

REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE

January 2007

Submitted by the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee

As the chair of the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (AJJAC), it gives me great pleasure to present our 2007 Annual Report to the Governor, the Legislature, and the people of Alaska.

The AJJAC is a citizen advisory group of volunteers from urban and rural communities across Alaska who are knowledgeable and experienced in working with Alaska's juvenile justice system. We are appointed by the Governor in accordance with the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act. Our current membership includes parents, youth, teachers, social service workers, law enforcement, and court and corrections employees.

Each year the AJJAC makes recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature concerning our juvenile justice system. These recommendations are based upon our collective knowledge and experience, public comment from individuals and groups around the state, and from the youth in our juvenile justice system.

The AJJAC assists the State in complying with the core mandates of the JJDP Act. A list of the requirements are included in the report, as well as some of the activities we helped to generate in collaboration with the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to keep our state in compliance with those mandates.

The final task of the AJJAC is to work in partnership with the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) in the distribution of federal grants awarded to the State by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. In FY07 these funds supported delinquency prevention and intervention projects in both urban and rural communities throughout Alaska. Information about these grants is included in this report.

It is our desire that this committee will be a resource for you. A list of our members, their communities and contact information is included. Please feel free to get in touch with us if you have any questions concerning this report or other juvenile justice issues.

Barbara Tyndall
AJJAC chair

The federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (JJDP Act) was enacted to help state and local governments prevent and control juvenile delinquency, and to improve the juvenile justice system. The Act also sought to protect juveniles in the juvenile justice system from inappropriate placements and from the physical and psychological harm that can result from contact with adult inmates. In addition, the Act emphasizes the need to provide community-based treatment for juvenile offenders, recognizing that keeping children in the community is critical to successful intervention and rehabilitation.

Through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), the JJDP Act allocates federal juvenile justice grant funds to states that comply with four core mandates:

Core Mandates of the JJDP Act

1. **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders** – Youth who are charged with status offenses (i.e. drinking alcohol, smoking cigarettes, and violating curfew) may not be held in locked detention and correctional facilities.
2. **Sight and Sound Separation of Youth and Adult Offenders** – Youth who are temporarily held in adult jails or lock-ups may not have sight or sound contact with adult inmates.
3. **Removal of Youth from Adult Jails and Lock-ups** (Jail Removal) – 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.
4. **Disproportionate Minority Contact** – States must assess and work to eliminate their juvenile justice systems’ disproportionate contacts with minority youth.

The Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (AJJAC) is appointed by the Governor under Administrative Order No. 137 to serve as the Division of Juvenile Justice’s (DJJ) citizen advisory board. AJJAC is mandated by the JJDP Act to advise DJJ in maintaining Alaska’s compliance with the core mandates, and to ensure that DJJ continues to receive federal grant funding and provide Alaska’s youth with meaningful opportunities to succeed.

To fulfill its mandates, AJJAC offers this report on: the State’s efforts to develop Graduated Sanctions, such as Alternatives to Detention, to ensure compliance with the Act; the allocation of the state’s federal grant funds; and the AJJAC’s recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature.

Graduated Sanctions: Alternatives to Detention

Graduated sanctions refer to the continuum of disposition options that juvenile probation officers, defense attorneys, and juvenile court judges have available for delinquency cases. Graduated sanctions serve a dual purpose, protecting the public and children, and facilitating access to services for the juvenile offender. This report will focus on the intermediate graduated sanction, alternatives to detention. According to a 2003 report from the Coalition of Juvenile Justice, *Unlocking the Future*, creating alternatives to detention can help eliminate inequalities in the juvenile justice system, improve services for young offenders and keep communities safe.

Alaska's DJJ began to look at overpopulation in its detention facilities and overall system improvement in 2003. Among the goals and objectives developed at the time was the improvement of alternative to detention options for juveniles not posing a risk to the community. These included, non-secure shelter care, emergency shelters, foster care, youth courts, electronic monitoring, increased community-based monitoring at the juvenile's home, school and work, and in-home detention and supervision. Another key component in DJJ's plan has been the statewide implementation of a risk-based, structured assessment tool, the Detention Assessment Instrument (DAI), which is used to assist Juvenile Probation Officers in determining whether a juvenile needs to be placed in secure detention or if an alternative placement is more appropriate.

The Community Detention Project at McLaughlin Youth Center in Anchorage is a prime example of an effective and economical detention option. The cost of the Community Detention program is \$123 per day compared to \$242 per day for a juvenile placed in detention. Over the course of a 3.5-year period this program has served 553 juveniles. In FY06, only 3 out of 254 juveniles re-offended while participating in the program. There are three primary components to the program: Community Detention, the Evening Reporting Program, and the Detour Program.

Community Detention Day Program:

Developed by McLaughlin staff, the program began in 2001 at the Mountain View Recreation Center, which was run by the Boys and Girls Club of Anchorage. The program helps motivated juveniles who pose a moderate risk to the community return home (or to foster care or a shelter), after being detained at McLaughlin. It is believed that by providing monitoring, counseling groups, positive activities, and community service, juveniles can be successfully connected back to the community. Educational services are available for juveniles who have been expelled or suspended from school. Services offered include:

- Groups such as problem solving, victim impact, anger management, and substance abuse;
- Community service projects;
- Educational services; and
- Case plans developed by parents/foster parents and Probation Officer.

Evening Reporting Program:

This program is offered weekdays from 3:30 pm – 8:00 pm. The program offers various life skills groups, community service work and tutoring and is intended for juveniles who are motivated to live at home and attend school.

Detour Program:

This is a 30-day program offering intensive home, school and community supervision. The objective of the program is to redirect juveniles from additional delinquency, detention and formal probation.

While Alaska has begun to develop good alternative to detention programs, more resources are needed, particularly in rural Alaska. Resources for developing alternatives to detention will keep juveniles from going deeper into the juvenile justice system, decrease the disproportionate number of minorities in detention, keep low-risk juveniles in their communities, ensure that services are provided in the least restrictive setting, and will improve Alaska's services to juveniles and their communities.

AJJAC asks the Governor and Legislature to consider the following recommendations to assist the DJJ in the continued development of alternative to detention resources in both rural and urban Alaska.

AJJAC's 2007 Recommendations

1. Collaboration across agency lines, both public and private, helps ensure a comprehensive approach to dealing with youth at risk and those already in the juvenile system. We urge legislators to join these collaborative efforts, in their own communities, to develop and support adequate alternatives to detention.
2. Expand funding to provide for adequate "front end" services including cost effective alternatives for keeping youth from entering the system.
3. AJJAC and DJJ are partners working to promote system improvements for the juvenile justice system to ensure Alaska's compliance with the core mandates of the JJDP Act. We urge legislators to join AJJAC and DJJ in supporting system improvement efforts to guarantee continued federal funding.
4. Support the efforts of the Division of Juvenile Justice, AJJAC, and other community organizations to reduce disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system through data driven and evidence based alternatives that address the unique needs of minority youth and their families.

In State Fiscal Year 2007, OJJDP awarded Alaska over 1.3 million in federal juvenile justice grant funds under the JJDP Act. These funds are awarded to the Department of Health and Social Services and administered by the Division of Juvenile Justice.

FY07 Juvenile Justice Grant Awards

Supported by Federal JJDP Act Grant Funds

Formula Non-Secure Attendant Care Shelter Grants

Kenai Peninsula Community Care Center	Kenai Peninsula	Non-secure shelter	20,000
Youth Advocates of Sitka	Sitka	Non-secure shelter	8,780
Presbyterian Hospitality House	Fairbanks	Non-secure shelter	21,740
Juneau Youth Services	Juneau	Non-secure shelter	14,060
Covenant House Youth Reception Center	Anchorage	Non-secure shelter	33,260
AK Family Services-Saxton Youth Shelter	Wasilla	Non-secure shelter	12,966
Providence Kodiak Island Counseling Center	Kodiak	Non-secure shelter	6,620

Formula Indian Pass-Through Grants

Aleutian Pribilof Island Association	Aleutians	VPSO delinquency training	16,500
Kodiak Area Native Association	Kodiak Island	Family spirit camp	3,509
Maniilaq Association	Kotzebue	Youth court	5,262

Formula Delinquency Prevention

Victims for Justice, Inc.	Anchorage	Delinquency prevention/ Victim Advocacy	25,000
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Formula Mentoring

Big Brothers Big Sisters	Anchorage	Mentoring	40,000
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Title V Delinquency Prevention Grants

City of Seldovia	Seldovia	Delinquency Prevention	45,000
Metlakatla Indian Community	Metlakatla	Delinquency Prevention	33,303

Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Grant

Nat'l Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence	Juneau, Sitka, Craig	Youth-led prev. coalition	20,000
Nome Community Center	Nome	Youth-led prev. coalition	20,000
RSA to Dept. of Public Safety (ABC Board)	Statewide	Youth assisted enforcement	100,000
RSA to Div. Behavioral Health, (JASAP)	Kodiak & Anchorage	Youth oriented substance abuse education program	100,000
DJJ Training	Statewide	Juvenile Justice Officer and Juvenile Probation Officer Substance Abuse Certification support	50,000

Congressional Earmark Program

Alaska Youth Court and Community Panel Program

United Youth Courts of Alaska	Statewide	Training and Tech. Assist	120,000
Anchorage Youth Court	Anchorage	Youth Court	56,670
Delta Youth Court	Delta	Delta Junction Youth Court	18,134
Emmonak Tribal Council	Emmonak	Youth Court	12,089
Juneau School District	Juneau	Youth Court	43,065
Kenai Peninsula Youth Court	Kenai, Homer	Youth Court	53,440
Ketchikan Youth Court	Ketchikan	Youth Court	49,390

Agdaagux Tribal Council	King Cove	Youth Court	21,234
Kodiak Teen Court	Kodiak	Youth Court	37,760
Nome Community Center	Nome	Youth Court	33,980
North Star Youth Court	Fairbanks	Youth Court	48,090
Native Village of St. Michael	St. Michael	Youth Court	20,884
Valdez Youth Court	Valdez	Youth Court	29,090
City of Wasilla, Mat-Su Youth Court	Mat-Su Valley	Youth Court	51,792
Wrangell Police Department	Wrangell	Youth Court	9,190
Youth Advocates of Sitka	Sitka	Youth Court	18,390

Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee Members

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