

# **Annual Report to the Governor**

**December 2017**

**By the Colorado Juvenile Justice and Delinquency  
Prevention Council**

**&**

**Office of Adult and Juvenile Justice Assistance**

**Colorado Department of Public Safety**

**Division of Criminal Justice**

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## ***Message from the Director and Chair***

As the Director of the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) and the Chair of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Council (JJDC), we are pleased to present the joint DCJ and JJDC 2017 Juvenile Justice Annual Report. This Annual Report is a requirement of federal juvenile justice funding received by the DCJ from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and summarizes the juvenile justice-related activities of DCJ's Office of Adult and Juvenile Justice Assistance (OAJJA) and the JJDC from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

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Director, Division of Criminal Justice  
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Will Hays  
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Mission Statements

***Colorado's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Council (JJRPC) provides statewide leadership and advocacy to improve the juvenile justice system, prevent delinquency, and ensure equal justice and accountability for all youth while maximizing community safety.***

***The mission of the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) is to improve the public safety of the community, the quality of services to crime victims, and the effectiveness of services to offenders. We accomplish this by analyzing policy, conducting criminal justice research, managing programs, and administering grants.***

## THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT

Established in 1974 and most recently reauthorized in 2002, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) embodies a partnership between the U.S. federal government and the states and territories to protect children and youth in the juvenile and criminal justice system, adequately address delinquent behaviors and improve community safety by preventing juvenile crime and delinquency.

### In short, the JJDP provides for:

- A U.S. National juvenile justice planning and advisory system in all states, territories and the District of Columbia;
- Federal funding for delinquency prevention and improvements in state and local juvenile justice programs; and
- Operation of a federal agency—the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) - dedicated to training, technical assistance, model programs, and research and evaluation to support state and local efforts.

Under the JJDP, each state must establish a State Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice (SAG), submit a Three-Year State Plan for carrying out the purposes of the Act, and implement the Act's Core Requirements/Protections at the state and local level.

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act's goals are to prevent and reduce juvenile delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system, by ensuring appropriate sanctions and services, due process, proper treatment and safe confinement for juveniles who are involved in the juvenile justice system. The core requirements of the Act are:

- **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO)** Juveniles charged with or who have committed offenses that would not be criminal if committed by an adult, or such non-offenders as dependent and neglected children, shall not be placed in secure detention facilities or secure correctional facilities. These offenders include, but are not limited to truants, runaways, or minors in possession of alcohol. Violations occur when accused status offenders are held in secure juvenile detention centers for more than 24 hours, excluding weekends and holidays; and, when adjudicated status offenders are held for any length of time either in these facilities or any adult jail or municipal lockup.
- **Sight and Sound Separation of Juvenile and Adult Offenders (Separation)** During the temporary period that a juvenile may be held in an adult jail or lockup, no sight or sound contact between the juvenile and adult inmates or trustees is permitted.
- **Removal of Juveniles from Adult Jails and Lockups (Jail Removal)** Juveniles accused of committing a delinquent act may be held in temporary custody, not to exceed 6 hours, at an adult jail or lockup for the purpose of processing. Reports from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention show that juveniles held with adults for any period of time can easily be victimized, may be easily overwhelmed by a lock-up and may become suicidal; adult facilities have neither the staff, programs nor training to best manage juveniles; and, jail or secure lockup do not provide a deterrent.

- **Addressing the Over Representation of Minorities in the Juvenile Justice System** States are required to put forth efforts to reduce the disproportionate number of youth of color and other minorities who are detained or confined in secure facilities, or who have contact with any decision point of the juvenile justice system.

## THE COLORADO JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COUNCIL

The Colorado Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Council serves as the state advisory group (SAG) as defined in Title II of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act) of 2002. The Governor appoints the JJDP Council. Its members represent the broad scope of the juvenile justice system including government, community-based organizations, schools, and youth.

Colorado has actively participated in the JJDP Act since 1984. Through early comprehensive efforts, the JJDP Council and DCJ have brought the state into compliance with the core requirements of the Act: the removal of status offenders and non-offenders from secure juvenile detention and correctional facilities, separation of juveniles from incarcerated adults, removal of juveniles from adult jails and lock-ups, continued monitoring for compliance with these requirements, and development and implementation of a comprehensive plan to address the disproportionate representation of minority youth at all decision points of the juvenile justice system, including those confined in secure facilities.

Through 1994, the JJDP Council allocated grant funds primarily to meet the first three requirements related to the appropriate holding of juveniles. The JJDP Council remains dedicated to a continued comprehensive compliance monitoring system and provides support to local law enforcement to maintain the safe and appropriate holding of juveniles. The JJDP Council and DCJ also owe the continued success in compliance to support and assistance from law enforcement, the Division of Youth Corrections, judges, probation officers, community-based youth-serving agencies, the legislature, the Governor, and many others.

The disproportionate contact of minority youth at all decision points of the juvenile justice system became a concern of the JJDP Council prior to its formal addition as a core requirement of the JJDP Act in 1992, and it continues to be a priority program area for formula grant funds. It is a core system improvement effort because it works toward fair and equitable treatment of all youth.

One of the responsibilities of the JJDP Council in conjunction with the DCJ is to regularly undertake an analysis of the “state of the state” of delinquency prevention and intervention programs and policies. This analysis serves as the basis for the development of a three-year comprehensive state plan for the improvement of the juvenile justice system and prevention of juvenile delinquency as required by the JJDP Act. The purpose of this plan is to coordinate, develop, implement, monitor, and evaluate state and local efforts to improve outcomes for troubled youth through addressing pressing issues, gaps in services, and funding reductions that threaten the progress that has been made in the areas of delinquency prevention and intervention. Collaboration and coordination with other state and local juvenile justice and delinquency prevention efforts are keys to this plan. The flexibility of the funds allocated under the plan and the technical assistance available to the state through the plan, enable the JJDP Council and DCJ to address the gaps identified through input from the many players in the system including rural communities and the Native American tribal communities.

The 2015-2017 juvenile justice and delinquency prevention three-year plan is based upon an in-depth analysis of the juvenile justice system including a systematic review of the various initiatives in place to address youth with problem behaviors and their families. It includes an analysis of Colorado’s youth serving systems from prevention through aftercare including an analysis of juvenile crime problems, juvenile needs and resource availability and gaps. This review also includes documentation of the impacts and potential outcomes of the budget cuts and related changes in policy and practice. This strategic plan

document begins with statewide prevention efforts that are integral to the prevention of juvenile delinquency. From there, it provides information regarding the “state of the state” in all facets of the juvenile justice system, describing the path a juvenile takes as they penetrate further into the system. Finally, it includes Colorado’s plans for addressing the prioritized areas as outlined below. ([https://cdpsdocs.state.co.us/oajja/OAJJA\\_Board\\_Council/CO2017TitleIIProgramNarrative.pdf](https://cdpsdocs.state.co.us/oajja/OAJJA_Board_Council/CO2017TitleIIProgramNarrative.pdf))

**Disproportionate Minority Contact/Minority Overrepresentation**

**Appropriate Holding of Juveniles through Comprehensive Compliance Monitoring**

**Native American Programming**

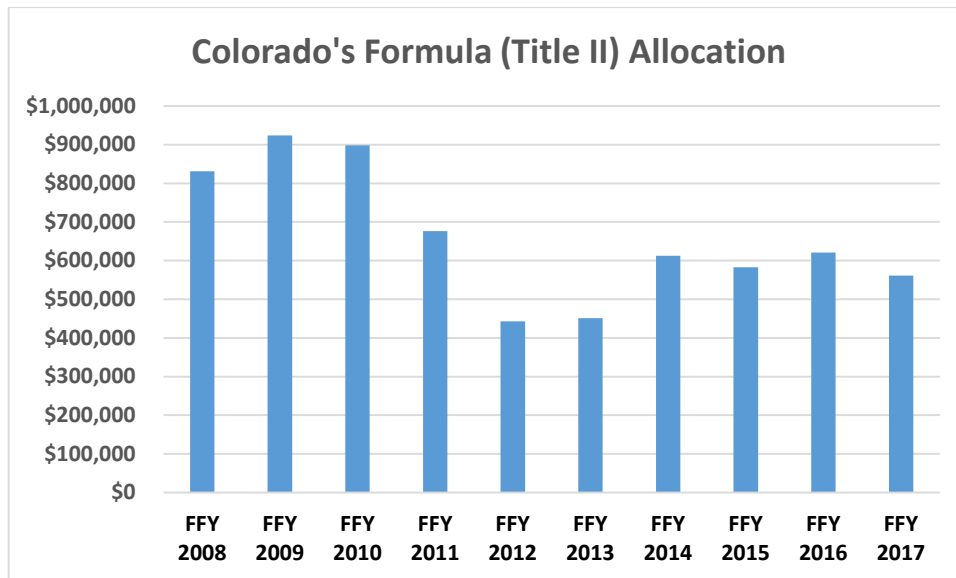
**Juvenile Justice System Improvement**



## FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING

Historically, there have been two major sources of federal funding for the juvenile justice work. The **Formula Grants Program (Title II)** was the original source of funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to states. The Formula Grant Program supports state and local delinquency prevention and intervention efforts and juvenile justice system improvements. This program provides funds directly to states, territories and the District of Columbia to help them implement comprehensive state juvenile justice plans based on detailed studies of jurisdictional needs. Formula Grant funds can be used to fund programs to help states remain in compliance with the core requirements (Sight and Sound Separation, Jail Removal, Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders and Disproportionate Minority Contact), Native American issues, a variety of prevention programs, planning and administration, and the State Advisory Group allocation. These funds have been precipitously reduced (reduced 39% from 2009 to 2017, 10% in just the last year).

Colorado's Formula (Title II) Allocation								
FFY 2009-2017								
FFY 2009	FFY 2010	FFY 2011	FFY 2012	FFY 2013	FFY 2014	FFY 2015	FFY 2016	FFY 2017
\$924,000	\$898,000	\$676,688	\$442,589	\$450,867	\$612,250	\$582,443	\$621,069	\$561,377



The purpose of the **Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG)**, also from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) was to provide States and units of local government with funds to develop programs to promote greater accountability in the juvenile justice system.

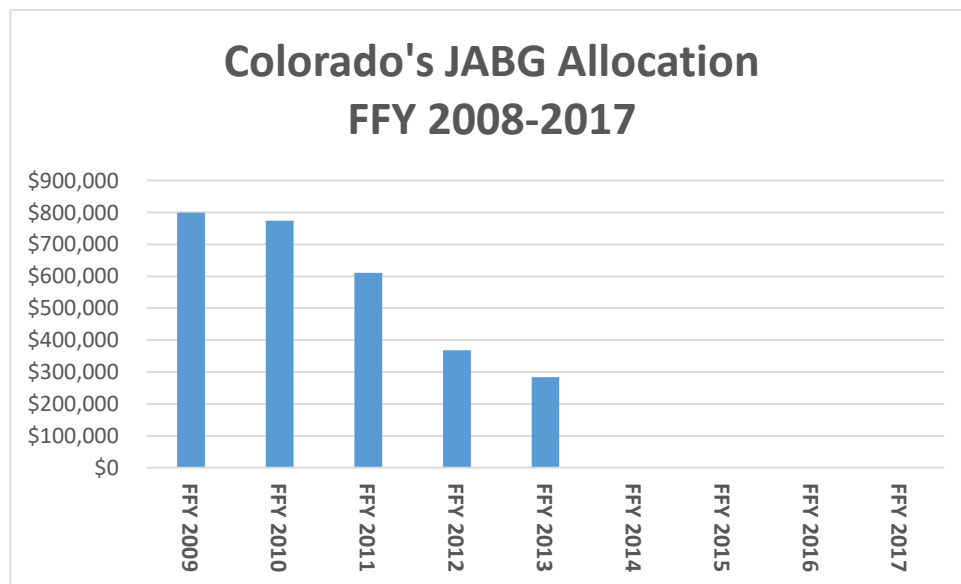
The underlying premise of juvenile accountability programming is that young people who violate the law should be held accountable for their offenses through the swift, consistent application of sanctions that are proportionate to the offenses—both as a matter of basic justice and as a way to combat delinquency and improve the quality of life in the nation’s communities. The program’s goal is to reduce juvenile

offending through accountability-based initiatives focused on both the offender and the juvenile justice system.

For the juvenile offender, accountability means an assurance of facing individualized consequences through which he or she will be made aware of and held responsible for offenses committed. Such accountability is best achieved through a system of graduated sanctions that are imposed according to the nature and severity of the offense, moving from limited interventions to more restrictive actions if the juvenile offender continues delinquent activities. The juvenile justice system must increase its capacity to develop youth competence, to efficiently track juveniles through the system, and to provide enhanced options such as restitution, community service, and victim-offender mediation.

As can be seen, funding was zeroed out at the federal level beginning in 2014.

Colorado's JABG Allocations								
FFY 2009-2017								
FFY 2009	FFY 2010	FFY 2011	FFY 2012	FFY 2013	FFY 2014	FFY 2015	FFY 2016	FFY 2017
\$799,600	\$774,000	\$611,126	\$368,530	\$284,401	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0



State support for **Juvenile Diversion**, a front-end component of the juvenile justice system, had been in place for over twenty years (\$2.4 million) prior to the line item vetoes in the FY 2002-03 appropriations bill, and partial reinstatement (\$1.2 million) in FY 2006-07. Pursuant to the Colorado Children's Code [(19-1-103(44) C.R.S.), the goal of Diversion is to prevent further involvement of the youth in the formal legal system. Diversion of a juvenile or child may take place either at the pre-filing level as an alternative to filing of a petition; at the post adjudication level as an adjunct to probation services following an adjudicatory hearing; or a disposition as a part of sentencing. Juvenile diversion programs concentrate on holding the youth accountable for their behavior while involving them in programs and activities to prevent future criminal and delinquent behavior. Programs of this type provide local communities alternatives for holding youth accountable for their behavior, can help change the way youth think about their behavior, ensure that youth take responsibility for their actions, and ensure that victims and

communities feel safe and restored.

In SFY 2015-16, the Colorado General Assembly positively responded to a DCJ request for Marijuana Tax funding for DCJ-funded juvenile diversion programs to use for screening, assessment and treatment for marijuana and/or general substance abuse needs of diversion clients. The funding, totaling \$400,000, also supports DCJ in developing protocols for screening, assessment and treatment and includes an in-depth look at the efficacy of Diversion through an evaluation process.

## JJDP COUNCIL PRIORITY AREAS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### OVER REPRESENTATION OF MINORITY YOUTH IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

**GOAL: Prevention of delinquency by addressing contributing factors that may lead minority youth to enter the juvenile justice system.**

Colorado has been addressing minority over-representation (also called disproportionate minority contact or DMC) for the last two decades. Nevertheless, minority over representation still exists in many of the juvenile justice decision-points (arrest, detention, commitment). The JJDP Council continues to advocate for minority youth and families by monitoring legislation that may affect them and championing equal access to services by all youth. They also continue funding assessment studies in local jurisdictions to determine the multiple contributing factors of over representation of minority youth in the juvenile justice system.

The JJDP Council supports a DMC coordinator who takes a three-prong approach in helping Colorado remain in compliance with the DMC Core Requirement. First, as a requirement for receipt of federal Formula (Title II) funding, the state is required to “address juvenile delinquency prevention efforts and system improvement efforts designed to reduce, without establishing or requiring numerical standards or quotas, the disproportionate number of juvenile members of minority groups, who come into contact with the juvenile justice system.” Colorado’s DMC Coordinator serves as the liaison for DMC to OJJDP which includes participating in all DMC Coordinator calls and required webinars coordinated by OJJDP. Duties as the technical expert and liaison include writing and updating the state’s DMC Plan and Program Description annually to remain in compliance as well as updating and entering the state’s Relative Rate Index or RRI data into the OJJDP website, also a compliance requirement. In addition to the required data collection the coordinator looks at the data to identify changes in DMC from year to year and compare multiple years of data to identify trends early on and bring them to the attention of the JJDP Council, the Coalition for Minority Youth Equality (CMYE) and the systems involved to address issues as early as possible.

Second, to support state level activities, the DMC Coordinator provides staffing to the Colorado Coalition for Minority Youth Equality (CMYE). Training for new and potential CMYE members is conducted annually. Funding also supports the logistical costs of four CMYE Meetings and supports communities outside of Denver to travel and participate in CMYE meetings. The other primary focus is on improving the DMC data collection and use of DMC data in Colorado by looking at data usability and accessibility by local jurisdictions. This is accomplished by developing a user friendly document for each Judicial District to represent their RRI matrix data.

Third, heavy emphasis in the state DMC Plan is on supporting community level activities, the DMC coordinator, as the state’s DMC technical expert, provides training and technical assistance to agencies and communities to assist them in understanding the problem and assist them in developing a plan to address their local DMC issues. The plan is to implement the five phases of addressing DMC as developed by OJJDP by addressing the identification, assessment, intervention, evaluation and monitoring phases. There is a heavy emphasis on the collection, reporting and usability of DMC data. There are also several policy areas including those to address the disproportionate contact of Black youth at the arrest decision point and to work in concert with initiatives to address the large number of arrests made at schools. In addition, there are objectives focused on assisting communities in defining and addressing their issues

through training, technical assistance and an assessment study. In order to implement the plan, the Council supports a 75% DMC Coordinator position.

### **What Has Been Accomplished?**

Data Collection and Review: The racial and ethnic population of Colorado youth age 10-17 is: White youth 57% (down from 59%), Black youth remains 4.7%, Latino youth 33% (up from 32%), Asian youth 4% and American Indian youth 1%. The decision points for the state that meet the three criteria (statistically significant, magnitude and volume) for DMC and make them a concern to the state and should be the focus of addressing DMC are: Arrest for Black youth, Detention for both Black and Latino youth and Commitment for Latino youth.

Efforts to address the disproportionate rate of Black youth as a separate issue from the arrest of Latino youth started the year prior due to the magnitude at this decision point. Colorado developed a plan that focused on the three judicial districts with the highest Black youth population as compared to the rest of the state. Those judicial districts are also the ones with the highest numbers of arrests for Black youth in the state. We have learned over the years that to impact the state rate one must impact the local judicial districts contributing the most to that disparity in order to impact DMC. While the Relative Rate Index (RRI) has not yet been impacted and remains at a 4.2, continued focus will continue in this area. We anticipate it taking several years to impact the RRI. One positive is that the volume of youth was reduced from affecting 4,736 Black youth last year to 4,310 youth this year. When looking at statistical parity, we have identified that it would take 3,301 less arrests of Black youth in the state to reach equity.

At the detention decision point there is disparity for both Black and Latino youth where the magnitude is about 2 for each and more specifically, 1.75 for Black youth representing a volume of 1,080 youth and 2.15 for Latino youth representing 2,411 youth. Again, this area was a priority last year and many efforts were made to address the issue, beginning by identifying the eight judicial districts with the highest magnitude and volume of Black and Latino youth being detained. To reach statistical parity in the state we would have to reduce the use of detention for 464 Black youth and 1,287 Latino youth. Again, the state will continue to address the issue locally by judicial district.

DYC Commitment for Latino youth was the final decision point identified as needing attention. It was statistically significant, had a magnitude of 2, and represented a volume of 174 Latino youth. The state will begin addressing this area by meeting with stakeholders who can provide guidance on why this may be occurring and then using their guidance to develop an intervention strategy. We are unsure of what the number would be to reach parity due to missing ethnicity data at adjudication.

Training and Technical Assistance: DMC training and technical Assistance was provided to several judicial districts; the 1<sup>st</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. In addition, the DMC Coordinator in partnership with other initiatives trained at the National Juvenile Justice Symposium held in Denver in late October/early November. The first session had about 15 attendees and focused on DMC 101 and then more specifically on an intervention strategy being used in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District (Denver). The second training had at least 50 attendees and focused once again on DMC 101 with more time to go in-depth and then on the intervention strategies used in the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District to address DMC at the detention decision point.

Collaboration: Collaboration, connecting and serving as a resource to other initiatives that have or could have an impact on DMC occurred is vital to our DMC efforts. The DMC Coordinator actively participated in the Pathways to Success initiative focused on ending foster youth experiencing homelessness. She also

participated in the Systems of Care, CLAS working group for half of the year. They have taken a hiatus and it is not clear if they will continue to meet. The DMC Coordinator is also a participant on the JJDP Council's Evidence Based Programs and Practices, Low Risk High Needs and Review of the Children's code committees. Each of those committees impacts youth and family of color in the state. Perhaps the one that potentially will have the most impact in the future is the Review of the Children's Code Committee. Lastly, there is collaboration with a Colorado initiative called Colorado 9to25 which is working to implement a state plan that addresses all children and youth services in the state. There is a constant reminder that the services that work for one population of youth may not work for another so the services provided as part of the 9to25 plan need to be culturally relevant and appropriate.

Work continued in collaboration with the CO Department of Education on the School-Justice Partnership to develop a curriculum for SRO's and school administration to educate them on DMC and to provide resources and ideas on how they can improve their school's strategies to discipline and refer to law enforcement in an equitable manner. The DMC Coordinator assisted in developing the DMC, data, resources and introduction sections of the curriculum.

A first annual DMC Statewide Stakeholder meeting was held on August 18, 2016. There were many systems represented and in addition the representation was from higher level managers or directors who could make changes within their systems. The systems represented were Office of Family, Youth and Children; Child Welfare; Education; Colorado Bureau of Investigation (arrest data); Division of Youth Corrections (detention and commitment); Judges (adjudication and commitment); and the Probation Services Division. In addition, members of the state DMC Committee (CMYE) and representatives from more specific parts of the system such as Division of Youth Corrections, Case Managers and the Juvenile PREA Coordinator were in attendance.

## APPROPRIATE HOLDING OF JUVENILES THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE

### COMPLIANCE MONITORING

#### **GOAL: Maintain compliance with Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders, Separation of Juveniles from Adult Inmates and the Removal of Juveniles from Adult Jails and Lockups.**

Colorado has emphasized and supported compliance monitoring since 1987. In 1988, a system improvement component was added to the compliance monitoring job responsibilities to enhance the effort of reaching and maintaining compliance by providing education, training, technical assistance and on-site support to law enforcement and juvenile justice system personnel. Legislation regarding the holding of juveniles in compliance with the core requirements of the JJDP Act was passed during Colorado's 2006 legislative session. This has been of great assistance in maintaining compliance and continues to be supported through the system improvement efforts of the compliance monitor.

#### **What Has Been Accomplished?**

Colorado has seen tremendous progress since passage of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act and Colorado's commitment to the appropriate holding of juveniles. For many years, Colorado has enjoyed a very robust compliance monitoring process which is informed by data provided by any and all Colorado institutions (police, sheriff, Division of Youth Services, etc.) that could possibly hold juveniles securely. Again in 2016, Colorado was determined to be in full compliance in all three of the compliance monitoring areas by the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

**Core Requirement: Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO).** Pursuant to the JJDP Act at 42 U.S.C. 5633, the state must develop a plan that provides that juveniles who commit status offenses and juveniles who are not charged with any offense will not be placed in secure detention or secure correctional facilities except as allowed under the exceptions set forth in the JJDP Act at 42 U.S.C. 5633 (a)(11)(A). There are three ways that Colorado can have violations of this core requirement: 1) accused status offenders held over 24 hours in juvenile detention centers, 2) adjudicated status offenders in juvenile detention centers, and 3) accused and adjudicated status offenders held for any period of time in jails or lockup.

- 1) There are 11 juvenile detention centers in Colorado. Of those, 10 are owned by the state and 1 is owned by a county (Boulder). In 2016 there were 17 youth held in violation of the "24 hour reporting exception." These types of violations are primarily caused when juveniles are placed in detention pending a detention and placement hearing and/or due to scheduling conflicts, the detention hearings are not held within 24 hours (excluding weekends and holidays), and/or if juveniles are not released within 24 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) immediately following the initial court appearance.
- 2) DCJ has specifically addressed DSO violations in detention centers since 2006. In 2006, the JJ Specialist, the Compliance Monitor and a judge from Colorado's JJDP Council met with the State Court Administrator's Office and requested they send a memo to all Judges in the State advising them about Colorado Rule 3.8 (it mirrors the OJJDP 1996 Valid Court Order requirement regulation) and the number of violations reported to OJJDP. In 2007 the number of violations again increased and again the JJ Specialist, the Compliance Monitor and the judge from the SAG met with the State Court Administrator's Office (SCAO) and requested they mandate the use of the Valid Court Order forms (first VCO compelling behavior, the Written Report and the second VCO sentencing the juvenile to

detention) contained in Colorado Judicial Rule 3.8. Although the SCAO could not mandate the use of the forms, they did issue another memo encouraging the use of the forms, however, in 2008 the violations increased again. From 2009 to 2014 the violations did not increase and were reduced; there were only 10 of these violations in 2014. New judges were placed on the bench in 2015, did not have training, and the number of violations slightly increased. Training was provided to both these districts in 2015. In 2016, the use of detention for truants became a dedicated focus of the JJ Specialist. A meeting was held with the Colorado Supreme Court Justice to discuss the dangers of detention for the truant population and the initial findings of a study being conducted in Colorado on the impact of use of detention for truants was shared (<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dcj/node/192551>). The Supreme Court Justice was also instrumental in addressing truancy court processes and use of detention with all 22 District Court Chief Judges due to passage of SB 15-184 which mandated the Chief Judges convene a meeting of community stakeholder to create a local policy for addressing truancy cases that seeks alternatives to the use of detention as a sanction for truancy. In 2016, the numbers institutionalized status offenders, primarily truants, dropped significantly which we believe is due to the efforts described above.

- 3) The numbers of accused and adjudicated status offenders held in adult jails and lockups in 2016 is 9. In 2015, the number was 11. Please note that the number of violations represents less than .5% of all the juveniles held securely during the 2016 reporting year. Colorado also is tracking the number of underage drinkers, and those in possession of a handgun, held in jails and lockups.

The majority of status offenders held securely in adult jails or lockups are those arrested on warrants where the original charge was a status offense, such as truancy, runaway, or curfew violations. Courts issue warrants on juveniles who have Failed to Appear in court or Failed to Comply with court orders often times on a truancy violation. This action results in involving law enforcement which can then pick-up the juvenile and take them to a law enforcement office or holding facility. DCJ trains law enforcement, during on-site visits, on how to avoid situations where status offenders may be held. DCJ will continue to work with law enforcement in developing non-secure areas within their facility for this type of juvenile.

**Core Requirement: Separation of Juveniles from Adult Inmates.** Pursuant to the JJDP Act at 42 U.S.C. 5633(a)(12), the state must develop a plan that provides youth alleged or found to be delinquent, committed a status offense, and youth not committing any offenses who are alleged to be dependent, neglected, or abused shall not be detained or confined in any institution in which they have contact with an adult inmate; that is, an individual who has reached the age of full criminal responsibility under applicable state law and has been arrested and is in custody for or awaiting trial on a criminal charge, or is convicted of a criminal offense.

Colorado had zero violations under this Core Requirement in 2016 (or for many years).

**Core Requirement: Removal of Juveniles from Adult Jails and Lockups.** Pursuant to the JJDP Act at 42 U.S.C. 5633(a)(13), the state must develop a plan that provides that (with limited exceptions) no juvenile shall be detained or confined in any adult jail or lockup.

Colorado has been in compliance with Jail Removal since 1993 and continued to be in compliance with a rate of 1.67 in 2016. Colorado had 12 violations in 2016 representing less than .5% of the total number of youth held securely. Due to law enforcement staff turnover and new officer hires, DCJ anticipates that a small percentage of all arrested youth will continue to be violations despite on-going training and state



laws that mirror the Jail Removal requirement. All of Colorado law enforcement facilities report data. Juvenile Holding Cell logs are located next to or near the holding cells in each facility.

## **NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMMING**

**GOAL: To support juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programming with the American Indian Tribes and expand our support to the non- reservation based Native American population in Colorado.**

The Division of Criminal Justice and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Council have enjoyed great relationships with both the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes located in the Four Corners area of the state (SW). The Council has historically offered federal Title II/Formula Grant funds in excess of the required pass-through amount to both Tribes. Most recently, the Southern Ute Tribe has been using these funds to support trauma treatments and non-violent life skills training to youth who are court-ordered or high risk and referred by a school counselor. For several years, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe elected to not receive Title II/Formula grant funds because of the requirement to be in compliance with the JJDP Act requirements for the appropriate holding of juveniles in secure settings, most critically in the area of deinstitutionalization of status offenders, notably truants.

As with the State of Colorado, both Tribes struggle to address the needs of their youth and families, especially when children and youth are struggling with education issues. Colorado's Native American juvenile population that is non-reservation based also continues to need culturally appropriate services. Although the Native American juvenile population that is non-reservation based is estimated at 1.1% of the State's total juvenile population and 0.7% of the Colorado school population, they represent 4.7% of the school dropouts, 3.0% of the youth who received in-school suspension, 3.9% receiving out-of school-suspension and 4.4% who were expelled in 2014-2015, a dramatic rise from prior years.

### **What Has Been Accomplished?**

In 2015, several members of the JJDP Council visited the Four Corners area to meet with representatives from the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe to re-establish and rekindle their working relationship. Former JJDP Council member Ernest House Jr. is a member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and is the Executive Secretary for the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs and was instrumental in this endeavor. Discussions were held about compliance with the federal JJDP Act and the Tribe has made great strides toward compliance. Title II funds are accessed by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe for juvenile justice issues but funds have yet to be accessed by the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe despite the Council's and DCJ's offer to work with them to craft an application.

The JJDP Council will continue to reach out to the Ute Mountain Ute leadership to try and engage them in discussions about how the Title II/Formula Grant set aside funds can assist them in addressing critical juvenile justice or delinquency prevention needs of their Tribal youth.

## **JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS**

As federal funds have decreased over the years, the JJDP Council made a very conscious decision to shift funding of direct service programs that could serve a limited number of youth and families to addressing critical juvenile justice and delinquency prevention system improvement efforts across Colorado. In the past year, Colorado's JJDP Council continued to focus its system improvement efforts in six main areas with committees established to address each: **Low Risk High Need (LRHN)**; **Professional Development (PD)**; **Evidence-Based Programs and Practices (EBPP)**; **Research and Evaluation**; and **Juvenile Justice Code Review**. The seventh committee, the **Emerging Leaders** Committee is evidence that the JJDP Council is also committed to authentic youth involvement in all its work and is supportive of its youth members (Emerging Leaders or those appointed to the JJDP Council prior to their 24<sup>th</sup> birthday) by providing the support it needs as a committee to determine its own priorities and provide a funding base to then meet its identified priorities.

### **LOW RISK/HIGH NEEDS COMMITTEE**

**GOAL: Improve outcomes for all families involved in juvenile justice by preventing low risk-high needs (LRHN) children and youth from unnecessarily entering the juvenile justice system or penetrating deeper into the system through partnerships with schools or school districts and implementation of Restorative Justice (RJ) principles and practices into school districts' discipline policies and practices.**

This committee has been addressing the needs of juveniles who may not have high criminogenic tendencies except for their high needs in the areas such as trauma, mental health or substance abuse. It is believed that these undiagnosed, unmet or underserved needs in these areas significantly contribute to their eventual progression into and through the juvenile justice system. Given the large scale systemic changes necessary to address the needs of LRHN youth, the Committee prioritized altering practices related to truancy; practice changes were examined in four pilot sites. In 2016, the Committee focused on identifying systems-level lessons from the pilot sites that could be translated across the juvenile justice system. In addition, technical assistance was provided by the Vera Institute in Jefferson County/1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District.

### **What Has Been Accomplished?**

Three truancy court demonstration pilots and one truancy prevention pilot started in 2014 and completed their final year of funding in the Fall of 2017. The intent of the pilots was to learn and document the causal factors of truancy, effective prevention approaches, and increased school and student engagement, as well as to identify systems changes needed to successfully address truancy. The four truancy demonstration pilots included:

- The Truancy Prevention Pilot started in February 2014, funded through the Title II Formula Grant – La Plata County. This pilot program, Radical Possibilities Community in Schools Partnership, focused on youth who meet the definition of being truant, but had not yet been filed on in court.
- Three Truancy Problem Solving Court Pilots (1st, 16th and 18th Judicial Districts), funded through the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) focused on youth who were truant and had been filed on in court. These pilots began in May 2014.

In 2017 the Spark Policy Institute, in collaboration with the JJDP Council's Low-Risk High-Needs (LRHN) Committee, conducted a qualitative assessment, gathering perspectives from 1) the field of stakeholders in Colorado implementing or supporting truancy-reduction focused work; and 2) the four pilot programs funded by the LRHN Committee from 2014-17: Truancy Problem-Solving Courts (TPSC) in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts and La Plata Youth Services Prevention Program. What follows are excerpts from the *Evaluation of Truancy Prevention and Early Intervention Report* prepared by the Spark Policy Institute and the JJDP Council's LRHN Committee.

## **Description of the Four Pilot Programs**

### **Specialized Truancy Engagement Program (STEP) Court (1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District)**

**Mission Statement** – The 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District STEP Court was a specialized, collaborative court that sought to improve attendance by identifying barriers to education and providing assistance to empower students and families to overcome those challenges.

**Project Description** – The STEP Court was a voluntary program that took 6-9 months to complete. The program was overseen by a multidisciplinary group called the STEP Team. At the beginning of each STEP, every student – in conjunction with school staff, the STEP Court Coordinator, parents, and other involved professionals - created a STEP'ing Up Plan. The STEP'ing Up Plan was an individualized plan that set forth the requirements that a student must satisfy in order to STEP Up to the next STEP. If needed, the STEP'ing Up Plan addressed mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, sobriety monitoring, and attendance goals.

### **Motivation, Achievement, and Power (MAP) Program (16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District)**

**Mission Statement** – The MAP Program is designed to MOTIVATE youth to ACHIEVE high attendance and academic performance in school and bring out the POWER to thrive not only in school but in everyday life.

**Project Description** – The MAP Program is a mandatory program designed to last between 6-12 months. The program is divided into four phases called the Four C's: Choice, Challenge, Change, and Courage. Emphasis is placed on school attendance, academic achievement according to ability, and appropriate conduct. Referrals are made to appropriate services based upon assessment results. Youth move through each phase via a point system, tracked through a point register. A points list explains to participants how they earn or lose points. Points are monitored on a weekly basis by the youth, the case manager, and parent/guardian. A specific number of points (tied to specified outcomes) must be accumulated prior to moving to the next phase.

### **Academic Centered Empowerment (ACE) Court Program (18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District)**

**Mission Statement** – The 18<sup>th</sup> judicial district Truancy Problem Solving Court honors and empowers families to reconnect truant students with school or other educational alternatives. It employs a holistic, problem solving, culturally-sensitive approach in order to foster educational success and create self-sufficient families.

**Project Description** – The ACE Court Program has four phases, each of which has progressively more rigorous standards. ACE Court provides youth with the following tools to set them up for success:

- Incentives and sanctions;

- Accountability through court reviews and assignments;
- Substance use monitoring; and
- Meetings or check-ins with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs), Guardians ad Litem (GALs) and Student Engagement Advocates.

Participation in the ACE Court Program is a voluntary commitment of approximately 8-12 months.

### Community-in-Schools Partnership (La Plata Youth Services)

**Program Mission** – The Community-in-Schools Partnership (CISP) Program provides a community-based, collaborative early intervention/prevention response to students facing significant, adverse barriers to school attendance.

**Project Description** – The CISP program aims to prevent and respond to issues facing at-risk students. CISP has three overarching goals:

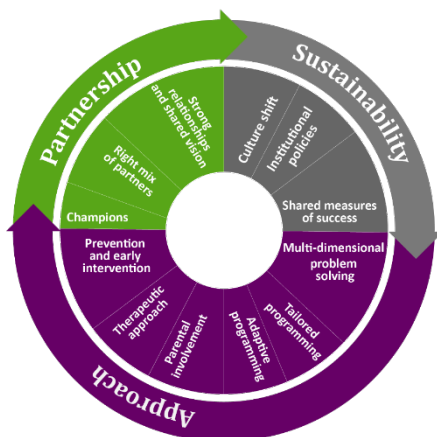
- 1) Working on improving and capitalizing on positive school climates. This is achieved through the implementation of Restorative Justice, and through trainings for teachers (trauma informed care etc.).
- 2) Providing services and support to students that present with externalizing behavior or are heavily involved with discipline in school. This is done primarily through in-school individual behavioral health (between 8 to 12 sessions) but also includes case consultation and advocacy.
- 3) Targeting at risk populations through specific groups including Youth of Color, Girls Circles and LGBTQ groups.

Pilot site evaluations and field-level interviews revealed the importance of three areas in building a collaborative framework to improve school attendance: 1) partnerships, 2) approach, and 3) sustainability. As illustrated in Figure 2, each area and its components builds on the other and are necessary to the success of the framework.

### Partnership

Figure 2. Collaborative Framework to Improve School Attendance

Framework to Improve Attendance



The partnership area outlines the need to engage the right collection of partners and resources, establish strong relationships and a shared vision, and identify champions.

- **Right mix of partners:** Schools, the judicial system, child welfare, and community organizations and members all play an important role in truancy prevention and early intervention efforts. When the right partners are involved, they can pool and leverage their resources to respond in a coordinated way to youth and family needs.

- **Strong Relationships and Shared Vision:** Partners need to develop strong relationships and a shared vision, mission, and goals to guide their work. The vision can differ depending on the partners and settings, but it is

important for all partners to be in alignment, be engaged and trust each other. Partners must also have mechanisms in place to facilitate open communication.

- **Champions.** Truancy prevention and early intervention efforts can benefit from identifying champions dedicated to advancing the work. Champions should be created at all levels – including judges, teachers, school administrators, and parents in order to disrupt the system’s power structure and ensure inclusion of diverse perspectives.

## Approach

The approach area discusses the core components needed when developing and implementing truancy prevention and early intervention programming, including the need for it to be adaptive and tailored, apply multi-dimensional problem solving, involve parents, and apply a therapeutic approach.

- **Prevention and early intervention:** Programs should focus both on 1) preventing truancy from occurring and 2) intervening once a student has been identified as truant. Ideally, intervention should occur early in a student’s trajectory of school absenteeism.
- **Multi-dimensional problem solving:** Programs should create the space and structures (e.g., collaborative meetings) for diverse perspectives and disciplines to come together to develop an action plan that addresses the underlying factors that contribute to poor school attendance and meets the full range of youth and family needs (e.g., mental health, transportation, student engagement and achievement, family obligations, etc.).
- **Therapeutic approach<sup>1</sup>:** Programs should apply a youth-centered, problem-solving approach to promote positive behavior change through personal development. Therapeutic approaches can include restorative-focused practices, skill building, counseling, and multiple coordinated services.
- **Tailored programming:** Programs should provide an individualized, tailored approach for each student to achieve success. Program approaches should be tailored to improve student attendance by determining the barriers and motivations for each student.
- **Parental involvement:** Programs should meaningfully engage and include parents in the prevention and early-intervention processes, and provide the necessary resources to build their capacity to support their family.
- **Adaptive programming:** As programs are developed and implemented, partners’ policies and practices should be altered, based on the population being served and the available community resources. As partners learn from each other and program participants, they should continue to adapt their program and accountability structures, processes, pool of resources, and ways of working together.

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<sup>1</sup> Mark W. Lipsey et al. (2010). Improving the effectiveness of juvenile justice programs: A new perspective on evidence-based practice. Center for Juvenile Justice Reform.

## Sustainability

The sustainability area illustrates the components needed to formalize truancy prevention and early intervention efforts including establishing shared measures of success, supporting a culture shift, and encouraging the development of supportive institutional policies.

- **Shared measures of success:** Truancy prevention and early intervention programs, as well as the broader truancy field, need to define and establish measures of success. Partners must be mindful to build measurement systems that align with existing data systems and related state and national measures.
- **Culture shift:** Settings and partners need to shift the paradigm from a punitive nature to *supporting positive behavioral outcomes. Training across systems at all levels is an important component of creating culture shifts.*
- **Institutional policies:** Partners – including school districts, courts, and community organizations – should develop supportive organizational policies that remove barriers and enhance supports. Institutionalizing policies and practices can help facilitate program implementation and sustain work amidst staff turnover.

## REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Drawing on the pilot site and field-level perspectives, the Spark evaluation team identified the following set of recommendations for the JJDP Council to consider.

Truancy was routinely categorized as a low priority within the judicial system and in turn has been allocated minimal resources and structure. While there are varying opinions on the best structure to address truancy, currently, neither schools nor court systems are sufficiently structured or resourced to address this important issue. ***The Council has an opportunity to work with key stakeholders to identify what a well-resourced truancy structure looks like and how to engage and support necessary system players.***

Child Welfare involvement is lacking in current truancy prevention and intervention efforts; however, their involvement is critical to ensuring good outcomes for youth and families. Courts can trigger Child Welfare involvement, and timely court interventions can help prevent further penetration into the system. Moreover, Child Welfare involvement in the preventive stages would provide resources to youth to help them from entering court. ***The Council can provide support for creating a more formalized relationship between Child Welfare and truancy efforts.***

To effectively reduce truancy, there is a need to support prevention and early intervention-focused approaches. To advance these approaches, schools need better systems to track and identify students who are missing instructional time. ***The Council can help shift the paradigm of truancy prevention to one of missed instruction and, in turn, support strategies to: 1) adopt prevention-focused approaches, for example, strategies that help all youth remain engaged in school; 2) identify attendance problems early (e.g. elementary school); and 3) implement strategies to identify at-risk students and intervene before chronic absenteeism becomes an issue.***

Identifying habitually truant youth requires data. The data requirements placed on schools can have unintended consequences for truant youth. For example, to avoid having to report their data, schools may transfer habitually truant students to an alternative school or disenroll them. School policies can also lead to unintended consequences that exacerbate the number of unexcused absences. For instance, late assignment policies can lead to students skipping class because they feel as if they are too far behind to catch up. ***The Council could support an evaluation of school policies and practices to identify how policies directly or indirectly impact truancy and in turn identify potential changes.***

The need for more formalized collaboration among the schools, courts, Child Welfare and community organizations is not isolated to truancy. It is reflective of a larger challenge faced when addressing the needs of at-risk youth. Creating more formalized collaborative structures can promote systems-level change and institutionalize practices, making them sustainable. ***The Council can help the truancy system explore policy and practices shifts that promote sustainability, including creative strategies for funding.*** Truancy provides an opportunity to deploy small tests of change to see how collaboration can be formalized to improve system efficiency to meet youth and family needs.

The JJDP Council also assisted in funding a study looking at the impact of secure detention for truancy on educational and juvenile justice outcomes (<http://dcj.oajja.state.co.us/publications-reports/truancy-and-use-of-detention>). This study was conducted by the Center for Research Strategies (Phase 1) and now (Phase 2) Infinite Frontier Consulting. The first phase of this study is now complete and we have begun to better understand factors predicting secure detention, whether secure detention for truancy predicted subsequent criminal filings, and whether secure detention for truancy predicted graduation. Among other things, results of the study indicate that local practices impact the likelihood of truancy detention to a greater extent than individual youth factors. Furthermore, truancy detention is a significant contributor to the likelihood of committing subsequent criminal offenses and makes graduating from high school 14.5 times less likely to occur for detained youth than for youth found truant but not detained. The primary goals of the Phase 2 analyses currently underway is to a) examine academic outcomes over a four-year time period, b) examine juvenile justice outcomes across a four-year time period and c) examine the rate of mental health issues in the truancy cohort and their impact on academic and juvenile justice outcomes. The Phase 1 results have been shared with all state agencies which serve truants as well as the Supreme Court Justice who has been working with the Chief Judges across the state to address the use of detention for truants who fail to abide by a valid court order and who have been subjected to high levels of detention in the past as a consequence.

**The Truancy System** is used to refer to the network of systems (e.g. education, judicial, human services, community etc.) that are involved in meeting the needs of an at-risk student, habitually truant student, or a student at-risk of becoming habitually truant.



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**GOAL: Improve outcomes for all families involved in juvenile justice by: promoting the efficient and consistent professional development of all relevant agencies, organizations and partners (“system actors”), including judges, attorneys and direct service workers, and addressing the training needs of system actors by establishing core practices and core competencies for juvenile justice professionals.**

The Professional Development committee, which was first established in 2011, worked successfully to engage the JJDP Council and the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) which approved the idea of creating a core set of statewide juvenile professional development practices. These practices will apply to agencies within the Executive and Judicial branches of government involving case processing and treatment of juvenile offenders.

There are numerous benefits to establishing and adopting statewide professional development standards for professionals working with at risk of and justice-involved juveniles and their families, including, but not limited to:

- Improved agency and cross-discipline coordination and consistency;
- Common knowledge and framework across professionals when addressing youth and family issues;
- Expanded staff capacity and a more integrated approach to care;
- A reduction in the likelihood that youth are pushed further into the juvenile justice system and other systems when they fail to meet the requirements of contradictory case plans;
- A reduction of overall system costs and the cost to train staff; and
- Improved outcomes for youth and families (e.g., lowering the recidivism rates of justice-involved youth).

There is a precedent in Colorado of statewide professional standards for those working with children and families involved in child welfare. The state has set minimum, statutorily-defined requirements for those working in this area. Subsequently, a comprehensive child welfare training academy was developed and is currently being expanded and strengthened to meet those standards. This affords the state an opportunity to expand this concept to other youth-serving systems.

### What Has Been Accomplished?

The Professional Development Committee (PD) focused on including key “power” voices in its discussions over the past few years. A subgroup composed of key training personnel was convened including representatives from the Division of Child Welfare, Probation, Judicial Branch, Division of Youth Services, SB 94, and the Office of the Child’s Representative. The subgroup has been working to push a cross training collaborative forward, with the intent that **basic competency-based training** is offered to all juvenile serving professionals from various sectors, enabling them to learn collectively. The focus of the collaborative is on increasing cross-sector thinking through training.

## Overarching Approach to All Trainings

### Integrating Cultural Responsivity and a Positive Youth Development Approach

Increasing the ability of juvenile justice professionals to understand adolescent development, including the differences in languages, values, codes of behavior, customs, beliefs, knowledge, symbols, myths and stories; the influence that institutions have on shaping the development of youth; how to effectively integrate a positive youth development approach into programming and practice such as engaging diverse youth in decision-making and utilizing a dual strategy of risk reduction and the promotion of strengths; as well as creating and maintaining healthy interactions with youth and their families.

## Recommended Core Competency Areas for Juvenile Justice Professionals

Adolescent and Brain Development: Adolescent developmental tasks, youth brain development and behavior/decisions.

Effective Case Management: Screening, assessment, effective report writing, case planning and referral, and risk, need, and responsivity. This should include the use of strengths-based language and engaging youth as partners in creating and on-going maintenance.

Consent, Release of Information, HIPAA, FERPA, 42CFR and Confidentiality: Privacy and confidentiality rights of youth, what and how data information can be shared across agencies.

Effective Communication Strategies: Appropriate, respectful strategies to ensure effective communication between providers, justice-involved youth, and victims and victims' families.

Family Engagement: Best practices for involving parents and families in the juvenile justice process.

Behavioral Health:

- *Trauma-informed response and/or care*: Best practices for providers in trauma-informed services; an understanding of the high prevalence of traumatic experiences in justice-involved youth and the neurological, biological, psychological and social effects of trauma and violence on youth.
- *Best practices in supporting youth with mental health challenges*
- *Strategies for addressing vicarious trauma in providers working with justice-involved youth*
- *Principles of substance abuse, prevention, treatment and recovery*

After securing agreement about the Core Competencies needed for any juvenile justice professional, the Child Welfare Training Academy offered the use of their Training Academy handled through the Kempe Center to develop an **ECHO Series** for this project.

ECHO is a virtual learning experience that is interactive and relationship based. The ECHO is composed of six one-hour learning sessions aimed at guided practice model share to engage learners in development of discrete practice skills. ECHO revolutionizes education and exponentially increases workforce capacity to understand and engage in immediate application of specific discipline practice concepts.

While ECHO sessions are virtual training sessions traditionally used for clinicians. The model enables cross-sector learning, which is often an absent ingredient in juvenile serving professionals' training. To fill this learning gap while creating a standardized knowledge base across systems the Juvenile Justice

Delinquency Prevention Council and Child Welfare Training Academy with the support of the Kempe Center are developing an alternative training model, the ECHO. The ECHO sessions will bring juvenile-serving professionals from all disciplines who can benefit from instructional learning combined with interactive discussions of their own topic-related experience. The goal is to create a shared foundational knowledge and greater clarity of the varying philosophies and practices.

Every ECHO involves three groups: a presenting expert, a panel of experts, and participating professionals. The presenter delivers topic expertise for the session, with each panelist providing their own perspective, knowledge, and understanding on the topic. Combined, the presenter and panelists' expertise creates an extensive understanding of the ECHO series topic. Finally, the participants bring personal experience to the equation. The specific experiences they present transform the expert knowledge into real-world applied learning.

The ECHO Series is currently in development and a Judicial District which has a strong multi-disciplinary focus for juvenile justice- and child welfare-engaged youth and families will serve as a Pilot. This Pilot ECHO series is planned for early 2018. Following the pilot and review of outcomes for learners, the ECHO Series will be refined and provided more broadly across the state.

### **EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES (EBPP) COMMITTEE**

**GOAL: To develop a state system that supports well-implemented evidence-based programs and practices matched to need at the local/community level focused on at-risk and system-involved youth.**

According to research, implementing evidence-based programs with fidelity has the potential to impact reductions in recidivism (25-70%), reductions in out-of-home placement (47-64%); extensive improvements in family functioning and decreased mental health problems. These outcomes have also translated into large cost savings. For example, Florida's Redirection Program saved \$41.6 million over four years by reducing out-of-home placements for less serious offenders and reducing recidivism.

However, evidence-based programs and practices are not being used to their potential. For example:

- Nationally less than 10% of child welfare and juvenile justice agencies are implementing evidence-based programs and practices;
- Prevention and intervention work is rarely data driven and strategic (e.g., it isn't based on data demonstrating need at the local or state level); and
- Evidence-based programs and practices, when implemented, are rarely implemented with fidelity.

For this EBPP Committee project, the goal is to develop a state system that supports well-implemented evidence-based programs and practices matched to need at the state and local/community level focused on at-risk and system-involved youth. The long-term goal of this project is to improve outcomes for at-risk and system-involved youth and their families as evidenced by:

- Reductions in recidivism;
- Reductions in out-of-home placement;
- Improvements in family functioning;
- Decreased behavioral health problems; and
- Improved educational outcomes.

The EBPP Committee aims to build a system that supports EBPPs at both the local and state levels. Development of this work plan is based on recommendations from the EBPP Committee and the MacArthur Foundation's Models for Change Juvenile Justice Mapping Process. This system will support a data-driven process that encourages:

- The selection of programs and practices with supported evidence of effectiveness based on need at the individual and community levels.
- Rigorous evaluation of promising, emerging and undetermined programs and practices.
- Commitment to cease any activity deemed to be harmful.
- Strong implementation supports to assure selected EBPPs are delivered with quality and fidelity.

Guiding priorities for the work plan include:

1. Support local and community processes to use data to match EBPPs to local needs.
2. Support effective implementation of EBPPs including measuring fidelity and outcomes.
3. Ensure high quality programming exists for low-, medium-, and high- risk/need youth and that youth are matched to services.
4. Use cost-benefit and cost-avoidance models to support approach.
5. Central repository to learn where programs are implemented and where the programs fall on the continuum of effectiveness (Colorado's PEW Results First Project within the Governor's Office will inform this process).

### **What Has Been Accomplished?**

In 2015 the Colorado Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Council contracted with OMNI Institute (OMNI) to help operationalize their vision and achieve objectives in support of the long term goal of evidence-based program and practice implementation matched to need and focused on at risk and/or system-involved youth and their families. The first phase of this work included engaging in an initial Evidenced Based Programs and Practices (EBPP) planning pilot process with four local sites, and development of a step by step EBPP toolkit. An EBPP website was developed that hosts the EBPP Toolkit as well as links to data sets (<http://coebpp.org/>).

The EBPP Committee has found that this process has been successful at engagement of key local stakeholders working in within the various local agencies and coalitions who are trying to improve outcomes for youth and families in their community and better ensures that all stakeholders are engaged. OMNI has provided data gathering, organization and interpretation services to build local capacity. Data targeted through this effort include existing data sources such as Public Health Needs Assessments, Communities That Care data, and other local sources of data, data that has largely gone untapped for much of the juvenile justice and delinquency prevention planning that has occurred in the past. In order to promote capacity building and sustainability of these efforts, OMNI has provided hands-on guidance to local coordinators on how to independently gather and organize local data as well as facilitate discussions about their data with key stakeholders.

The larger goal of local data profiles is to illustrate the characteristics and needs of the at-risk and/or system-involved youth and their families across their entire community, in order to promote: greater understanding of where to target evidenced-based practices and/or programs; leveraging of resources; avoidance of service duplication; and overall effective use of state funding to address the areas of highest needs with evidenced-based practices and/or programs. The local data profile includes data relevant to

each of the local systems addressing at-risk and/or systems-involved youth populations and can inform required program-specific plans (i.e. SB94, CMP, Core Services).

### **EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

**GOAL: To continue to support quality improvement in the juvenile justice system through key research and/or evaluation projects.**

The Evaluation Committee:

- Supports Council member participation in the planning, implementation, and review of evaluation components in proposed, funded, and endorsed activities;
- When requested, the Committee provides review, comment, and recommendations on the evaluation components of Council activities; and
- Sustains a focus on the value added by evaluation components of Council activities, assuring that they lead to meaningful action in support of youth, their families, communities, and Council agendas and sponsored programs.

As part of its System Improvement efforts, the JJDP Council has supported research and evaluation as a key component of any programming process it funds. An example of this is the evaluation of the state-funded Juvenile Diversion program. Since 2009, the JJDP Council has supported this evaluation which has yielded useful information leading to improvements in the operations of the diversion programs. This commitment to quality improvement through research and evaluation will continue in the next three-year cycle.

The Evaluation Committee and the JJDP Council support the continued data collection and data analysis by OMNI Institute using the Evidence to Outcomes (ETO) database for Intake/Exit data and the data entry of pre/post survey Juvenile Diversion data. This is done by continuing ongoing evaluation activities and to delve deeper into the findings that appear to be supportive of positive outcomes for youth to determine what activities are correlated to the positive outcomes. Working with DCJ and the Committee, components that are found to be non-responsive to the recidivism rate will be removed from the data collection instruments. The Evaluation committee also continues to look at recommendations based on evaluation findings to improve services leading to better outcomes for youth, to assure outcomes and services are culturally equivalent for all youth and to continue to know if we are making a difference and in an equal way.

#### **What Has Been Accomplished?**

The Evaluation Committee has become more active in reviewing with applicants and funded projects their proposals and reports and has reviewed closely consultant's reports and met with consultants to ask questions and make recommendations on their work and reports. Specifically, the Evaluation Committee Chair has been integrally involved in the OMNI Diversion Study and also directed funds to further support the planned evaluation for the Marijuana Tax funds to see if those funds are having the intended results. In additional, the Chair assisted in reviewing the Marijuana Tax Funds application to eventually help us and OMNI measure capacity building to provide substance abuse services.

## CHILDREN’S CODE REVIEW COMMITTEE

**GOAL: Improve outcomes for all youth and families involved in juvenile justice by revising Article 2 of the Colorado Children’s Code to give meaning to, and allow for the faithful implementation of, the legislative declaration through applying current research and best practices.**

The Children’s Code Committee began meeting in 2015 to review Title 19, Article 2 and determine how to ensure the Code was consistent with current juvenile justice current research and evidence-based policies and practices. Currently, Colorado laws relating to juveniles in the justice system are scattered throughout the nine Parts of Article 2 and contain provisions that are duplicative, inconsistent, conflicting, and at times unclear. The Committee’s meticulous review of Article 2 revealed the current order is illogical. As Article 2 is procedural in nature, it must be presented in a way that allows for tactical application, which the current order does not support. Specifically, the current order makes it difficult to train professionals on the law, subsequently making it difficult for them to argue the law. The Committee believes a comprehensive, easy-to-use code is not only good practice, it better ensures due process. Importantly, the proposed reorder of Article 2 would improve ease of use and comprehension for juvenile justice-involved professionals and pro se families. A reorganization of Article 2 was a starting point for the Committee and now it has moved onto a developmentally-driven review using an evidence-based lens. The Committee has established two primary reasons why this revision is necessary:

**(1) To improve clarity for those who implement the Code, as well as those who are affected by its implementation.** The current structure of Article 2 of the Code is illogical, and portions are out of date with obsolete statutes. This lack of clarity has resulted in juvenile justice-involved professionals raising concerns regarding the ability to train professionals who engage with youth inside and outside the courtroom, as well as pro se families’ ability to comprehend the Code.

**(2) To ensure any future changes or modifications are in line with established best practices and current research.** Article 2 of the Code is ripe for a contextual review given the research around working with juveniles that has come about since the Code was last revised. The past thirty years have seen an increased understanding of adolescent brain development, youth development, public safety measures, and the need for family engagement, and this understanding should be reflected in Colorado’s laws. A developmental and evidence-based approach to reforming juvenile justice, which promotes public safety and accountability, starts with a reorganization of the Code and requires goals, design, and operation of the juvenile justice system to be research-informed. If a contextual review of Article 2 were done in a developmentally-informed way, “procedures for holding adolescents accountable for their offending, and the services provided to them, can promote legal socialization, reinforce a prosocial identity, and reduce reoffending<sup>2</sup>.”

Proposed revisions are studied through multiple perspectives including: equal treatment; developmental appropriateness; restorative justice; victim empowerment; addressing criminogenic and other needs to reduce reoffending and allow juveniles the opportunity to become productive members of society; and honoring the role of families and natural supports.

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<sup>2</sup> National Research Council. (2013). *Reforming juvenile justice: A developmental approach*. Committee on Assessing Juvenile Justice Reform. (vii.). Bonnie, R., Johnson, B., Chemers, B., Schuck, J., Eds. Committee of Law and Justice, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

### **What Has Been Accomplished?**

The Committee and DCJ staff placed a technical assistance request with OJJDP to provide guidance on best practices around the developmental approach when codified in statute. DCJ staff and Spark had two calls with OJJDP staff to identify existing work they are doing with other states and how they can apply those lessons in Colorado. Subsequent follow up with OJJDP included Committee materials and concrete asks related to diversion. The Committee added additional members to ensure input from both victims and DAs from across the state as well as a PD office representative. Working to adapt and implement the TA resources and research provided by OJJDP on the hallmarks of a developmental approach (*see next page*). The Committee also developed a new revision structure to pilot and agreed to hold full day meetings to review a Part at a time compiling recommendations vs. textual revisions.

### **EMERGING LEADERS (EL) COMMITTEE**

**GOAL:**      **The purpose of the EL committee is to allow the voices of young individuals who have in one way or another been part of systems involved in juvenile corrections; guide and give important opinions on the improvement of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention.**

The JJDP Council truly supports the voice of youth and young adults in all its work. In support of this, the Council developed an Emerging Leaders Committee comprised of members of the Council who were appointed as “youth members”, those who were appointed before age 24. A portion of the federal funds has been given to the EL Committee to designate for special projects of interest and concern of the EL Committee.

The purpose of the Emerging Leaders committee is to allow the voices of young individuals who have been a part of systems involved in juvenile justice; guide and give important opinions on the improvement of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention.

Over the past several years, Emerging Leaders focused on several different issues which they had prioritized which included the need for more training for law enforcement and other front line professionals in how to work with juveniles who are having a mental health crisis. Many of these members were not Council members when the CIT for SROs and School Personnel curriculum was developed and when informed, felt this would meet the identified need. This training was held in the past three-year cycle with the Denver Police Department.

One of the Emerging Leaders of the JJDP Council was selected to participate in a national forum sponsored by OJJDP regarding the needs of LGBTQ youth in the juvenile justice system. Based on his involvement and what he learned, he informed the other members of the Emerging Leaders who also agreed to make this a priority for their Colorado-based work.

### **What Has Been Accomplished?**

As previously noted, this committee had chosen to focus on the needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Their goal is to improve services provided to LGBTQ youth within the Colorado juvenile justice system and increase LGBTQ engagement within agencies. This will be accomplished by developing and providing training to juvenile justice professionals to assist them in understanding what it means to provide respectful and equal services to LGBTQ youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system and to increase their knowledge and understanding of LGBTQ language and the specific needs of the community. This training will also

assist in improving professionals' comfort levels in working with the LGBTQ community and help agencies develop an engagement model to implement their work with LGBTQ youth.

The Emerging Leaders committee contracted with Unfolding Directions to develop a LGBTQ Training and Toolkit designed with recommendations for supporting youth in the Division of Youth Services recognizing the intersections of sexual orientation, gender identity, race/ethnicity, and socio-economic status. The training and toolkit will be available to all via the web and include a focus group/staff discussion module. Additionally, Kaiser Permanente agreed to partner with the Emerging Leaders committee to develop "In Our Words" short videos with vignettes to use in the training.

The Colorado State Patrol's Youth Academy requested training as a candidate accepted into the Academy identified as transgender; training was provided in June 2017.

Finally, two issues have surfaced which the Emerging Leaders hope to further study to identify any issues for them to address in future years. The committee has begun partnering with both the Balance of State and MDHI Continuum of Care committees to learn more about current system planning to end and prevent youth homelessness, especially as youth leaving the juvenile justice system have been identified as particularly at-risk. The Emerging Leaders committee has also begun research on the issue of detained undocumented youth.



## JUVENILE DIVERSION & MARIJUANA TAX FUND PROGRAMS

### State-Funded Juvenile Diversion

Pursuant to the Colorado Children's Code [(19-1-103(44) C.R.S.], the goal of Diversion is to prevent further involvement of the youth in the formal legal system. Diversion of a juvenile or child may take place either at the pre-filing level as an alternative to filing of a petition; at the post adjudication level as an adjunct to probation services following an adjudicatory hearing; or a disposition as a part of sentencing. Juvenile diversion programs concentrate on holding the youth accountable for their behavior while involving them in programs and activities to prevent future criminal and delinquent behavior. Programs of this type provide local communities alternatives for holding youth accountable for their behavior, can help change the way youth think about their behavior, ensure that youth take responsibility for their actions, and ensure that victims and communities feel safe and restored.

In this past year, the General Assembly also approved \$400,000 in Marijuana Tax funding for Diversion. The purpose of this funding is to increase access to substance use screening, assessment and treatment services for youth receiving juvenile diversion programming.

Funds can be used for:

- Screening, assessment, and treatment for marijuana and general substance abuse needs;
- Addressing the practical barriers to treatment;
- Providing incentives to encourage abstinence from substances;
- Obtaining training for program staff; and
- Providing services to caregivers as it relates to substance use and abuse.
- Travel for training and technical assistance, and to bring programs together on specific topics relevant to this program.

In SFY 16-17, from July 2016 through June 2017, a total of 2,550 youth were served through the 19 state-funded juvenile diversion programs. Seven programs were located within District Attorneys' Offices, 4 were county based programs, 1 was a municipal program and 7 were community-based programs. Of the youth served, 66% were male, 55% White/Caucasian, 30% Hispanic/Latino, 8% Black/African American, 2% Native American, 1% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 4% multi-racial. The most prevalent level of charge for which youth were referred was misdemeanors (56%), felonies (26%), and petty offenses (19%) and the type of most serious charge includes person (27%), theft (24%), drug (22%) and property (21%). The stage at which juveniles were being accepted into Diversion included: 37% as an alternative to filing a petition, 9% as an alternative to a summons or arrest, 5% as a deferred adjudication, 13% at filing but with option to dismiss without prejudice, 20% as a DA diversion contract, 1% as a deferred sentence, 10% at post-adjudication (on probation) and 5% at pre-adjudication/informal adjustment. A total of 1,207 youth exited a diversion program during the reporting period, with 83% being successful, 17% unsuccessfully terminating either due to an arrest on a new offense or due to non-compliance with their diversion contract. Youth who exited juvenile diversion programs from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 completed a total of 16,652 community service hours and earned \$75,681 in restitution.

This past year was the second year that OMNI was able to complete a more comprehensive recidivism study that included individuals who were accepted into the Diversion program, had successfully or unsuccessfully completed a Diversion program during the 2015-2016 fiscal year, and had been exited from the program for at least one year as of June 30th, 2017. Individuals with missing or 'neutral' outcomes (n=11) such as having chosen court, moved to a different area, or been transferred, were not included. The total sample size for this subset of youth was 1,221 individuals.

Of all youth who had exited from a Diversion program for at least one year (N=1,221), 15.6 percent had recidivated during their participation in Diversion and/or within the one year after their participation, a slight improvement from the prior year recidivism rate of 15.9%. Of those who had exited Diversion successfully (n=1,049), 13.4% percent had recidivated during their participation in Diversion or within the one year after their participation. Of those who exited Diversion unsuccessfully (n=172), 30.8% had recidivated during their participation in Diversion or within the one year after their participation.

### **Marijuana Tax Funded Diversion Programs**

In FY 2016-17, eight of the 19 state funded Diversion programs also received Marijuana Tax funding. Evaluation of outcomes for juveniles served with Marijuana Tax fund support is imperative to the Division of Criminal Justice so the Division immediately developed an evaluation process with OMNI and the programs. The Division was hoping to see an increase in the numbers of diversion youth who are screened for and provided assessment and treatment as indicated for substance use; increase in the numbers of youth showing significant improvement pre-survey (intake) to post survey (discharge); and reductions in the overall state program's recidivism rate including improving successful completion rates. Because of the known prevalence for co-occurring disorders, the evaluation also tracked information regarding the need for and provision of mental health services.

Although the numbers served in this first year of marijuana tax funding are small, we have begun to analyze data:

- Of youth that indicated a need for a substance use assessment, *all* youth also indicated a need for a mental health assessment (n=126)
- Of youth that indicated a need for substance use treatment (n=74), 78% also indicated a need for mental health treatment
- Of youth receiving substance use treatment (n=66), 70% were also receiving individual mental health treatment, 20% were also receiving group mental health counseling/treatment, and 26% were receiving family mental health counseling/treatment
- Previous analyses on the statewide juvenile diversion data have suggested that a decrease in risky behavioral intentions, and higher post-scores on the outcomes of connection to community and sense of accountability are predictive of a reduced rate of recidivism. To further explore the impact of the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund grantees, this evaluation examined whether there was any change in risky behavioral intentions and the post-scores of connection to the community and sense of accountability from Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and Fiscal Year 2016-2017 for the eight grantees. In Fiscal Year 2016-2017 the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund grantees show higher post-scores

on connection to community and sense of accountability than they did in Fiscal Year 2015-2016. However, statistically significant change was not observed for risky behavioral intentions.

- Youth referred to diversion on a drug charge were significantly more likely to have used alcohol, marijuana or other illegal drugs in the past 30 days.
- Youth who had been expelled in the past year, were significantly more likely to have used marijuana or other illegal drugs in the past 30 days prior to juvenile diversion.
- Youth attending a nontraditional school were significantly less likely to have used alcohol in the past 30 days.
- Youth that were currently expelled (not attending school) were significantly more likely to have used other illegal drugs in the past 30 days.
- Older youth were significantly more likely to report having used alcohol or marijuana during the past 30 days.

The Division of Criminal Justice is committed to assist in developing community capacity to address the needs for juvenile diversion-involved youth, especially those who could benefit from substance use or co-occurring services. To that end, it will continue to fund the evaluation of these services and determine the following:

- *Needs and Gaps*
  - What resources (staff, training, space, technology) must Diversion programs have to achieve positive effects with their substance abusing youth?
- *Programs*
  - Which interventions have the most promise with substance using Diversion-enrolled youth?
- *Community Involvement*
  - What capacity is needed in community organizations to provide for substance-using Diversion youth with serious and complex treatment needs?

**SFY 2017 STATE JUVENILE DIVERSION AWARDS****Project Period: July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017****1<sup>st</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

<b>AGENCY:</b>	<b><u>District Attorney's Office, 1st Judicial District</u></b>
Award:	\$17,880
Description:	The 1st Judicial District has operated a Juvenile Diversion program since 1976. This program offers essentially the same level of supervision as Probation, but allows the juvenile to avoid a conviction. Funds will be used to provide a wide range of treatment services for juveniles, including substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, cognitive-behavioral treatment, domestic violence treatment, anger management treatment, tutoring, and transportation assistance.

**2<sup>nd</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

<b>AGENCY:</b>	<b><u>Denver District Attorney, Juvenile Diversion</u></b>
Award:	\$100,00
Description:	The Denver District Attorney's Juvenile Diversion Program will provide culturally competent services that repair the harm caused by crime to victims and the community, increase social and other age appropriate competency skills of offenders, their families, and to reduce the likelihood of further involvement by the juvenile in the court system. Denver DA's Diversion population includes juveniles ages 10-17 with 170 youth being served throughout the grant period at a cost per client of approximately \$1,400. Denver DA Diversion focuses on the "whole child" as opposed to solely addressing the crime itself. Various programs provide a unique opportunity to implement responses to delinquency that are more cost-effective than incarceration and that provide better outcomes for youth, their families and the community.

**5<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

<b>AGENCY:</b>	<b><u>District Attorney's Office, 5th Jud. Dist.</u></b>
Award:	\$48,735
Description:	On average two-hundred juveniles are set for court prosecution in the Fifth Judicial District each year. The District Attorney's Office Juvenile Diversion program has the ability to provide services for first-time offenders without formal court involvement. Each year this program serves around seventy-five youth, and of those juveniles, around seventy percent are Hispanic, which has led to more culturally sensitive programming that can address the disproportionate representation of these youth. With targeted programming and a wide variety of services that involves the family, schools, the community, and other stakeholders, the Juvenile Diversion program in the Fifth Judicial District is committed to upholding the goal of Juvenile Diversion by diverting youth away from the formal court system and instead replacing that response with positive interaction and interventions designed to reduce the likelihood of recidivism among these juveniles.

6 <sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT	
AGENCY:	<b><u>La Plata Youth Services</u></b> , 6th Judicial District Diversion Program
Award:	\$68,031
Description:	Since 2001, the LPYS Diversion Program has worked to divert youth from the court system by providing evidence-based alternatives directed toward positive youth development. LPYS is the only intervention program in La Plata County that works with youth involved in delinquent behavior prior to adjudication. Youth are referred to LPYS in lieu of having charges filed against them, avoiding court processes and a permanent criminal record. In FY16, the LPYS Diversion Program will serve 40 youth ages 12-17 in La Plata County implicated in a misdemeanor or felony type of offense, with services prior to adjudication at an average cost per client of \$2,273. Contracts will last an average of 4.5 months and will include assessment, RJ, service learning, and substance abuse treatment. The program will save thousands of taxpayer dollars while encouraging youth to become accountable for their actions, complete their education, learn healthy behaviors, and give back to the community.
7 <sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT	
AGENCY:	<b><u>Gunnison County, Juvenile Services</u></b> , Gunnison County Juvenile Diversion
Award:	\$35,000
Description:	The Gunnison County Juvenile Diversion project is a pre-file program for eligible youth referred by the District Attorney to prevent them from entering the Juvenile Justice system. The target population is for first time non-violent petty, misdemeanor and felony offenders who would otherwise be filed on in District Court if not diverted. The estimated number to be served annually is 22 and the cost per person is approximately \$1,590.
AGENCY:	<b><u>Hilltop Community Resources, Inc.</u></b> , Montrose County Juvenile Diversion Program
Award:	\$32,070
Description:	Montrose County Juvenile Diversion Program's goal is to prevent further involvement of juveniles in the formal justice system. Juvenile Diversion concentrates on holding youth accountable for their behavior while involving them in programs and activities to prevent future criminal and delinquent behavior. Juvenile Diversion offers a wide range of services: case management, drug tests, mentoring, useful public service, tutoring, and provider fees for individual and family therapy. Target population is first time or low-level juvenile offenders with acceptable charges from Montrose County's district court.

AGENCY:	<b><u>Delta County Alternative Sentencing Department</u></b> , Delta County Juvenile Diversion
Award:	\$55,500
Description:	The Delta County Juvenile Diversion Program diverts youth from the formal court system by providing evidence-based programming directed toward positive youth development. The program operates in concert with all law enforcement agencies, County and District Courts, and the District Attorney's Office to enhance accountability, ensure public safety, and reduce recidivism among delinquent youth by preventing future delinquent activity, moving in a continuum from limited interventions to more restrictive penalties (graduated sanctions) to provide community-based alternatives to the formal court system. The Juvenile Diversion Program serves juveniles between 10-17 years old, irrespective of gender and or ethnicity, which have been charged with petty (if a District Court filing is being averted), misdemeanor, or felony offenses, or a combination thereof. Based upon an average of the last 3 years, the program will receive approximately 42 referrals with a cost of \$1,321.00 per juvenile.
<b>8<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT</b>	
AGENCY:	<b><u>Center for Family Outreach</u></b> , Larimer County Diversion Program
Award:	\$63,251
Description:	The Center for Family Outreach provides resources, referrals, and a coordinated planned system for teenagers aged 10-17 who are struggling with substance abuse, mental health, crime, poverty, and adolescence. Their approach to these issues will address three levels of programming: 1) Prevention, which targets youth prior to entering the juvenile justice system and includes proactive efforts that empower individuals to choose and maintain healthy life choices; fostering an environment that encourages law-abiding, pro-social behavior. 2) Early intervention, which provides preventative efforts to intervene at early signs of issues. These efforts reduce risks and change behaviors with family-centered interventions. 3) Integrated intervention that is designed to operate with other agencies to enhance accountability, ensure public safety, and reduce recidivism by preventing delinquent behavior and avoiding formal court processing. Approximately 120 youth will be served in Loveland.
AGENCY:	<b><u>City of Fort Collins</u></b> , Restorative Justice Services
Award:	\$56,192
Description:	Fort Collins Restorative Justice Services will provide restorative justice practices as a diversion option for 105 youth who have committed offenses in the community and are referred by the DAs Office. Based on the philosophy of restorative justice, the program will include victims and/or victim representatives, families and community members in the process. The conferences will focus on the harm caused and how to repair it while holding the young offender accountable. As part of program participation, youth will be screened for mental health and substance abuse issues and referred to appropriate community resources. Estimated cost per client is \$1,000.

<b>9<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT</b>	
AGENCY:	<b><u>YouthZone</u></b> , Juvenile Diversion Program
Award:	\$100,000
Description:	The YouthZone Juvenile Diversion Program is designed to prevent first time and low-level juvenile offenders from entering the Juvenile Justice System. The target population is youth age 10 to 17 that commit crimes in Garfield and Pitkin Counties in the 3rd Congressional District and 9th Judicial District. More than 80 percent of all cases are referred to YouthZone, and of those, approximately 100 youth from Pitkin and Garfield County and District Courts are under the YouthZone Juvenile Diversion program. The district attorney's office in the 9th Judicial District is the referral source for this program. A recent three-year evaluation shows that the YouthZone Juvenile Diversion Program has proven to reduce recidivism. Ninety percent of youth that participate in the YouthZone Juvenile Diversion Program do not repeat another offense. The cost per youth in the Juvenile Diversion Program with six to twelve months services is approximately \$1300.
<b>10<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT</b>	
AGENCY:	<b><u>District Attorney's Office, 10th Judicial District</u></b> , Specialized Juv. Diversion Counselor
Award:	\$44,771
Description:	Funds from this grant will be used to support a Juvenile Diversion Counselor. This counselor will supplement the existing Diversion program by focusing special programs on sub-groups of diversion candidates; those whose offense is related to bullying, either as a bully or a victim; very young offenders (10-14 years old), for whom typical teenage programming may not be appropriate; and minors found in possession of drugs or alcohol. The Diversion program uses a risk assessment tool at intake that is very similar to the Colorado Juvenile Risk Assessment, covering all the same domains. Areas covered include general family information, education, any employment for the youth, mental health, physical health, involvement with Social Services, criminal history, gang information and drug and alcohol history. When needs or concerns are identified through completion of the assessment, referrals are made to the appropriate treatment agencies to address the issues.
<b>11<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT</b>	
AGENCY:	<b><u>District Attorney's Office, 11th Judicial District</u></b>
Award:	\$76,375
Description:	The Juvenile Diversion program serves first-time offenders ages 10-17 years old. The Diversion program is in place to divert youth from the traditional court process while holding them accountable for their behaviors and providing them with avenues to repair harm to the victim and/or community. Youth accepted into the Juvenile Diversion program are held accountable through a Diversion contract. The sanctions imposed may be recommended by victim(s) or by a contract developed one-on-one with the Juvenile Diversion Coordinator and/or the Juvenile Diversion Project Director, or by the recommendation of a supervised, Teen Court panel. The Diversion staff members provide appropriate referrals, case management, restitution and recreational and/or community service activities.

<b>12<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT</b>	
AGENCY:	<b><u>Center for Restorative Programs</u></b> , Juvenile Diversion Restorative Services
Award:	\$41,555
Description:	Restorative options will be offered to youth 10-17 years of age referred by the DA's office, SB 94, Probation, and any other post-filing referral sources. The services include an array of intervention models, all grounded in restorative justice best practices: 1) victim-offender dialogue; 2) ReThinking Drinking conferences for youth with Minor in Possession/Consumption tickets; 3) restorative discipline conferences and bullying intervention at area schools and youth-serving sites when referred by the SRO or other law enforcement; 4) teen-to-teen conflict mediation and Girls Circle dialogue for peer-based harassment and fighting; and 5) family conferences to address parent-teen issues related to at-risk and delinquent behaviors; and 6) Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) Facilitated Meetings. A contract will be developed for each youth, and monitored through successful completion.
<b>17<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT</b>	
AGENCY:	<b><u>District Attorney's Office, 17th Judicial District</u></b>
Award:	\$63,103
Description:	Juvenile Diversion funds will increase academic support through an Education Client Manager. The Juvenile Education Counselor serves as an advocate and additional support for the highest educationally at-risk students in the 17th Judicial District Diversion Program. The Education Counselor will identify education risk factors and quickly emplace interventions based on the Response to Intervention (RTI), Attendance Works models, and additional evidence-based practices. Interventions include behavioral health evaluations/assessments, substance use disorder assessments, and individual and family treatment. The Diversion program is pre-file and serves adolescents 10 to 17 years old.
<b>18<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT</b>	
AGENCY:	<b><u>18th Judicial District, District Attorney's Office</u></b>
Award:	\$83,025
Description:	The goal of the Juvenile Diversion Counseling Program is to bridge identified gaps in the juvenile justice system by providing a comprehensive, evidenced based multi-modal juvenile diversion program. This is accomplished by providing evidenced-based therapy services including wilderness, community service, art therapy, and restorative justice components. To improve consistency in the availability of services to all clients, opportunities will be made available to the Aurora population, historically underserved and underrepresented in the components due to logistical challenges. The target population is first time offenders between the ages of 10-17.



<b>19<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT</b>	
AGENCY:	<b><u>District Attorney's Office, 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Weld County)</u></b>
Award:	\$90,084
Description:	<p>The Weld County District Attorney's Juvenile Diversion Program is a pre-file program that diverts first-time, non-violent juvenile offenders from the traditional court system into restorative programming to address the juvenile's needs and community safety.</p> <p>Services provided by the Diversion program include reviewing cases for acceptance, administration of mental health and substance abuse screens, creation of a Diversion contract, records maintenance in CDAC and ETO databases, case management, screening and submitting referrals for treatment needs or referral to Restorative Justice conferencing, supervision and monitoring for compliance, and collecting and reporting data.</p>
<b>21<sup>st</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT</b>	
AGENCY:	<b><u>Mesa County Partners, Juv. Div. Restitution/Community Service</u></b>
Award:	\$111,413
Description:	In cooperation with DA's Office and 21st Judicial District Court/Probation, the Partners Work Program will provide community-based restorative justice and accountability focused sanctions and intervention for pre-file and post-file juvenile offenders involved in misdemeanor and felony cases to reduce further involvement in the justice system. Primary focus of services includes completion of community service hours, restitution, victim empathy/restorative justice, Offense Specific assessment and Boundary groups, as well as the mental health (MAYSI-2) screen.
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT</b>	
AGENCY:	<b><u>The Recovery Center: A Behavioral Health Organization, Juvenile Diversion Prog</u></b>
Award:	\$49,158
Description:	In an effort to enhance community safety by holding first and/or second time juvenile offenders accountable for their actions, The Recovery Center (TRC) will provide supervised, well-structured Juvenile Diversion services youth between the ages of 10 and 17. Referrals will be made by the 22nd Judicial District Attorney's office or local law enforcement agencies. Diversion services will consist of case management, behavioral contracts, community service, drug and alcohol testing, drug and alcohol treatment as appropriate, and referrals to other programs in the community for counseling, mediation, reparation, parenting classes, life skills classes, and/or mentoring.

**SFY 2017 STATE MARIJUANA TAX FUND FOR JUVENILE DIVERSION AWARDS****Project Period: September 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017****SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

<b>AGENCY:</b>	<b><u>District Attorney's Office, 2nd Judicial District</u></b>
Award:	\$77,174
Description:	The Denver D.A. Diversion program serves first time juvenile offenders, ages 10-17 at the time of the offense. To address past barriers that prevented clients from being fully served, Denver D.A. Diversion will contract with the Division of Substance Dependence at the University of Colorado School of Medicine to provide intensive outpatient treatment services. The Encompass program, an evidence-based intervention for adolescents and young adults with co-occurring substance and non-substance psychiatric disorders will be implemented. Funds will also be used for five staff members to complete coursework and testing requirements to attain their CAC II certification.

**6<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

<b>AGENCY:</b>	<b><u>La Plata Youth Services</u></b>
Award:	\$32,235
Description:	La Plata Youth Services (LPYS) was designated by the 6th Judicial District Attorney in 2001 as the juvenile diversion program of La Plata County. LPYS will use these funds to focus primarily on building capacity and training of staff to provide more targeted supportive services and interventions for youth struggling with substance abuse. Direct services to be provided as a result of grant funds: individual counseling and therapy, equine therapy, and therapeutic mentorship.

**7<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

<b>AGENCY:</b>	<b><u>Delta County Alternative Sentencing Department</u></b>
Award:	\$15,776
Description:	The Delta County Juvenile Diversion program provides community-based alternatives to the formal court system for youth between the ages of 10-17 arrested for misdemeanor or felony offenses. Grant funds will be used to maintain and expand services for those youth with marijuana and other drug use/abuse issues in Delta County to include screening, assessment, education/treatment intervention, evidenced based education and/or treatment modalities, increased education within the family, and increased monitoring and intensified case management for the family/offender.

<b>SFY 2017 STATE MARIJUANA TAX FUND FOR JUVENILE DIVERSION AWARDS</b>	
<b>Project Period: September 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017</b>	
<b>AGENCY:</b>	<b><u>Hilltop Community Resources</u></b>
Award:	\$18,858
Description:	Montrose County Juvenile Diversion is preventative in nature, and the goal is to prevent further involvement of juveniles in the formal justice system. The funds will affect existing Diversion participants by increasing the amount of resources available to support those that are using marijuana. Examples of resources that will be increased include initial assessments, therapeutic services and incentives for reaching goals around sobriety. Diversion staff will also receive training in Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework and will begin to utilize the Protective Factors with Diversion participants and their families.
<b>8<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT</b>	
<b>AGENCY:</b>	<b><u>Center for Family Outreach</u></b>
Award:	\$60,000
Description:	The Center for Family Outreach will contract with a substance abuse therapist/CACIII counselor for 30 hours a week. This therapist/counselor will be responsible for serving Larimer County students and their families with substance use and behavioral health issues. Services to be provided include conducting individual and group sessions, helping families access substance abuse services, navigating families through assessments, providing referral for families who are in need of intensive services, and determining developmentally appropriate programs. Funds will also be used to provide incentives to students for positive achievements and milestones, such as behavioral incentives, improved attendance or academic performance, and successful program completion. Incentives include: movie tickets, restaurant and bowling gift cards, gas vouchers, clothing, backpacks, etc.
<b>9<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT</b>	
<b>AGENCY:</b>	<b><u>YouthZone</u></b>
Award:	\$14,000
Description:	Marijuana Tax Cash funds will cover the cost of two YouthZone staff to be trained as Certified Addiction Counselors Level I (CAC I). The process to attain certification will take approximately 1 year to complete and the funds will cover costs for CAC I training and supervision. The long-term plan is that the staff will be trained as Certified Addiction Counselors Level II (CAC II).

18 <sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT	
<b>AGENCY:</b>	<b><u>District Attorney's Office, 18th Judicial District</u></b>
Award:	\$96,902
Description:	The Juvenile Diversion Counseling Program (JDCP) will use grant funds to increase capacity to serve clients with marijuana use and abuse issues. JDCP staff are now able to provide supervised substance abuse treatment and have a goal to increase the number of diversion referrals on marijuana related charges by a minimum of 60. Services to be provided include substance abuse evaluations, therapy, education, and referrals to higher levels of care with external partners when required by best practice.
21 <sup>ST</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT	
<b>AGENCY:</b>	<b><u>Mesa County Partners</u></b>
Award:	\$25,055
Description:	Mesa County Partners, Inc. provides several programs to serve at-risk youth in Mesa County. This project will lie within the Restitution/Community Service Work Program. Funds will pay for a part time staff person to provide mental health (MAYSI-II) and substance abuse (GAIN SS) screens, substance abuse education group, and case management for pre-adjudicated Diversion youth and post-adjudicated youth. The staff person will work closely with the both the Mesa County District Attorney Diversion and District Court Probation offices in order to provide consistent case management information and reports.

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COUNCIL

\*Emerging Leaders are youth appointed prior their 24<sup>th</sup> birthday,  
dates denote original dates of appointment to Council

Will Hays 06/12, JJDP Council Chair  
Hilltop Community Resources, Inc.  
Grand Junction

Bill Kilpatrick 01/15  
Golden Police Department  
Golden

Linda Nordin 06/12, JJDP Council Vice-Chair  
Jefferson Center for Mental Health  
Lakewood

Tracy Kraft-Tharp 08/13  
House of Representatives, State of Colorado  
Denver

Andre Adeli 08/17  
Boulder Preparatory High School  
Boulder

\*Lerissa Garcia Miller 11/12  
Emerging Leader  
Denver

Mindi Beckler 10/16  
Parent Representative  
Lakewood

\*Crystal Murillo 07/16  
Emerging Leader  
Aurora

Judge Michelle Brinegar 08/14  
8th JD  
Ft. Collins

Paula Ramaekers-Mattas 08/17  
Mesa County Partners  
Grand Junction

Jennifer Capps 05/10  
Metro State University of Denver  
Denver

Ed Rogers 08/17  
Guardian ad Litem  
Colorado Springs

Stacie Colling 08/15  
CO Alternative Defense Council  
Denver

\*Ciera Springer 08/15  
Emerging Leader  
Denver

Jenny Ellison 02/14  
Chief Deputy District Attorney, 8th JD  
Ft Collins

\*Jack Storti 12/13  
Emerging Leader  
Parker

Al Estrada 01/17  
Division of Youth Services  
Denver

\*Nicholas Turco 05/16  
Emerging Leader  
Durango

Jerry Evans, Ph.D. 08/14  
Community Health Initiatives  
Carbondale

Susan Walton 05/15  
Park County Department of Human Services  
Bailey

Jane Flournoy 12/13  
Office of Behavioral Health/CDHS  
Denver

Kevin West 05/15  
School District 27J  
Brighton

Stacy Davis Gahagen 07/16  
St. Vrain School District  
Longmont

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