

JDAI News

Newsletter of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

October 2010

Inside:

Feature 1

From the Foundation 2

JDAI Site Updates 5

OJJDP invests in JDAI expansion; Ventura County, California; Harris County, Texas; Louisiana; Clark County, Nevada; Dallas County, Texas; New Jersey; Santa Cruz, California; Multnomah, Oregon; St. Louis County, Minnesota; Ohio; South Dakota; Adams County, Washington; Orange County, California

JDAI in the News 12

Ramsey County, Minnesota; Rhode Island; Richmond, Virginia

JDAI Newsmakers 14

Angelique Kedem; Tom Brooks; New Orleans; Mississippi

Juvenile Justice News 15

JDAI Staff

Bart Lubow, Director Juvenile Justice Strategy Group

Gail D. Mumford, Senior Associate for Juvenile Justice Reform

Julie Pope, Administrative Assistant

JDAI News Team

Editor: Heather A. Ford

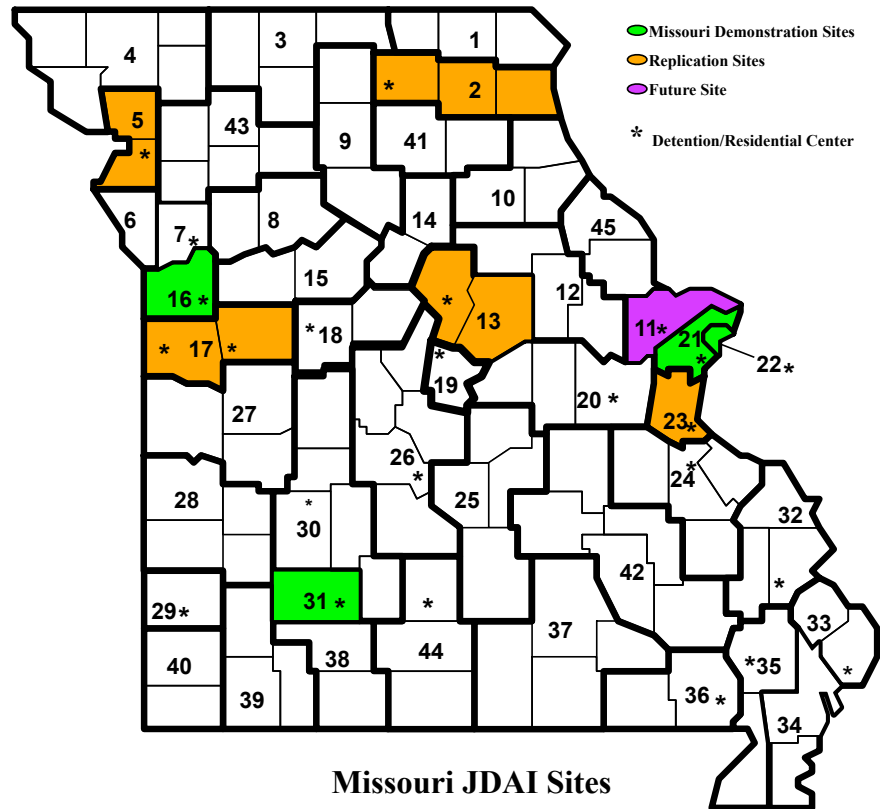
Senior Consultant: Stephanie Vetter

Copy Editor: Leonard Sparks

Production: Pena Design, Inc.

JDAI News is a publication of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. To subscribe, contact jdainews@aecf.org. For more information on JDAI visit the JDAI website at www.aecf.org/jdai.aspx, or www.jdaihelpdesk.org.

JDAI poised to expand throughout Missouri



Missouri JDAI Sites

Relying on the strength and experience of its four initial sites, Missouri intends to replicate JDAI statewide. By year's end, JDAI will be in nine judicial circuits covering 14 counties, 10 secure detention centers and representing the vast majority of the state's youth population.

"Our goal is to replicate JDAI in all 24 Missouri jurisdictions where detention centers are located," said Bob Perry Missouri JDAI coordinator. "JDAI is flourishing in our cities. It's time to focus our attention on the rest of the state."

Wanting to expand JDAI statewide, yet facing diminished resources, Missouri turned to its four senior JDAI sites and asked them to contribute to the replication process by training new sites in JDAI fundamentals.

Three of these sites were recognized by the Casey Foundation as among JDAI's highest achievers – sites that have safely reduced detention populations by more than 50 percent. In 2009 Jackson County (Kansas City), City of St. Louis (22nd Judicial Circuit) and Greene County (Springfield) were identified as part of this elite class of JDAI sites

continued on page 3

Eighteen years ago, when the five original JDAI sites assembled for the first-ever inter-site conference, few would have anticipated that almost 600 hundred people, representing approximately 120 sites from more than half the states, would be gathering this week in Kansas City to discuss detention reform and strengthen network connections. In 1992, the nation was in the midst of policy convulsions caused, in part, by a five-year spike in juvenile violence, but equally important, by a collective failure to recognize how juveniles were different from adults and an indifference to chronic poor outcomes by the system. Juvenile detention and corrections systems were bursting at their seams; pessimism about how to change this situation reigned.

Today, the landscape has changed dramatically. Research has validated and deepened our understandings of why and how juveniles are different from adults, reinforcing the basic reasons for a separate system of justice for youth. The U. S. Supreme Court has embraced these ideas in landmark decisions that declared unconstitutional the death penalty for crimes committed before age 18 and life-without-parole sentences in certain juvenile cases. States have begun to reconsider policies that “criminalized delinquency” and resulted in adult prosecution and incarceration of minors. Some states have dramatically reduced reliance on training schools. And, of course, dozens of jurisdictions have safely reduced detention through JDAI’s eight core strategies.

Last year, when we assembled in Washington, DC, we called upon the federal government to heed the innovation that was sweeping the country. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention responded by allocating, for the first time ever, federal funds to expand JDAI replication. These funds will support training

and technical assistance to a number of the states and localities that have been waiting to become replication sites, including some of these states that are represented at this year’s JDAI conference for the first time: Ohio and South Dakota (the newest JDAI sites), Kansas, Maine, Nebraska, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Wyoming.

JDAI’s dramatic growth is no reason to rest on our laurels. Collectively, we need to address several key detention reform challenges. First, juvenile justice, as a field, needs a more permanent infrastructure to stimulate, nurture and sustain the values, innovations and potential of detention reform. Second, state leaders must commit to and figure out how to scale up the success of their original JDAI counties so that detention reforms are statewide and embedded in statutes, regulations, fiscal arrangements and training curricula. Third, everyone in the detention reform movement must redouble efforts to address racial, ethnic and gender disparities whose persistence results, specifically, in harsher treatment for certain groups of youth and, generally, undermines the legitimacy of the system.

Equally important, we must take fuller advantage of the opportunities for fundamental change that detention reform has created. For the Annie E. Casey Foundation, this will mean expanding the focus of our work from the detention component of juvenile justice to the dispositional end of the system. As reported in last year’s publication *As reported in last year’s publication, “Two Decades of JDAI,”* numerous sites have already reduced the number of youth committed to state corrections facilities and other out-of-home placements. These reductions are a somewhat natural byproduct of both the narrowed pipeline of cases coming before the court for disposition from detention, as well as sites’ reduced appetites for incarceration, generally. If those changes pro-

duce fewer commitments, one must wonder how far a more intentional focus—built upon the collaborative, data-driven habits of successful JDAI sites—could reduce our reliance on incarceration in delinquency cases.

Reducing the “deep end” of the system is not only a natural next step for JDAI sites; it is necessary if juvenile justice reform is truly to flourish in the future. Juvenile corrections systems have produced ridiculously high recidivism rates, horrible scandals and persistent litigation, all at implausible, unsustainable costs. If stakeholders hope to invest in interventions that improve public safety and increase opportunities for youth to succeed as adults—especially in this economic environment—the funds will have to come from that part of the system that now receives the lion’s share of dollars, and that’s the “deep end” where some states are spending more on a year’s confinement than it would cost to send a youth to an Ivy League college for four years.

Later this year, we will publish a new monograph documenting the profound shortcomings of our youth corrections system, the first step in a plan to expand the focus of JDAI collaboratives to include the “deep end” of the system. In 2011, we will identify sites that want to embrace this expanded focus and begin providing training, technical assistance and networking opportunities to successfully reduce juvenile incarceration. If all goes well, those demonstration sites will pave the way for a national youth corrections reform movement, much as the original JDAI sites set the stage for our national detention reform movement. That will bring us yet another step closer to realizing the true potential of juvenile justice.

Bart Lubow
Director, Juvenile Justice
Strategy Group

These three jurisdictions, along with St. Louis County (21st Judicial Circuit), were designated by Missouri JDAI as local demonstration sites. Each site operates a peer-to-peer learning laboratory as part of a two-day visit for all new Missouri JDAI sites.

Over the past year, personnel from the 13th Judicial Circuit (Boone and Callaway counties), the 17th Judicial Circuit (Cass and Johnson counties) and the 23rd Judicial Circuit (Jefferson County) made site visits to each of the four Missouri demonstration sites.

“Different JDAI core strategies are illuminated by the innovations unique to each site. For example, in Greene County they see an evening reporting center, and in St. Louis they hear about a one-of-a-kind school for court-referred kids. We have a good mix of urban, suburban and rural settings that offer something for everyone,” said Perry.

The 2nd Judicial Circuit (Adair, Knox and Lewis counties) will become a JDAI site in October and is scheduled for a site visit in 2011.

State infrastructure supports replication

Missouri’s centralized information system took more than 15 years to develop, but is now a critical tool that ensures consistency across JDAI sites. All sites rely upon one computerized statewide data system and one set of common codes from admission to detention. All JDAI sites use the same risk instrument (validated in two separate studies) and enter similar codes and scores into their shared data system.

“In a data-driven environment like JDAI, it’s far easier to bring new sites up to speed when we are all looking at the same data and seeing the same thing,”

said Denny Atherton, Jackson County (Kansas City) JDAI coordinator. “New sites move quickly into discussions on how to improve their detention system because the tools to manipulate the data are already in place.”

Jackson County (Kansas City)

One of two major Missouri cities participating in JDAI, Kansas City has delivered impressive results. It reduced its total detention population and the number of youth of color in detention by 54 percent. As a result, Kansas City closed a 12-bed detention unit and lowered the official capacity by 20 percent. Facing deep budget cuts, Kansas City was able to avoid layoffs as detention costs were reduced.

As its detention practices changed and more youth were maintained successfully in the community, Kansas City’s need for “deep-end” placements also lessened by 57 percent and the capacity at its committed facility was reduced, too. As a result they were able to reallocate personnel to detention alternatives.

Jackson County achieved these results by redefining the purpose of detention; developing a strong, community-based governing collaborative; developing non-secure alternative programs, including respite and specialized gender-based programming; and implementing standardized decision-making protocols.

Kansas City’s peer-to-peer training focuses on its gender-specific program. The site walks participants through an exercise on how to use data to determine need; how to work with the community to develop targeted programs that address specific needs; and how to carefully monitor results.

City of St. Louis (22nd Judicial Circuit)

St. Louis saw its detention population fall by more than half, going from an average daily census of 98 prior to becoming a JDAI site to 43 in 2010.

These deep reductions reflect a very determined, case-by-case approach. For the first two years, for example, a “detention review committee” conducted daily reviews of the files of incoming youth and moved youth into alternatives when eligible. Today, a detention alternative coordinator reviews the files and places eligible youth in alternatives. The site limits detention of probation violators by strictly adhering to an administrative sanction grid and scrutinizing all apprehension requests.

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

New case processing standards help to expedite hearings, resulting in reduced length of stays. The case-processing committee focuses on youth in detention whose hearings have been postponed to determine the reasons and to take steps to avoid future delays.

St. Louis’ reliance on data-driven decisions led to a major expansion of alternatives, including an evening reporting center, home detention, GPS monitoring and a weekend community service program.

Nationally recognized academy for court-referred youth

Among the alternatives available to St. Louis youth is a nationally recognized



St. Louis Judge Jimmie Edwards is a fearless advocate for youth and a juvenile judge in the 22th Judicial Circuit Court of Missouri.

academy, embraced wholeheartedly by the community, that brings a panoply of services together under one roof.

Juvenile Judge Jimmie Edwards, the driving force behind this initiative, took an empty school building and created a vibrant place for approximately 300 youth, including those under short-term expulsion from the public school system.

Now in its second year, the Innovative Concept Academy is a collaboration of the St. Louis public schools, Family Court and MERS Goodwill. The academy houses a police substation, Division of Youth Services day program, YMCA fitness center, evening reporting center and other community programs.

Youth have access to individual reading instruction through Churchill Center and School; psychological counseling; drug education and counseling through Bridgeway Behavioral Health; laundry facilities; and three meals a day.

Volunteers flock to the program, underwriting chess, golf and wrestling pro-

grams and donating supplies and time. Local sororities, professional athletes and legal and religious associations have all contributed to the center.

“It’s amazing what can be accomplished when the community sets its mind to something,” said Judge Edwards. “We have these great expectations of our children, and as a result they end up doing well.”

Gaining national visibility, the community school was visited by U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan and People magazine.

Greene County (Springfield)

Greene County was the JDAI site with the highest percentage reduction in detention population in 2009, after shrinking its population by 83 percent, from 18 youth in detention to only 3. It accomplished this by focusing on minimizing detention of low-and medium-risk youth.

An evening reporting center in Greene County allows youth under court supervision to continue residing at home and

attend school. Greene County’s objective is to keep youth off the streets during the hours teens are most likely to commit crimes. The program offers life-skills and anger management classes, and education about substance abuse, nutrition and money management.

“We want to promote public safety by teaching these youth personal responsibility and accountability for their behavior,” Perry Epperly, Greene County chief juvenile officer, said.

Of the four demonstration sites, Springfield is the one most like the rest of the state demographically, and it offers new JDAI practitioners a good example of what their site could look like.

St Louis County (21st Judicial Circuit)

The largest jurisdiction in Missouri, St. Louis County gives their detention management the authority to release youth in the first 24 hours. They conduct rigorous daily administrative reviews of all detention admissions, utilize a detention screening instrument and extend release authority to juvenile personnel following administrative reviews prior to detention hearings.

An evening reporting center is operated collaboratively with a neighborhood church. St. Louis County worked with the Missouri Division of Youth Services to establish a day reporting center.

Detention reformers participating in site visits to St. Louis County are provided information on its detention administrative review policies and procedures, and the county’s reporting center development and operations.

For more information contact Bob Perry at Bob.perry@courts.mo.gov or Jay Rodieck at Jay.Rodieck@courts.mo.gov.

OJJDP invests in JDAI expansion



Patrick McCarthy, president of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, announces partnership with OJJDP.

One million dollars in new federal funds will match an increase in JDAI-dedicated foundation dollars to support replication of detention reform across the country.

The two-year partnership between the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention was announced last month by the foundation's new president, Patrick McCarthy.

"This sends a strong message that Washington supports the JDAI model and recognizes the importance of detention reform in stimulating improvements in the juvenile justice system," McCarthy said.

Jeff Slowikowski, acting administrator of OJJDP, played a pivotal role in recognizing the importance of JDAI and developing a funding mechanism that maximizes existing JDAI resources in the field while also incorporating detention reform into the OJJDP program plan. The federal dollars, \$500,000 per year for two years, will

support technical assistance and training programs.

The combined funding streams will support JDAI's expansion by six to eight new sites. OJJDP and foundation officials will jointly identify these sites.

"We will enter into a memorandum of agreement with OJJDP regarding use of funds, roles, responsibilities and sites. One of our objectives as we expand will be to ensure fidelity to the model," said Bart Lubow, the director of the Juvenile Justice Strategy Group at the Annie E. Casey Foundation. "We expect half of the new sites to come on board this fall. A similar expansion will occur within six to 12 months."

For more information contact Gail D. Mumford, senior associate at the Casey Foundation, at gnumford@aecf.org.

Ventura County uses empty facility for community programming

A 7-year-old complex of juvenile justice facilities in Ventura County, Calif., is housing less than half the population it was designed for and turning unused housing and classroom space over to community programs.

A grand jury examining utilization at the \$56 million Ventura County Juvenile Facilities issued a May report attributing unused bed space to lower crime rates, intervention and crime prevention programs, and a JDAI-inspired risk-assessment instrument.

Alan Hammerand, chief deputy for juvenile facilities, told the Ventura

County Star that JDAI, which Ventura joined in 2002, is driving the lower utilization.

"The intention is you only house minors who are a risk to the community," he said. "In the old days, everybody from truants on up would wind up in juvenile hall."

Daily population over a 12-month period at the 420-bed detention and commitment facilities averaged 188, according to the report, despite predictions when it opened that the facilities would be near capacity by this year.

The complex, completed in 2003, consists of four detention units with an original capacity of 240 beds and three commitment units built to hold up to 180 juveniles serving court-imposed commitments of up to one year.

Just 140 of the detention beds were in use, according to the grand jury, and the commitment units now have a capacity of 90 based on current staffing levels.

Some of the unused space has been taken over by community programs. The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme now occupies two 15-bed commitment housing units, a classroom

and an office, all provided rent-free by the Ventura County Probation Agency.

The Probation Agency also uses three commitment classrooms for the Regional

Occupation Program, offered through the Ventura County Office of Education. The program offers classes in silk-screening, computer repair and landscaping, and awards students a certification of

completion that they can show to prospective employers.

For information contact John Rhoads at johnprhoads@sbcglobal.net.

Policy changes save Harris County \$700K per month

Harris County (Houston), Texas, is saving more than \$700,000 a month after changing detention policies to reduce the number of children who end up in the juvenile justice system, according to county officials and juvenile judges.

The county altered its system after becoming a JDAI site in 2007. The changes include the creation of a mental health docket, an evening reporting center and a diversion program for first-time offenders with misdemeanor convictions.

“The results are dramatic,” said Tom Brooks, executive director for Harris County Juvenile Probation. “JDAI has been a great asset to Harris County, getting community stakeholders involved and increasing transparency in our department.”

The county saw a 24 percent reduction in detention admissions between 2007

and 2009, from 6,638 youth to 5,062. It also achieved a 42 percent drop in out-of-home placements – from 4,419 in 2007 to 2,558 in 2009 – that is saving an estimated \$700,000 a month.

Youth are benefiting from a mental health docket created by 314th District Court Judge John Phillips. The docket emphasizes rehabilitation over punishment, with a minimum six months of supervision for youth.

Of the 35 youth who have participated in the program since June 2009, 86 percent have remained trouble-free. They otherwise would have been placed in a facility costing over \$240 per day, per youth.

A drug court founded by Judge Michael Schneider of the 315th District Court partners with community providers to monitor youth who are returning home from residential treatment. The county

also created an evening reporting center that provides education, recreation and counseling between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. to juveniles who otherwise would be placed in detention.

Some youth are being diverted into a deferred prosecution program for first-time offenders who commit nonviolent misdemeanors. More than 2,100 juveniles have been diverted to the program since it began in February 2009, with 91 percent completing it without further involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Harris County estimates that the program has already saved over \$800,000 on attorney appointments, issuance of service, staff time and other resources.

For more information contact Nancy Baird at nbaird@sbcglobal.net or Tom Brooks at thomas.brooks@hcjpd.hctx.net.

Louisiana officials approve detention standards

Louisiana has decided to establish uniform standards for its juvenile detention facilities in a move aimed at improving conditions of confinement and ensuring that locally operated detention facilities operate with more consistency.

Gov. Bobby Jindal signed House Bill 1477 into law on June 30, 2010. The legislation, introduced by Rep. Damon

Baldone, requires the development of statewide standards governing the safety and security of detained youth, and the licensing of facilities by January 1, 2013.

“There is no question but that the JDAI strategies and best practices carried out everyday in Louisiana’s five JDAI sites was the impetus behind the legislative action,” said Dana Kaplan,

executive director of the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana.

The bill directs the Louisiana Juvenile Detention Association to develop and recommend by July 1, 2011, uniform standards and licensing procedures for local detention facilities “that comport with nationally recognized and accepted best practice standards.”

JDAI SITE UPDATES



Dane Bolin, director of juvenile justice for Calcasieu Parish, La.

The standards are to be developed with input and guidance from a new

Task Force on Juvenile Detention and Standards.

The task force is to include a representative from each of the state's local juvenile facilities as well as prosecutors, public defenders and representatives from law enforcement, state agencies and advocacy groups.

The task force will also guide the state's Department of Social Services as it develops and promulgates rules governing the licensing of juvenile detention facilities. The rules are to be completed by January 1, 2012.

"The legislation was a tremendous step forward in our state's reform measures," said Dane Bolin, director of juvenile justice for Calcasieu Parish.

"Speaking as a JDAI site, I am confident that the JDAI Conditions of Confinement will be promoted throughout this process."

The creation of detention standards had languished since the state passed Act 1225, a broad overhaul of its juvenile justice system, in 2003. That law was spurred by reports of abuse and horrid conditions in juvenile corrections facilities.

Its passage stripped jurisdiction over juvenile incarceration from the adult-focused Department of Corrections, shut down Tallulah's infamous youth prison and created an objective measure of juveniles' needs and risks before they were sentenced.

For more information contact Clinton Lacey at clacey@burnsinstitute.org.

Clark County review shows positive results



Fewer youth are being detained in the Clark County detention center.

A six-year review by the Department of Juvenile Services in Clark County (Las Vegas), Nevada, reveals that the county has significantly reduced its detention population, allowing it to close the largest and oldest unit in its detention facility.

Average daily population in Clark County decreased by 34 percent between 2004 and 2010, and average length of stay by 20 percent since the county became a JDAI site.

The declines in average daily population, from 264 to 174, and average length of

stay, from 22 to 18 days, have come during a time when Clark County's youth population grew by 15 percent and monthly referrals by 6 percent.

"Because of JDAI we have enacted systemic changes that have left us better prepared to deal with upheavals in the economy and shifts in demographics," said Fritz Reese, director of the Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services. "We now rely on the core fundamental strategies to guide decision-making."

The county has administered its risk-assessment instrument 60,000 times, with 57 percent of youth released, 36 percent detained and 7 percent released with conditions.

Clark County is also using another innovative tool – a Weekly Aging

Report that helps track detained youth and identifies obstacles responsible for those youth who are detained the longest.

The report, a snapshot of all detained youth at a given time, gathers infor-

mation from a variety of sources, including risk-assessment scores, probation officers and psychological and medical staff.

The county continues to improve clerical capabilities and resources,

especially with regard to monitoring youth in detention, to shorten the average length of stay.

For more information contact Michael Walker at WALKERMD@co.clark.nv.us.

Dallas using data to drive decision-making and reduce disproportionality

Dallas County, Texas, has made headway in addressing the overrepresentation of minorities in detention, but the JDAI site is going even deeper by forming the African American Males DMC Strategy Group, charged with identifying solutions that will improve outcomes and reduce disproportionality.

“This strategy group has the primary task of providing options to detention for those male youth detained because of violations of probation,” said Dallas County JDAI Coordinator Michael Lindsey.

Dallas County has seen a sizable drop in its minority detention population between 2007 and 2009. The Latino average daily population fell by 30 percent in that time, from 98 to 69, and

African American average daily population by 33 percent, from 155 to 104.

Overall however, ethnic disparities continue to exist. The county used data to determine that African American females are still the largest disproportionate population and African American males the second-largest.

African Americans represented 53 percent of the average daily population in 2009, despite comprising 23 percent of the county’s youth populations.

The data also showed that most of these males and females were being detained for probation violations, not new delinquent offenses.

Those findings prompted the Girls Services Committee of the Dallas

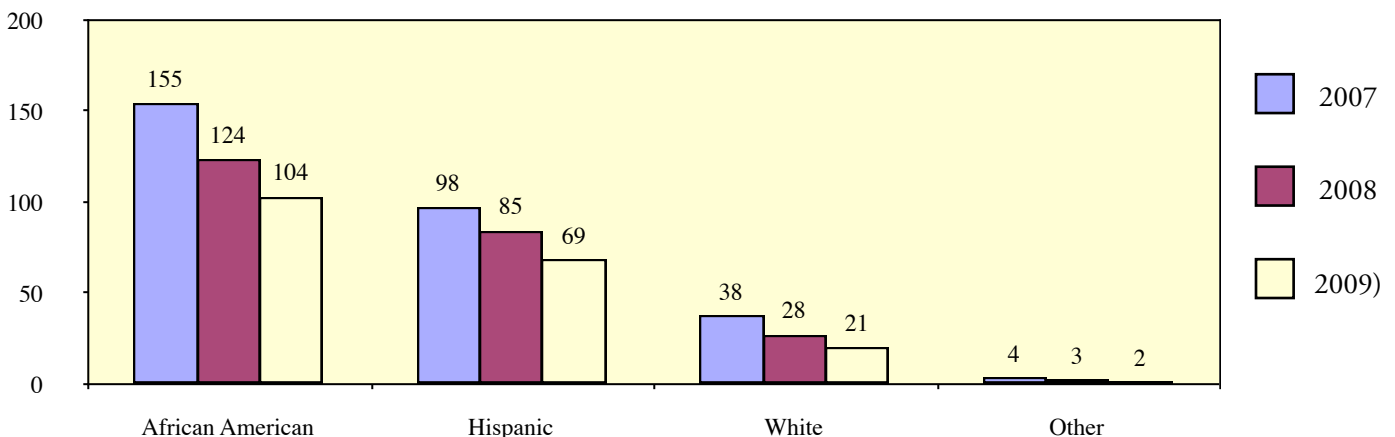
County Juvenile Department to begin coordinating efforts to reduce the number of detained girls. The data also led to the formation of the African American Males DMC Strategy Group.

“Being led by the data has significantly increased the receptivity of judges and prosecutors to explore these options with us,” Lindsey said.

“Our goal is to reduce these numbers, and to institutionalize practices and procedures that reduce the chances of our detention numbers increasing.”

For more information contact Michael Lindsey at Michael.Lindsey@dallascounty.org.

Youth detained in Dallas County, Texas, by race (2007 - 2009)



In New Jersey persistence conquers resistance

Surprisingly large, recent detention decreases in Hudson County (Jersey City), N.J., are proving that a JDAI site is never too old to experience spurts of reform.

Admissions to the detention facility had averaged 102 per month in 2003, before Hudson County became one of the original five New Jersey JDAI sites. After an initial drop in admissions, the results flatlined, holding at about 80 youth per month.

But last year saw a sudden drop in admissions to 51 per month, and in 2010 Hudson is admitting only 41 youth per month. As a result, the average daily population has declined by more than half, going from 87 in 2003 to 41 in 2010.

Average quarterly admissions of youth for technical violations of probation are down from 15.3 in 2008 to 6.5 year-to-date in 2010. Average quarterly admissions of youth for failure to appear have fallen from 8.5 in 2008 to 2.5 year-to-date in 2010.

While early on Hudson made positive changes in the area of probation, these more recent changes came about following the introduction of the risk-screening instrument, the emergence of new leaders who have taken ownership of system-improvement efforts, changes in personnel, improved relationships among stakeholders, and a redoubled effort to move youth with the longest lengths of stay out of detention

For more information contact Pat Walker at patricia.walker@njjc.org.

Santa Cruz leads training on Latino youth



JDAI trainers from Santa Cruz, Calif., travel to Oregon: (l to r) Yolanda Perez-Logan; Jaime Molina; Fernando Giraldo; and Benjamin Alamillo.

Juvenile justice professionals from JDAI model site Santa Cruz County shared their success in reducing minority overrepresentation during a two-day training in The Dalles, Oregon, “Successful Strategies for Working with

Latino Youth and Families: A Case Management Approach.” The Santa Cruz County Probation Department and representatives from Santa Cruz community providers led a series of workshops August 18 and 19 sponsored by

the Central and Eastern Oregon Juvenile Justice Consortium.

About 50 juvenile justice professionals from JDAI sites in Benton-Franklin and Adams counties in Washington State and central and eastern Oregon attended.

Topics included: understanding and promoting cultural competence; racially and culturally responsive alternatives to detention; engaging Latino community partners; and using data to design culturally responsive programs and to monitor disparities.

“The training was valuable because it demonstrated how to use data to design culturally responsive programs and the importance of understanding and working with Latino youth and families from their perspective to better engage their cooperation in successfully completing probation without violations,” said one participant.

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

Multnomah uses grant to create mentor program

The Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, a model JDAI site, received a \$100,000 Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention grant through the Oregon Commission on Children and Families to create the Gang Resource Intervention Team Mentor Program.

The GRIT program is designed to provide education, employment, cultural

and recreational activities to high-risk adjudicated African American males between the ages of 12 and 18.

The program is based on an “indigenous” model known as “Rites of Passage” and is part of the department’s efforts to address minority overrepresentation in Multnomah’s juvenile justice system.

“Our community cannot afford to sit idly by and witness another young African American male’s life wasted,” said Lynn Mangum, the program’s coordinator. “Now is the time for African American men in this community to step up, answer the call and become a mentor and role model.”

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

Police in St. Louis County, Minnesota, revive Youth Bureau

The Duluth Police Department in St. Louis County, Minn., is resurrecting its once-disbanded Juvenile Bureau to counter juvenile delinquency by fostering relationships among prosecutors, probation officers, juveniles and their families.

“I think we need to put our resources into kids; they can’t be treated like adults,” Duluth Police Chief Gordon Ramsay told the Duluth News Tribune.

“I think by working with our partners – the county prosecutors and probation officers – we can be more effective

in stopping recidivism among youth, and everyone will be better off.”

The bureau was disbanded in 2003 as the police department shifted officers to specialized crime units. Its resurrection has been planned since 2008, Ramsey said, adding that the bureau will include two investigators and four school liaison officers.

Officers assigned to the bureau are expected to acquaint themselves with juveniles and their families, and to know which prosecutors and probation officers are familiar with which juveniles.

“The county attorney’s office will be talking to the investigating officer, who is familiar with the probation officer, who works with this kid,” Deputy Chief Mike Tusken told the Duluth News Tribune.

“You will have a network of people that are working at intervention and changing behaviors of juveniles. It will be just much more seamless.”

For more information contact Angelique Kedem at kedem@mncounties.org.

South Dakota is JDAI’s 29th state site



South Dakota has joined the JDAI network to become JDAI’s 29th state site. Minnehaha County (Sioux Falls)

and Pennington County (Rapid City), which house the state’s two largest regional detention facilities, have formed local JDAI steering committees and will begin reforms this fall to tackle South Dakota’s high incarceration rate.

In October 2009, the Council for Juvenile Services, South Dakota’s state advisory group, conducted best practice search, received JDAI training, and formed local partnerships to

reduce the use of secure detention and disproportionate minority contact.

The South Dakota advisory group supports JDAI with federal grants and advisory group members sit on local policy-making steering committees.

For more information contact Stephanie Vetter, JDAI team leader, at stephaniejvetter@hotmail.com.

Ohio becomes one of JDAI's two new state sites



Five counties, including all but one of the biggest cities in Ohio, have joined JDAI. The Ohio Department of Youth Services is providing each site with \$100,000 for local assistance to implement the core JDAI strategies. After completing system assessments, Ohio JDAI practitioners gathered for their kick-off in late August. They participate in fundamentals training in November.

The five sites are:

- Lucas County (Toledo)
- Franklin County (Columbus)
- Montgomery County (Dayton)
- Summit County (Akron)
- Cuyahoga County (Cleveland)

Ohio has a history of working to build local capacity and reduce commitments to the state training facilities through RECLAIM Ohio. The state, along with these five large counties, has recognized that reducing unnecessary reliance on local detention is the next logical step to improve the juvenile justice system.

One county has already begun to tackle racial disparity in detention. Franklin County Juvenile Judge Kim

Browne is spearheading a joint effort among schools, police and court officials to reduce the high number of African-Americans referred to court by the school system.

One in five youth in Franklin County is African American, but black youth are 70 percent of those admitted to detention, with many of the referrals coming from arrests at schools. The Columbus City Schools, the Columbus Division of Police and the Franklin County Juvenile Court are developing an agreement outlining the use of alternatives in lieu of referrals to the juvenile detention center.

For more information contact Beth Oprisch at Beth.Oprisch@dys.ohio.gov.

Adams County becomes 8th JDAI site in Washington State

Adams County is now the eighth county in Washington State to join JDAI, receiving a \$50,000 grant from the Washington State Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee to implement strategies and hire specialized staff to steer low-risk kids away from detention.

Adams, whose two main cities are Ritzville and Othello, joins Benton-Franklin, King, Mason, Pierce, Skagit, Spokane and Whatcom counties as state JDAI sites.

“We are thrilled to join JDAI,” said Adams County Juvenile Services

Administrator Juan Garza. “The funding will help make evening and weekend programming available to more youth.”

Adams County commissioners and the Adams County Juvenile Services, Superior Court and Community Network collaborated to secure the funding, which will allow the county to hire a detention alternatives coordinator.

The county will develop a risk-assessment instrument and emphasize community service programs, electronic monitoring, alternative schools and

evening and weekend programs for juveniles.

Adams County has already started conducting media outreach and public education, resulting in several news articles describing the value of detention reform.

“JDAI provides the opportunity for these kids to not go to detention and to stay in school,” Garza told the Othello Outlook newspaper. “They can keep up with their work and great things can happen.”

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

Orange County, California, joins JDAI

Orange County, Calif., has officially launched JDAI, becoming the newest addition to the network of JDAI

sites in California. The county will be represented at the JDAI national conference and will undergo training and

planning to implement JDAI's phase one milestones. Congratulations and welcome.

Congressional testimony highlighted in local press



Michael Belton, deputy director of Ramsey County Juvenile Corrections in St. Paul, Minn.

On June 8, 2010, the Twin Cities Daily Planet reports on the testimony of Michael Belton, deputy director of Ramsey County Juvenile Corrections in St. Paul, Minn., before Congress:

Belton shared Ramsey County's success using JDAI strategies with the Congressional committee. Prior to implementing JDAI, Ramsey County Detention Center routinely exceeded its 86-bed capacity. However, for the past five years Ramsey County has experienced a 65

percent reduction in the average youth of color daily population and a 32 percent drop in African American youth detained. Overcrowding is no longer an issue because only youth who are truly a risk are being detained.

"It's right-sizing your detention center population and underneath that is juvenile justice reform," Belton said.

Already in use in Hennepin, Dakota and St. Louis counties, Belton advocated

for the JDAI program to be replicated nationwide. Congress is currently debating the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Belton believes reauthorization is essential; however, he would like Congress to include specific guidelines and incentives to encourage states to adopt a tool similar to Ramsey County's risk-assessment instrument.

Belton also testified before Congress on the inequities in the juvenile justice system. "We have two justice systems, one for whites and one for kids of color," said Belton. "The one for kids of color is more intrusive, harsher and longer. The one for whites is short and supportive."

"To me, that's what juvenile justice reform, at its heart, is all about," Belton said. "To redirect our systems to be fair and equitable so that the African American kid from Frogtown or the East Side gets treated exactly the same as the European American kid from Roseville or Highland Park."

To read the full article or view a YouTube video of Belton's testimony before Congress visit the JDAI Help Desk at www.jdaihelpdesk.org.

Rhode Island reform efforts covered

According to the "Rhode Island Journal," the JDAI state site held a news conference to showcase its reform efforts and discuss ongoing challenges and hope for future.

Since 2008, Rhode Island for Community and Justice has led a state-wide advisory committee that is creating

programs that it hopes will eliminate disproportionate minority contact in the state. The group announced the gains it had made in tackling the issue, including formulating standard guidelines for school officers, creating cultural competency training for police officers and others, and helping to restart the juvenile hearing board in Providence.

Juvenile hearing boards — groups of community members that hear misdemeanors from first-time juvenile offenders — across the state are either inactive, or meet infrequently. So instead of receiving community service or restitution from the hearing board, juveniles are often required to enter the formal court system.

Providence recently selected a group of members to restart its board, which has been inactive since 2007.

The advisory group is also hoping to help start more after-school programs for young people to keep them occupied and they are also working to develop uniform standards for school resource officers.

Family Court Intake Services is implementing changes in the way youths

receive services as a direct result of the work of the advisory committee, said Kevin Richard, director of juvenile services for the judiciary and a member of the committee.

“The last thing we want is a fragmented system,” he said. “We’re looking to link referrals from the intake department to community programs. That’s a tangible goal. We’re trying to move beyond the ideal and get to practical issues.”

Now, intake is able to refer juveniles directly to a handful of services to circumvent the prolonged process of getting the youths before a judge to order services. The juveniles get the services they need sooner, and they stay out of the court pipeline.

To read the full article visit the JDAI Help Desk at www.jdaihelpdesk.org.

Chief Judge of Richmond, Va., featured in judicial magazine



Chief Judge Angela Roberts, Richmond, Va.

An interview with Richmond’s Chief Judge Angela E. Roberts was published in the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges magazine, “Juvenile and Family Justice Today.”

How long have you been on the bench?
This past March 12th marked my 20th year on the bench.

Tell us about your jurisdiction.
The City of Richmond has an urban

population of 260,000. It struggles with such social issues as inner city crime, high unemployment rates, high student dropout rates and a 27% poverty rate. In certain communities, the poverty rate is as high as 50%-73%.

What has been your biggest challenge during your time on the bench?

The biggest substantive challenge that I face is dealing with the effects of substance abuse on families in all types of cases.

Has your philosophy about juvenile and family courts changed over your career?

I initially thought that locking up juveniles to punish them was the best deterrent for delinquency. It was the way everyone did things at the time. I soon realized that some kids kept coming back no matter how many times you locked them up. We needed to look more closely into the family structure and the reasons for reoffending. Courts now work much more closely with schools and community-based services to get much-needed services into the homes before and during their contact with the court.

For the past five years as a JDAI site, we have focused on our docketing efficiency

and creating effective alternatives to detention. We have had a dramatic reduction in the numbers and percentage of youth in detention without increasing the risk to public safety or recidivism.

What keeps your spirits up during a particularly grueling day?

I believe in balance of mind, body and spirit, and keeping a positive attitude. Most days in our court are grueling, so it’s important to maintain an ongoing healthy balance. Some of my outlets include exercise, golf, family, friends, sleep and humor. My faith sustains me through every challenging situation.

Is there a particularly valuable resource you use that could help your fellow Council members?

NCJFCJ’s Juvenile Delinquency Guidelines; Annie E. Casey’s Pathways to Juvenile Detention Reform; and the JDAI Help Desk at www.jdaihelpdesk.org.

To read the full article visit the JDAI Help Desk at www.jdaihelpdesk.org.

Minnesota JDAI coordinator recognized for anti-racism work



Minnesota JDAI Coordinator Angelique Kedem

Minnesota JDAI coordinator Angelique Kedem's work to advance the dialogue against racism in Minneapolis-St. Paul's East Metro area earned her a "Facing Race Ambassador" award from the Saint Paul Foundation in April.

The foundation cited Kedem's efforts as JDAI coordinator "to address the structural and personal biases behind racial disparities, engage community members in public policy development and improve the administration of justice."

Kedem received her award in April at the foundation's ceremony. Human rights activist Naomi Tutu, daughter of Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, gave the keynote address.

"We can raise issues, educate and make change just by asking questions," Kedem said. "Your compassion will give you the courage to stand and speak."

The Saint Paul Foundation's "Facing Race" initiative uses discussion to facilitate more understanding of race issues and ways communities can create a more open and equitable society.

Kedem's sensitivity to racial understanding was fostered as a child growing up in apartheid South Africa, where she earned a master's degree in public administration from the University of the Western Cape, School of Government.

She began her work in the United States teaching developmental English in the Texas junior college system. She then taught special education at an Oklahoma elementary school.

Kedem arrived in Minnesota in 2002, and began volunteering with the Women's Initiative for Self-Empowerment and the State Council for Black Minnesotans, doing youth programming and public policy education.

The experience gave her insight into the "disparities that exist for children of color in this state" and the need for "really deep structural change."

"I think she is one of the more extraordinary professionals that I have worked with in this field," said James Payne, JDAI team leader. "She is dedicated, if not driven, to make a real difference in the lives of all youth, and especially children of color."

Harris County names new juvenile probation chief



Chief Probation Officer Tom Brooks of Harris County, Texas

Tom Brooks was named chief of juvenile probation for Harris County (Houston), Texas. Brooks previously held the position of deputy director of intake/court services.

"Since the inception of JDAI replication efforts in Harris County, Tom has been

a committed champion and has asserted an intentional level of authority and leadership, all quite evident in both the quantitative and qualitative progress that has been made in Harris County," said Raquel Mariscal, senior consultant for the JDAI management team.

Brooks is a 1982 graduate of Michigan State University, earning a bachelor's degree in social science with a dual major in criminal justice and psychology, and began working for the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department 27 years ago.

He has held positions that include child-care officer at the Harris County Youth Village, intake and court probation offi-

cer, administrator of the intake and institutional aftercare program and deputy director of intake/court services.

Brooks developed and implemented the juvenile probation department's first institutional aftercare program in 1996. The program provides supervision and services to juvenile probationers returning home from county institutions.

He became the county's juvenile probation coordinator for JDAI in 2007. He currently serves as vice-chair for the Harris County JDAI Management Oversight Committee and as a member of the Harris County JDAI Executive Steering Committee.

NJJN honors two southern JDAI sites for reform efforts

The National Juvenile Justice Network honored seven organizations and individuals from Louisiana and Mississippi on July 14 for showing advocacy and visionary leadership in their juvenile justice reform efforts.

Louisiana state Rep. Walt Leger III, Mississippi state Sen. Gray Tollison and Mississippi state Rep. Earle S. Banks were among those receiving NJJN's inaugural "Award for Leadership in Juvenile Justice Reform" during its 8th annual forum in New Orleans.

The organization also honored the Jefferson Parish Children and Youth Planning Board; the New Orleans Children and Youth Planning Board; the New Orleans JDAI Advisory Committee; and Clay Walker, deputy public defender and Juvenile Defender Services director for the Louisiana Public Defender Board.

"Through this award, we hope to elevate their work so that others across

the country can emulate their commitment and success," said Sarah Bryer, director of the National Juvenile Justice Network.

Leger has introduced a broad range of juvenile justice reform legislation since being elected in 2007 including bills to end life-without-parole sentences for juveniles and help youth get attorneys earlier in the legal process.

Banks and Tollison have championed several bills benefiting system-involved youth in Mississippi, including SB 2950, which expanded the authority of the Juvenile Detention Monitoring Unit and was signed by the governor on April 27, 2010.

Walker has used a cutting-edge approach to juvenile defense since his appointment to the Louisiana Public Defender Board in 2003, developing training to better understand the school-to-prison pipeline and educating defenders on the role of mental health

issues in school discipline and juvenile justice.

The Jefferson Parish Children and Youth Planning Board helped implement a new risk-assessment instrument, which has decreased detention rates, and revamped the juvenile justice department's contracting process to include only evidence-based programs.

The New Orleans Children and Youth Planning Board was established by legislative act in 2003 and is composed of 20 individuals, including city officials, nonprofits and juvenile justice stakeholders. It has laid the groundwork for visionary leadership and systemic change.

The New Orleans JDAI Advisory Committee, composed of 17 members, has focused on establishing alternatives to detention by implementing trainings and instituting a new risk-assessment instrument.

JUVENILE JUSTICE NEWS

JJDPA reauthorization



Rep. George Miller, chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor, listening to testimony at a committee hearing on "Reforming the Juvenile Justice System to Improve Children's Lives and Public Safety."

Congressional authorization for the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A) officially expired in 2007 and is being kept afloat through continued resolutions. The last reauthorization of JJDP A took six years, from 1996 to 2002.

The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee has passed its version of JJDP A (S.B. 678) and juvenile justice advocates are pushing hard for a Senate floor vote before the 111th Congress ends in December.

Introduced by Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), the bill has 17 co-sponsors, is widely embraced and appears to have solid bipartisan support. Delayed by scheduling issues, the legislation will return to the Judiciary Committee if the Senate fails to pass it by the end of the year.

There is amplified language supporting JDAI core strategies in the Senate bill. Provisions related to detention reform include extending jail removal and sight-and-sound core requirements to youth under the age of 18 awaiting trial and detained in adult facilities, and eliminating the authority of judges to order detention for status offenders.

On the House side there are three active JJDPA reauthorization bills that

encourage and allow the use of formula funds for statewide detention alternatives. House Resolution 6029, introduced by Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN), specifically supports JDAI strategies and calls for the implementation of risk instruments and limits detention for certain populations.

Rep. George Miller (D-CA), chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor, the committee that will mark-up the final bill, is a strong supporter of detention reform.

“JJDPA reauthorization needs to focus on evidence-based reforms that both improve outcomes for youth and increase public safety. Comprehensive detention reform is a key initiative we

expect to explore as we work to reauthorize this law,” said Miller.

The reauthorization bill is expected to be introduced in the House in the near future.

The JJDPA provides for a nationwide juvenile justice planning and advisory system, and federal funding for delinquency prevention and improvements in state and local juvenile justice programs and practices.

The act also calls for operation of a federal agency (the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention) dedicated to training, technical assistance, model programs and research and evaluation to support state and local efforts.

Supreme Court rules life-without-parole unconstitutional, in certain juvenile cases

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down the use of a life-without-parole sentence for juveniles in non-homicide cases, ruling on May 17 that the sentence violated the 8th Amendment ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

Chief Justice John Roberts joined Justices Anthony Kennedy, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Sonya Sotomayor and John Stevens in voting to limit “the second most severe penalty permitted to law.”

“The inadequacy of penological theory to justify life without parole sentences for juvenile non-homicide offenders, the limited culpability of such offenders and the severity of these sentences all lead the Court to conclude that the sentencing practice at issue is cruel and unusual,” Kennedy wrote in his majority opinion.

The case, *Graham v. Florida*, was brought by Terrance Jamar Graham, who received probation in a Florida court after pleading guilty to armed burglary and attempted armed robbery charges when he was 16.

Now 23, Graham received a life-without-parole sentence on those charges after a subsequent robbery, committed when he was 17, triggered a probation violation.

The judge handed down the life sentence despite a recommended 45 years from prosecutors and four years from the Florida Department of Corrections.

Kennedy’s opinion disputed Florida’s argument that no national consensus exists against a life-without-parole sentences for juveniles.

The court found 129 juveniles serving life without parole in states that allow

the sentence in non-homicide offenses, 77 in Florida and 52 in 10 other states and the federal system.

That left 26 states and the District of Columbia as states that don’t use the sentence despite having statutory authority.

The Court also concluded that a “categorical rule” is needed because states lack the ability to objectively “prevent the possibility that the offender will receive such a sentence despite a lack of moral culpability” and ruled that the sentence is “rejected the world over.”

“A State need not guarantee the offender eventual release, but if it imposes a sentence of life it must provide him or her with some realistic opportunity to obtain release before the end of that term,” Kennedy wrote

Why DMC efforts fail

An April article in “Youth Justice and Juvenile Justice,” part of SAGE Journals Online, explores stifled efforts to reduce disproportionate minority contact and examines recent new investments by private foundations and promising strategies in Iowa that offer new life for the effort to reduce DMC.

Research has been “inordinately focused” on whether DMC exists and the scope of the problem, instead of on why DMC exists and effective strategies for eliminating it, write authors Ashlie Nellis of the Sentencing Project and Brad Richardson, Iowa DMC coordinator.

Effective strategies all share common traits, the authors conclude. They have community support and include stakeholders affected by DMC. Successful

strategies also mine data from various sources and identify where efforts should be undertaken and whether they need to be modified over time.

The authors go on to discuss Iowa’s success in reducing minority overrepresentation in its juvenile justice system. The state’s overall juvenile detention population has fallen by 15 percent, and the three counties using DMC initiatives have achieved significant reductions.

Minority detention in Polk County has declined by 23 percent, and Woodbury and Black Hawk counties have seen reductions of 5.2 percent and 20 percent, respectively.

Nellis and Richardson credit Iowa’s success to its commitment to data-driven

efforts to identify where DMC exists and its causes, and to the development of a DMC Resource Center at the University of Iowa’s School of Social Work.

The center provides technical assistance, training and education about DMC, and hosts an annual conference and a public website. Both New Mexico and South Carolina have replicated its model.

The authors conclude with several suggestions for reducing DMC: strengthening the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act’s commitment to DMC; states strengthening their ability to use data to track youths and outcomes; and the creation of racial impact statements to vet pending legislation for its impact on racial and groups

Addressing the unmet educational needs of children and youth in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems

The failure of juvenile justice and child welfare systems to share information and coordinate services is causing many children to cross into adulthood without the education they need to live productive lives, according to a report from the Center for Juvenile Justice Reforms.

In “Addressing the Unmet Educational Needs of Children and Youth in the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems,” researchers Peter Leone and Lois Weinberg make clear impact of that failure: lack of diploma and the education and skills that determine well-being.

Leone, a University of Maryland professor, and Weinberg, a California

State University, Los Angeles, associate professor, use their 74-page article to discuss the educational outcomes for children, the barriers they face, legal and policy reforms and successful interventions.

The barriers are many, they write, including movement within the foster care and delinquency systems, confidentiality provisions between systems and the lack of a designated person to advocate for youth.

Some policy makers and courts have responded to those barriers over the last 20 years, Leone and Weinberg say. Policy and legal reforms – such as the McKinney-Vento Act – have increased the protections and entitlements

afforded neglected and delinquent children.

Youths in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems have also benefited from evidenced-based interventions and initiatives, like early intervention and tutoring and mentoring programs, according to the report.

Leone and Weinberg end by identifying six principles that should underpin education reform: early education is essential; quality education services are critical; outcomes must be measured; support services are needed; interagency collaboration and communication is vital; and change requires leadership within-agency and cross-agency.

States shutter facilities

A sharp decrease in juvenile arrests is leading states nationwide to close decades-olds facilities and save millions in the process, according to a June article by the Associated Press, “States closing youth prisons as arrests plunge.”

Some criminologists suggest that alternatives like group homes and community-based programs are contributing to the decrease, reducing recidivism and leaving juvenile facilities reserved for the worst offenders.

“We’re doing a better job of locking up the right kids,” Bart Lubow, program director for the Annie E. Casey Foundation, told AP. “It’s about making smarter decisions.”

Juvenile arrests fell 33 percent between 1997 and 2008, the AP wrote, citing U.S. Justice Department statistics. The

drop in arrests is fueling a corresponding 26 percent drop in the number of juveniles in state institutions, according to AP.

Those empty beds are becoming targets for budget savings. California has closed six institutions since 2003 after seeing the number of kids in residential custody fall from a peak of 10,000 in 1996 to 1,500. The closings have saved up to \$40 million, mostly through job reductions, according to the AP.

Texas also has seen a dramatic drop in its juvenile residential population, from 5,000 in 2007 to roughly 1,900 this spring. The state has closed three facilities since 2007, with plans to close two more, according to AP.

The trend is also being seen in Ohio and Wisconsin. Ohio juvenile correc-

tions officials told AP that the state should save an estimated \$40 million annually after closing three facilities over the last year. The state’s residential juvenile population fell from 1,730 youth in mid-2008 to about 950 today.

Wisconsin officials are considering the closure of the Ethan Allen School, whose population has fallen from 360 in 1998 to 195 in May, the AP says. Because counties pay the state to house juvenile offenders, the population decrease has created an estimated \$25 million hole in the state budget.

“It’s the best thing they can do,” Aaron Kupchik, a University of Delaware criminologist, told AP. “Incarceration does nobody any good. You’re taking away most of their chance for normal development.”

Santa Clara implements non-detention policy, training program for foster care

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors announced May 11 that it had accepted recommendations and policy changes aimed at limiting detention in Juvenile Hall for youth 12 and under, including a treatment foster care model.

“Adopting a strong public policy statement that commits the county to try every possible option for alternate placement will discourage the notion that Juvenile Hall should be used as a holding facility because of a lack of suitable placement options,” said Supervisor George Shirakawa.

The Board made its decision after reviewing a report from the Juvenile

Justice Commission that examined the court files of 30 youth, 12 and under who had been housed at Juvenile Hall and had a case opened.

Of the 30 cases, 27 had one or more of a number of issues, including physical or sexual abuse; mental health diagnoses, including bipolar and depression; significant drug and alcohol problems; prior probation contact with detention; or a parent who was dead, incarcerated or disappeared.

“Although Santa Clara County’s Juvenile Hall has made tremendous efforts to serve and help reform the youth who are detained there, the fact remains that it is a detention facility,

an incarceration facility first and foremost,” said Supervisor Dave Cortese.

The county, in conjunction with the Bill Wilson Center, is also implementing multidimensional treatment foster care (MTFC). A proven alternative to regular foster care, group or residential treatment and incarceration, MTFC trains foster care families to deal with youth with behavioral problems.

“We are confident that the new policy will enable us to address the needs of each child and obtain the necessary resources for the right placement of these minors,” said Probation Chief Sheila Mitchell.



During a recent meeting with the chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, Alabama's JDAI coordinators slipped out for a photo op at the Civil Rights Museum in Montgomery. From left: Sabrina Thomas, Tuscaloosa; Vanessa Jones, Jefferson County; Beverly Wise, Montgomery; Nona Simmons, Mobile.

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
 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,
 Juvenile Justice Strategy Group
 Gail D. Mumford, Senior Associate
 701 St. Paul Street
 Baltimore, MD 21202
 (410) 547-6600
www.aecf.org