

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR 2012

Submitted by the
Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee

AJJAC
our kids • our state • our future



It is the mission of the **Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee** to provide support, advice and guidance to the government and citizens of the State of Alaska, in accordance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, to help reduce and prevent juvenile crime, while ensuring that Alaska's youth are provided meaningful opportunities to succeed.

The mission of the Division of Juvenile Justice is to hold juvenile offenders accountable for their behavior. Promote the safety and restoration of victims and communities. Assist offenders and their families in developing skills to prevent crime.

The Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (AJJAC) in collaboration with the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is pleased to present the **2012 Annual Report to the Governor**. The Annual Report is a requirement of federal juvenile justice funding received by DJJ from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

Members of AJJAC are appointed by the Governor (Administrative Order 137) and are tasked with advising DJJ on compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act as well as advising the Governor and Legislature about juvenile justice matters related to AJJAC's duties under the JJDP Act. AJJAC operates as the advisory committee for all planning, administrative and funding functions of the JJDP Act in Alaska. The JJDP Act is a landmark reform measure designed to improve the nation's juvenile justice system and to reduce juvenile delinquency and the unsafe incarceration of youth.

OJJDP awards federal juvenile justice formula grant funds annually to states that are in compliance with the JJDP Act. Funding is contingent upon compliance with the four core mandates of the JJDP Act. The four core mandates include:

De-institutionalization of Status Offenders: States must ensure that youth who are charged with status offenses are not placed in locked detention or correctional facilities. Status offenses are behaviors that are not criminal when committed by adults, such as, drinking, violating curfew, running away, and truancy. These youth may not be held in adult jails or lockups.

Sight and Sound Separation of Juvenile and Adult Offenders: States must ensure that youth who are temporarily confined in adult jails or lockups do not have sight or sound contact with adult inmates.

Removal of Juveniles from Adult Jails and Lockups: States must ensure that youth who are accused of delinquent acts are held in adult jails and lockups for processing for no more than 6 hours before their first court appearance and 6 hours after court.

Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Juvenile Justice System: States must assess, identify and work towards eliminating any overrepresentation of minority youth to ensure a fair system for all youth.

Compliance Monitoring

DJJ continues to be diligent in the pursuit of full compliance with the first three core mandates of the JJDP Act. DJJ and AJJAC continue to build strong collaborations with rural law enforcement, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Department of Corrections (DOC) to ensure that juvenile offenders are held safely and securely in adult jails and lock-ups.

While DJJ is not in full compliance with the first 3 core mandates of the Act, strong efforts by DJJ and AJJAC to develop a plan acceptable to OJJDP to eliminate noncompliant incidents has kept Alaska at the full funding level:

- ✓ DJJ has worked with Professional Administrative Services, Inc. (PAS) to develop an efficient and effective data collection process. PAS contacts each adult jail and lockup monthly (approximately 122 facilities) to determine the number of youth held and if there are training and technical assistance needs. This information is forwarded to the DJJ Compliance Monitor Coordinator;
- ✓ DJJ offers both on-site and telephonic training and technical assistance to adult jails and lock-ups that have violations;
- ✓ DJJ staff provide annual training to over 50 Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO's), Community Jail Officers, rural law enforcement and others regarding safe and secure juvenile holding practices and developing community resources;
- ✓ DJJ has trained Juvenile Probation Officers (JPO) to complete the required site audits of adult jails and lockups annually. This enables JPO's to have on-site contact with the local law enforcement for better communication and training, to meet with Tribal Council members, school staff and others who work with youth in the community;
- ✓ DJJ has worked with AJJAC to develop training tools which include manuals, placards, brochures and training videos. DJJ will be working with the JPO's, AJJAC, Department of Corrections, rural law enforcement and others to update these training tools in the upcoming year;
- ✓ DJJ has developed a Graduated Response matrix which involves an immediate and consistent range of responses for both positive and negative behavior for use in communities and by JPO's.

Disproportionate Minority Contact

DJJ has been found in full compliance with the fourth core mandate, Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC). DMC exists when the percentage of minority youth in contact with the justice system is higher than the overall percentage of that minority group in the total population. Since 1994, AJJAC and DJJ have been consistent partners in analyzing data and working to reduce DMC in our state, focusing on Anchorage and Fairbanks due to the highest juvenile populations.

DJJ implemented the following activities which may have an impact to reduce DMC:

- ✓ DJJ created a DMC workgroup which includes probation and facility staff to revise the DMC Module of the DJJ Juvenile Probation Pre-Service Orientation training manual. Anticipated training with the revised manual to begin in 2013;
- ✓ DJJ through OJJDP and the National Girls Institute hosted a gender-responsive training in Ketchikan with over 60 DJJ staff and community members to improve effective programming for girls in their community and in particular girls who are transitioning back to Ketchikan after secure treatment at McLaughlin Youth Center (MYC) in Anchorage;
- ✓ DJJ contracted with the Stellar Group in Anchorage to complete an assessment focusing on effective Alaska Native focused cultural programming in DJJ secure treatment facilities, and how DJJ can be more with effective hiring and retention practices for minority staff, in particular Alaska Native staff;
- ✓ DJJ staff and AJJAC members provided DMC training to over 50 Youth Court members at the Annual Youth Court conference;
- ✓ DJJ staff contributed to an upcoming OJJDP report: *Disproportionate Minority Contact: A National Overview*, highlighting Alaska's efforts to address DMC. Alaska is one of five states included in this report that is anticipated to be released in early 2013 by the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Recommendations:

- Support DJJ in continuing to implement its systems improvements that help reduce racial disparity through programs to divert youth from detention and court.
- Encourage the legislature to fund prevention/diversion and reentry programs to reduce the number of youth coming into the system and vocational education to assist juveniles who are transitioning out of the DJJ system.
- Ensure resources for rural communities to deal with status offenders, alcohol and mental health protective custody issues and community based interventions.
- Ensure resources to enhance DJJ's ability to provide meaningful alcohol/substance abuse treatment within its facilities and to adapt its programs to be meaningful to all juveniles in those facilities including those with cognitive impairments like a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

Resources:

- The State of Alaska – Division of Juvenile Justice DMC website:
www.hss.state.ak.us/djj/dmc/
- Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention:
www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dmc/

Formula Budget Spending for FY 12

Formula funds are primarily utilized to gain compliance with the four core mandates of the JJDP Act. DJJ has worked diligently with support from AJJAC towards compliance, and although Alaska continues to have reduced violations, we are not in full compliance with the Act. DJJ holds compliance with the Act as a high priority and will continue efforts toward this. AJJAC supports DJJ’s on-going commitment to put a high priority on compliance with the Act, to ensure a fair and effective juvenile justice system and to maintain federal funds that assist with this effort.

Formula Non-Secure Attendant Care Shelter Grants

Alaska Family Services	Mat-Su	13,100
Covenant House Youth Reception Center	Anchorage	33,260
Juneau Youth Services	Juneau	14,060
Presbyterian Hospitality House	Fairbanks	21,740
Providence Kodiak Island Counseling Center	Kodiak	6,620
Residential Youth Care	Ketchikan	20,000
Youth Advocates of Sitka	Sitka	17,849

Formula Native American Pass-Through Grants

Kenaitze Indian Tribe I.R.A.	Kenai	9,991
Copper River Native Association	Copper Center	10,000
Native Village of Elim	Elim	9,975

Delinquency Prevention Grants

RuRAL CAP	Statewide	80,000
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8 Communities were sub-grantees through RuRAL CAP in FY12:

- Craig Tribal Association
- Northway Village Council
- Old Harbor
- Port Graham-Project GRAD
- Hughes
- Organized Village of Kake
- Toksook Bay-Nunakauyak Tribal Council
- Chevak Traditional Council

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