

Juvenile Crime Prevention

Report to the Governor
& Oregon Legislature

2010

SUBMITTED BY: the Juvenile Justice
Advisory Committee, and the Oregon
Commission on Children & Families



State of Oregon

The Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) serves as the state advisory group required for oversight of the funding Oregon receives under the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002 (JJDP Act).

The 18 members of the JJAC are appointed by the Governor from juvenile justice professionals, local government officials and private citizens, including youth representatives. Committee members have training, experience or special knowledge concerning the prevention of juvenile delinquency or the administration of juvenile justice. Federal law requires the JJAC to develop recommendations for the distribution of Title II Formula and Title V Community Prevention grant funds and to review applications for funding. The group is also responsible for documenting state and local compliance with four core protections for juveniles contained in the JJDP Act:

- Deinstitutionalization of status offenders (DSO)
- Removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups
- Sight and sound separation of juveniles from incarcerated adults
- Reducing disproportionate minority contact (DMC) with the juvenile justice system

Oregon is committed to assuring that all public and private facilities that could or do hold juveniles under public authority, understand and follow the federal core requirements of the JJDP Act. The Oregon Commission on Children and Families (OCCF) is responsible for monitoring state and local facilities for compliance with federal mandates in the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002. The state staff must visit, collect and verify data and policies from facilities to demonstrate compliance with the JJDP Act. On an annual basis, the state submits this information in the form of a compliance monitoring report to the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and

Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). In 2010, Oregon was found to be in full compliance of the JJDP Act.

Title II Formula Grant Program areas include prevention and intervention, juvenile justice system improvement, and compliance with the four core requirements of the JJDP Act. Thirty-five program areas are eligible for this funding stream, including alternatives to detention, child abuse and neglect, community assessment centers, court services, disproportionate minority contact, gender specific services, mentoring, mental health services, etc. FY 2010 Oregon's allocation was \$646,000.

Since 2008, Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) members selected addressing disproportionate minority contact (DMC) to be the number one priority for the current three-year period. The extent of DMC varies by jurisdiction, racial/ethnic group and the points of contact within the juvenile justice system. Information from the Juvenile Justice Information System and Law Enforcement Data System indicate that all minority groups are represented in the juvenile justice system at percentage levels greater than their proportion of the total juvenile population.

As a state, Oregon has substantial evidence of disproportionate minority contact, with African-American youth, Hispanic youth, and Native American youth experiencing significantly higher levels of contact with the juvenile justice system. The experiences of each of these three major racial/ethnic groups of non-white youth are different from one another, with African-American youth most likely to experience higher rates of initial contact (referral). Both African-American youth and Hispanic youth have their

highest Relative Rate Index scores (greatest disparities) at the stage of placement into secure confinement. Native American youth, on the other hand, experience their highest disparities at the stage of detention and the filing of a formal petition of delinquency. In other words, the likely contributors to DMC, the mechanisms which create the disparities, and therefore the action steps needed to address DMC, are substantively different for each of these three groups.

The fundamental rates of contact and the statistical indicators of the operation of the juvenile justice system differ across counties. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct assessment activity and provide support for DMC reduction efforts within each major jurisdiction rather than provide a single statewide solution.

The following is a summary of activities and planned services to date:

Clackamas County: Reducing DMC in Clackamas County

Project Summary: Clackamas County has implemented strategies that include prevention and intervention direct services for African American and Hispanic/Latino youth; cultural competency training; and technical assistance to contact point personnel, and system and procedural analysis and change.

Malheur County: SEASON Turn-Around

Project Summary: Harvest House's SEASON Youth Turn-Around is an Alternative to Suspension Diversion Program that provides support and assistance to students of color in Malheur County schools who are in in-school or out-of-school suspension (primarily Hispanic/Latino and Native American youth).

Multnomah County: Culturally Specific Mentoring Program

Program Summary: Given the current data and trends, the primary goal of this project is to reduce disproportionate minority contact of African American young men in the juvenile justice system by providing mentoring services to the most needed, and yet underserved populations—gang-involved young men.

Washington County: DMC Analysis and Strategies for Change

Project Summary: Using data trends at key decision points in the juvenile justice system, the project will make recommendations to key stakeholders for strategies, policies, and interventions to address disproportionate minority contact confirmed by data analysis. The project includes pilot testing of some recommendations, including direct service delivery to selected youth.

Marion County: Assessing Juvenile Justice System Minority Contact

Project Summary: Data has been collected from the Juvenile Justice Information System regarding African American and Hispanic/Latino youth to consider factors contributing to their over-representation at key points, and under-representation in key diversion decision points.

Lane County: Disproportionate Minority Contact

Project Summary: The project is designed to implement prevention activities, program delivery, and system change activities to address and reduce DMC levels within specific minority groups in a targeted jurisdiction.

Formula Grant funds also support statewide projects and training designed to build the knowledge base of what works in juvenile justice and best practices. In 2010, the JJAC designated funds to support the Annual Oregon's Juvenile Departments Directors

Association Conference and Juvenile Justice System Symposium. Special attention is given to improving outcomes and building a continuum of services for "crossover" youth, i.e., youth involved in child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Tribal Youth in the Juvenile Justice System is another priority for the JJAC.

Oregon continues to use far more than the required federal pass-through to the Tribes.

The Tribal JCP Coordinator is working with each of the nine Tribes to develop prevention services to reduce the numbers of Tribal youth entering the county and state juvenile justice system.

The Juvenile Crime Prevention Tribal Coordinator maintains a close working relationship with the nine Tribes and keeps the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee abreast of the issues affecting Tribal youth. The gang assessments undertaken by three of the Tribes – Umatilla, Grand Ronde and Warm Springs – revealed that youth gang activity

is emerging in Oregon. A standing Tribal Subcommittee of the JJAC has been formed and oversees Tribal issues and how they affect DMC in the state. In January 2010, the JJAC made a decision to award formula grant funds to the nine federally recognized Tribes to support their juvenile crime prevention efforts.

Title II Funds in the amount of \$75,000 was distributed equally to the nine Tribes. Each Tribe chose to fund activities that serve the need of their communities. Below are the projects selected for funding:

Burns Paiute Tribe

Project Title: Teaching, Learning and Mentoring Together

Confederated Tribes of the Coos – Lower Umpqua – Siuslaw Indians

Project Title: Reconnecting At-Risk Tribal Youth

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Project Title: Grand Ronde Juvenile Crime Prevention

Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians

Project Title: Siletz Tribal Youth Mental Health Program

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Project Title: Tribal Court Juvenile Prevention – Lost and Found Prevention Groups

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

Project Title: Community Counseling Center

Coquille Indian Tribe

Project Title: Coquille Youth Tribal Prevention Programs

Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians

Project Title: Mental Health Service for Youth Identified as At-Risk

The Klamath Tribes

Project Title: Tribal Families School Engagement Program

Title V Community Prevention Grants Program requires a comprehensive, community-based approach to prevention, based on the premise that in order to prevent a problem from occurring, the factors that contribute to and buffer the development of that problem must be identified and addressed. FY 2010 Oregon's allocation was \$84, 945.

Oregon's Title V program is aligned with the High Risk Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) program that provides funding for prevention and basic (juvenile system) services to 36 counties and nine federally recognized Indian Tribes.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Project summary: Tribal Youth Horse Project utilizes Therapeutic Horsemanship sessions to supplement other research based juvenile justice interventions to reduce risk factors associated with juvenile delinquency.

Hood River, Jefferson and Crook Counties are funding Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring programs in their communities.

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