

J D A I N e w s

Newsletter of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

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National Detention Alternatives Conference Brings JDAI Sites To New Mexico

JDAI held its all-site national conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico from December 1 through 3, 2003. It was attended by nearly 200 participants from a growing network of 16 JDAI sites.

Lt. Governor Diane D. Denish led off the conference with a commitment from Governor Bill Richardson's office to see detention reforms spread throughout the state, and to expand their reforms to training schools. Thanking the Annie E. Casey Foundation for its support and technical assistance, the Lt. Governor also praised Tom Swisstack, Director of Bernalillo County Juvenile Detention Center and Representative from New Mexico's 60th Legislative District, along with other local officials for their tireless efforts on behalf of young people. "Swisstack is truly a visionary," she stated. "

"This was one of our most successful conferences to date," stated Bart Lubow, Director of Programs for High Risk Youth at the Annie E. Casey Foundation. "We have gone broader and deeper with JDAI in the past several years, a fact that is increasingly evident in the diversity represented at

our gatherings." In his remarks, Bart urged participants to use this as an opportunity to learn, to think, to network, to connect. He noted that a majority of conference faculty is drawn from JDAI sites. "We are self-propelled. We have, as all movements must, our own momentum. What we're finding is that, because of the good work done by some of the original sites, the lessons learned over the years, and the teaching and learning community that has grown up around JDAI, replication is occurring in some sites, like Bernalillo, more quickly," said Lubow. "The JDAI network is growing into a powerful learning community where peer support and coaching is stronger than ever."



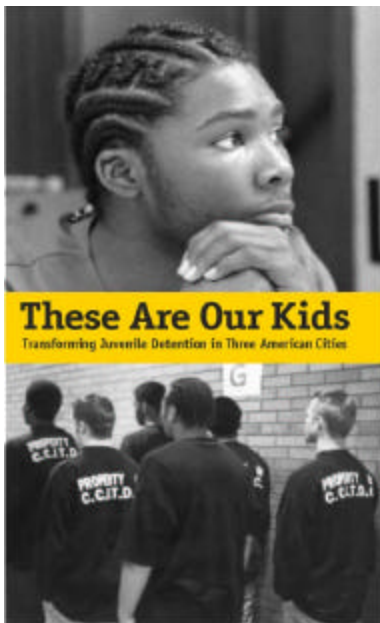
(From left to right) Rick Jensen, Multnomah County, Tom Swisstack, Bernalillo County, Eve Munson, Coalition for Juvenile Justice and Doug Mitchell, Bernalillo County, confer following one of the conference's sessions

Conference Highlights
The three-day conference, offered a wide range of juvenile justice and detention reform topics, and provided opportunities for coaching, networking and dialogue with diverse conference faculty. Workshops included: Legislating for Detention Reform; Reducing Racial Disparities: Best
(continued on page 3)

In Appreciation and Remembrance of Natalie Bimel

It is with deep sadness that I report that Natalie Bimel, director/producer of "These Are Our Kids", passed away on Sunday, February 8th. She had faced her cancer with the same fearlessness and selflessness that she brought to her work in alternatives to incarceration. In the end, however, the disease proved unconquerable, something Natalie knew all along but simply refused to surrender to.

I have known, worked with, and loved Natalie for more than 30 years. We were young sentencing advocates in the '70s at the NYC Legal Aid Society and she was a key staff person when I ran Special Defender Services for that office. She subsequently built a similar program for assigned counsel in the New York City criminal courts, addressing an inequity that had troubled us for years. Perhaps



her proudest programmatic accomplishment, however, was creating El Rio, NYC's first day treatment pro-

gram for crack addicts, a unique, multi-faceted response to the drug epidemic in NYC in the late '80s that enabled people to both avoid imprisonment and to get clean. Natalie's vision and determination were critical to that program's development and we were all in awe of what she built from the ashes of addiction.

Asking Natalie to produce and direct "These Are Our Kids" was a relatively easy decision for me because I knew she understood my point of view and my personality. On a professional level, I feel validated in that decision because of the great documentary she gave

us. On a personal level, I feel very lucky that I made that decision because it meant that Natalie and I had one last intense and enduring project together, an adventure that took us to new places intellectually and emotionally. We did not know that she was ill until a couple of days before the first public screening of the film in New York City. I am so happy that she was alive to take pride in her accomplishment and that she died knowing that it would serve as part of her legacy to justice system reform.

Many of you feel similarly fortunate for having had the opportunity to work with Natalie, either on the documentary or at other points in her

career. She loved meeting a whole new group of justice system reformers within the JDAI network and, as was her style, formed fast friendships with more people than one would have imagined.



Natalie Bimel (with Bart Lubow) beams with pride following the first public screening of "These Are Our Kids" at the Schomburg Center in New York City.

Many people have asked what they might do to honor Natalie's memory. One option is to go to www.nataliebimel.org to read about her wishes, including donations to El Rio. Additionally, I would encourage everyone to talk about Natalie whenever you show her JDAI documentary.

I am certain, however, that if Natalie were here, she would

say that we can best remember and honor her by doing what we do with a renewed sense of urgency and determination, such as that which she brought to her work and personal life. That is, she'd want us to work like hell for justice system reforms, especially for eliminating or limiting the degradation of imprisonment and the racial disparities found throughout the system. With Natalie, fighting injustice and racism was simply part of her DNA. It is only natural that her wish for us would be to make JDAI as successful as possible.

Warmly,
Bart Lubow



Conference attendees listen to Lateefah Simon, Executive Director of CYWD, during a plenary session on girls and detention.

(continued from page 1)

Practices/Developing an Agency Agenda; Detention Issues and Challenges for Native American Youth; Ways to Start the Detention Reform Process; Capturing Detention Savings and the Politics of Underutilization; Getting the Cops Invested in Detention Reform; Innovations in the Adversarial Process; and Effective Partnerships with Child-Serving Agencies, to name a few.

In addition to workshops, plenaries and keynotes, time was also set aside for stakeholders to meet with their peers from different sites; judges got to huddle with other judges, project coordinators were able to share experiences, and probation administrators had a chance to talk about priorities, challenges and strategies in the context of JDAI. Individual sessions between site delegations and technical assistance providers were scheduled throughout the conference.

Plenary Sessions

Plenary sessions covered issues including (1) reducing racial disparities in detention, (2) developing gender-specific strategies to reduce detention of girls, (3) the impact of zero tol-

erance policies in schools on detention, and (4) the quality of legal representation for juveniles. Bernardine Dohrn, Director of the Children and Family Justice Center at Northwestern University, highlighted the linked between zero tolerance policy positions in our nation's educational systems and the rising tide of detention

“The JDAI network is growing into a powerful learning community where peer support and coaching are stronger than ever.”

--Bart Lubow



Mariachi Nuevo Mexico was one of the cultural groups that performed for conference participants during an evening reception.

growth. She called for site scrutiny of these trends and policies designed to prevent “dumping” disruptive or misbehaving kids into the juvenile justice system, and strengthened partnerships between JDAI collaborative and school officials.

Boston College of Law’s Francine Sherman presented findings on gender specific issues related to use of juvenile detention. In addition to the increase in arrests for girls, data suggests that detention is being used differently for girls than it is for boys. For example, girls are disproportionately detained for status offenses, warrants and technical violations of probation. Ms. Sherman indicated that foster children, especially foster girls, are more likely to be incarcerated, citing lack of cross-system coordination, planning and tracking. She urged practitioners and leaders to document the situation of girls in local justice systems, develop strategies to promote gender equity and implement gender responsive practices. Fran’s findings and recommendations will soon be published in a new *Pathway* on girls.

Lateefah Simon, Executive Director of the Center for Young Women's

Evening Reporting Centers Open in San Francisco

During the spring of 2003, the local Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC), jointly sponsored by the Juvenile Probation Department (JPD) and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ), identified evening reporting centers (ERC) as a key gap in San Francisco's detention alternatives continuum. Planning moved ahead quickly with a decision to send a team of staff to Chicago to take a look at ERC best practice models. The peer support offered in Chicago, coupled with program tours and JDAI best practice dialogue, gave San Francisco a clear understanding of strengths, challenges, and applications of a successful program. After the San Francisco team returned, the judges and probation administrators con-

vened, agreed on implementation and use of ERC's and formed a working committee to develop the program model. The ERC began taking referrals on Wednesday, February 18, 2004.

Lessons Learned

San Francisco's ERC planning, design and implementation process produced many lessons. For example, it was particularly important to develop and keep the vision for this new option firmly within the context of detention reform. Otherwise, it became unfocused and consequently unrelated to the detention utilization issues that drove the decision to start the programs. Other lessons included:

(1) meaningful partnerships with

diverse stakeholders are critical and must be sustained throughout the program development effort; (2) the JDAI Executive Committee can provide guidance and support for these efforts that maximizes the odds that the programs will be clearly focused and broadly supported; (3) learning from those who have

already developed successful ERC's is invaluable and jurisdictions should take the time to visit sites already operating these programs; and (4) program development can be very challenging, so be prepared to persevere, to be

stubborn and even to pray.

Thanks to Garry Bieringer, SF JDAI Coordinator for material for this article. For more information email: gbieringer@sftc.org

(continued from page 3)

Development (CYWD), shared stories of young women facing hardships. She passionately described the Center's work with these women in terms of strength-based, mentorship opportunities and leadership development. The center's mission is to provide gender specific, peer based opportunities for high-risk, low- and no-income young women to build healthier lives and healthier communities. Lateefah recently received the prestigious John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation "genius" award for her work in the field. (For more details, visit the CYWD website at: www.cywd.org)

James Bell, Executive Director, W. Haywood Burns Institute was joined by Lori Brown, Peoria County DMC Coordinator, and Steven Kossman, Director of Court Services in Peoria County in a panel addressing the thorny issue of racial disparity in detention.

Jelpi Picou, from the ABA Juvenile Defender Center, and Jerrauld Jones, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice, highlighted the importance of quality representation for juveniles accused of crimes. Picou shared findings from recent ABA studies that indicated that many youth went unrepresented when facing delinquency charges. Even those with attorneys suffered for lack of effective training, high caseloads, and poor preparation.

Poignant presentations by two probation officers from Cook County, IL who were once themselves "consumers" of the Cook County detention system – Jason Smith and Hector Escalara – reminded conference participants of the importance of reform efforts and the capacity for young people to turn their lives around in a reformed detention system. These self-professed one-time gang members first entered the probation system as juvenile delinquents. In their intense-

ly personal talks, these probation officers described the challenges they faced in adolescence, their early arrests, and their probation experiences that helped them turn their lives around.

Bernalillo JDAI spurring statewide reforms

The conference also highlighted Bernalillo County's impressive JDAI results, which included: (1) the reduction of Bernalillo County's detention population by almost half over the last five years; (2) the cost savings from these population reductions being applied to community-based programs and a mental health clinic to divert mentally ill youth from detention; and (3) on July 1, 2003, revisions to New Mexico's State Children's Code went into effect promoting the tenets of juvenile detention reform statewide.

(For more on New Mexico's reforms, see *JDAI Newsletter, Volume 1, Issue 1, November 2003*)

JDAI Plays In Peoria, Illinois

The first full calendar year of implementation (2003) is now complete, and the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative story in Peoria, IL is one of success. While admissions have remained relatively unchanged (798 in 2002; and 789 in 2003), the total detention days and the average daily population in Peoria, IL, have been significantly reduced by 19 percent. The average length of stay has also significantly declined by 18 percent.

The dramatic changes in average length of stay are largely attributable to a new agreement between the Chief Judge and the Juvenile Detention Center, which provides the unique authority to the Superintendent to decide what level of detention is appropriate for youth who have been ordered to be held in custody at the detention hearing.

When a youth first comes to the doors of detention, an objective screening instrument is applied to determine if a youth should be held in detention prior to the detention hearing. At this decision-point, low-risk youth are released to parents and referred to the appropriate services. The medium and high risk youth are held and then brought before the judge within 40 hours for a detention hearing.

After the detention hearing, if a youth has been ordered held, there is still a possibility for release to an appropriate detention alternative. Another screening takes place, and if qualified, youth are released to an intensive supervision and case management-based detention alternative run by the Children's Home Association of IL. The program provides support services such as curfew and school attendance monitoring, academic support services, and trans-

portation to court hearings and appointments.

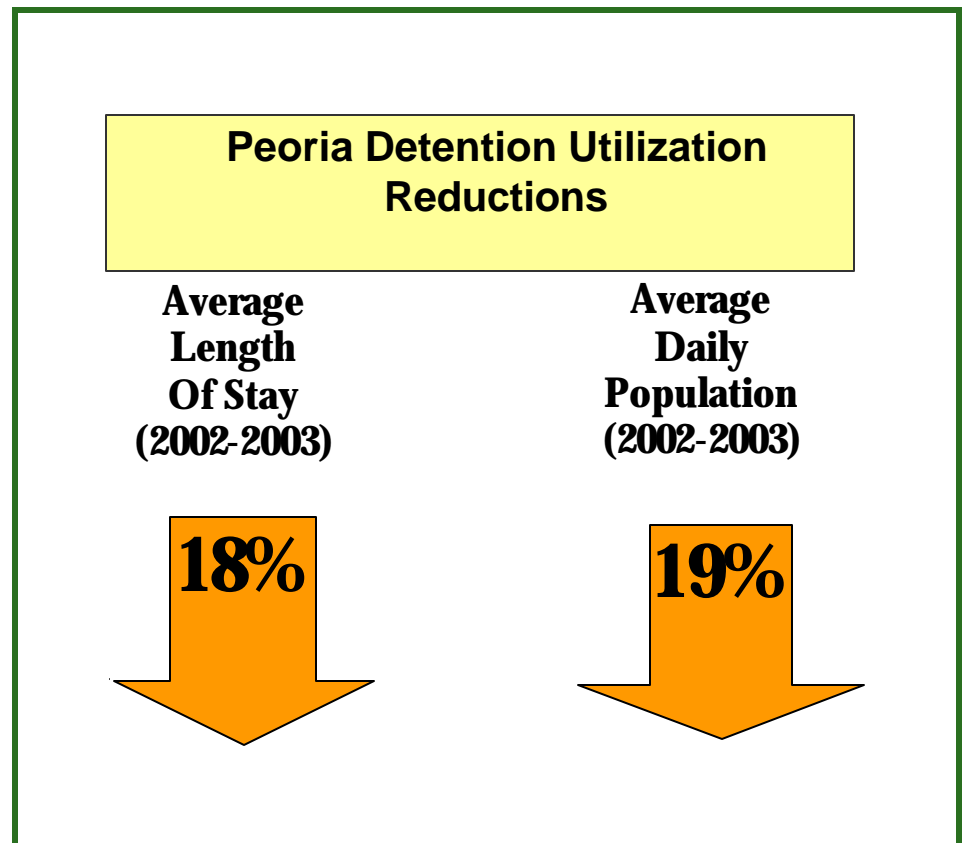
Youth qualify for this detention alternative when they meet the following eligibility criteria: (1) ordered detained at a detention hearing; (2) determined not to be candidates for removal from own home and either placed in a residential treatment facility or committed to the Department of Corrections; (3) not charged with a sex offense, weapons offense, or one wherein there was serious bodily harm to another individual(s); (4) not been previously committed to the Illinois Department of Corrections or any other state's correctional entity; (5) not charged with a drug offense other than simple possession; (6) and, whose parent or guardian agrees to their conditional release.

If either the prosecutor or judge felt that a particular youth meets the criteria but should not be considered for

release to detention alternatives, the authority also is given to continue to hold the youth. This is accomplished using the detention order and by writing 'NADA: Not Appropriate for Detention Alternatives.'

However, with a successful completion rate in the detention alternatives program of 89 percent and impressive reductions in unnecessary use of detention, stakeholders are feeling the fruits of their JDAI labors. The Tenth Judicial Circuit of Illinois Probation and Court Services looks forward to building on this success 2004.

Thanks to Steven Kossman, Director of Court Services Peoria, IL for providing material for this article. For more information email: skossman@co.peoria.il.us



Baltimore Moves Ahead

Baltimore has started implementation of a risk assessment instrument (RAI), the first such screening tool ever used in the site.

In April, 2003, as a result of presentations by Cook County and others at the JDAI regional conference in Baltimore, the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), Kenneth Montague, voiced strong support for implementation of a RAI. The Baltimore Delinquency Case Processing Committee immediately began developing a RAI under the leadership of the Judge-in-Charge of Juvenile Court, Martin Welch. The committee includes representatives of the juvenile court, Department of Juvenile Services (which operates juvenile intake, detention facilities and probation), states attorney, public defender, Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore Department of Social Services, and alternative-to-detention programs.

The RAI was field-tested during the summer, comparing decisions of the RAI to actual decisions by DJS intake staff, and the results were analyzed by researchers at the University of Maryland. The analysis led the committee to make some revisions in the RAI. The revised RAI was put into operation in January. Researchers from the University of Maryland and DJS are collecting data on application of the RAI and will begin making regular reports to the committee.

Quality control

Prior to the RAI, the only quality control over detention admissions was the general administrative oversight responsibility of intake supervisors

and, above them, the Baltimore area director of DJS. Bi-weekly reviews of RAI implementation by the Case Processing Committee are occurring. The JDAI Site Coordinator and TA Team Leader (Richard Friedman and Mark Soler) have met with the juvenile court judges and with the public defenders to explain the RAI and answer questions, so those individuals are alert to quality control issues. Judge Welch provides strong leadership for adherence to the RAI and limiting youth sent to secure detention.

Oversight of RAI implementation will be ongoing in Baltimore.

Attention will be focused on the accuracy of scoring by intake staff, the extent to which judges, follow the instrument, whether youth placed in alternatives to detention (ATDs) have been scored appropriately, and whether FTA and re-arrest rates remain stable.

Challenges and Opportunities

The first challenge that had to be overcome was the system's lack of prior history with objective screening instruments like a RAI. The prior DJS Secretary, for example, did not want to rely on such a tool, opting instead to issue general administrative orders aimed at precluding detention for certain youth.

However, the turnover of a key stakeholder produced an unexpected opportunity. Secretary Ken Montague was appointed in January, 2003, by the new governor of Maryland. The JDAI regional site meeting in April, 2003, became a critical turning point:

DJS is also using the Baltimore RAI as a model for developing a statewide admissions screening tool. The Baltimore RAI marks the first time in the state that there is a formal decision-making tool to ensure that secure detention is based on objective criteria that were agreed upon by key agencies involved in the juvenile justice system.

Montague saw, for the first time, that detention reform could work. After hearing the Cook County presentation, he literally declared that he wanted Baltimore to have a RAI "next week." Other challenges were expected. For example, there were vigorous discussions within the Case Processing Committee over the points

to be allotted to each offense. In the end, each key agency represented on the committee got one vote and decisions were made by the majority.

Another major challenge was how to handle youth taken into custody on writs and warrants. Such youth

have been automatically detained in the past. Some committee members argued that youth should be taught a lesson for failing to appear or for running from a court-ordered placement. Others took the position that the consequences for such behavior could be placement in an alternative to detention rather than secure detention. In the end, a general consensus developed that there must be some consequences for such behavior, but that need not necessarily mean lockup in a detention facility.

Which leads to the final challenge. Baltimore has had generally insufficient numbers of detention alternatives, without careful targeting of relevant populations. A RAI is only effective if there are community-based programs to use as ATDs. In the absence of those programs, the RAI can have limited impact because there is no place to send the youth who qualify for ATDs. Even now, 10 months after the JDAI site meeting last April, no

new ATD slots have opened, though some programs are scheduled to open soon (day reporting, evening reporting) or later in the year (structured shelter care). In the absence of an array of ATDs during the RAI-development process it was difficult to demonstrate to Committee members and agency staff the importance of using a RAI, since there were few places for the youth to go even if their RAI scores indicated that they should be placed in an ATD. This is particularly important for writs and warrants cases, which constitute a significant portion of the youth detained. Perhaps the most critical challenge now in Baltimore is to develop consensus and policies around ATDs that can be used for youth picked up on writs and warrants.

Technical Assistance

Jim Stegmiller, JDAI consultant from Multnomah County spent a day in Baltimore, meeting with the Case Processing Committee and representatives of individual agencies. Marsha Weissman, from the Center for Community Alternatives, spent several days in Baltimore, visiting each ATD and meeting with the Case Processing Committee and agency representatives. Marsha prepared a report on potential ATDs for Baltimore. In addition, Anne Marie Ambrose, who led the effort to develop extensive ATDs for the City of Philadelphia, met with the committee and agency representatives. David Steinhart, JDAI consultant, provided general guidance on development of RAIs. Deborah Busch, JDAI consultant from Metis Associates, assisted in developing a template for monthly reporting of RAI and detention information.

Thanks to Mark Soler, TA Team Leader for providing material for this article.

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QUICK FACTS

Each year in the United States, approximately 600,000 minor boys and girls cycle through juvenile detention facilities, after being arrested and while awaiting further legal action. (Building Blocks for Youth, 2003. National Council on Crime and Delinquency, National Juvenile Detention Association and Youth Law Center, 1998.)

On any given day, more than 27,500 boys and girls are detained nationwide, a disproportionate number of them youth of color. (National Council on Crime and Delinquency and Annie E. Casey Foundation, 1998)

Detention is not an equal opportunity program: throughout the 1980s and 1990s, as the detention population grew, four of every five newly detained youth were youth of color. (Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2002)

The majority of detained youth are not the older, violent offenders that the public assumes are under lock and key. Many detained youth are quite young. More than half are aged 15 or younger and a third are aged 14 or younger. Nearly 70 percent are not being held for violent offenses. (National Center for Juvenile Justice, 1999)

Harsh conditions and over-crowding in detention facilities lead to increased reports of suicide attempts, stress-related illnesses and psychiatric problems. (National Juvenile Detention Association and Youth Law Center, 1998)

The cost to taxpayers of operating one detention bed over a 20-year period is between \$1.25 million and \$1.5 million dollars. (National Juvenile Detention Association, 2003)

In a San Francisco study of 1,500 high-risk youth placed in an alternative to detention program, upon completion of the program, participants were 26 percent less likely to be re-arrested than similar youth released from secure detention facilities. (Center on Juvenile Crime and Criminal Justice, 1999)

OJJDP Releases New Crime Data: Juvenile Arrests Down

The number of Juvenile arrests in 2001— 2.3 million— was 4 percent below the 2000 level and 20 percent below the 1997 level

A report released by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) documents contin-

arrest rate for Violent Crime Index offenses fell 44 percent. This resulted in the lowest juvenile Violent Crime Index arrest rate since 1983.

Between 1992 and 2001, there were substantial declines in juvenile arrests for murder (62 percent), motor vehicle theft (51 percent), and burglary (40 percent) and major increases in juvenile arrests for drug-related violations (121 percent).

As with violent crime, the FBI assesses trends in the volume of property crimes by monitoring four offenses that are consistently reported by law enforcement agencies nationwide and

arrests of juvenile females generally increased more (or decreased less) than male arrests in most offense categories.

Juvenile arrests disproportionately involved minorities

The racial composition of the juvenile population in 2001 was 78 percent white, 17 percent black, 4 percent Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1 percent American Indian. Most Hispanics (an ethnic designation, not a race) were classified as white. In contrast to their representation in the population, African American youth were over represented in juvenile arrests for violent crimes, and, to a lesser extent, for property crimes.

For more information, visit: www.ncjrs.org

Decreases in Arrests for Major Categories of Violent Crimes were Significantly Greater for Juveniles than Adults 1992–2001

Most Serious Offense	Juvenile	Adult
Violent Crime Index	-21 percent	-9 percent
Murder	-62	-29
Forcible rape	-24	-29
Robbery	-32	-23
Aggravated assault	-14	-3

Data source: Crime in the United States 2001, U.S Department of Justice . Data Source Note: These findings are derived from data reported annually by local law enforcement agencies across the country to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. Based on these data, the FBI prepares its annual Crime in the United States report, which summarizes crimes known to the police and arrests made during the reporting calendar year. This information is used to characterize the extent and nature of juvenile crime that comes to the attention of the justice system.

ued decreases in juvenile crime nationally. In 2001, law enforcement agencies in the United States made an estimated 2.3 million arrests of persons under age 18, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

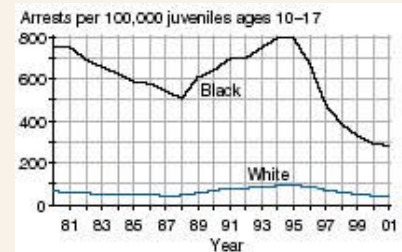
For all Violent Crime Index offenses combined, the number of juvenile arrests in 2001 was the lowest since 1988. The number of juvenile aggravated assault arrests in 2001 was lower than in any year since 1990. Between 1994 and 2001, the juvenile

are pervasive in all geographical areas of the country. These four crimes, which form the Property Crime Index, are burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Between 1994 and 2001, the juvenile Property Crime Index arrest rate dropped 41percent, to its lowest level since at least the 1960s.

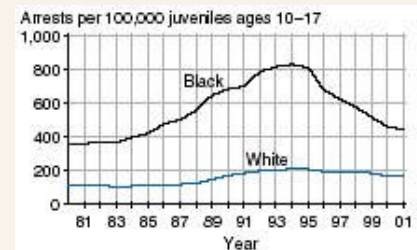
Amongst other important findings were findings on girls. In 2001, 28 percent of juvenile arrests were arrests of females. Between 1992 and 2001,

Arrest Trends for White and African American Youth 1981 - 2001

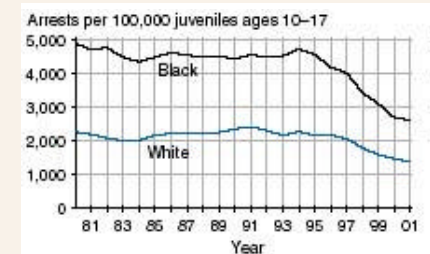
ROBBERY



AGGRAVATED ASSAULT



PROPERTY CRIME INDEX



Unlocking the Future: Detention Reform in the Juvenile Justice System

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) released its annual report to Congress, the President and the nation on January 7, 2004. *Unlocking the Future: Detention Reform in the Juvenile Justice System*, was released in an event held in Chicago to highlight positive reforms made there to reduce over-reliance on, and misuse of, secure detention. Cook County (IL) is notable because it has countered the national trend of continued over-reliance on secure detention, in the face of reduced juvenile crime.

CJJ's National Chair, John Dewese, made it clear that it is time to reverse the negative national trend that draws 600,000 youth into secure detention each year, nationwide. He noted that this number has increased 72 percent in the last decade, despite a simultaneous drop in juvenile crime. Many young people with mental health, substance abuse and family problems--most of whom are 15 years or younger, nonviolent and dispropor-

"Juvenile detention has been called 'a hidden closet' because it is where youth are sent when it's not clear what else to do with them." John DeWese, CJJ National Chair

tionately youth of color--are needlessly swept into locked facilities, the report found. As Dewese noted, detention is a useful and necessary tool of the juvenile court when used for offenders who may be dangerous to others, at high risk of committing

new crimes, or who may flee a court hearing. However this tool is widely misused.

According to CJJ, on any given day, more than 27,000 American children and teens are locked in secure detention facilities. Most of these youth will have tremendous difficulty reintegrating back into home, school and community life. In addition, Dewese made it clear that detention is costly both in financial and human terms--averaging upwards of \$36,500 per year per bed, and producing poor results, since youth who are put in secure detention versus non-secure home or community alternatives are more likely, rather than less likely, to re-offend following a stay in juvenile detention.

The CJJ report provides evidence to show that, contrary to popular belief, the majority of detained youth are not the older, violent offenders that the public assumes need to be under lock and key. Many youth who are detained awaiting a hearing, are young and nonviolent--more than half are 15 years old or younger; nearly 70 percent of detained youth are held for nonviolent offenses. Also, status offenders continue to be detained in locked facilities despite a federal mandate to prevent such detention.

CJJ's report advances systemic reforms and cites exemplary efforts--like those supported by the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (see www.aecf.org/initiatives/jdai), which has been strategically implemented in Cook County, Illinois, beginning in 1994. As Dewese noted, Cook County (along with several other jurisdictions cited in the report) has successfully decreased its detention population by nearly 40 percent since 1994, including a 33 percent drop in detention of youth of color, at no risk to the public's safety.

Report issued to the nation decries over-reliance on detention for troubled kids, and cites juvenile detention as potentially detrimental to community safety, while wasting scarce public dollars.

CJJ's report includes recommendations for system improvements, including the following:

- (1) congress should pass legislation to support policies and appropriations that turn away from over-reliance on secure detention for youth accused of minor, nonviolent offenses, probation violations and status offenses;
- (2) the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention should promote promising practices and make available to state and localities a wide array of technical assistance and training supports to facilitate detention reform;
- (3) state and local policy makers, through funding and legislation, should support the philosophy that youth should be placed in the least restrictive, appropriate environment and be removed from secure detention as quickly as possible, taking public safety into account.

For more details or to order copies of the report, visit: www.juvjustice.org. Or contact the Coalition for Juvenile Justice at: 1710 Rhode Island Avenue N. W. 10th Floor Washington, DC 20036 (202) 467-0864

The following editorial is reprinted from The Oregonian 1/13/04

Don't Spoil This Success Story

The following editorial is reprinted from the Oregonian 1/13/04

Today, Multnomah County's juvenile justice division celebrates its hard-won, and continuing, transformation. Multnomah County's juvenile justice division will unveil its own episode of Extreme Makeover today. Don't expect red carpets, limousines or celebrity sightings, but those who work with juvenile offenders in Multnomah County are nevertheless deserving of sustained applause. They have collaborated on a grueling transformation. It's chronicled in a documentary film, "These Are Our Kids: Transforming Juvenile Detention in Three American Cities," which will be shown today. But we should note: Multnomah County isn't the only big star. Two other counties share the limelight, Santa Cruz in California and Cook in Illinois.

With help from The Annie E. Casey Foundation, officials in these three counties decided nearly a decade ago to transform their treatment of juvenile offenders. What all three programs were doing wrong, for starters, was holding many kids in juvenile detention who didn't need to be there. That was bad for the kids -- and it was also a waste of public resources. Each juvenile detention bed in Multnomah County costs taxpayers roughly \$215 per day. The cost of alternative supervision programs ranges from a tenth as much to less than half as much.

To change, Multnomah County had to become more precise in its evaluation of kids. The county already collected reams of data, but not in a very usable form. That had to change. And people who worked across many disciplines -- judges, district attorneys, defense attorneys -- had to surrender some of their own authority, modify their own agendas and work together. That wasn't easy to pull off, either.

The result, however, was a more precise way of assessing the risk that a teenager poses to the community. It isn't a perfect instrument, but it did make a dramatic difference in the numbers of teenagers held in detention, without compromising public safety. Multnomah County has even enjoyed real success in bringing down the proportion of minority kids in custody.

Today, Multnomah County's juvenile justice division will be basking in its celebrity moment. Unfortunately, the celebration will be clouded by worries about what lies ahead. The defeat of Measure 30 could trigger program cuts that would undermine the juvenile justice program's success just as other counties around the country are trying to replicate it.

In truth, Multnomah County's makeover is only a start -- but a terrific one. Good work, Multnomah County. Build on this. No backsliding.

JDAI Newsmakers

"Two years ago, San Francisco attorney James Bell founded the W. Haywood Burns Institute, named after one of the country's most accomplished human



James Bell, Director of W. Haywood Burns Institute speaks at the 2002 JDAI National Training Conference

rights attorneys. The mission of the institute is to serve the needs of youth of color in the justice system by promoting racial equity and helping jurisdictions to eliminate racial disparities in, for example, detention use. In his pioneering efforts, James --who has been involved with JDAI since its inception and who was a litigator at the Youth Law Center prior to starting the Burns Institute-- was recently given a Local Hero Award by KQED-TV, San Francisco Bay area's public television station."

Local Hero Award

Excerpts from the San Francisco Chronicle 2/6/04

KQED-TV honored five Bay Area African Americans as local heroes. James Bell was honored as a local hero, receiving recognition for his work in the field of juvenile justice,

and his dedication to stemming the rising numbers of minority youth who are entering the juvenile detention system. "When it comes to issues of justice, crime and youth -- and race - people immediately go to anecdote, perception and personal feelings," says Bell, who graduated from the Hastings College of Law in 1978 and has lived in San Francisco since 1981. "It's one of the places in which policy is driven by the worst drivers, and therefore solutions are irrational and don't work."

Bell cites his "aha moment" -the time he plainly saw the need for a group like the Burns Institute - a visit to San Francisco by the Romanian equivalent of juvenile justice judges. Bell arranged for the group to see an Alameda County courtroom followed by a visit to the county's juvenile detention center. After the morning

session, Bell says, "We got into the van and one of the Romanians said, 'Now that we've seen the black court, can we see the white court?'" Bell was flabbergasted. "That was my call to say this is really out of control," and he began building a model to address it. The rest, as they say, is history.

"The Burns Institutes, which has seven staff members, is working in multiple jurisdictions throughout the country to reduce disproportionate confinement of youth of color. It's methodology, including geo-coding offense patterns and mapping community assets, brings diverse stakeholders together in a "safe" environment where data and facts can clarify problems and identify solutions."

For more information, contact: jbell@burnsinstitute.org

(Editor's notes from Bart Lubow)

Grant Winner is Beacon of Hope to Those In Trouble

Excerpts from the LATimer-Washington-Post Service
2/8/04

After quietly looking into her background as executive director of the Center for Young Women's Development, the MacArthur Foundation chose Lateefah Simon for the prestigious John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur "genius" award. The award honors authentic, creative individuals in society whose originality, strength and potential positively affect and inspire their communities. Ms. Simon was one of four African-American women who were honored with the award, and she was quoted in the February issue of *Essence* as saying, "A real genius is a woman of color who finds a way to hold her head high in a world that's oppressive."

"She's about courage. She's selfless in the way she gives. She is visionary." Supervisor Tom Ammiano has considered himself a fan since Lateefah spoke a few years ago

at City Hall during a committee hearing on troubled youth. "She's this mix of magnetism and enthusiasm and humanity," Ammiano said.



Lateefah Simon, Executive Director, Center for Young Women's Development

Aside from a dogged work ethic, her parents passed on a political bent. When a family friend died of complications from AIDS, Lateefah reacted by starting a safe sex program at school, distributing condoms out of her locker. By 17, she had traded a job as shift manager at a Taco Bell for a spot at the Center for Young Women's Development. At 19, she continued to perform so impressively at the center that she was named to the top post. During the past six years, Lateefah has helped the center grow into a \$425, 000-a-year operation with 22 full-time and part-time employees, nearly all younger than age 25..

The young women who participate include teen struggling with drug addiction, victims of abuse, kids living on the streets and others fresh from incarceration. The center provides a variety of after-school services to help

troubled young women on a path to productive adult years. Teen girls in juvenile hall are offered aid. Another arm of the center provides guidance to young women of color who are lesbians, bisexual or transgendered. Lateefah calls the center a "beacon for a lot of different things--forgiveness, hope, a lot of realism. There are no pity parties. We want them to understand they've got a powerful place in the world."

For more details, visit the CYWD website at: www.cywd.org

Upcoming Events

March 28-31, 2004, in Las Vegas, Nevada the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges will hold its 31st annual conference.

March 30, 2004, in Boston, Massachusetts, the American Civil Liberties Union will host a conference on disproportionate minority confinement featuring presentations by JDAI folks, including AECF staff, Bart Lubow and Raquel Mariscal, Joanne Fuller, Director of Multnomah County's Juvenile Justice Division, and a keynote by James Bell , Director of the Burns Institute.

May 26-28, 2004, the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association's "May Educational Conference" will include a 12-hour seminar on JDAI.

June 23-25, 2004, Idaho/Interstate JDAI Conference.

July 25-28, 2004, the American Probation & Parole Association hosts its annual conference in Orlando, Florida. The conference features four workshops on JDAI presented by JDAI model site faculty.

Since 1948, the **Annie E. Casey Foundation** (AECF) has worked to build better futures for disadvantaged children and their families in the United States. The primary mission of the Foundation is to foster public policies, human service reforms, and community supports that more effectively meet the needs of today's vulnerable children and families. For more information on JDAI, please feel free to contact the resources listed below.

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