

J D A I N e w s

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U.S. Congressional Report Finds a Crisis in Mental Health Services: Thousands of Mentally Ill Youth Warehoused in Detention Centers

According to a survey commissioned by two lawmakers, Representative Henry Waxman, D-California, and Senator Susan Collins, R-Maine, thousands of youth sit needlessly in the nation's secure juvenile detention facilities waiting for community mental health services, costing



Senator Susan M. Collins (R-Maine)

these facilities more than \$100 million each year. The survey, conducted after years of complaints by advocates for the mentally ill, included responses from more than 500 juvenile detention facility administrators from 49 states, representing three-quarters of all juvenile detention facilities. This is the first Congressional investigation to look specifically at youth with mental health issues unnecessarily incarcerated in juvenile detention centers because they are awaiting services in the community.

The results of the survey were published in July 2004 and include the following findings from a six-month period of time in 2003:

- Approximately 15,000 youth - some as young as seven - were incarcerated while waiting for mental health services.
- Two-thirds of juvenile detention facilities hold youths waiting for mental health treatment without any pending criminal charges.
- Youth are at increased risk of self-harm and violence. Two-thirds of the facilities reported that some youths awaiting community mental health services either attempted suicide or attacked others.
- Even when treatment is available, staff are often not equipped to handle these youth. Of the 347 facilities surveyed that held youth waiting for treatment, 54 percent reported that staff receives poor, very poor or no mental health training.
- These youth suffer from a range of serious mental health disorders including depression, substance abuse, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, retardation, autism, learning disorders, schizophrenia, anorexia nervosa, and post traumatic stress disorder, and there is a need for specialized training for detention staff.

An alarming trend identified in an additional study conducted by the General Accounting Office (GAO), showed that parents placed more than 12,700 children into the child welfare or juvenile justice systems in 2001 so they could receive mental health services. Of these 12,700 children, (continued on page 4)

One of the areas of special emphasis that will be featured at our upcoming inter-site conference and throughout 2005 is the quality of legal representation of detained youth. In addition to workshops, conference attendees will receive a new manual about detention advocacy just published by the National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC).

One would think that defense lawyers would be vigorous champions of JDAI and forceful advocates for changes that will reduce their clients' potential jeopardy.

Unfortunately, our experiences over the past decade tell a different story. First, representation of individual youth facing, or already admitted to detention has often been unimpressive, leaving vulner-

able children exposed to the powers of the state without the protections that only strong legal counsel can provide. These shortcomings may be due to high case-loads, inadequate training, frequent turnover, or any number of other structural or

resource problems. The problem's source however, does not alter the fact that quality legal representation can and should be one of the strongest forces to reduce inappropriate or unnecessary detention. Second, defender participation in JDAI's collaborative approach has often been less than enthusiastic. Attorneys in some JDAI sites seem to worry that participation in system reform deliberations with other stakeholders (including their traditional adversaries) will preclude aggressive representation in individual cases. There is no reason that

we've identified, however, that indicates that contributing to interagency planning and oversight conflicts with providing the strongest possible defense in individual cases.

Why has defense participation in JDAI been less than we expected? A number of factors seem critical. One of the major reasons is that public defenders--those lawyers who typically spend all day, every day, representing juveniles in the same courtrooms with the same judges and prosecutors--understand that every system has its "market rates", essentially a set of expectations regarding what will happen, given a specific set of circumstances at individual decision points in the system. We know, for example, that youth charged with particularly violent offenses are

almost always detained, just as we know that youth with long delinquency histories are going to receive harsher dispositions than peers whose behavior is less chronic. In most court systems, therefore, there is an unspoken, but hardly subtle pres-

sure to "go along to get along". Institutional defenders worry that unusually vigorous advocacy (i.e., representation that challenges these market rates) in one case will rebound against other clients in future cases. Detention reform is by definition, however, about changing these market rates.

Defenders may also be less than perfect partners in pursuit of JDAI's goals because they sometimes embrace certain "truisms" that aren't necessarily consistent with detention reform principles or strategies. Here

are several examples of these commonly accepted assumptions: *Delay works in my client's favor:* While it is sometimes true that evidence gets lost, witnesses' memories get blurred, or speedy trial requirements are not met, the reality is that this axiom is relevant to only a tiny proportion of cases. Defenders whose advocacy resists expedited case processing in futile hope of seeing a case dismissed may unnecessarily extend their clients' stays in detention. These attorneys would be well-advised to think about the larger group of cases where delay is simply unnecessary and hurts the youth they represent.

Time in detention is better than time in corrections: Lawyers often think they are doing clients a favor by keeping them in local detention centers rather than proceeding to dispositional placement. Detention centers, however, are designed physically and programmatically as short-term holding facilities. As such, they typically lack the staff and resources appropriate for long-term custody. *Clients are less at risk in detention than in the streets:* This reasoning incorrectly equates client needs with client risks (of failure to appear or re-arrest) that detention is supposed to address. Sometimes, attorneys figure that high-need kids should be detained for their own protection, or to get "services". Unfortunately, the evidence clearly indicates that stays in detention exacerbate rather than improve client problems.

We are lawyers, not social workers: This truism is technically correct, but practically flawed. Lawyers who are comfortable addressing legal matters often feel that their clients' social or developmental issues are not their responsibility. Practice, however, reveals that virtually all of the key decisions made in a formal delinquency case--from detention to plea to disposition--demand attention to these "social work" kinds of issues.

Improved defense representation can make an enormous difference to a jurisdiction's detention policies and practices

An attorney who doesn't think it's his or her job to get a responsible adult to attend a detention hearing only increases the odds that the client will, in fact, remain in custody.

Improved defense representation can make an enormous difference to a jurisdiction's detention policies and practices and to the success of youth we serve, because as the research bears out, youth who are detained are more likely to be the subjects of formal petitions, more likely to be adjudicated delinquent, and more likely to be placed out of home at disposition. That's why there will be a special emphasis on this topic in coming

months. Attorneys can present more and better information to influence court decisions. They can advocate for alternatives to detention. They can figure out how to move cases more expeditiously. They can further improve detention-related outcomes through management changes like creating supervisory systems to ensure special attention to detained cases. They can improve training opportunities. And, they can develop information systems that identify trends or individual cases requiring action.

There are ample benefits to getting detention advocacy right and to

improving this aspect of detention system practice. Helping the defense to be better advocates in detention matters will make a huge contribution toward JDAI's goals, because quality representation can and should be one of the strongest forces to reduce inappropriate or unnecessary reliance on detention.

Bart Lubow,
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The National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC)

Located in Washington, DC., NJDC was created in response to the need to build the capacity of the juvenile defense bar, to improve access to counsel and to improve the quality of representation for children in the justice system. The goals of NJDC are to advance and legitimize the practice of juvenile law and to provide a structure within which defenders can organize, think strategically, and sharpen their legal, management and political skills on an ongoing basis. There are nine Regional Defender Centers across the country managed by the American Bar Association Juvenile Justice Center in partnership with the Youth Law Center and the Juvenile Law Center. These centers offer a wide range of integrated services to juvenile defenders, including training, technical assistance, advocacy, networking, collaboration, capacity building and coordination.

Over the past several years, NJDC has published twelve state juvenile indigent defense assessments. These assessments comprehensively exam-

ine the systemic and institutional barriers that prevent lawyers from providing quality legal services to indigent youth in their state's juvenile justice system. Each report has sparked reform initiatives to improve juvenile representation in its respective area.

These assessments are important because 36 years after the U.S. Supreme Court decided *In re Gault*, which provides children with the constitutional right to counsel, there is ample evidence that children in the system do not receive equal access to justice and that this disproportionately impacts poor and minority children. The assessments have uncovered some consistent problems, including:

- 1) In many places, youth waive their right to counsel and appear in court without attorneys;
- 2) Attorneys representing youth generally receive inadequate training in juvenile issues, have insufficient support from investigators and experts, manage unreasonably high caseloads and work for low compensation;
- 3) Attorneys often meet their client moments prior to their first court appearance, allowing little time to file

motions, gather family information, forge a strong attorney-client relationship, fully explain the process to the youth or prepare for the next court appearance.

4) Juvenile defenders also lack training in detention advocacy, alternatives to detention and placement planning which would help them to prevent the overuse and abuse of detention or successfully argue for alternative placements.

The general recommendations drawn from these assessments strive to professionalize juvenile defense practice by stressing the following actions: create state oversight and investment in the juvenile defender system, increase parental involvement, collect and examine data so that the impact of changes can be measured, involve state and local bar associations and schools in the planning and implementation of changes to the juvenile justice, assist in educating the public on children's issues and ensure that state executive and legislative branches implement and empower juvenile justice oversight bodies to ensure continued improvement in the juvenile indigent defense system.

(Continued from page 1)

9,000 entered the juvenile justice system. This is just the tip of the iceberg, since 32 states-including the five states with the largest populations of children-did not provide the GAO with any data.

Legislation

The report to Congress cited "major improvements needed in community mental health services" to prevent the unnecessary, inappropriate incarceration of thousands more youth in the United States. The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, the American Correctional Association and more than 130 other organizations representing correctional officers, children and families, authored a joint letter calling on Congress to adopt specific legislation to reduce the number of children with mental or emotional disorders inappropriately warehoused in juvenile detention centers. Among the proposals was a bill introduced by Senator Susan Collins last fall - the Keeping Families Together Act, (S. 3243). The legislation would authorize \$55 million in grants to states to develop more coordinated systems of care and improve accessibility and community-based services for youth with mental disorders.

In October 2004, the Senate approved a bill (S. 1194) that would authorize \$50 million in federal funding for grants to states to support pre- and post-booking interventions, including crisis intervention teams and law enforcement training, mental health courts and other court-based approaches, re-entry and transitional programs. The bill establishes one-year planning grants and five-year implementation grants that would require states to increase their share of funding for the program in later grant years. S. 1194 will be sent to the White House, where advocates believe that President Bush will sign the bill into law.

Best Practices

The report provided some examples of best practices that sites might use to

avoid reliance on detention for youth with mental health issues. The report stresses increased inter-agency collaboration between juvenile justice agencies, law enforcement, community mental health centers and schools, and the development of joint training programs, joint program planning and development, and inter-agency policy and practice guidelines.

Additional best practices and recommendations suggested by Richard E. Redding, Ph.D., in *Barriers to Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Offenders in the Juvenile Justice System* and from *OJJDP's Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, August 2004, include:

- (1) utilization of a systematic mental health assessment based on multiple methods of evaluation, including input from multiple informants (like the parents) and reliable and valid instruments;
- (2) assessments should focus on recent symptoms in order to determine current treatment needs;
- (3) youth should be reassessed regularly when they are held in custody over an extended period of time;
- (4) pre- and post-dispositional programming in detention and in the community should be enhanced to provide specialized treatment services while youth are in crisis;
- (5) funding sources should be re-examined to help determine how to organize services;
- (6) juvenile justice personnel need more training on the mental health needs of youth;
- (7) court services should be developed to meet those needs.

Examples of effective alternatives to incarceration for youth with mental illness include the System of Care model in Santa Cruz County, CA (see *Site Updates* page 6). This model promotes inter-agency collaboration and works closely with parents and other system partners to provide services tailored to the needs of each youth, helping them to avoid crisis and to stay out of the juvenile justice system.

Another innovation comes out of New Mexico where the state Department of Children, Youth and Families organized health, justice and welfare offi-

cialists to offer their services jointly. Now, two social workers are stationed in Albuquerque police stations and two are in sheriff's stations to work with youth to avoid unnecessary detentions. Additionally as part of New Mexico's JDAI reforms, local officials negotiated with the state's managed care provider for behavioral health and the state Medicaid administrators to develop an approach that resulted in the establishment of an outpatient mental health clinic on the grounds of the detention center. This model provides needed psychiatric services to youth without confining them. Medicaid reimbursement covers much of the expense, and the managed care agency benefits because expensive out-of-home placements at disposition have been reduced. As a consequence, there are far fewer youth in detention with serious mental illnesses, there are more youth getting appropriate and timely mental health services, and the county closed the mental health unit in the detention center.

In addition, community advocacy and public relations efforts are necessary to educate juvenile justice personnel, attorneys, and community leaders about the effectiveness of locally available treatment options. Available treatments must be effectively "marketed" to communities so incarceration is not seen as the only available option.

View the survey and its findings at www.house.gov/reform.

Best practice recommendations taken from the following sources: *Barriers to Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Offenders in the Juvenile Justice System*, Richard E. Redding, Ph.D. 2000. Available online at www.ilppp.virginia.edu.

OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin, August 2004. Available online at www.ojp.usdoj.gov.

New Report Finds the U.S. Criminal Justice System is Unfair to Latinos

In mid-October, the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Latino civil rights agency in the U.S., released *Lost Opportunities: The*



Reality of Latinos in the U.S. Criminal Justice System, the first comprehensive examination of Latinos in every facet of the criminal justice system. The report, co-authored by the Center for Youth Policy Research and Michigan State University's Office of University Outreach and Engagement, conclusively documents the criminal justice system's discriminatory practices against the nation's largest and fastest growing minority population. It concludes that Hispanic defendants are imprisoned three times as often as whites, despite being the least likely of all ethnic groups to have a criminal history. While Hispanics represented 13 percent of the U.S. population in 2000, they accounted for 31 percent of those incarcerated in the criminal justice system.

The authors of *Lost Opportunities* found that the inequities Hispanics experience in the criminal justice system stem from a variety of factors, including policy initiatives (such as mandatory minimum sentencing and

the "war on drugs"); systemic discriminatory practices in law enforcement and court proceedings (such as over-criminalizing certain behaviors and in employing personnel who are often neither bilingual nor culturally competent); and damaging media portrayals that fuel negative public perceptions of Latinos in general. These factors lead to higher arrest and incarceration rates for Latinos.



Photos by Steve Liss

Other findings include:

- Discrimination during arrest, prosecution, and sentencing is common and Latinos are more likely to be incarcerated than whites charged with the same offenses.
- Latinos are disproportionately charged with nonviolent, low-level drug offenses.
- Latinos constitute the vast majority of those arrested for immigration violations.
- Community-based alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent, low-level offenders would better protect public safety, rehabilitate offenders, reduce crime, and save money.

Legislation to address the problems with the criminal justice system has gained bipartisan support in Congress through the "End Racial Profiling Act of 2004" (H.R. 3847 and S. 2132), which seeks to eliminate racial profiling within law enforcement agencies, and through the "Second Chance Act of 2004: Community Safety through Recidivism Prevention" (H.R. 4676 and S. 2789), which would reduce recidivism by ensuring that people returning from prison get the training and treatment services they need to hold jobs and become productive members of society.

J. Michael Senger, Senior Staff Attorney of CYPR and an author of the report, states, "By relying too much on prison as a one-size-fits-all solution, our country has failed to separate the low-level, nonviolent offenders who can be rehabilitated



from the hardened criminals who must be locked up. This is truly a lost opportunity for us all - for the individuals involved to become productive citizens,

for Latino communities to draw strength from of all of its members, and for our nation as a whole to benefit from the talent, labor, and taxes that these people could potentially contribute."

For more information, visit: NCLR's website at: www.nclr.org.

Santa Cruz System of Care Reduces Out-of-Home Placements and Shortens Length of Stay for Youth Awaiting Placement

As JDAI sites work to reduce reliance on detention many may find themselves struggling with the persistent tendency to replace detention with other sorts of institutional placements. These settings may include former detention beds converted to locked residential treatment programs, private institutions, state and private hospitals, and state and/or county correctional schools and institutions. The challenge of avoiding replacing one institutional setting with another is particularly acute for California JDAI sites and other jurisdictions where private "group home" operators fulfill the court's need for an out-of-home placement option. Although group homes are not locked settings, placement in a group home results in a young person's removal from their family and community. In addition, the post-dispositional use of out-of-home placements of any sort, whether locked or unlocked, typically results in significant increases in detention bed days as young people languish in juvenile detention facilities as the placement process unfolds.

JDAI Model Site, Santa Cruz County, has adopted the value that each child should have the opportunity for dispositional options that are the least restrictive. If one envisions the gateway to out-of-home placement as similar to the initial gate into the detention facility, it is possible to apply many of the JDAI policies, practices and procedures to the management of this "second door" in our nation's detention facilities - the gate into post-dispositional secure detention.

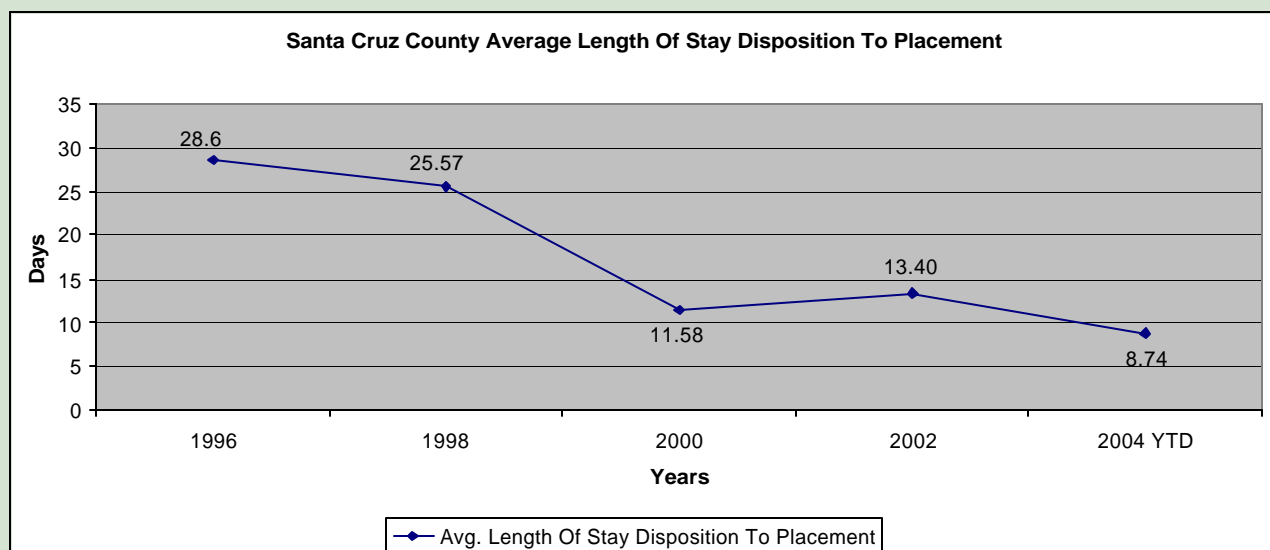
In addition to adopting the value of utilizing the least restrictive setting, Santa Cruz relies on the following principles and practices when attempting to reduce stays in secure detention for youth awaiting placement:

- 1) Adopt the JDAI value that every day in detention counts;
- 2) Measure out-of-home placement rates and compare that rate to other jurisdictions;
- 3) Track monthly detention bed days utilized by youth awaiting placement and attempt to reduce the bed days by both shortening the length of stay as well as reducing the number of youth in that category;
- 4) Expedite the placement process by setting time limit standards to complete each step in the process;
- 5) Work ahead of the court process so that referrals to providers have either

- 6) Require placement providers to comply with strict time standards for intake;
- 7) Engage parents and other concerned parties early so that important information can be gathered immediately and concerns addressed, thus preventing delays.

Results in Santa Cruz have been dramatic. In calendar year 1996, the average length of stay from disposition to placement was 26.8 days, and in 2003, it was 8.7 days - a 67.5% decrease! Santa Cruz has ensured that the overall use of detention bed days is reduced by limiting the number of youth who are removed from their homes for placement. The out-of-home placement recommendation process relies on objective criteria, and youth who are recommended for placement are managed through a multi-level screening process which requires that all less restrictive options have been exhausted. Part of the screening process may include a family conference where a plan is created for the youth. Finally, the decision to recommend out-of-home placement is based on clear policy which reflects public safety concerns, not social need factors or technical violations.

Consequently, Santa Cruz has one of the lowest per capita rates of out-of-home placement in the state of California.



In part, this outcome has been achieved through an integrated service delivery system with mental health, drug and alcohol services, and community-based partners, as well as an emphasis on developing non-residential alternatives to out-of-home placement such as day treatment and family preservation programs, known as a "System of Care." This model increases cultural responsiveness and innovation. The work in

Santa Cruz has clearly demonstrated that reliance on detention and other institutional settings can be reduced by expanding partnerships with other youth serving groups and asking them to join the effort to keep youth at home and safe.

Article by Judy Cox, Santa Cruz County Chief Probation Officer. For more info, email: prb001@co.santa-cruz.ca.us.

For more information on Systems of Care, see *Handbook of Child and Adolescent Systems of Care*, edited by Andres J. Pumariega and Nancy C. Winters; San Francisco: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2003, or visit the California Institute for Mental Health at www.cimh.org

New Mexico "Call Center" Ensures Statewide Use Of Detention Risk Assessment Instrument

Recent legislation in NM requires that a risk assessment instrument (RAI) be scored on all referrals for detention. As NM began to implement a new RAI statewide, it quickly confronted the logistical problems of how to staff these efforts 24/7 and how to ensure timely access to criminal history information. In a collaborative effort to address these challenges, Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) Cabinet Secretary Mary Dale-Bolson, Juvenile Justice Services Director Art Murphy and Bernalillo County Juvenile Detention Center Director (and State Representative) Tom Swisstack helped to successfully launch the statewide Call Center in January 2004.

The CYFD Call Center is managed through an interagency joint powers agreement and is currently housed at the Youth Diagnostic and Development Center - one central location operating twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. When a youth is referred to the center accused of a law violation, the risk assessment instrument (RAI) is applied to determine if the youth should be held in detention prior to first appearance.

The Call Center is a critical step in

New Mexico's statewide reform initiative because for the first time detention decisions are being made consistently statewide. As a result, subjectivity in the detention admissions decision has been greatly reduced, thereby ensuring that the primary focus remain the safety of the community.

Bernalillo County Juvenile Detention Center (BCJDC) is a key player that also houses a call center. While maintaining a close collaborative relationship, BCJDC serves the largest county in the state, Bernalillo, and the CYFD Call Center services the remaining thirty-two counties.

Policy and practice have been developed to maintain uniformity statewide. Juvenile Probation & Parole Officers (JPPO) are under the jurisdiction of the State of New Mexico and have sole statutory authority to place a child in detention in accordance with the detention criteria set forth by NM statute. The JPPO contacts the Call Center when a youth is referred from law enforcement. Together, the Call Center staff and the JPPO complete a RAI that will assist in determining whether the youth will be placed in detention or released.

Among many of the advantages of the Call Center is round the clock access to the department's Family Automated Client Tracking System (FACTS), which provides demographic information as well as prior system

history. Access to FACTS removes the unreliability of self-reported information. The Call Center also offers the convenience of making a toll free phone call when JPPO does not have access to a computer; usually occurring during peak times when a child becomes involved with law enforcement, generally in the evenings and on weekends.

Establishing the Call Center has helped achieve compliance with July 2003 New Mexico Children's Code changes, and also creates consistency in detention decision-making statewide. The expectation is that data will be collected, the instrument will be validated, and careful monitoring of the detention decision process and disproportionate minority contact will occur.

In the first eight months of operations, the call center has taken 2,232 calls, achieved measurable results and unprecedented collaboration to expand community-based alternatives to detention. In Bernalillo County alone, the juvenile detention center has reduced the number of youth incarcerated on any given day from 140 to 65, shortened the average stay from 33 days to nine days and cut recidivism from 46 percent to 13 percent.

Article by Patti Vowell, Detention Reform Management Analyst. For more information email: PVowell@cyfd.state.nm.us

Three New JDAI Replication Sites

The ranks of JDAI replication sites have increased by three sites since the last issue of JDAI News. Please welcome to our detention reform network Clark and Washoe counties in Nevada, and Pima County, Arizona.

Clark County is home to Las Vegas,

one of the fastest growing communities in the United States. Washoe County's main population center is Reno, home to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Between these two counties, JDAI will touch approximately 90% of the youth population in Nevada.

Tucson is Pima County's main city. One of the most exciting things about detention reform work in Pima

County is that both JDAI and the Burns Institute will be working in the site and starting simultaneously. This will be the first instance when both approaches to juvenile justice reform began at the same time in a single place. We look forward to the synergy that should result from this collaboration and for great advances in efforts to reduce racial disparities in the system.

J D A I N E W S M A K E R S

Judge John E. Dobroth Named California Judge of the Year

Ventura County Superior Court Judge, John E. Dobroth was recently named the *Wilmington Sweeney Juvenile Court Judge of the Year* by the Juvenile Court Judges of California for his creative efforts to help troubled youth.

Judge Dobroth attended the UCLA's School of Law and, in 1972, accepted a position at the Ventura County district attorney's office where he worked for 14 years. During that period, he also met his wife, a fellow prosecutor.

His supporters describe him as "focused and determined." These days, Dobroth, a father of three who still has one teenager at home, shows no signs of cutting back his efforts on behalf of children. "There are all sorts of services out there that aren't coordinated," he said. "We're not connecting them." He recognizes that much of the work of a juvenile court judge must take place outside the courtroom. Several years ago, Ventura County faced a critical situation in



Judge John E. Dobroth

which its outdated juvenile facility was seriously overcrowded, sometimes reaching 180 percent capacity. He responded by seeking consensus from probation officers, public defenders and prosecutors to safely reduce the detention population by utilizing a continuum of detention alternatives. Today the juvenile hall population is down to about half of what it was three years ago, and the juvenile crime rate has continued to decline as well. Congratulations!

Moving On...Alan Henry

JDAI has been fortunate to have the wise counsel and well-honed technical expertise of D. Alan Henry for more than a decade now. As Executive Director of the Pretrial Services Resource Center (PSRC), Alan worked with JDAI personnel beginning in 1992 to select the five initial demonstration sites, to design planning strategies, and to provide technical assistance to sites regarding case processing issues. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that Alan "wrote the

book" on case processing and juvenile detention reform-Pathway #5, *Reducing Unnecessary Delay: Innovations in Case Processing*. Under his leadership, PSRC published the early editions of JDAI News for almost five years. Most recently, Alan has served as technical assistance team leader for Delaware's replication efforts.

So it is with significant regret, but great fondness and best wishes, that we announce that Alan will be leaving the JDAI technical assistance team at the end of 2004. A combination of

work and personal changes conspired to take him from us. On the work front, PSRC's continued excellence has earned it a series of major new grant projects that simply demand too much of its boss' attention to permit continued JDAI involvement. And on the personal front, Alan will be getting married soon and moving to the west coast. We wish him the best on both accounts, but we'll hold out hope that he will return to the JDAI fold at some point in the future.

Good luck, Bud, and thanks for being a great friend and colleague.

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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