



Strategies for Youth: Policing the Teen Brain Training
Biddeford Police Department, 2016

STATE OF MAINE



JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP

2015/2016

Annual Report to the Governor

And the 128th Legislature



STATE OF MAINE

JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP

PAUL R. LEPAGE

111 STATE HOUSE STATION

BARTLETT H. STOODLEY

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

GOVERNOR

CHAIR

January 9, 2017

Dear Governor LePage and Members of the 128th Legislature:

The Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG) presents its 2015-2016 Annual Report. We hope that you will find the information enlightening as it pertains to the activities of the JJAG and its statutorily required responsibilities. This work is focused on facilitating improvements within the juvenile justice system as well as enhancing juvenile delinquency prevention initiatives in Maine. The outcomes impact a precious commodity, our children.

Over the years, the JJAG has initiated many positive changes in Maine's juvenile justice system. Although we remain challenged by incremental reductions in federal funding, progress has been made possible through collaboration and perseverance and has been measurably achieved each year. You will see that our membership is diverse. Each individual brings a high level of energy, skill and experience. This allows the JJAG to examine Maine's juvenile justice system from a variety of perspectives. The JJAG develops quantitative and qualitative data, formulates strategies and seeks solutions for improving outcomes for youth who are, or may become, involved in the juvenile justice system.

It is an honor for each of us to serve the State of Maine, its youth, families and communities in our appointed capacities.

We hope that you will find this Annual Report valuable and useful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Barry Stoodley'.

Barry Stoodley

About this Report

This report has historically been delivered in May. As of 2016, Maine's Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (MJJAG) has shifted delivery of this report to the Federal fiscal year. In the future, this report will be prepared and released annually in October and will be available to incoming legislators while also serving as the requisite annual report for the federal Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention.

In 2016, the JJAG welcomed a new Juvenile Justice Specialist. After more than a decade of service, Kathryn McGloin, JJAG's previous Juvenile Justice Specialist, accepted another position within state government and in May of 2016 Jay Pennell was hired to serve as Maine's new JJ Specialist. Mr. Pennell had nearly two decades of experience with the Department of Corrections serving as a case worker at the former Maine Youth Center (now Long Creek Youth Development Center) and as a Juvenile Community Corrections Officer (JCCO) before accepting his new assignment with Maine's Juvenile Justice Advisory Group.

About the JJAG

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act) was enacted in 1974 to ensure that states provide basic protections for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. States that comply with JJDP Act requirements are eligible to receive federal funds that are in turn distributed throughout the state to enhance delinquency prevention efforts and improve outcomes for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. In order to ensure compliance with the core requirements of the JJDP Act and to fairly distribute federal funds, participating states must establish a State Advisory Group (SAG). To that end, Maine's Juvenile Justice Advisory Group was established by state statute, 34-A MRSA Section 1209, in 1984 making 2015-2016 the 33rd full year of Maine's participation in federal programs supported by the JJDP Act.

The JJAG's primary responsibilities include: (1) preparation and development of a statewide comprehensive three-year juvenile justice and delinquency prevention plan; (2) allocation of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention grant funds provided to the state under the JJDP Act; (3) monitoring activities and accomplishments of funded state projects; and (4) overseeing Maine's compliance with the core requirements (also referred to as core protections) of the JJDP Act.

Core Protections:

- Deinstitutionalization of status offenders (DSO).
- Sight and sound separation of juvenile offenders from adult offenders in detention and confinement (separation).
- Removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups (jail removal).
- Reduction of disproportionate minority contact (DMC), where it exists.

The JJAG's priorities are guided by **Maine's Comprehensive 2015-2017 Three Year Plan for Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention** which is found online at: <http://www.maine.gov/corrections/jjag/three-year-plan-2015-2017.htm>

"The mission of the Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group is to advise and make recommendations to state policy makers and to promote effective system level responses that further the goals of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act."

2015-2017 Three Year Plan for Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, Maine JJAG - Plan Abstract

The Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group is committed to continuous improvement of all aspects of Maine's juvenile justice system. As a diverse group of volunteers, the JJAG is uniquely positioned to provide a broad and informed perspective to anyone in Maine seeking to improve outcomes for juvenile offenders, their families, and the victims of their unlawful behaviors. Maine's JJAG promotes cost-effective strategies centered on delinquency prevention, restorative justice, assessment and implementation of effective programs, alternatives to secure confinement, behavioral health needs, system improvement and training and education for those serving Maine's youth. Maine's JJAG has adopted an ambitious organizational model that maximizes participation and opportunities for all of its members. Through its revised by-laws and committee structure, the JJAG simultaneously encourages the formal and informal participation of others, especially youth and those with special knowledge in the fields of education, adolescent development and juvenile justice. Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) data is collected and analyzed in a culturally competent manner that identifies appropriate strategies to address causes of DMC and to ameliorate its impact. The JJAG works to expand the public's understanding of positive youth development and a trauma-informed developmental approach to addressing delinquency. Maine's JJAG promotes strength-based prevention and effective intervention principles within communities and within the programs it funds and supports. JJAG will continue to research and provide support for effective programs and strategies at all levels of the juvenile justice system ranging from delinquency prevention to effectively addressing the behaviors of juveniles with high criminogenic risks. Advocacy will continue for the adoption of alternatives to school suspension and expulsion practices and reconsideration of zero-tolerance policies through the promotion of Collaborative and Proactive Solutions (CPS) and other similar approaches. The JJAG encourages only evidenced-based and evidence-informed practices that have solid research backing their efficacy. The JJAG works to assure the creation of standards of practice and training for attorneys representing juveniles and will continue to provide judges, legislators, juvenile justice professionals and the general public with reliable information regarding "what works" to reduce delinquent behavior so that scarce resources are expended on effective strategies and services that promote a "rare, fair and beneficial" approach to juvenile justice in Maine.

The overarching aim of the JJAG is to continue practices that lead to a reduction in system-involved youth, investigate and address the root causes of DMC in certain Maine communities, and broaden the systemic presence of restorative justice practices as a program of first resort for youth. The JJAG will continue to work with sub-grantees and partners in pursuit of these goals, as well as seek out new opportunities to improve the juvenile justice system throughout Maine. Public outreach will be improved, particularly through increased use of social media tools, to better inform policy makers and the public about JJAG initiatives designed to effectively reduce delinquent behaviors and promote well-being of Maine's most vulnerable youth.

Scan below to read full Plan:



Monitoring, Compliance to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002 (JJDP)

Maine's compliance with the core requirements (also referred to as core protections) of the JJDP Act requires that:

1. Status offenders (youth who possess alcohol, runaway, are truant or violate curfews) may not be securely detained or confined,
2. Juvenile offenders may not be detained in adult jails except to process immediately following arrest,
3. Juvenile offenders may not be subject to sight or sound contact with adult offenders, and
4. The rate of minority youth contact with the juvenile justice system must be monitored to assure an equitable contact level.

In order to receive funding pursuant to the JJDP Act, participating states must develop and implement a strategy for achieving and maintaining compliance with the above-listed core protections. A state's level of compliance with each of the core protections determines eligibility for its continued participation in the Formula Grant program.

Status of Compliance with JJDP Core Protections, Maine 2015-2016

Maine had one violation of the core protection of the Act, Section 223(a)(11), Deinstitutionalization of a Status Offender, in which a juvenile was held securely for a status offense (e.g. truancy, running away, possessing alcohol, etc.). Maine is, however, in compliance with the Act.

Effective Police Interactions with Youth Training 2015

The Effective Police Interactions with Youth (EPIY) training helped law enforcement officers communicate effectively with young people they encounter and increases the likelihood that interactions with youth will result in positive outcomes. Participants in the training learned about disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system and implicit bias that may contribute to one's decisions. Participants also discussed approaches for collaborating with youth, and identified the benefits of taking a more supportive approach when responding to delinquent behavior. A total of 78 Law Enforcement Officers were trained in 2014 and 2015; 65 Police Officers, 10 Sheriffs, 2 State Troopers, and 1 Warden.

Strategies for Youth: Policing the Teen Brain Training 2015-2016

JJAG funded "Policing the Teen Brain" training in Lewiston and Biddeford. The program is administered by Strategies for Youth, a Massachusetts based organization committed to improving police/youth interactions, advancing the cause of training public safety officers in the science of child and youth development and mental health, and supporting communities partnering to promote strong police/youth relationships. "Policing the Teen Brain" training was provided to all officers at Biddeford and Lewiston Police Departments as well as officers from twenty other law enforcement agencies from southern and central Maine. The training educated law enforcement officers about adolescent brain development, and taught officers how asserting authority in a positive way will produce positive and meaningful outcomes for both the juvenile and the officer.

Three Funding Streams Authorized by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

Title II – Formula Grant Funds

The Formula Grants Program supports state and local delinquency prevention and intervention efforts and juvenile justice system improvements. Through this program, OJJDP provides funds directly to states, territories, and the District of Columbia to help implement comprehensive state juvenile justice plans based on detailed studies of needs in their jurisdictions. The Formula Grants Program is authorized under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 5601 *et seq.*)

Funding is available to all participating states and territories that are in compliance with the core requirements of the JJDP Act. State Advisory Groups in participating states and territories administer the funding through subgrants to units of local government, local private agencies, and Indian tribes for programs in accordance with legislative requirements. Only state agencies as designated by the Governor are eligible to apply for participation in the Formula Grant Program. State Advisory Groups, comprised of members appointed by the governor, set priorities for funded activities. For further information about the availability and implementation of these grants, contact Maine's Juvenile Justice Specialist.

Maine's Title II Formula Grant allocation for 2015 was \$400,194, a more than 50% reduction from \$855,000 received in 2005.

Examples of programs supported with Formula Grant funds are available on pages 5-8.

Title V – Delinquency Prevention Funds

Title V of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act established the Incentive Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention Programs, more commonly known as the Community Prevention Grants Program. In 2002, Congress reauthorized the program as the "Incentive Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention Programs Act of 2002", 42 U.S.C. 5781-5784.

Title V Community Prevention Grants Program supported the development and implementation of a comprehensive, research-based approach to delinquency prevention that helped communities across the nation foster positive changes in the lives of children and families. The Title V program focused on helping youth avoid involvement in delinquency through reducing risk factors and enhancing protective factors in schools, communities, and families. Maine utilized Title V funds by supporting Dr. Ross Greene's Collaborative Problem Solving initiative in 15 Maine schools. The Title V grant program has not been funded since 2011 when Maine was awarded \$50,000.

Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG)

The Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) Program was authorized under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 3796e *et seq.*). As envisioned by Congress, the goal of the JABG program is to encourage states and units of local government to implement accountability-based programs and services and strengthen the juvenile justice system. The basic premise underlying the JABG program is that both justice-involved youth and the juvenile justice system must be held accountable. For the juvenile, accountability means an assurance of facing individualized consequences through which the offender is made aware of and held responsible for the loss, damage, or injury that the victim experiences. Such accountability is best achieved through a system of graduated sanctions imposed according to the nature and severity of the offense, moving from limited interventions to more restrictive actions if the youth continues delinquent activities. For the juvenile justice system, accountability means measuring and strengthening the system's capacity to reduce delinquent behavior, to develop youth competence, to efficiently track juveniles through the system, and to provide enhanced options such as restitution, community service, mediation between the youth and victim, and other sanctions that reinforce the mutual obligations of an accountability-based juvenile justice system.

In 2001, Maine was awarded \$1,837,800 in JABG funds and \$127,693 in 2013. However, funding for the JABG Program was eliminated from the federal budget for 2014.

JJDP Act Grant Funding 2000 to 2015

Fiscal Year	Title II Formula	Title V Community Delinquency Prevention	Juvenile Accountability Block Grant
2003	\$756,000	No awards made	\$1,191,500
2004	*\$856,000	\$100,000	\$392,900
2005	*\$855,000	\$100,000	\$357,000
2006	\$648,000	\$56,250	\$314,700
2007	\$600,000	\$75,250	\$310,400
2008	\$600,000	\$48,360	\$328,900
2009	\$600,000	\$33,486	\$371,800
2010	\$600,000	\$84,945	\$354,800
2011	\$600,000	\$50,000	\$276,279
2012	\$400,000	-0-	\$167,214
2013	\$404,145	-0-	\$127,693
2014	\$400,000	-0-	-0-
2015	\$400,194	-0-	-0-
2016	\$400,194	-0-	-0-

**Supplemental Awards made in addition to Formula*

- JJAG Subgrantees served 1014 youth in 2015:
 - Trekkers – experiential mentoring programs for 502 students from the six communities of Regional School Unit #13
 - Youthlinks - out of school asset-building programs for at-risk area middle school students in the Rockland area
 - Restorative Justice Institute of Maine – restorative justice infrastructure building and Community Justice Collaboratives in Oxford Hills, Lewiston, Augusta and Bangor
 - Old Orchard Beach Juvenile Community Review Board – diverts juvenile offenders from the formal justice system and balances the needs of the offender, the victim, and the community
 - Saco Schools Restorative School Practices – restorative circle and conferences for grades six through 12
 - Five Town Communities That Care – Math and Literacy Mentors for middle school students in Appleton, Camden, Rockport, Hope, and Lincolnville
 - Penquis CAP – Coping and Support Training (CAST), a model program for Dexter and Hampden high school students
 - Penobscot Boys and Girls Club – strength-based diversion/community service opportunities for youth in the Old Town area
 - Muskie School of Public Service - DMC data collection and analysis
 - Strategies For Youth –Policing the Teen Brain and Juvenile Justice Jeopardy Game training provided to law enforcement officers in Lewiston and Biddeford

Juvenile Population, Maine

By race, ages 10-17 in 2014 (The latest data available.) Total population: 123,017

American Indian	Asian	Black/ African American	White
1,267	2,489	3,797	114,114

Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2016). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2015." Online. Available: <http://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/>

Youth Served by JJAG-funded Programs, 2015

Total Youth Served in 2015-2016: 1014

American Indian	Asian	Black/African American	White	Other
0*	1	138	525	7

*A grant with the Passamaquoddy tribe has been initiated but only began serving youth with the beginning of the 2016-2017 school years.

In the past year, a significant amount of JJAG funding has been directed toward training and systems improvement. The contract with Strategies for Youth resulted in all Lewiston police officers being trained in "Policing the Teen Brain." The contract included a 4-day train the trainer event in May 2016 that allowed Lewiston to continue training new officers. In July and August, 2016, Strategies for Youth provided the "Policing the Teen Brain" two-day training to an additional 90 officers from multiple police departments.

During the summer of 2016, the Criminal Justice Network of Vermont (CJNVT) completed a comprehensive assessment of restorative justice programs in Maine. The assessment identifies successful restorative justice initiatives throughout the state and delivers a blueprint to assist policy makers in the implementation of a statewide system of restorative justice services available to all youth involved in Maine's juvenile justice system. The blueprint looks at multiple points of contact within the juvenile justice system and will help guide JJAG's work in building a restorative justice state over the next few years.

JJAG Membership – 2015-2016

Current membership list also available at <http://www.mainejag.org/members>

Members of the JJAG representing communities, state agencies, non-profit organizations, and youth and families are appointed by the Governor for a four-year term and serve in a voluntary capacity. All members provide input and direction on issues concerning juvenile justice in Maine. Representatives of Maine’s youth-serving government agencies (DOC, DHHS, DOE, and DPS) serve as “ex officio” members of the JJAG as well.

Name	Affiliation
Barrows, Teresa (Ex officio MDHS)	Behavioral Health Director, OCFS, DHHS
Besteman, Dr. Catherine	Anthropology, Colby College
Campbell, Gifford	Youth Member
Chester, Esq., Edwin, Vice Chair	Juvenile Defense Attorney, Chester & Vestal
Coleman, Bishop, Steve	Pastor, Church of God in Christ
Dutton, Dalene	Communities That Care Specialist, SDRG, UW
*Gallagher, Bryn	UM School of Law, Maine Youth Court
Goodwin, Jacinda (Ex officio MDOE)	Truancy, Dropout, Alternative Education & Homeless Education Coordinator, DOE
*Haydym, Marta	Maine Youth Court
Horton, Dr. Tracey	Forensic Psy & Criminal Justice, Thomas College
Ibrahim, Abeir	Human Services Counselor, City of Portland HHS
LaVerdiere, Hon. Charles	Chief Judge, Maine District Court
Longworth, Margaret	Director of Clinical Services, OHI
Makin, Pender	Assistant Superintendent, Brunswick School Department
*Manzer, Tamara	Youth Move Maine
*Megathlin, Kaitlyn	Maine Youth Court
Mosher, Tessa	Director, Victim Services, MDOC
Nichols, Page	Restorative Learning Specialist, The REAL School
O’Neill, Colin, (Ex officio MDOC)	Associate Commissioner, Juvenile Services, MDOC
*Park, Kelsey	RJIM, Tree Street Youth
Reilly, Atlee, Esq.	Managing Attorney, Disability Rights Maine
Shapiro, Sgt. Jonathan, J. (Ex officio MDPS)	Maine State Police
Sleeper, Julia	Executive Director, Tree Street Youth
Stoodley, Bartlett, JJAG Chair	Consultant
Thibeault, Esq., Christine	Assistant District Attorney, Cumberland County Court House
Walsh, Patrick	Director, Prevention Services, Broadreach Family & Community Services
*Wesley, Nickole	Assistant Clerk, Portland District Court

*Youth Member

Year in Review, 2015-2016

- Barry Stoodley, Retired Associate Commissioner for Department of Corrections Juvenile Services, was re-elected JJAG Chair. Ned Chester, Esq. was re-elected Vice-Chair.
- The JJAG moved to a committee structure to more efficiently meet its objectives. Committees include:
 - Disproportionate Minority Contact
 - Youth Engagement
 - Training and Education
 - Nominating
 - Legislative
 - Marketing and Outreach
 - Systems Improvement
- Membership grew to 28 members, up from 15 over the course of this reporting cycle.
- The JJAG was awarded \$400,194 pursuant to the OJJDP Title II Formula Grant Program. The Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) and the Title V Community Delinquency Prevention Grant were not funded by Congress in 2015.
- In April 2015, the JJAG brought Karen Williams, MSSW, to Maine to present “Developmental Approach to Reforming Juvenile Justice: Simple Explanations of the Scientific Underpinnings” for staff at both Long Creek and Mountain View Youth Development Centers and to Juvenile Community Corrections Officers, attorneys, guardians ad litem, victim advocates, school staff, clinical staff and others.
- A 2015 report by the University of Southern Maine Muskie School of Public Policy, "Disproportionate Contact: Youth of Color in Maine's Juvenile Justice System," was funded by the JJAG and won national critical acclaim. The report is being used by JJAG and Maine Department of Corrections Division of Juvenile Services “to ensure that all justice-involved youth experience a fair, equitable, and responsive justice system, across race, ethnicity, gender, geography, and offense.”
- Maine was found to be in compliance with the core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act
 - 142 inspections were completed
 - 2 juvenile detention facilities
 - 3 state police barracks
 - 3 state game warden stations
 - 2 university public safety stations
 - 1 sheriff substation
 - 15 county jails
 - 23 district courts
 - 93 municipal police departments
 - 2 law enforcement agencies were found to have added secure devices since last inspection (Eliot PD, Kennebunkport PD)
 - 2 law enforcement agencies removed secure devices to be re-classified (Windham PD, Livermore falls PD)
 - 1 police station converted to a sheriff substation (Swan Island PD to Hancock County Sub-Station)
 - 2 law enforcement departments have been de-certified and may no longer utilize their secure holding areas for juveniles (Presque Isle PD, Van Buren PD)
- The JJAG took advantage of several learning opportunities
 - Coalition for Juvenile Justice Youth Summit, The Time is Now: Creating Change with Young Emerging Leaders
 - Models for Change Conference: A Decade of Juvenile Justice Reform
 - Lives in the Balance 5th Annual International Summit on Non-Punitive, Non-Adversarial Interventions for At-Risk Kids
 - From ACEs to Resilience: Promising Practices for Thriving Communities
 - Maine Youth Court Summit
 - Coalition for Juvenile Justice, At the Forefront: Emerging Challenges and Solutions to Reforming Juvenile Justice
- Strategies for Youth: Policing the Teen Brain Training implemented
- Community Justice Network of Vermont (CJNVT), funded by the JJAG, performed a statewide assessment of restorative justice in Maine. CJNVT has provided JJAG with a comprehensive report, "An Initiative to Develop a Sustainable Restorative Juvenile Justice System," that in collaboration with state and youth serving agencies will allow expansion of restorative practices throughout Maine.

JJAG-funded Programs, 2015/2016

Broadreach Family & Community Services (Rockland, Thomaston, South Thomaston, Owls Head, Cushing, Rockport, St. George/Tenants Harbor, Union, Warren, Friendship, Port Clyde, and Spruce Head)



With expanded funding, Broadreach provided high-quality, free, out of school time asset-building programs for at-risk area middle school students. Youthlinks programs provided a safe environment for pro-social development, and each youth was challenged and supported. In order to reduce barriers for participation, programming, supplies and transportation were freely provided. Youthlinks integrated multiple evidence-informed methods (e.g. 1:6 adult/ child ratio; specific non-evaluative language; opportunity for youth voice and choice; service learning). The project drew upon a wealth of agency and community resources for volunteers, equipment, and service learning sites. Youthlinks programs offered hands-on opportunities for youth to gain critical skills, knowledge and build positive attitudes and behaviors. Beginning in 2013, the Youthlinks Grassroots Garden and Community Learning Center provided area youth with rich out of school time programming using agriculture, nutrition, cooking, community service, entrepreneurship and physical activity to inspire and empower youth across multiple domains.



Five Town Communities That Care (Appleton, Camden, Rockport, Hope, and Lincolnville)

Five Town CTC's STAR (Skills Training And Recognition) program was a universal preventative intervention designed to increase protective factors. In particular, STAR sought to increase prosocial involvement, students' intrinsic rewards for prosocial involvement, and the community's recognition of youth prosocial involvement. STAR also increased the number and quality of opportunities that existed for young people to be meaningfully engaged in service to their community. Increasing these protective factors has been shown to decrease the incidence of school drop-out, delinquency, and violence (as well as to decrease rates of substance abuse and teen pregnancy).



STAR recruited adults to teach skills that students could use in service to their community, and trained these adults in how to provide instruction and to provide feedback that lead to healthy bonding with their students. The adults were also coached on how to communicate standards for healthy behaviors and beliefs related to problem adolescent behaviors, as bonding increased the likelihood that youth would adopt standards the adults communicated. Area businesses, groups, and agencies were encouraged to provide opportunities where middle-school aged youth were welcomed in age-appropriate volunteer opportunities that allowed them to use the skills they had newly acquired; students were actively bridged to these opportunities while they were in the STAR program.

Five Town Communities That Care also provided the Math and Literacy mentors Program to middle school students in the Five Town Community who had low commitment to school and were performing below grade level in either math or literacy. Adult mentors provided tutoring and mentoring to youth in order to improve academic performance and commitment to school.

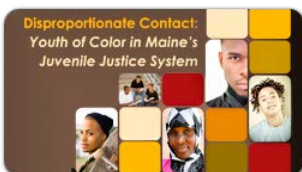
Muskie School of Public Policy

Collateral Consequences Report (Portland, Gorham, Lewiston, Statewide)

Muskie School at University of Southern Maine is completing the Maine Juvenile Justice Collateral Sanctions Report. After the completion of this report, the group will present the report to the JJAG. The presentation will include fact sheets, power points and other materials to be used by juvenile justice advocates across the state of Maine. The project started in April of 2016.



Data Collection (Statewide)



This report guided the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group and the Maine Department of Corrections Division of Juvenile Services work for Maine youth.

Identification of disproportionate minority contact remains a core requirement of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act which supports the work of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group by

providing funding and technical assistance for delinquency prevention and juvenile justice system improvements. Through JJAG funding, Muskie released an award-winning document – learn more here: mainejag.org/DMC.htm

Old Orchard Beach Juvenile Community Review Board (*Old Orchard Beach*)

The Juvenile Community Review Board (JCRB) functions both as an alternative to and as an extension of the traditional criminal justice and school disciplinary system. The JCRB supports and assists RSU #23 and the community at large by maintaining a positive and safe school/community culture which provides alternatives to exclusively punitive discipline for students/juveniles who participate in actions that harm the school community and the community at large. The JCRB functions under restorative philosophies and practices that hold the offender accountable, center on the victim, focus on repairing the harm done, and reintegrate the offender and victim into the community and/or school environment. The JCRB also facilitates the development of skills that assist offenders in becoming successful members of society. The JCRB acts as a bridge between stakeholders; links key juvenile justice, mental health, social services, and school professionals in a collaborative matrix that facilitate communication and unified corrective/therapeutic action by all responsible stakeholders. At least 100 youth were served, 3 to 6 new board members/facilitators were trained.



Passamaquoddy, American Indian Pass-Through Funding (*Princeton, Indian Township*)

The Passamaquoddy Youth and Recreation Center serves 200 tribal youth between ages 4 and 17. The program purchased approximately one dozen iPads to be used for language learning. This program involved youth students, high school students, and elder tribal mentors trained to offer trauma-informed care.

Over the next several months there will be an increased effort to work towards achieving the goals of this program. Started in September 2016, program training was provided through THRIVE. Another priority is the identification of high risk youth in the community. This is being done by developing relationships between Passamaquoddy Tribe members local Juvenile Community Corrections Officers. After identification, these youth are included in programing or referred to an appropriate place to find assistance.

Penobscot Boys & Girls Club, Strength-based Diversion Program (*Old Town*)

Penobscot Boys & Girls Club's (PBGC) strength-based diversion program provided supervision and support for low risk, court involved juveniles between the ages of 5-18 who were diverted with a community service obligation. Juveniles were given access to service work opportunities that matched their strengths/interests for the betterment of the community. This offered positive learning experiences while being mentored by a positive role model. The PBGC was dedicated and ensured that our community's at-risk youth had greater access to quality programs and services that enhanced their lives and shaped their futures. Through the relationship that was established with Region 3, our diversion program was embedded as part of Region 3's community service youth referral procedure. Once a juvenile was admitted into the diversion program, the program coordinator supervised the juvenile and ensured the juvenile was complying with the requirements. This included monitoring community service, terms and conditions contained in his/her service plan (contract), as well as the juvenile's progress. If the juvenile chose to voluntarily withdraw from the program, the Juvenile Intake Officer/Case Manager was notified. The PBGC's strength-based diversion program had a successful completion rate of 85% while 14% volunteered to withdraw and 1% repeated the program. The program coordinator worked hard to ensure a 100% completion rate for all court involved youth who entered the program by keeping parents/guardians involved in the juvenile's progress.



Penquis CAP (*Hampden, Dexter*)

Penquis CAP successfully provided Coping And Support Training (CAST) for several years. Penquis' most recent contract provided CAST to 68 students attending Dexter Regional High School and Hampden Academy. This program was enormously successful and was fully supported by school staff while it was popular among youth and effectively achieved its intended outcomes. Students often reported that CAST greatly impacted their lives and had given them new skills and supports. School personnel also noticed the difference CAST made on students' lives.



Short-term surveys were conducted at the end of the 7-week session. Fifty-four (54) surveys were collected during the contract year. Based on those survey results, 65% of youth reported an increase in skills for controlling anger; 47% reported an increase in skills for controlling mood; 56% reported an increase in healthy decision making; 61% reported an increase in skills for controlling drug use; and 29% reported an improved attitude to personal accountability.

Intermediate surveys were conducted 3 to 6 months after participants had completed the program. Fifty-two (52) intermediate surveys were collected. Based on those survey results, 40% of youth reported an increase in personal control, problem solving and coping skills; 27% of youth reported a decrease in drug control problems; and 46% of youth reported an increase in accountability for personal behaviors.

Long-term surveys were conducted 6 to 12 months after participants had completed the program. Fifty-four long term surveys were collected. Based on those survey results, 43% of youth reported a decrease in emotional distress; 59% of youth report improved school performance; and 72% of youth reported a decrease in delinquent behaviors.

CAST was a tremendous success and had a positive reputation among students, the waiting list was long.

Restorative Justice Institute of Maine (*Cumberland, Kennebec, Lincoln, Somerset Counties*)



The Restorative Justice Institute of Maine (RJIM) supports statewide efforts to implement Restorative Practices. With funding from JJAG, RJIM developed infrastructure in support of a strong, sustainable statewide network of restorative practices. Toward this end, they launched a network of Community Justice Collaboratives (CJCs) in five communities and developed protocols that supported local service delivery. CJCs are local groups of 8-12 people from across disciplines (corrections, education, law enforcement, mental health, substance abuse, and community)

that advise on the needs, resources and culture of their community and work in partnership with RJIM to develop strong local plans that integrate restorative practices into the fabric of their community. To implement their plans, CJCs engage local people and organizations as practitioners, trainers and CJC chairs. They review "lessons learned" from implementation and offer advice on continued development and local sustainability planning.

Community Justice Collaboratives focus on developing restorative justice interventions that hold juvenile offenders accountable for wrong doing while acknowledging the diverse and complex needs of the juveniles and their families. The initiative addresses the following longstanding problems: lack of coordination and communication among service systems; lack of natural community-based support systems; and, punitive interventions that further exacerbated risk behaviors versus ameliorating them. The initiative is focused on promoting a restorative approach to juvenile justice - an approach that facilitates meaningful consequences to disruptive school behavior and criminal offenses and focuses on accountability, repairing the harm to victims and the community, and fostering responsible behavior.

During the project period, the Community Justice Collaboratives provided diversion, intervention and service linkage to 48 juveniles and their families; trained 120 individuals; engaged 30 community citizen volunteers; engaged 90 professionals from above mentioned organizations; and, established the infrastructure for these services to continue indefinitely into the future, eventually serving increased numbers of juveniles as the program grew and became embedded into the daily practices of juvenile systems professionals and the local community.

Strategies for Youth (*Lewiston/Auburn & Biddeford – Southern & Central Maine*)

Strategies for Youth is an innovative nonprofit in the Greater Boston area with unique and highly developed training methods dealing with police-youth interactions. Strategies for Youth pioneered a "train-the-trainer" model in which they created a long-term sustainable training program that built up a law enforcement agency's capacity and ownership of training and provide tools to continue training in the future. Each of the two training program in Maine was individually crafted after an examination of existing relationships between youth, an assessment of the local areas' environment and identification of core needs

Strategies for Youth offered as two distinct training programs in Lewiston and Biddeford that addressed each city's specific needs.



For example, training in Lewiston included development of "Juvenile Justice Jeopardy," a game workshop that brought police and youth together in a secure environment to develop trust. There was no other organization that offered such a comprehensive analysis and training plan to improve the capacity of Biddeford and Lewiston Police Departments in juvenile interactions.

Tree Street Youth (Lewiston)



The Tree Street Youth project serves both as a prevention and intervention program specifically focused on serving the local immigrant, refugee, asylum seeker, and African American populations in the Lewiston-Auburn area. This program has addresses DMC and creates a central contact for all police, schools, and community referrals to the circle project and also simultaneously addresses community/police relations which built good will and communication in the community.

The services provided by the Tree Street Youth project included three (3) main components. The first component consists of hiring a project coordinator who receives referrals, coordinates the process of carrying out circles, and collects data on the project's impact. Second, the project carried out ten (10) "prevention" circles and carried out chargeable offense cases given to the circle project. Third, the project held approximately eight (8) (1 per month) community/police exposure/awareness conversations and events.

The primary component of services was centered on Restorative Justice practices and legitimized "the Circle Project" in Lewiston by hiring its first ever coordinator. The Circle Project began with a small group of committed individuals motivated to bring the practices of Restorative Justice to life in the Lewiston-Auburn Juvenile Justice World. One of the significant barriers the Circle Project has faced in "taking off" beyond the significant groundwork laid was not having a streamlined process for referrals from the community at large to be fielded and received by the Circle Project itself. The central coordinator carried out all circles, ensured the right people were around the circles, and tracked data related to circles and outcomes. The second component of the project carried out ten (10) "prevention" circles (non-chargeable offenses) within the community over the course of the grant period. Conversations with RJIM had already taken place and ensured the coordinator fit into the framework that was created for all chargeable offenses as well as non-chargeable "prevention" circles. The coordinator was responsible for carrying out any chargeable offense circles as requested by RJIM.

The final component related more broadly toward building good will and communication in community between youth, community, and police. These events were held throughout the community and centered on helping all parties to see each other's experience through a different lens which built relationships and "humanized" police and community members. Many programs have emerged that demonstrated the importance and impact of education regarding the Juvenile Justice System for immigrant and refugee populations as well as generally in communities of color.

Trekkers, Inc. (Cushing, Thomaston, St. George, Owls Head, Rockland, South Thomaston)

Through JJAG support, more than 200 students from the six communities of Cushing, Owls Head, Rockland, South Thomaston, St. George and Thomaston, participated in Trekkers' expanded mentoring programs. During the 2015 program year, Trekkers recruited another expanded 7th grade class and celebrated our 21st year of providing expeditionary learning programs, mentoring services and academic support to local youth. Trekkers was successful in replicating the fifth of their six grade levels, served two cohorts of students each in the expanded 7th through 10th grades, and served expanded enrollment in the 11th grade program - College/Career Exploration.



With the assistance of more than 340 community volunteers and 100 caring mentors, who volunteered more than 10,000 hours of time to support Trekker's students throughout the year, Trekkers' preventive approach built supportive relationships and life skills through a combination of expeditionary learning, mentoring and academic tutoring for 7th-12th grade youth from all six communities of the service area.

Trekkers transitioned a pilot program to an additional peripheral program for 11th graders, called SEED (Success through Employment and Education Development) which gave fourteen (14) students an opportunity to participate in Professional Development workshops, a series of site visits to local employers, and a 40-hour paid internship at a local business/organization of their choosing. The program was well received and has been included as a natural adjunct to Trekker's 11th grade College/Career program. This combination of programs was designed to help inform each student's plans for post-secondary education, which helped them acquire real-world experience and knowledge about their career interests before embarking on (and incurring the cost of pursuing) further education.

Trekkers also continued their collaboration with the nationally recognized organization PEAR (Program in Education and Afterschool Resiliency), and utilized the results of their Holistic Student Assessment (HSA) tools to guide and design additional local "Short Treks"

programming, with targeted initiatives, components and activities which built camaraderie and resilience. These Short Treks increased students' knowledge of the local area, provided ongoing opportunities to gain additional outdoor skills, engaged students in community service and connected them with a variety of cultures here within their home state, which is one of the least diverse in the country. Results and feedback from the HSA indicated an increase in students' resiliency scores.

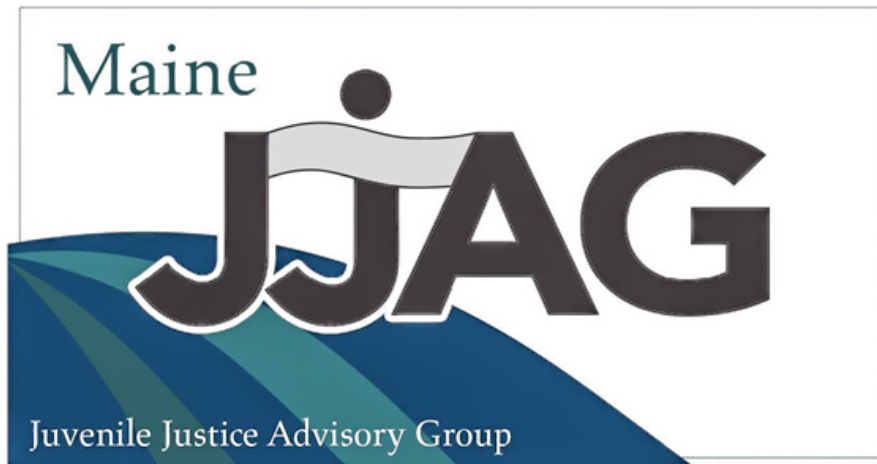
RJ Assessment (Statewide)



The Community Justice Network of Vermont (CJNVT) conducted a comprehensive review of practices, innovations, and potential for system-wide rollout of Restorative Justice Programs and Practices for youth in the state of Maine. The assessment included the following phases: Identification, Verification, Legislation, and Evaluability; Literature Review: Models, Mechanisms, and Sustainability; Recommendations to Expand and Improve RJ Services for Youth; Implementation: Work Plan. CJNVT has provided JJAG with a comprehensive report, "An Initiative to Develop a Sustainable Restorative Juvenile Justice System," that in collaboration with state and youth serving agencies will allow expansion of restorative practices throughout Maine.

RSU 23 (Old Orchard Beach, Saco)

RSU #23 implemented restorative practices in OOB High School in six (6) classrooms as well as Loranger Middle School in all grades four through eight. There was a team in each of the Saco Middle School grades six through eight plus three (3) alternative programs and Saco Transitional Program. Restorative discipline was implemented for 70% of incidents referred to administration. RSU 23 Provided seven (7) hours of training/development for fifty (50) staff to enhance their restorative practices work. RSU 23 referred eighteen (18) high-risk students to the JCRB. Information was also provided to the town of OOB and the city of Saco on Restorative Practices through informational sessions held at a local church. In addition, direct education for fifty (50) parents was provided. Three hundred-twenty (320) at-risk and two hundred ninety (290) other youth, for a total of 610 youth served.



The Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

111 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04330-0111

mainejjag.org

Jay Pennell, Juvenile Justice Specialist – Jay.H.Pennell@maine.gov

Nathan Gagnon, Compliance Monitor – Nathan.Gagnon@maine.gov

Jason Carey, JJAG Associate – Jason.Carey@maine.gov

Visit us at MaineJJAG.org or scan code below:

