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OJJDP NEWS @ a Glance

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Juvenile Justice Partners Convene in Indian Country

On July 1, 2003, more than 170 tribal leaders and community members, juvenile justice officials and practitioners, and others concerned with the well-being of tribal youth gathered for a day-long conference at the Navajo Nation Museum and Library in Window Rock, AZ, the government seat of the Navajo Nation. The conference theme was “Holding Up Both Ends of the Sky: Juvenile Justice Partners in Indian Country.” Participants included representatives from the Four Corners area (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah).

In Window Rock and across the nation, tribal communities face formidable challenges. These communities are beset by high rates of domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, alcohol abuse, and gang involvement—all of which expose youth to risk factors for delinquency. The Window Rock conference gave tribal leaders an opportunity to talk openly about these problems and to learn about federally funded programs that can help address them.

Opening Ceremony

The day’s events began with a welcome—in Navajo and English—from Gwendolyn Keedo, a member of the Navajo Nation’s Office of the Chief Prosecutor. She introduced the Klagetoh Swingers, who sang a traditional song, and members of the Navajo Code Talker Association, who led the flag ceremony and were warmly acknowledged throughout the day. The reigning Miss Navajo Nation, Shaunda Tsosie, gave the opening prayer, first in Navajo and then in English.



Navajo Code Talkers led the opening flag ceremony.

OJJDP Administrator J. Robert Flores, whose recent 8-day tour of Indian Country included visits to Tribal Youth Program sites in Arizona and Utah, welcomed attendees. Administrator Flores called on participants to share information and establish an ongoing dialogue.

(Continued on page 2)

Juvenile Justice Partners (continued from page 1)

Videoconference

After the opening ceremony, conference participants at Window Rock were joined by hundreds of individuals nationwide for the first-ever tribal videoconference held in Indian Country. Hosted by OJJDP and Eastern Kentucky University's Juvenile Justice Telecommunications Project, this 2-hour program, which was broadcast live, was viewed by groups at 108 sites in 32 states, plus more than 1,000 individuals who watched it on the Internet.

During the videoconference, Administrator Flores was joined by a panel of distinguished tribal representatives: Bill Burke, Chief of the Walla Walla Tribe; Frank Dayish, Jr., Vice President of the Navajo Nation; and Willie Noseep, Councilman of the Eastern Shoshone Tribe. Each of these representatives has made significant contributions to the lives of youth in his community.

OJJDP's Tribal Youth Program

OJJDP's Tribal Youth Program (TYP) was established by Congress in 1999 to address the rising rate of juvenile crime in tribal communities. TYP's objectives are as follows:

- Provide prevention services to reduce risk factors for delinquency.
- Provide interventions for court-involved youth.
- Improve tribal juvenile justice systems.
- Provide prevention programs that focus on alcohol and drugs.

Since FY 1999, OJJDP has awarded 145 grants to tribes throughout the United States.

For additional information, visit OJJDP's Tribal Youth Program Web page (go to www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp, click on "Programs," and select the Tribal Youth Program).



Lamont Yazzie (left) and staff from the Navajo Nation's Boys & Girls Clubs helped during the conference.

The broadcast featured video documentaries on six tribal youth programs:

- **The Hozhooji Youth Diversion Project (HYDP), Window Rock, AZ**, gives first-time offenders and their families tools, resources, and traditional sources of strength (i.e., "hozhooji" or harmony) to avoid crime and delinquency in the future.
- **The Project Free Mental Health Program, Choctaw, MS**, addresses the needs of Choctaw youth who are involved in the local juvenile justice system and who have mental health problems.
- **The Cherokee Challenge, Cherokee, NC**, provides service-learning opportunities and experiences for Cherokee youth through sessions that explore Cherokee culture and emphasize community responsibility and ownership.
- **The Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations, Spokane, WA**, helps tribal youth and their families heal from the trauma of alcohol and drug abuse.
- **The Wind River Youth Justice Project, Wind River, WY**, addresses violent crime by tribal youth through a multifaceted approach that incorporates accountability,

timely intervention, appropriate case resolution, and continuity of services.

- **The Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks, AK**, operates pilot youth courts in 14 tribal villages to address youth crime and related behaviors.

To view the videoconference "Holding Up Both Ends of the Sky" on the Web, visit www.juvenilenet.org/jjtap/sky/webview.asp. Videotapes of the conference are available for \$15 from the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse (call 800-638-8736).

Resources Panel

Following a traditional lunch served by the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Navajo Nation, conference participants reconvened for a panel session on "Juvenile Justice Issues and Resources for Indian Country." Audience members stressed the importance of incorporating American Indian languages into tribal youth programs, asked how to implement a community 4-H Club, and mentioned the need for treatment shelters for tribal women and children. Panelists suggested ways for tribal partners to apply for federal funding, access information, and marshal resources. ■

New Publications

All publications may be viewed and downloaded at OJJDP's Web site. (Visit the "Publications" page at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp for access to alphabetical and topical listings of titles, with links to content summaries and full-text files. Be sure to check the "New Releases" link for the latest news on OJJDP publishing activity.) The publications may also be ordered from the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse (JJC) at 800-638-8736, 410-792-4358 (fax), and online at puborder.ncjrs.org.

Changes to OJJDP's Juvenile Accountability Program. Highlights provisions of the new Juvenile Accountability Block Grants program.

Bulletin. June 2003. 6 pp. NCJ 200220.

Community Correlates of Rural Youth Violence. Addresses the lack of knowledge about rural youth violence by applying social disorganization theory to community correlates of youth violence in nonmetropolitan communities in Florida, Georgia, Nebraska, and South Carolina.

Bulletin. May 2003. 12 pp. NCJ 193591.

Highlights of the 2001 National Youth Gang Survey. Presents major findings from the 2001 National Youth Gang Survey, highlighting data from larger cities, suburban counties, smaller cities, and rural counties to reflect youth gang activity in the United States.

Fact Sheet. April 2003. 2 pp. FS 200301.

Juvenile Court Statistics 1998.

Profiles more than 1.7 million delinquency cases handled by the juvenile courts during 1998 and examines trends in case processing since 1989.

Report. June 2003. 115 pp. NCJ 193696.

Juveniles in Court. Provides a summary of the latest statistics available on juveniles in court.

National Report Series Bulletin. June 2003. 32 pp. NCJ 195420.

OJJDP's Tribal Youth Initiatives.

Describes OJJDP's efforts to assist tribal communities in addressing risk factors for delinquency.

Bulletin. May 2003. 8 pp. NCJ 193763.

Race as a Factor in Juvenile Arrests.

Analyzes statistics from the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System for evidence of racial bias in police arrests of juveniles for violent crimes.

Bulletin. April 2003. 8 pp. NCJ 189180.

Now Available . . .

Latest Resources From OJJDP

This new publication provides a comprehensive, easy-to-use guide to information available from OJJDP. It includes an overview of the kinds of publications and other information products OJJDP makes available, an annotated listing (arranged by topic) of all publications issued during 2001 and 2002, and a list of all titles published to date in OJJDP's special Bulletin series.

May 2003. 56 pp. BC000115.



OJJDP Streamlines Organization

OJJDP recently streamlined its organization to integrate research and other critical functions with program activities. The goal of the reorganization is to improve the agency's effectiveness and efficiency.

The reorganized OJJDP contains three program divisions—State Relations and Assistance, Child Protection, and Demonstration Programs—and an Office of Policy Development. Staff with expertise in core functional areas—research and evaluation, training and technical assistance, and information dissemination—are now integrated within these four components.

For OJJDP Administrator J. Robert Flores, the linking of research and program development is particularly important. "I have often spoken about the need to

ensure that all of our programming is research based and fully evaluated. This is not simply my view—the President, the Attorney General, the Assistant Attorney General of the Office of Justice Programs, and a broad consensus of professionals in the field have also called for such changes."

Administrator Flores emphasizes that the reorganization should not affect OJJDP's interactions with the field: "This is an internal reorganization; the field should experience very little disruption in communication and coordination with OJJDP staff."

To learn more about the reorganization, visit OJJDP's Web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp. ■

Funding Update

Be sure to check the OJJDP Web site regularly for the latest news on OJJDP funding opportunities, including grant application information, deadlines, and links to the Office of Justice Programs' online Grants Management System. (Go to www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp and click on "Grants & Funding.") To receive e-mail notification of new funding opportunities, subscribe to JUVJUST. (Go to www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp and click on "JUVJUST" in the "Get Information" box.)

Current Solicitation

OJJDP is currently accepting applications from public agencies and private organizations to assemble and convene a **Girls Study Group**, which will provide state and local policymakers and practitioners with theoretically sound, empirically grounded strategies for preventing and reducing female delinquency and addressing its consequences. One 2-year cooperative agreement will be awarded. The application deadline is September 22, 2003.

Peer Review of FY 2003 Applications

OJJDP recently completed peer reviews of funding applications for the programs described below and expects to announce awards in the coming months.

- **Drug-Free Communities Support Program.** Jointly sponsored by OJJDP and the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, this program supports efforts by community coalitions to prevent and reduce substance abuse among youth. The program solicitation for FY 2003 resulted in 582 applications. Approximately 170 grants of up to \$100,000 will be awarded for a 12-month budget period.
- **Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Program.** This program helps state and local law enforcement agencies enhance their investigative response to offenders who use the Internet, online communication systems, or other computer technologies to sexually exploit children. The total funding available for the ICAC program is \$1.5 million. OJJDP received eight applications and intends to award five cooperative agreements of up to \$300,000 for the 18-month project period.
- **Tribal Youth Program (TYP).** The TYP program supports and enhances tribal efforts to prevent and control delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system for American Indian/Alaska Native youth. The TYP solicitation for FY 2003 drew 69 applications. Applicants selected for awards will be funded for a 3-year budget and project period through cooperative agreements ranging from \$300,000 to \$500,000.
- **TYP Mental Health Project.** The purpose of this program is to provide mental health services to American Indian/Alaska Native youth who reside in tribal communities with a population of 10,000 or fewer. OJJDP received 33 applications for this

program. Applicants selected for awards will receive up to \$200,000 in funding for a 3-year budget and project period.

A detailed description of OJJDP's peer review process is available at the OJJDP Web site (access the "Grants & Funding" section as described at the top of this page and click on "About OJJDP Funding"). ■

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

News @ a Glance is OJJDP's bimonthly newsletter, bringing you up-to-date notices of agency activities, recent publications, funding opportunities, and upcoming events—with an emphasis on providing quick access to online sources for publications and other resources. Let us know what types of features would be most useful to you (e-mail askjj@ncjrs.org).

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JJDP Act of 2002: Preparing for Change

OJJDP's State Relations and Assistance Division (SRAD) recently conducted a series of four regional training conferences designed to prepare state agencies for upcoming statutory and regulatory changes in formula and block grant programs under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002. The changes will take effect October 1, 2003.

The 3-day training sessions were held in Portland, OR (July 7-9), Chicago, IL (July 21-23), Atlanta, GA (August 4-6), and Jersey City, NJ (August 18-20). Attendees included representatives from state juvenile justice, family/youth, criminal justice, and planning agencies, as well as members of state advisory groups appointed by Governors.

In addition to modifying certain requirements of the Formula Grants program and the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants (JAIBG) program, the JJDP Act of 2002 consolidates several previously independent juvenile justice programs into a single Community Prevention Block Grant Program. The Act also introduces a number of new reporting and monitoring requirements and makes several other important changes.

The purpose of the regional conferences was to ensure that state juvenile justice staff are fully informed about requirements of the JJDP Act of 2002. After providing an overview of the new Act, SRAD staff and other presenters offered participants information about:

- Developing performance measures that show the effectiveness and impact of OJJDP block grant programs.
- Changes in compliance monitoring requirements under the new Act.

- Measuring disproportionate minority *contact* in light of the Act's broadening of the DMC concept, which in the past has focused on *confinement*, to encompass all stages of the juvenile justice process.
- Provisions of the Delinquency Prevention Block Grant Program, which consolidates gang, state challenge, mentoring, and several other OJJDP programs; and the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants (JABG) program, which expands and revises the JAIBG program.
- Links between child abuse/neglect and delinquency. (The new Act requires collaboration between the child welfare and juvenile

justice systems. As part of the formula grant process, it calls on states to make child welfare records available to the juvenile courts so the courts will have in hand all available information about each child who comes to their attention.)

- Implementing promising delinquency prevention programs.
- The nuts and bolts of grants administration.
- Using OJJDP's new online grants application and reporting system.

For additional information, including the full text of the JJDP Act, visit the OJJDP Web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp. ■

Upcoming Events

This feature highlights selected OJJDP-related events. For more comprehensive information on upcoming events in the juvenile justice community, visit the OJJDP Web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp and click on "Calendar of Events."

September 2003 is the second annual **National Youth Court Month**. For additional information (including an action kit), visit www.youthcourt.net. A national training seminar on implementing youth courts, cosponsored by OJJDP and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, will take place in Nashville, TN, on September 20-22. On September 25, the Justice Television Network will air a special program on youth courts, which will be viewed in U.S. attorney's offices and law enforcement agencies throughout the country; OJJDP Administrator J. Robert Flores will be the moderator.

OJJDP and the Freedom Forum are hosting the **National Law-Related**

Education Conference in Washington, DC, on September 11-14, 2003. The theme is civic education.

"Uniting for Success: Next Steps in Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws," the national leadership conference of OJJDP's Enforcing the Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) program, will be held on September 18-20, 2003, in Atlanta, GA.

On October 19-21, 2003, the first statewide **Communities in Schools (CIS)** conference will take place in Anchorage, AK. Alaska recently established a state CIS office and five affiliate offices. The conference is being convened by the National Office of Communities in Schools, Inc., in collaboration with OJJDP. ■



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