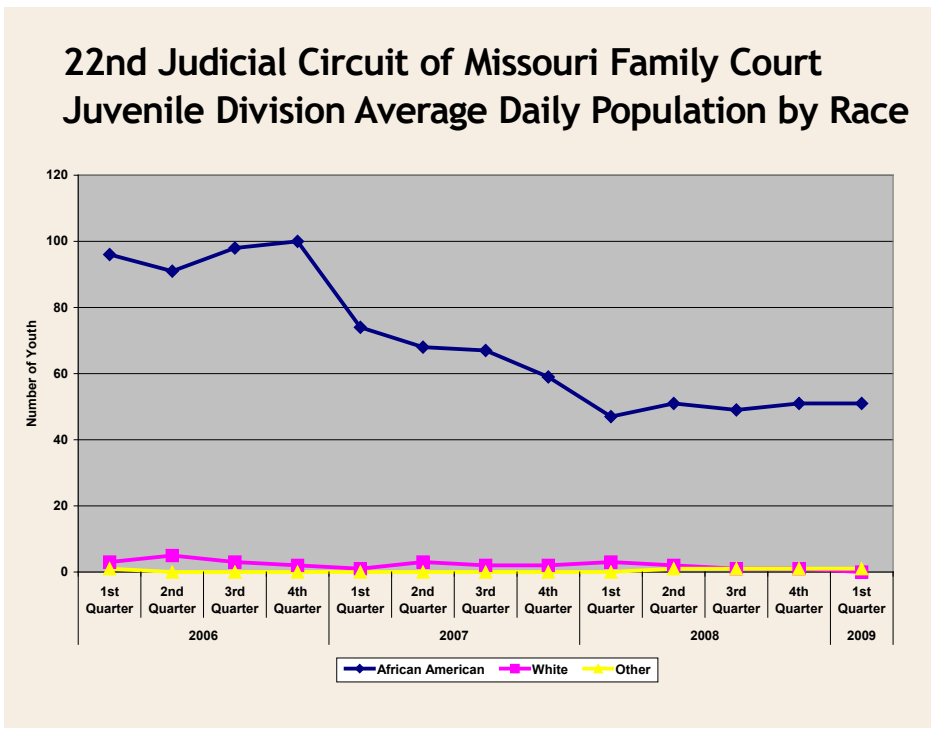
Alternatives include two evening reporting centers, home detention, expanded electronic and GPS monitoring, and a weekend community service program.

New case processing standards help to expedite hearings, resulting in reduced length of stays. The case processing committee focuses on youth in detention whose cases are languishing, determining the reasons for delays and recommending steps for moving cases through the system.

St. Louis also relied heavily on its detention risk assessment tool to identi-

fy youth who are a risk to public safety. The city was not reluctant to modify its scoring grid, revising it three times in an effort to ensure that the results led to appropriate detentions.

For more information visit the JDAI Help Desk or contact St. Louis JDAI Coordinator Kristine Schneider at Kristine.Schneider@courts.mo.gov.



Mississippi Law to Improve Juvenile Justice

Governor Haley Barbour signed juvenile justice legislation and a related executive order that puts federal guidelines into state law, including the separation of youth from adult offenders, time limits on juvenile detention for certain offenses and the mitigation of excessive and disproportionate minority representation in detention.

“This represents Mississippi’s commitment to helping Mississippi youth, particularly those who may find themselves on the wrong side of the law,” said Mississippi State Representative Linda Whittington.

“While in the past Mississippi has sought to comply with optional federal

guidelines, these measures make compliance not an ideal to be pursued but a duty which must be followed by officials at every level of state government.”

The executive order and legislation may be viewed at the Mississippi Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee website at www.msjjac.org.

Model Program for Girls Delivers Results in Washington, D.C.

Terri Odom, the director of the District of Columbia’s Court Social Services, worked with the D.C. Superior Court to create Leaders of Today in Solidarity (LOTS) to address the increasing number of females entering the juvenile justice system.

“Girls get into trouble more quietly than boys and enter today’s juvenile justice system younger [and] with more violent offenses than charted previously,” Odom said about her rationale for starting the program.



Terri Odom, director, Washington D.C. Court Social Services

“It is significant to provide programming rooted in developmental pathways designed to address the specific challenges and needs of adolescent girls, with an eye toward preventing delinquency.”

Utilizing a strength-based approach which builds on the Family Court’s “one family, one judge” philosophy, LOTS assigns one probation officer of record to be responsible for services and supervision for each girl as long as she remains on probation.

Within this continuum of seamless case management, the following tools are utilized: risk-assessment screening; family group conferencing; parent/caregiver education; life skills; cultural enrichment; restorative justice; employment, school and curfew monitoring; tutoring/mentoring; and electronic monitoring.

The program handled between 225 and 250 cases per month in 2008, and had a recidivism rate of less than 5 percent. Only 6 percent of girls in the program were suspended from school and just 9 percent were placed in secure detention or in a shelter program.

“This low detention percentage is directly correlated to the hard work of the LOTS probation officers [and] managers, and the leadership of the Family Court Division,” Odom said. “If you [just] paint male programming pink, you should not expect females to achieve.”

For more information contact Washington D.C. JDAI Coordinator Diana Calderon at diana.calderon@dc.gov.

Multnomah Police Observe Detention Reform in Action

The JDAI model site in Multnomah County, Oregon, is helping Portland educate newly hired police officers about the philosophy and practice of juvenile and adult corrections under a partnership between the Portland Police

Bureau and the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice.

The Community Partnership Training Programs gives officers a chance to spend two days on location observing the job functions of both adult and

juvenile staff. The program is grounded in the fundamental concept that through familiarity and understanding, officers enhance their ability to develop problem-solving skills and relationships with communities.

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In a process that mirrors the JDAI model site visits, officers witness each decision point in the juvenile case process and watch firsthand the front-end decision making, including the steps involved in deciding whether to place a youth in secure detention or an alternative program. They also attend a preliminary hearing and spend time with probation officers.

One of the first officers to go through the program said, “We were on the juvenile side today. We sat through

some delinquency arraignments. I was taken by the fact that they were going by the police report word for word. In fact, they were basing their whole decision on that report. It really impressed me how important what is written in those reports is, and how much the court relied upon the officers view of the events. It helped me realize the significance of my reports.”

The three-day orientation program had its first session in April 2009.

More information, including videos, program documents and news updates, can be found on the Police Community Partnership web pages on the Multnomah County JDAI website, www.co.multnomah.or.us/dcj/jcjdetreform.shtml.

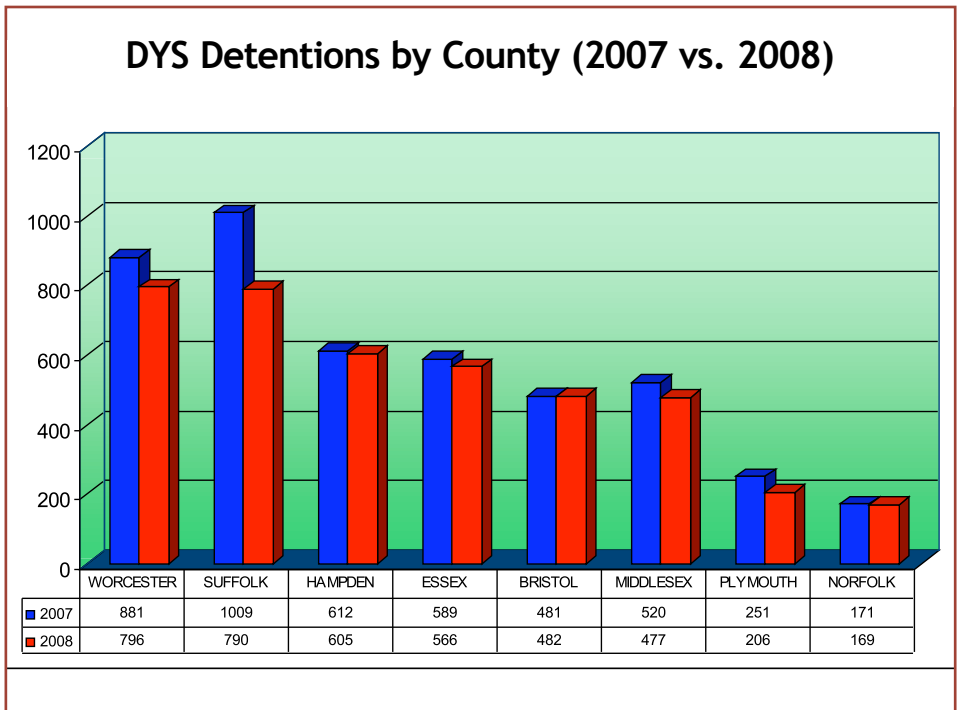
For more information contact Multnomah County JDAI Coordinator Tina Edge at tina.a.edge@co.multnomah.or.us.

Outcomes Improved in Massachusetts

Seven out of eight Massachusetts counties reduced their average daily population in 2008. The reductions are a result of increased awareness among stakeholders, the sharing and collection of data and, most importantly, a memorandum of understanding between the Massachusetts Division of Youth Services and the Division of Family Services. The memorandum outlines guidelines and limitations on detaining youth awaiting placement and younger low-risk youth.

JDAI pilot sites of Worcester and Suffolk achieved declines of 20 and 30 percent, respectively.

For more information contact Massachusetts JDAI TA Team Leader Elyse Clawson at eclawson@crjustice.org.



Unexpected Results in Texas

Over a two-year period, the average daily population fell by 34 percent in Harris County (Houston), Texas and by 20 percent in Dallas County (Dallas), Texas.

“The population reductions are somewhat unexpected in light of the recent realignment of the Texas Youth

Corrections,” said Mike Griffiths, chief probation officer of Dallas County.

Some expected that 2007 legislation excluding youth charged with misdemeanors from state facilities would challenge local facilities, Griffiths said. “The conventional wisdom at the time

assumed undue pressure would be put on our local detention centers by the large numbers of youth no longer being sent to state corrections,” he said.

Both Dallas and Harris counties have defied conventional wisdom, however. Dallas County reduced its average daily

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population from a high of 295 in 2006 to 238 in 2008. Dallas also reduced its length of stay in detention by five days and in 2008 diverted 120 youth from the state committed facility to family preservation programs.

The Harris County average daily population fell from a high of 287 in 2007 to 205 in 2009. County officials attribute their results to a newly hired detention expeditor, the closing of a 45-bed detention facility, the initiation of administrative approval for violations of probation and the diversion of low-risk youth to shelter care.

Prior to implementing the risk assessment instrument, approximately 8 percent of youth were diverted from detention within three hours of arrival. Now more than 11.5 percent of youth are diverted in the same time period.

“We are pleased that the youth we have released are not re-offending and are showing up for court,” said 315th District Court Judge Mike Schneider. “Our reform efforts are working to the benefit of our kids and community.”

A specialized court docket was also created by 314th District Court Judge

John Phillips for youth with mental health issues. The court hearings are held around a conference table, with the judge, prosecutor, probation officer, psychologist, counselor and the child and parent working together to find solutions. Progress is monitored through ongoing court reviews.

For more information contact Dallas County JDAI Coordinator Michael Lindsey at MLLindsey@dallascounty.org or Harris County JDAI Coordinator Nancy Baird at nbaird@sbcglobal.net.

JDAI IN THE NEWS

Hennepin County Locking up Fewer Juveniles

According to the Minneapolis Star Tribune, the number of youth detained at the Hennepin County, Minnesota, detention center has declined 33 percent over the past three years. The average daily population was 95 in 2005, when Hennepin first adopted JDAI principles. In 2008, the population dropped to 64. Additionally, juvenile crime has fallen by 29 percent since 2006.

In 2006, two-thirds of all youth detained were being held for low risk infractions such as curfew violation, truancy or juvenile-status offenses such as smoking or drinking alcohol. Approximately one-third of all warrants were for failure to appear in court. Now volunteers make reminder calls to youth and their parents about court dates, reducing the number of no-shows by nearly 20 percent.

“JDAI is helping us avoid the negative behaviors that can develop from having a juvenile who has committed a low-level offense, like curfew violation, placed in secure detention with youth far more deeply involved in the system,” Judge Tanja Bransford said.

The article, published on June 24, 2009, is posted on the JDAI Help Desk at www.jdaihelpdesk.org.

Report Proposes New Jersey Divert Savings to Crime Prevention

The New Jersey Star Ledger reports on calls by the New Jersey child advocate’s office to reinvest state detention center funds in prevention and treatment efforts.

The child advocate’s report recommends that savings from reduced detention populations be used “to improve and expand detention alternatives and to boost services for youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system or at-risk of offending.”

Five years after New Jersey began participating in JDAI, five counties have posted a 44.3 percent drop in the number of youth in detention on any given day. Annual detention center admissions in the five counties declined 41.4 percent from 2003 to 2008, leaving 2,616 fewer youth in detention last year.

“While we recognize that the current fiscal climate is severe, the wise reinvestment of these funds will pay substantial dividends

by further reducing both juvenile crime and the number of youth who must be confined in expensive institutions,” Acting Child Advocate Ronald K. Chen said.

The report released by the child advocate urges a diminishing role for detention in the state’s juvenile justice system.

The article, published on March 18, 2009, is posted on the JDAI Help Desk at www.jdaihelpdesk.org.

Gael Deppert Appointed Indianapolis Magistrate



Gael Deppert, Magistrate, Marion Superior Court, Juvenile Division

Gael Deppert, JDAI coordinator for Marion County (Indianapolis), Indiana, was sworn in as a juvenile magistrate on June 30, 2009, by Marilyn A. Moores, presiding judge of the Marion Superior Court, juvenile division. Deppert will continue as the local JDAI coordinator in addition to her new responsibilities as magistrate.

“Indianapolis has made much progress in implementing the strategies of detention reform,” Frank Orlando, JDAI team leader, said as he addressed a standing-room-only crowd at Ms. Deppert’s swearing-in ceremony.

“Gael has made significant contributions in her role as site coordinator. I’m particularly happy to learn that she will continue her work as the local JDAI coordinator, in addition to her responsibilities from the bench.”

Judge Orlando noted that Ms. Deppert is the third person from the Indianapolis JDAI site to be appointed by Judge Moores as a juvenile magistrate. Chief Magistrate Gary Chavers, the former supervising attorney for the prosecutor’s office, juvenile division, was appointed in 2007 and Diana Bursleson, former director of the agency serving as fiscal administrator for JDAI, became a juvenile magistrate in 2008.

“We consider Gael’s appointment as a magistrate as no loss to our work as a JDAI replication site, but rather as an enhancement of our efforts to integrate and institutionalize the strategies that are helping us transform our juvenile system,” Judge Moores said.

“Gael is a hard-working, resourceful person whose intelligence and compassion will continue to shape our vision of a juvenile system that is fair, just and merciful.”

Deppert began volunteering in juvenile court in 2000, while practicing environmental and utility regulation law. Not long after, she became a public defender in the Indianapolis juvenile division before spending two years as juvenile court staff. She has served as a JDAI coordinator since 2006.

David Schmidt Elected Coalition for Juvenile Justice Chair



David R. Schmidt

David R. Schmidt, longtime executive director of the New Mexico Council on Crime and Delinquency, was elected chair of the Coalition of Juvenile Justice (CJJ). As the organization’s principal leader, the chair is responsible for guiding CJJ toward its strategic, fiscal and organizational goals.

“Dave is a compassionate and visionary leader. He has worked to improve juvenile court services and put in place community-based prevention and intervention programs for youth and families through policy innovations in his home state of New Mexico — including help-

ing to implement JDAI,” said Nancy Gannon Hornberger, executive director of CJJ. “Dave is a highly motivating leader who listens and facilitates critical dialogue, and who is most generous in sharing his understanding and enthusiasm for juvenile justice reform with peers and colleagues nationwide.”

Schmidt also serves as chair of the New Mexico Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee and immediate past chair of the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice. He is active with nonprofit organizations, commissions and boards in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Louisiana Reformer Acknowledged



Bryan Beam, assistant administrator, Calcasieu Parish Police Jury; Dane Bolin, director of the Calcasieu Parish Office of Juvenile Justice Services; and Cathy Bolin.

In recognition of 18 years service and relentless dedication to young people, Dane Bolin, director of the Calcasieu Parish Juvenile Justice Services in

Lake Charles, Louisiana, received the Don E. Wydra Memorial Award for Extraordinary Contribution to Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

A JDAI leader in Calcasieu Parish known for his willingness to pursue innovation, Bolin has supported parental involvement programs, instituted improved field services policy, streamlined case processing to ensure access to early intervention and promoted local drug and mental health courts. Bolin also regularly offers up his parish as a pilot site for new juvenile justice programs, in hopes of improving services and opportunities for youth.

The award was created by members of the Governor's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Advisory Board in memory of Don Wydra, a longtime public servant and juvenile justice professional.

Memoir Chronicles Youth's Life Growing Up in Prison

A gifted and talented Virginia student surrenders to the lure of the street and lands in prison for nine years following a carjacking attempt.

Reginald Dwayne Betts tells of being charged as an adult and growing up in prison in "A QUESTION OF FREEDOM: A Memoir of Survival, Learning, and Coming of Age in Prison." His book goes on sale at the JDAI national conference, immediately following his appearance there.

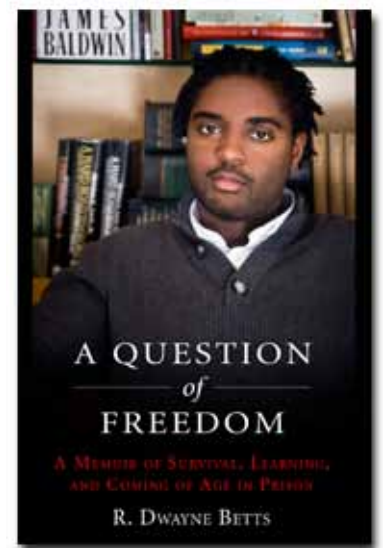
Dwayne survived incarceration by voraciously reading and writing in a journal every night. "Reading was what I needed to beat back all that noise and silence, those horrible silences. ... An ink pen was the only way to carve a voice out of the air and have others hear it."

While incarcerated in some of the toughest lockups in Virginia, he was introduced to the world of poetry through "Black Poets" by Dudley Randall. Dwayne's poetry has been widely published, and he is the winner of the 2009 Beatrice Hawley Award. A book of his poetry will be published in 2010.

His writing speaks to his dual identities as a convicted felon and a promising young poet. Through teaching and writing, he hopes to help others like him rebuild their lives.

Since his release, Dwayne has taught poetry in local public schools and founded the Young Men Read book club for boys. Dwayne recently received his bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland and gave the

student commencement address. He is currently pursuing a graduate degree in fine arts and plans to teach at the university level.



Rand Young Speaks at National Conference



Rand Young

Rand Young, a technical assistance provider for the Casey Foundation and the Washington State JDAI coordinator,

conducted a workshop on JDAI at the 2009 Council of State Governments spring conference in Idaho. More than 35 state legislators attended the workshop, “Strategies to Improve Juvenile Rehabilitation.”

The Council of State Governments serves all three branches of state gov-

ernment and is a region-based forum that fosters the exchange of insights and ideas to help state officials shape public policy.

A video of Rand discussing JDAI may be found here: http://www.csg.org/pubs/statenews/video/conversations_cda/RandYoung.aspx.

Washington, D.C. Presiding Judge Josey-Herring Departs



Judge Anita Josey-Herring

The first female presiding judge of the Family Court of the District of Columbia Superior Court is departing the juvenile division to oversee a new calendar within the civil division.

youth on probation, and youth were no longer housed in detention pending a shelter placement.

She founded a program that encourages judges to give books to children and their families at court hearings. She also leads a middle school truancy prevention program that promotes attendance and improved grades, and helped establish a Family Treatment Court for addicted parents charged with neglect.

“It has been a tremendous honor to work with such an informed, thoughtful and committed group of stakeholders dedicated to improving the justice

system’s ability to respond to the current needs of children and families,” Josey-Herring said.

Josey-Herring began working on the court as an associate judge in 1997 and then became deputy presiding judge in 2000 and presiding judge in 2005. She has served as a guest faculty member with the National Drug Court Institute, the National Institute for Trial Advocacy and the Harvard Law School’s Trial Advocacy Workshop. She was born in Portsmouth, Virginia, and is a graduate of the Georgetown University Law Center.

During her tenure, JDAI in the District of Columbia made important progress. New alternatives to detention were created, including an innovative program focused on girls and a drop-in center for

JUVENILE JUSTICE NEWS

Study Looks at Juvenile Suicide in Confinement

An exhaustive study of suicides in juvenile facilities found that youth suicidal behavior is remarkably different than that of adults, and the authors caution that juvenile justice administrators not model their suicide prevention programs on adult behavior – an all-too-common practice.

The study, “Characteristics of Juvenile Suicide in Confinement,” was pub-

lished this year by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and draws on data from juvenile suicides that occurred in confinement between 1995 and 1999.

It found that most adult suicides take place under the influence of drugs and alcohol during the first four days of confinement. (Half of all adult suicides took place within the first 24 hours,

with almost a third occurring within the first three hours.)

But less than 4 percent of juvenile suicides occurred within the first 24 hours of confinement. Of the 110 juvenile suicides in the study, none occurred under the influence of drugs or alcohol, even though many of the youth were known to have substance abuse problems. According to the study, about 60

percent of the suicides occurred in a committed facility and 37 percent in detention centers.

Most juvenile deaths occurred in the early evening. All but one victim died by hanging, with most using sheets or blankets. Three-quarters of the youth were assigned to a single-occupancy room.

“Findings from this study create a formidable challenge for juvenile offi-

cial. For example, although room confinement remains a staple in most juvenile facilities, it is a sanction that can have deadly consequences and should to be closely scrutinized and utilized judiciously,” said Lindsay M. Hayes, author and national suicide prevention expert.

“Because youth can be at risk at any point during confinement, intake screening for the identification of

suicide risk upon entry into a facility should be viewed as time-limited. The challenge for those who work in juvenile detention is to implement a continuum of suicide prevention services.”

“Characteristics of Juvenile Suicide in Confinement” (NCJ 214434) is available at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/213691.pdf>.

New Report Documents Bias Toward Latino Youth

Latino youth are treated more harshly than white youth with similar offenses at all stages the justice system, says a report released by the National Council of La Raza and the Campaign for Youth Justice.

According to “America’s Invisible Children: Latino Youth and the Failure of Justice,” the majority of the nearly 18,000 incarcerated Latino youth are held for nonviolent offenses. Although 41 percent are detained in juvenile facilities, almost one out of four (24 percent) reside in an adult jail.

The report outlines how Latino youth are overrepresented in the juvenile justice system. For example, Latino youth are 4 percent more likely than white youth to be referred to court and 16 percent more likely to be adjudicated delinquent. Latinos are also 28 percent more likely than white youth to be detained; 41 percent more likely to receive an out-of-home placement; 43 percent more likely to be waived to the adult system; and 40 percent more likely to be admitted to adult prison.

Raquel Mariscal, senior consultant and member of the JDAI Initiative Management Team, participated in a Capitol Hill briefing co-sponsored by National Council of La Raza and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. “It was a privilege and honor to represent the Annie E. Casey Foundation in raising awareness of the inequities experienced by our Latino youth in the juvenile justice system.”

The report is available at www.campaign-foryouthjustice.org.

American Psychiatric Association Recommends Not Treating Children as Adults

Reacting to headlines and images of children facing serious charges in adult courts across the country, the president of the American Psychiatric Association, Dr. Nada L. Stotland, issued a statement strongly advising against holding children accused of crimes in adult facilities or trying them in the adult criminal system, which is not equipped to deal with them.

Because youth 15 years old or younger may lack the cognitive brain development to serve as competent defendants in an adult criminal proceeding, the

APA recommends that the following guidelines be considered:

- Children should not be questioned by police or courts unless a parent or guardian is present.
- Children should never be allowed to waive their right to an attorney.
- Children accused of serious crimes should undergo full medical and psychiatric evaluation.
- Children who commit serious crimes are often the victims of

neglect and abuse. In each case, there should be an inquiry into the child’s history and circumstances to determine whether signs of abuse, neglect and/or psychiatric problems were overlooked before the alleged crime occurred.

- Children should not be subjected to isolation, which is a form of punishment likely to produce lasting psychiatric symptoms.

For more information visit www.psych.org.

Since 1948, the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) has worked to build better futures for disadvantaged children and their families in the United States. The primary mission of the Foundation is to foster public policies, human service reforms and community supports that more effectively meet the needs of today's vulnerable children and families. For more information on JDAI, please feel free to contact the resources listed below.

Santa Cruz County, Calif.

Scott MacDonald, Chief Probation
Officer
Laura Garnette, Juvenile
Division Director
Santa Cruz Probation Department
P.O. Box 1812
3650 Graham Hill Road
Santa Cruz, CA 95061
(831) 454-3800
scott.macdonald@co.santa-cruz.ca.us

Cook County, Ill.

Michael J. Rohan, Director
Juvenile Probation and Court Services
1100 S. Hamilton Avenue
Chicago, IL 60612
(312) 433-6575
mrohan@cookcountygov.com

Multnomah County, Ore.

Rick Jensen, Detention
Reform Coordinator
Tina Edge, JDAI Project Coordinator
Multnomah County Department of
Community Justice
1404 N.E. 68th Avenue
Portland, OR 97213
(503) 988-5698
rick.k.jensen@co.multnomah.or.us

Bernalillo County, N.M.

Doug E. Mitchell
JDAI Coordinator
Bernalillo County Juvenile
Detention Center
5100 Second St. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107
(505) 761-6600 ext: 24
demitchell@bernco.gov

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Bart Lubow, Director of Programs
for High-Risk Youth
Gail D. Mumford, Senior Associate
701 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
(410) 547-6600
www.aecf.org