

2005 REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE

Submitted by the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee

Letter from the Chair

I am pleased to present the 2005 annual report from the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (AJJAC) to the Governor, Legislature, and the people of Alaska.

The AJJAC is made up of committed volunteers from around the state, who have knowledge and experience with youth and the juvenile justice system. They reside in both rural and urban Alaska and represent parents, youth, teachers, social service workers, and court and corrections employees.

One of the tasks of this advisory board is to provide recommendations regarding the juvenile justice system to the Governor and Legislature. This year the focus of our report will be on substance abuse and related issues and our recommendations will focus on those issues. These recommendations are the product of our combined knowledge, public comment, and surveys and discussions with youth in the juvenile justice system.

The AJJAC also assists the State in complying with the core mandates of the JJDP Act. Those mandates are explained in this report and include a synopsis of the efforts being made to keep the state in compliance with them.

The final responsibility of the AJJAC, in collaboration with the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), is to distribute federal grant funds awarded to the State by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). In FY05 these funds provided assistance to help support delinquency prevention and intervention projects in urban and rural communities throughout the State. An inventory of those projects and communities is included.

A list of AJJAC members and their contact information is provided. I encourage you to contact us with any questions about this report and to use us as a resource for juvenile justice issues.

Barbara Tyndall, AJJAC Chair

The widespread use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs by Alaskan youth has potentially serious long-term effects on health, learning, behavior, and development. Research shows early use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs to be associated with school failure, violence, early sexual behavior, addiction and serious medical problems. Exposure to alcohol during the crucial stage of adolescent brain development may cause irreversible damage. Alcohol is also associated with suicide, a major cause of death of young males, particularly in Alaska Natives.

- In FY 2003 615 youth were referred to the Division of Juvenile Justice for alcohol or drug related offenses, 8% of referrals for all charges. The percentage seems not to vary greatly from year to year and is consistent with national statistics, which indicate about 8.5% of juvenile arrests each year are for drug related offenses.
- The 2000 Underage Drinking Needs Assessment compiled by C & S Management Associates for the Division of Juvenile Justice reported there were 4,300 alcohol related cases tried in District Court in 1999 and 5,000 cases tried in 2000.
- A 1999 internal analysis of McLaughlin Youth Center detainees, conducted by Southeast Regional Resources Center reported that by age 12, 61% of the youth reported using alcohol and 65 % reported using marijuana.
- The 2003 Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey (AYRBS) reported that:
 - Inhalant Use
10.2% of youth reported ever sniffing glue or using other inhalants, 1995 use was 22.2% (the 1995 AYRBS included middle school students, the 2003 data included only high school students).
 - Marijuana
47.5% of youth reported ever using marijuana. In Alaska, the AYRBS shows there are now more youth regularly using marijuana (23.9%) than tobacco (19.2%).
 - Alcohol
The survey reports that alcohol is the drug of choice among high school students. 75% of youth reported that they have ever used alcohol and 39% reported current drinking (having used alcohol within the last 30 days.) More than 25% of youth reported binge drinking within the last 30 days. Binge drinking is defined as consuming 5 or more drinks in a row, within a couple of hours.

AJJAC and the Division of Juvenile Justice are also concerned about the prevalence of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD):

- Alaska Division of Public Health estimates 14 FASD births per year; and 126 births per year “potentially affected by prenatal alcohol exposure”.

- The 2001 McDowell Group study estimates lifetime cost for medical and residential services for each FAS birth at \$1.5 million
- The Alaska Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) Surveillance Project reports that many children born affected by prenatal exposure may have brain damage that causes permanent, lifelong disability, even if they don't meet the criteria for full FASD.
- FASD is a totally preventable birth defect. With early diagnosis and consistent intervention, people affected with FASD can lead more stable and productive lives.

The Division of Juvenile Justice continues to work with the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (AJJAC) and community and agency partners on system improvement projects, including reducing substance abuse among youth. Some of these include:

- Since September 2004, 11 DJJ probation and facility personnel have become certified through the DJJ Substance Abuse Counselor Certification Program; 37 more are working towards certification.
- DJJ's 8 detention facilities provide substance abuse education to youth through individual and group counseling, utilizing the Prime for Life curriculum, and contracting with community substance abuse education and treatment providers.
- DJJ's 4 treatment facilities incorporate a substance abuse component into treatment and aftercare plans.
- DJJ Juvenile Probation Officers refer youth to community agencies for assessment to determine substance abuse treatment and education needs. These youth may attend classes on substance abuse, group or individual outpatient counseling, and/or in-patient treatment.

Recommendations

The **Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee** recommends:

- That the Alaska Legislature provides sufficient funding for alcohol and drug prevention programs that serve all Alaskans, especially our youth. Prevention programs need to be based upon sound research, be culturally sensitive and include evaluation of their success.
- Continued communication and collaboration between federal, state and community organizations to assess and address the gaps in services to youth and families affected by substance abuse.
- Support DJJ's system improvement projects such as the substance abuse certification program, and the implementation of the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory, the Detention Assessment Instrument, and Performance Based Standards.
- The development of group homes, therapeutic foster homes, residential treatment and aftercare programs in rural and urban Alaskan communities for children and adults affected by FAS/FASD.

References for 2005 report can be found at <http://health.hss.state.ak.us/djj/ajjac/>

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.

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (JJDP Act), as amended, was a federal reform measure designed to improve the states' juvenile justice systems.

Its provisions include:

Federal Juvenile Justice Grant Funds for States

All states are eligible to apply for juvenile justice grant funds under the JJDP Act.

In State Fiscal Year 2004, Alaska received over **\$1.6 million** in federal juvenile justice grant funds under the JJDP Act. These funds were awarded to the Department of Health and Social Services and administered by the Division of Juvenile Justice. Subgrants in Alaska that are supported by these funds are listed on page 5 of this report.

Safe and Equitable Treatment for Youth

All states that receive juvenile justice grant funds under the JJDP Act must comply with the following four core requirements of the JJDP Act.

- **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders.** Youth who are charged with status offenses such as drinking alcohol, smoking cigarettes, and violating curfew may not be held in locked detention and correctional facilities.
- **Sight and Sound Separation of Youth and Adult Offenders.** Youth who are held temporarily in adult jails or lock-ups may not have sight or sound contact with adult inmates.
- **Removal of Youth from Adult Jails and Lock-ups.** Youth who are accused of delinquent acts may not be held for processing in adult jails or lock-ups for more than 6 hours before their first court appearance and 6 hours after court.
- **Disproportionate Minority Contact.** States must assess and address disproportionate minority youth contacts with their juvenile justice systems.

Alaska's Juvenile Justice Grants in FY05

Formula Non-Secure Attendant Care Shelter Grants

Fairbanks Native Association	Fairbanks	Non-secure shelter	\$27,000
Juneau Youth Services	Juneau	Non-secure shelter	\$15,000
Kenai Peninsula Community Care Center	Kenai Peninsula	Non-secure shelter	\$50,000
Kodiak Youth Services Center	Kodiak	Non-secure shelter	\$8,000
Residential Youth Care	Ketchikan	Non-secure shelter	\$23,000
Youth Advocates of Sitka	Sitka	Non-secure shelter	\$12,000

Formula Non-Secure Attendant Care Shelter Provider Agreements

Alaska Youth and Parent Foundation	Anchorage	Non-secure shelter	\$24,000
Kids Are People	Mat-Su	Non-secure shelter	\$14,000
Providence Kodiak Island Service Center	Kodiak	Non-secure shelter	\$1,920

Formula Indian Pass-Through Grants

Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association	Aleutians	VPSO training	\$16,500
Kodiak Area Native Association	Kodiak	Family Spirit Camp	\$3,509
Maniilaq Association	Kotzebue	Youth Court Training	\$5,525

Title V Delinquency Prevention Grants

City of Kenai	Kenai	Delinquency prevention	\$52,491
Nunakauyak traditional Council	Toksook Bay	Peace Making Circle	\$18,671

Challenge Activity Grants

Gender Specific Programming	Statewide	Gender specific training	\$27,500
Aftercare Programming	Juneau/Fairbanks	Aftercare services	\$60,000

Juvenile Accountability Grants

United Youth Courts of Alaska	Statewide	Youth Court Admin.	\$325,000
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Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Grants

MADD Anchorage Chapter	Anchorage	Youth-led prev. coalition	\$15,000
MADD Juneau Chapter	Southeast	Youth-led prev. coalition	\$25,000

Rural Alaska Juvenile Justice Grants

Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc.	Aleutians	Comm. Juvenile Justice Assoc.	\$35,738
Emmonak Tribal Council	Emmonak	Comm. Juvenile Justice Assoc.	\$36,000
Louden Tribal Council	Galena	Comm. Juvenile Justice Assoc.	\$21,000
Noorvik	Noorvik	Comm. Juvenile Justice Assoc.	\$33,000
Nunakauyak Traditional Council	Toksook Bay	Comm. Juvenile Justice Assoc.	\$31,196
Organized Village of Kake	Kake	Comm. Juvenile Justice Assoc.	\$30,000

Re-Entry Grants

Alaska Children's Services	Anchorage	Functional Family Therapy	\$124,412
Big Brothers Big sisters of Alaska	Statewide	Mentoring Program	\$80,000

State Juvenile Justice Advisory Committees

All states that receive juvenile justice grant funds under the JJDP Act must appoint a volunteer citizen advisory committee to assist the state in monitoring its compliance with the JJDP Act requirements and allocating its JJDP Act grant funds.

Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee

Vicki Blankenship	Compliance Work Group Chair	Fairbanks	(907) 479-9511
Carol Brenckle	AJJAC Secretary, and Media Work Group Chair	Kenai	(907) 283-4343
Jeff Budd	Focus Groups Work Group Chair	Sitka	(907) 747-4821
Seth Church	Youth Member	Fairbanks	(907) 479-2868
Bart Colledge	Youth Employment	Fairbanks	(907) 479-5993
William Hitchcock	Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Chair	Anchorage	(907) 264-0419
Michael Jeffery	FASD Work Group Chair	Barrow	(907) 852-4800
Jonathon Lack	Media	Anchorage	(907) 278-8533
Sue Lovekin	AJJAC Vice Chair	Anchorage	(907) 248-9520
Ernie Mueller	Mental Health/Substance Abuse Work Group Chair, and Legislation Work Group Chair	Juneau	(907) 780-4083
Joe Pruitt	Compliance Monitoring	Barrow	(907) 852-7591
Barb Tyndall	AJJAC Chair	Fairbanks	(907) 488-1433
Tina Wilson	Media/DMC	Anchorage	(907) 561-5633
Jaime Zellhuber	Youth Member	Juneau	(907) 790-9329
Candace Lewis	Youth Member	Wasilla	(907) 841-4691
Mark Okeson	Mental Health/Substance Abuse	Palmer	(907) 352-8215

AJJAC meets in person or by teleconference approximately eight times per year. To request information about the next AJJAC meeting, or to submit written comments to AJJAC, contact: Division of Juvenile Justice, P.O. Box 110635, Juneau, AK 99811-0635, Telephone: (907) 465-2122, Fax: (907) 465-2333, TDD: (907) 465-3196

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