

JDAI News

Newsletter of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

March 2007

Inside:

From the Foundation 2

JDAI Site Updates 5

Washington, D.C.
Camden County, N. J.
Whatcom County, Wash.
Lummi Nation Tribal Court

JDAI in the News 7

New Jersey
Louisiana
Minnesota
Santa Cruz, Calif.
Massachusetts

JDAI Newsmakers 10

Juvenile Justice News 12

Dangers of detention
Predictions of crime wave premature

JDAI Staff

Bart Lubow, Director of Programs for High Risk Youth
Gail Mumford, Senior Associate for Juvenile Justice Reform
Julie Pope, Administrative Assistant

JDAI News Team

Editor: Heather A. Ford
Senior Consultant: Stephanie Vetter
Copy Editor: Leonard Sparks
Production: Pena Design

JDAI News is a publication of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. For information on subscribing, contact Julie Pope at jpope@aecf.org or 410-547-6600. For more information on JDAI, see back cover. To submit content or story ideas, contact Heather Ford at heather21228@msn.com.

Reformers Gather in New Orleans

The 2006 Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Inter-site Conference, the 14th annual gathering of detention reformers, was one of the largest yet.

More than 400 JDAI professionals flocked to New Orleans to discuss major accomplishments and review best prac-

The opening reception focused on the continuing needs of Louisiana. It included a silent auction to benefit detained youths in Orleans Parish and a poetry slam performed by local artist Chris Williams as a tribute. Throughout the three days, local juvenile court staff offered guided tours of the flood damage, including the devastated Lower 9th Ward.



Kathy Guidry, Program Manager, Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement; Simon G. Gonsoulin, Deputy Secretary, Louisiana Office of Youth Development; and Doreen Brasseaux, Director of Policy and Planning, Office of the Governor. (l. to r.)

tices and outcomes. It was an opportunity for colleagues from 78 jurisdictions in 20 states and the District of Columbia to connect with and learn from their JDAI peers around the country.

Although still recovering from the severe flooding caused by Hurricane Katrina, the city of New Orleans heartily welcomed the conferees, who enjoyed plenty of French Quarter music and food in their free time.

Among those in attendance were three state agency directors – Ken Montague of Maryland, Howard Beyer of New Jersey and Simon Gonsoulin of Louisiana.

Delegations from the newest JDAI sites included Louisiana, Massachusetts and Dallas, Texas. Interested representatives from Hawaii, Montana, Iowa, Florida, and Mississippi were also in attendance.

Combined, there were 41 plenary sessions and workshops, and four tracks ran throughout the conference on JDAI fundamentals, minority overrepresentation, girls and detention, and judicial leadership. JDAI has posted the presentations, PowerPoints and handouts from many of the workshops on the JDAI Help Desk website at www.jdaihelpdesk.org.

continued on page 3

The following are excerpts from the “State of the Initiative” address delivered at the national inter-site conference in New Orleans. The entire speech is available on the JDAI website at www.aecf.org/initiatives/JDAI

Some of the early challenges faced by the original JDAI demonstration sites are now reappearing, albeit in different forms. During those early years, sites’ primary motivation for pursuing detention reform was to end crowding and avoid expensive construction of new beds. We were also operating in a poisoned policy environment, trying to reduce reliance on detention in the midst of the “super-predator” hysteria. Finally, the collective complexion of kids in secure detention was getting darker and darker. Both the crowding and the demonizing of youth were intimately correlated with race.

Today, population-related pressures in most JDAI sites are not primarily about crowding. Detention reforms, reduced arrests and over-building have produced excess bed capacity. Consequently, many JDAI sites are now facing perverse pressures to lock up more kids simply because the beds are there, pressure that would not be considered at all reasonable if the kids in question were our own. Put another way, would any of the parents reading this column be sanguine about calls to use empty detention beds if it meant that their child would end up behind the gates?

The second old challenge is also rearing its head again: a growing clamor

from law enforcement and the media that youth crime is increasing. Let me be clear: Everyone who is a serious JDAI participant should be alarmed, concerned and dedicated to minimizing any increase in youth crime. We should be the people most attentive, most responsive and most responsible. But we must also be leaders in maintaining perspective in regard to statistics about increases in crime. We have had a decade of juvenile crime reduction, in some jurisdictions to their lowest levels ever. An uptick may be inevitable, simply as a return to the norm. And we need to understand these increases beyond the headlines. Consider this: Violent crime arrests for juveniles increased 1% from 2004 to 2005, an increase that is just 1/20th of the amount it would take to return to 1994 levels. We must be cautious, therefore, not to exaggerate these increases and blame kids for problems not of their making.

Why? Because any unfounded focus on increased juvenile crime is likely to target youth of color, which brings us to that third old challenge: the racial disparities in the juvenile justice system. What I fear most about recent concerns about crime is that white people will repeat our sorry response to the “super-predator” hysteria of ten years ago and the subsequent building binge that now results in pressure to confine kids of color. White people face a critical challenge to reject the privilege of passivity – the privilege of not having to confront racial inequities simply because they don’t affect you personally or daily – and be active partici-

pants in the movement to reduce racial disproportionality in the use of confinement.

So, despite the passage of 14 years and the extraordinary accomplishments of many JDAI sites, our challenges now are not so different from those we faced at the outset of this initiative. We continue to wrestle with the demons of capacity, albeit from the reverse direction. We may be about to confront another wave of exaggerated concerns about youth crime, and, frankly, both the pressures to use empty beds and the tendency to disproportionately blame kids for our public safety shortcomings remain intimately correlated with race.

All of us committed to a better juvenile justice system – one that improves both public safety and youth development outcomes – must assume responsibility to actively confront these challenges and to set the record straight. If we forsake this obligation, we can only expect these challenges to become more formidable and the progress of our detention reform movement to suffer correspondingly. We have the opportunity to head off these challenges now; that opportunity will diminish as time passes. Let us not dally in addressing them.

Bart Lubow
Director of Programs for
High-Risk Youth



Ilona Picou, Recovery Coordinator; and Judge David Bell, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court.

The event culminated in the very popular “role-alike” sessions. Networking with their peers from sites around the country, justice professionals discussed common interests and concerns. These conversations are designed to be stakeholder-specific, and groups used the opportunity to compare notes, problem-solve, establish listserves and exchange contact information.

Workshops describe unique opportunities for youths

For those hoping to expand the involvement of youths in their detention reform efforts, several innovative programs were highlighted in conference workshops.

Staff and volunteers from *The Beat Within* came to New Orleans to introduce conference-goers to the writing workshops held in Northern California juvenile detention centers.

According to Mervyn Wool, a former participant and now a full-time student at San Francisco State University, “This is what *The Beat* introduced me to: a

piece a paper and a pencil. Then I soon learned how to introduce the paper and pencil to my thoughts.”

Provided with this creative outlet, the young writers express anger and despair, describing lives overwhelmed by violence, drugs and alcohol, and absent parents. But there is also hope and exuberance in their poetry, prose and drawings.

Published in a weekly magazine distributed as part of Pacific News Service, the writings offer local juvenile corrections staff an insight into their clients’ lives. Each year *The Beat* offers paid media internships to 50 youths coming out of detention. The internships provide job training, media skills, financial support and a safe environment.

Another workshop focused on how, for the past four years, Cook County’s Juvenile Advisory Council has forged a unique partnership between juvenile justice professionals and youths who were at one time on probation. This workshop reviewed the action steps required to launch a youth council and summarized lessons learned.

The Cook County advisory council’s goal is to reexamine the entire probation experience from a youth perspective. As a result of this review, the council recommended modifying the approach taken by the juvenile court when placing youths on probation.

The youth members of the advisory council helped create and implement a new orientation-to-probation program in a game show format. As a way of introduction to probation, youths now participate in a role play – simulating the court atmosphere – in which the rules of probation and compliance issues are explained and clarified.

Then the new probationers play a Jeopardy-like game that reinforces what they have learned. To add to its knowledge of the youth perspective, the council also created an exit interview with youths who have completed probation.

Two new awards announced by foundation

The Casey Foundation created the Natalie S. Bimel Award to acknowledge outstanding contributions to juvenile detention reform by a community leader. Natalie Bimel was the director of the JDAI documentary *These Are Our Kids*, completed shortly before her death from cancer in 2002.

For three decades, Natalie was a criminal justice reformer. She established a number of highly regarded community programs that served to reduce reliance on incarceration and to assist former prisoners in making successful transitions to community life.

Rick Velasquez, executive director of Youth Outreach Services in



Rick Velasquez

Chicago, is the first recipient of the Natalie S. Bimel Award. Velasquez was honored, in part, because of his role as the leader of Cook County's detention facility self-assessment team. The team's report has become the basis for a federal court agreement and will serve as the

baseline for measuring changes in that facility in the months to come.

"For the many hours he devoted, for his deft balancing of the many tensions inherent in this task, for the leadership that propelled his team to excellence, and for the steadfastness with which he has represented its findings ... for all these reasons and more, we honor a genuine community leader who has made an extraordinary contribution to detention reform: Rick Velasquez," Raquel Mariscal said in her award presentation.

The second award, for outstanding contributions to juvenile detention reform by a community organization, was named in honor of Gloria J. Jenkins, who had a 40-year career as a community activist and was on the board of directors of the Westside Association for Community Action in Chicago, Illinois. Working with her husband, Ernie

Jenkins, Gloria helped create JDAI's first evening reporting center.

The Gloria J Jenkins Award went to the W. Haywood Burns Institute for Juvenile Justice Fairness and Equity. The Burns Institute was recognized as the country's preeminent leader in addressing racial disparity and disproportionate minority confinement.

The Burns Institute is demonstrating that through an intentional process, juvenile justice systems can improve outcomes for youths of color. The Burns Institute is also credited with engaging the community to be more involved in and accountable for the justice system's treatment of youths of color.

For more information on the 2006 JDAI Inter-Site Conference visit the JDAI Help Desk at www.jdaihelpdesk.org.



JDAI State Coordinators gather at the 2006 annual JDAI inter-site conference.

Washington, D.C. reduces detention population

Less than a year after becoming a JDAI site, Washington D.C., reduced its secure detention population by 39 percent, with the number of youth in secure detention steadily declining from 140 in April 2006 to 86 by December 2006. The current detained population has edged back up to 99 youth, representing an overall decline of 30 percent.

Leadership, collaboration and data collection were identified as the JDAI strategies most responsible for the downward trend in detention, according to Anita Josey-Herring, the presiding judge of the District of Columbia Court. “There was a commitment among stakeholders to identify and correct the points in the system that overly on detention,” she said.

Washington, D.C., examined who was being detained and why, and then zeroed in on the medium- and low-level juvenile offenders. JDAI stakeholders were proactive in taking responsibility for youth under their purview:

- The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services created a team of staff charged with reuniting youth with their families. They began by working with youth who were detained due to difficulties in locating their parents. In addition, DYRS opened two evening reporting centers designed to build capacity in the community and address public safety concerns.

- The Department of Mental Health reduced the time it takes to perform mental health evaluations.
- The Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Court Social Services, opened a day and evening drop-in center for youth under court pretrial supervision. During the day, youth meet with probation officers and access court services. In the evening, Georgetown University provides tutoring and helps kids with their homework.

For more information contact Quincy Booth of the District of Columbia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council at quincy.booth@dc.gov.

Camden County requests reduced bed space

A formal request to reduce the authorized bed capacity of a soon-to-be-opened detention center was submitted to Howard Beyer, executive director of the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission, by Camden County Administrator Ross Angilella. The request reflects the county’s sustained and dramatic reduction in average daily population, as well as the belief of local stakeholders that they have gotten a firm hold on their county’s detention use.

The new juvenile detention center is a campus-like facility with two large residence units. The county is requesting that two of the eight existing pods remain closed as they move youth into the new facility. “The new facility is much larger than is now necessary to

detain juveniles in Camden County. We believe that an effective way of addressing this excess capacity is to reduce the authorized rated capacity of the new facility from the building’s maximum of 77 youth to no more than 61 youth,” Angilella said.

Between 2003 and 2006, Camden’s average daily population decreased by 48.3 percent. In 2006, the average daily population of 49 youth was the lowest ADP since 1993. A one-day count of 29 youth in 2006 compares dramatically to the one-day high of 128 in 2003.

By targeting case processing delays for youth in secure detention, the county also saw a reduction in its average length of stay. Between 2003 and

2006, the average length of stay in detention declined from 20 to 17 days. Overall, Camden County attributes the lessened need for detention beds to the overwhelming success of JDAI in New Jersey.

For more information contact New Jersey JDAI Coordinator Lisa Macaluso at LISA.MACALUSO@njjjc.org.

Tribal Court collaborating with County Court in Whatcom County, Washington



Lummi Nation logo

Judges and court personnel from the Whatcom County Superior Court and the Lummi Nation Tribal Court have forged an agreement to reduce the over-representation of Indian youth in the local detention facility. The agreement

reflects a spirit of cooperation as it details clear and specific areas of practice and policy that will be mutually addressed.

Acknowledging that Lummi youth have not been as successful as non-Indian youth in alternative programming, the courts are going deeper to develop strategies specifically designed for Indian youth and their families. Both courts believe that improvements can be achieved if the strengths and support of the tribal community are brought to bear on behalf of these youth. For example, they hope to improve the sharing of data and case plans, and avoid duplication of services. To facilitate cultural competencies, they hope to have the Lummi Indian community more directly involved in alternative

programs, including, but not limited to, training and evaluation.

It is standard practice for the two courts to recognize and enforce each other's orders and warrants. Both Lummi Tribe and Whatcom County staff talk regularly about youth in common, and they have jointly developed protocols for placing detained Lummi youth. Representatives from both jurisdictions finalized the agreement after traveling together to the 2006 JDAI conference in New Orleans.

For more information contact Washington JDAI Coordinator Rand Young at rand_young@msn.com.

JDAI Help Desk: An overview of contents

The JDAI Help Desk is up and running at www.jdaihelpdesk.org. It can also be accessed through the JDAI website at www.aecf.org. Documents are being uploaded weekly, and new additions include material from the workshops at the 2006 JDAI Inter-site Conference. Tucked away inside the yellow folders are PowerPoint presentations and handouts used by the presenters.

The JDAI Help Desk is a good place to see concrete examples of best practices from JDAI sites. For example, in the "Data Collection and Reporting Manuals" folder, users can download a 2002 PowerPoint presentation by

Peter Quigley that provides a step-by-step approach to collecting appropriate reform-related data and then using that data to identify problem areas and track reforms.

In the sub-folder "Cultural Competencies," located in the "Reduction of Racial Disparities" folder, users can download the "Santa Cruz County Cultural Competency Master Plan," which outlines specific actions, responsible staff and timelines for 28 objectives targeted by administration policy; human resources; client and family services; and research and evaluation.

Too numerous to list, the documents in the online library are a treasure chest of information for those new to JDAI, as well as for practiced professionals.

The JDAI Help Desk is operated by the Pretrial Services Resource Center in partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

For more information visit the website at www.jdaihelpdesk.org.

Addressing juvenile crime requires more than detention

By Lucy Wieland, chief judge of the Fourth Judicial District, Hennepin County, Minnesota. This article was published originally in the Lakeshore Weekly News on January 21, 2007.

A young man I will call James first came to juvenile court when he was 5 years old. He was removed from his mother's care due to neglect.

When he was 7, I was the judge who terminated the parental rights of his mother and made him eligible for adoption. Only he never got adopted.

Over the next 10 years, he returned to juvenile court repeatedly for curfew violations, running away, truancy and juvenile petty offenses such as disorderly conduct. Now he is on probation for aggravated robbery and has been arrested for running away from his foster home.

I would like to be able to say that James is an isolated example. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Last month, I met with police officers from the Minneapolis juvenile apprehension arrest team to review the case files of some of the serious juvenile offenders the team has arrested.

It was a first for several reasons. A new information system in juvenile court now allows us to see a juvenile's entire history in a simple printout. In addition, the newly formed juvenile unit in the Minneapolis Police Department is bringing a renewed focus to identifying and apprehending serious juvenile offenders.

As we looked through the files, something jumped out at us. These kids were no strangers to our juvenile court. As we looked more closely, we realized just how well we knew them.

Three of them represented cases in which parental rights had been terminated by the court and the children had never been adopted. Another three had a history of being children in need of protection and services because they had been abused or neglected.

Following those early encounters with the judicial system, most of these kids returned to court many more times – as runaways, curfew violators and truants. There in black and white was something many of us had suspected over the years but had never seen documented with such clarity. Children who started out as “children at risk” a few years ago were now being jailed as serious juvenile offenders.

Another example is the story of Marcus (not his real name). Marcus first appeared in juvenile court at the age of 14 for a curfew violation. Over the next four years he came to court 15 more times for multiple cases of running away, curfew violations, tobacco and truancy.

At 16, he was charged with stealing a car. He was placed in a voluntary placement for being developmentally disabled. Then at 17, he was charged with a burglary. Now 19, he is in state prison as an adult. It is a scenario we see repeated far too often, with tragic results for these children and for society at large.

So what can we do about it? One part of the solution is an initiative in our juvenile court. JDAI is a nationwide program aimed at lowering crime and reducing crowding and racial disparity in juvenile detention centers.

There were 3,826 admissions to the Hennepin County juvenile detention center in 2005, of which more than 80 percent were juveniles of color. Many of these juveniles are not a risk to public safety and are being held for low-level offenses that don't justify detention.

We want to change this, because research indicates that locking up low-level juvenile offenders is actually harmful and results in a greater likelihood that they will commit more crimes. JDAI aims to eliminate the inappropriate use of secure detention, reduce racial disparity in detention and develop alternative strategies for these children.

Judge Tanya Bransford, the presiding judge of Hennepin County's juvenile court, believes the initiative is crucial, saying: “JDAI will help us to improve public safety and the lives of the youth in the juvenile system by using objective criteria to determine when youth should be detained and when they should be diverted to community resources in order to return them to law-abiding behavior.”

For more information contact Denise Mckizzie at mckizzie@mncounties.org.

Dangers of detention avoided in JDAI sites

In late 2006, local news outlets in New Jersey and Louisiana reported on the findings of the new Justice Policy Institute issue brief “Dangers of Detention.” The articles focused on how jurisdictions were avoiding negative outcomes for detained youth by implementing JDAI.

COURIERPOST ONLINE

The *Courier-Post*, a newspaper serving southern New Jersey, discussed the progress made in Camden County:

Camden in particular was chosen because of heavy overcrowding at the time. In 2004, the county's youth detention facility, designed to hold 37, was home to 90 to 100 juveniles, officials said. In the past year there have been as few as 26 juveniles held there, Camden County Administrator Ross Angilella said.

“JDAI to me means we have only people who need to be in the youth center who should be in the youth center,” Angilella said. “We need to be constantly vigilant.”

New Jersey is expanding the JDAI system with the hope it will eventually be used in all of the state's 17 youth detention centers, said Howard Beyer, executive director of the state's Juvenile Justice Commission. The JDAI program expanded to Mercer and Union counties this year. Burlington County, along with Ocean and Bergen, will begin using the JDAI system in 2007, officials said.

The Star-Ledger

Another New Jersey newspaper, *The Star-Ledger*, headlined reports finding that juvenile lockups are the worst place for kids:

The Washington, D.C.-based Justice Policy Institute found that youth held in detention centers are more likely to attempt suicide, get hooked on drugs, have trouble staying in school and earn less later in life than those released pending their court appearances.

“Detention has a profoundly negative impact on young people's mental and physical well-being,” the institute notes in the study. “Instead of reducing crime, the act of incarcerating high numbers of youth may in fact facilitate increased crime.”



The Associated Press, distributed to thousands of newspapers, emphasized the JDAI conference in New Orleans and that city's renewed commitment, following the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, to avoid the overuse of juvenile detention:

Sgt. Jeffrey Johnson, a New Orleans Police Department spokesman, said that before the storm, detention was automatic for arrested juveniles.

Now, he said, police call a detention judge who decides whether to hold the child. The following morning, the district attorney decides whether to release them or take them to a judge at noon.



The *Advocate Capitol News Bureau* of New Orleans provided more detail on the detention reform efforts as JDAI begins working in Louisiana:

After nearly a decade of work to change how juveniles who commit crimes are punished in Louisiana, the focus now has shifted to the “front end” of the system. Five Louisiana parishes, including East Baton Rouge, in September took the first tentative steps toward rehabilitating the way authorities handle children and teenagers in the state's juvenile justice system.

“JDAI's first-year effort in Louisiana will study how local systems work to determine how and why juveniles are detained initially,” Bart Lubow, director of the Casey Foundation's Program for High-Risk Youth, said.

For instance, many youngsters are detained because a judge issued a warrant. The police, who are charged with executing the warrant, often look at the process “like it's a papal order,” Lubow said. “But if you talk to judges about this, they don't think all warrants are created equally, and they're more than willing to consider a differentiated approach.”

Orleans Parish Juvenile Court Chief Judge David Bell gives the JDAI high marks. “We are building a better juvenile justice system from the wreckage of the old,” Bell said.

Links to news articles discussing local JDAI efforts can be found on the JDAI website at www.aecf.org/initiatives/jdai.

Minnesota to include JDAI in multifaceted approach

According to a November 18, 2006, article in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, Minneapolis and Hennepin County, Minnesota, have begun to change how they treat youth in trouble. Local officials began by studying juvenile justice makeovers at JDAI model sites in Portland and Chicago – jurisdictions that now lock up fewer kids by identifying which youth pose risks to society.

Examples of changes include: Hennepin County's Juvenile Detention Center began housing violent offenders apart from low-level offenders. Previously, youth were assigned to living units based

on age. Also, youth who commit petty crimes such as vandalism soon will report to case workers at youth programs instead of to probation officers, who had little time to see them. Then the Minneapolis City Council declared youth violence a public health crisis requiring an ambitious community effort to steer kids away from gangs, guns and crime. A separate Ramsey County effort is mapping existing youth programs by neighborhood, hoping to attract more kids.

As a direct result of visits to the JDAI model sites, corrections officials, police and judges from Hennepin, Ramsey

and Dakota counties hope to rethink how they deal with low-level offenders, including those picked up for missing a court appearance, who often end up in juvenile detention centers, sometimes filling them. Local corrections officials say detention is costly and unnecessary, and that home monitoring, secure shelters and community-based programs can better steer low-risk kids away from crime.

For more information contact Denise McKizzie at mckizzie@mncounties.org or Barb Karn at barb.karn@co.hennepin.mn.us.

News of the Santa Cruz success story spreads

Each year the United Way of Santa Cruz County reports on the quality of life in Santa Cruz, California, using 120 indicators, including juvenile crime. As reported by the *San Luis Obispo Tribune* and the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, the number of juveniles arrested for crimes dropped by 40.5 percent from 1996 to 2005, even as the county's juvenile population jumped by nearly 10 percent. The dip in youth crime has brought admissions to Santa Cruz Juvenile Hall down to its low-

est level in 10 years, falling 51.4 percent since 1996, according to the news articles. *Some years ago, the county began screening youngsters and offering alternatives to detention for those judged at lower risk, said Laura Garnett, the county Probation Department's juvenile division director. Establishing partnerships with community organizations also has proved effective in keeping youngsters out of trouble, Garnett said. Nane Alejandrez, executive director of Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos, a com-*

munity group aimed at keeping kids out of gangs, said more opportunities to help youth in the justice system has allowed his organization to increase its effort to reach youth. Alejandrez said collaborations with other services are an added punch in some instances. "We can sort of double team them," he said of the work they do with youth.

For more information contact Judy Cox at judy.cox@co.santa-cruz.ca.us.

JDAI welcomes Massachusetts

The *Bay State Banner*, a news outlet in Boston, Massachusetts, reported on December 14, 2006, that Massachusetts is adopting the JDAI model: *The state Department of Youth Services announced last month it would launch JDAI pilot sites in Worcester and Suffolk counties, a move that DYS Commissioner Jane Tewksbury said would lead to "better solutions" in the department's quest to protect public safety and effect positive change in the lives of young people in the system.*

Conversations about JDAI began about a year ago with all of the primary actors in the juvenile justice system.

To Tewksbury, it broke down fairly simply to two main points. "One, we could improve outcomes for kids, which would mean better public safety. And two, we could reinvest monies used for detention into more services for kids who are committed," the commissioner said.

The conversations continued for several months before DYS and the system stakeholders convened a statewide detention reform steering committee, one of two prerequisites for Casey Foundation aid in launching the effort, according to Tewksbury. Once the pilot sites in Suffolk and Worcester counties are up and running, she added, Casey will provide technical assistance.

For more information contact Amy Feeherman at (617) 727-7575.

New Superintendent in Marion County, Indianapolis

Richard L. Curry Jr., a 14-year corrections veteran, is the new superintendent of the Marion County Juvenile Detention Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. Curry, 42, said his top priority is the safety and security of youths at the 144-bed center. He was most recently assistant superintendent of the Putnamville Correctional Facility and helped implement reforms at the

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility in Madison County following staff-on-prisoner abuse allegations.

Over the past year, the Marion County center has taken steps to resolve its staff abuse allegations. Marion County Chief Probation Officer Robert Bingham, who was temporarily overseeing the center, said, “Richard’s experience and

management philosophy are essential ingredients to our ongoing reform efforts.”

Indianapolis stakeholders are about to engage in the JDAI detention facility self-inspection process. They will be trained by the Center for Children’s Law and Policy.

Local radio show features JDAI stakeholder

Valencia Roberts-Brower, senior assistant public defender in Richmond, Virginia, was recently a guest on local Richmond radio station 1415 AM. Throughout the program, speakers dispelled misconceptions about the juvenile system and challenged the station’s 900,000 listeners to remember that juvenile offenders are, above all, children who deserve compassion and understanding.

Roberts-Brower described Richmond’s involvement with JDAI and efforts to develop a continuum of detention alternatives, including the opening of an evening reporting center. She also discussed the accomplishments of other JDAI sites, particularly Cook County, Illinois, where she had recently visited.

“It was a great broadcast, and we were delighted to have someone from our JDAI sites as a participant. The Richmond team is fortunate to have someone with Ms. Roberts-Brower’s knowledge, passion and leadership,” said Beth Stinnett, Virginia state JDAI coordinator.

Longtime JDAI friend and advocate to retire



The Honorable Elizabeth Welch announced her retirement as the chief family court judge for Multnomah County, Oregon, effective

January 1, 2007. Judge Welch was a champion of JDAI, a national spokesperson and a valued member of the local JDAI team. Her leadership, vision and commitment to JDAI principles were guiding lights during the early days of reform. The county’s success in implementing detention reform and, ultimately, becoming a model site can be partially attributed to

the determination and foresight of Judge Welch.

Multnomah was one of the first JDAI sites to successfully reduce the disparate use of detention for youths of color. The likelihood that an arrested youth will be detained is now about the same for all racial and ethnic groups. “Today, we don’t need to detain youth of color unnecessarily, and this county has successfully reduced the barriers that kids of color once faced in getting treatment in their communities,” says Welch.

Multnomah developed an objective, culturally sensitive risk assessment instrument and created a seven-person

intake team to review every detention decision. “When you use an objective method to measure risks, you also eliminate bias,” Welch added.

Judge Welch practiced law for more than 20 years before becoming a family court judge in 1989. She served as a Multnomah County deputy district attorney, worked in private practice and worked for the city of Portland. She became the chief family court judge for Multnomah County in 1993.

The entire JDAI network of friends and colleagues wishes Judge Welch all the best in her retirement.

Joanne Fuller tapped to run Multnomah County Human Services

Joanne Fuller is leaving her position as director of the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice to become director of human services for Multnomah County. Fuller has been with Multnomah County for 18 years, serving the past five as director of community justice.

Under Fuller's leadership, Multnomah reduced its reliance on detention by 65 percent. Culturally sensitive community-based alternatives like shelter care, home detention and a day reporting center were brought online. In addition, the county expedited case processing, which reduced lengths of stay in detention, and implemented non-secure sanctions for probation violators.

"Joanne is recognized as a national leader of system change in juvenile reform and evidence-based practices. While I know it is hard for Joanne to leave Community Justice, she leaves many capable leaders and a talented staff to continue Community Justice's good work," said Ted Wheeler, chair of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners.

Francine Sherman's advocacy recognized



The juvenile justice work of Francine Sherman is showcased in the January 2007 issue of *The Boston College Chronicle*. Sherman, an adjunct asso-

ciate professor and the author of the Annie E. Casey publication "*Pathways to Detention Reform, Detention Reform for Girls: Challenges and Solutions*," is a tireless advocate for the rights of juveniles, especially girls, and is the founding director of the Boston College Law School Juvenile Rights Advocacy Project.

From the *Chronicle*: *For Sherman, the years spent fighting for at-risk girls have*

brought hard-won satisfaction. At the same time, Sherman has developed some disdain for what she says is an unforgiving justice system that sometimes acts based on faulty policy and, in doing so, fails to serve the young people for which it is responsible.

The full article is posted on the "Boston College Chronicle" website.



At the JDAI 2006 annual conference, Pierce County Juvenile Court Administrator Shelly Maluo thanks Stephanie Vetter, JDAI Senior Consultant, for her contributions as Pierce County worked to address the complexities and challenges of system reform.

Policy brief confirms that detention is harmful and dangerous

The many negative consequences of inappropriate detention are confirmed in an issue brief published by the Justice Policy Institute. “The Dangers of Detention: The Impact of Incarcerating Youth in Detention and Other Secure Facilities,” reviews the literature and research for the last 20 years on the efficacy of detention. This policy brief looks at the impact of detention on young people, their families and communities.

According to the issue brief, studies show that incarcerated youth have higher recidivism rates than other youth. The Wisconsin Legislature found that “placement in secure detention ... does not deter most juveniles,” and

that in the four counties they studied, 70 percent of the youth held in secure detention were arrested or returned to detention within one year of release. In a 1999 study, prior incarceration is a greater predictor for recidivism than gang membership or carrying a weapon.

Studies in Florida that controlled for the severity of young people’s offenses showed that detained youth are more likely to receive formal judicial intervention and be committed to state care than peers who committed similar offenses but were not detained.

Because most young people age out of criminal behavior on their own, some researchers question the purpose

of secure detention. Carnegie Mellon researchers have shown that incarcerating juveniles may actually interrupt and delay the normal pattern of “aging out,” since detention disrupts their natural engagement with families, school and work.

The report suggests that detention may have long-lasting ramifications on the youth’s future behavior and opportunities. In addition, detention is a proven contributing factor to ongoing delinquent behavior, worsening mental health issues and educational failure.

The issue brief is available on the Justice Policy Institute website at www.justicepolicy.org.

Experts say that predictions of a juvenile crime wave are premature

Violent crime in the United States increased slightly between 2004 and 2005. After 10 years of declining crime rates, the rise in violence produced deep concern among law enforcement, elected officials and the public about a coming wave of youth crime. Yet crime remains at a 30-year low, according to an issue brief by the Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago. “Too Soon to Tell: Deciphering Recent Trends in Youth Violence” analyzed adult and juvenile arrest rates based on the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reports. This is the first study to calculate national estimates of juvenile crime from 1975-2005.

Researchers Jeffery Butts and Howard Snyder conclude that predictions of a coming crime wave are premature at best. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, violent crime in the United States soared to levels higher than at any time since the beginning of modern-day crime statistics. Then, suddenly and dramatically, rates of violent crime began to descend, falling continuously through 2004. Although violent crime rates remain at or near their lowest point since the 1970s, any increase in crime generates concern. Some of these concerns are well-founded, but others are exaggerated. The recent changes in violent crime are small compared with the scale of shifting crime over the past 30 years.

According to the report, it is premature to predict a coming wave of serious violent crime after a one-year increase. Furthermore, it is inappropriate to describe the turnaround in violent crime as a problem of juvenile violence. Crime rates among young adults aged 18 to 24 show the same pattern as do those of juveniles, or youths under age 18.

This publication and an audio component may be downloaded at www.chapinhall.org.

Report finds case processing decisions are not racially neutral

A 2007 report by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency provides ample documentation that throughout the juvenile justice system, youth of color – especially African-American youth – receive different and harsher treatment than white youth charged with similar offenses.

“And Justice for Some: Differential Treatment of Youth of Color in the Justice System” offers the latest data available on the overrepresentation of youth of color throughout the juvenile justice system.

Despite a general decline in crime rates since the mid-1990s, and despite the fact that the overall number of youth in confinement has also declined, the problem of disproportionate minority confinement has not improved.

Processing decisions, such as the decision to make the initial arrest, the decision to hold a youth in detention pending investigation, the decision to refer a case to juvenile court, the decision to waive a case to adult court, the prosecutor’s decision to petition a case and the judicial decision and subsequent sanction, are all significant factors that lead to overrepresentation.

The NCCD report shows how processing decisions are not racially neutral. Youth of color are more likely than white youth to become involved in the system, and their overrepresentation increases at each stage of the process. The authors conclude that a nationwide effort is required to identify the causes of this differential treatment of youths of color, including improved data collection efforts.

The full report is available at the NCCD website, www.nccd-crc.org.

A global perspective on U.S. incarceration rates

According to a 2006 fact sheet by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency:

- The United States incarcerates the largest number of people in the world and the most women in the world. The United States has less than 5 percent of the world’s population but over 23 percent of the world’s incarcerated people.
- The United States incarcerates at a rate 4 to 7 times higher than other western nations – such as the United Kingdom, France, Italy and Germany – and up to 32 times higher than nations with the lowest rates, such as Nepal, Nigeria and India.
- If the rest of the world followed the United States’ lead on incarceration policies and practices, the total number of people incarcerated worldwide would increase five-fold, from 9.2 million to 47.6 million.

This publication is available to download at www.nccd-crc.org.

New poll shows public strongly favors rehabilitation

A 2007 poll by Zogby International found that the public is concerned about youth crime and strongly supports rehabilitation and treatment, not prosecution in the adult court or incarceration in adult jails or prisons.

Major findings from the survey of likely voters included:

- 9 out of 10 people polled believe that rehabilitation and treatment for incarcerated youth can help prevent future crime, and 8 out of 10 thought spending money on rehabilitative services and treatment for youth will save money in the long run.
- 7 out of 10 of those polled felt that putting young people (under age 18) in an adult correctional facility will make them more likely to commit future crime. More than two-thirds (68 percent) disagreed that incarcerating youth in adult facilities “teaches them a lesson and deters them from committing future crimes.”
- By more than a 15-to-1 margin (92 percent to 6 percent), those polled believe that the decision to transfer youth to adult court should be made on a case-by-case basis.

The survey and responses are available at www.nccd-crc.org.

Protecting youth from self-incrimination

In an attempt to identify and secure appropriate treatment for youth with mental health disorders, states and localities have begun screening and assessing youth prior to adjudication. Although the potential benefit to the child is great, there are also numerous risks involved.

The Juvenile Law Center's newly released report, "Protecting Youth from Self-Incrimination when Undergoing Screening, Assessment and Treatment within the Juvenile Justice System," reviews the potential risks and provides a comprehensive state-by-state analysis of existing legal provisions that protect youth from self-incrimination.

The Juvenile Law Center concluded that the vast majority of states do not have comprehensive protections that prevent statements made by youth from being used against them at the guilt and punishment phases of delinquency cases and criminal trials. When information is elicited from court-involved youth as part of a screening and assessment project within the juvenile justice system, that information is often not protected by the same federal and state laws that govern the confidentiality of information gathered in clinical settings.

As an example, many initiatives call for information-sharing across agencies.

Consequently, sensitive mental health and substance abuse assessment and treatment information will find its way into court or probation files that are not generally subject to the same legal strictures against re-disclosure as records held by, for example, a mental health provider or drug and alcohol treatment program. Without appropriate legal safeguards, this information can be used against youth in court to find them guilty of an offense or to enhance their punishment.

The report is available on the Juvenile Law Center website at www.JLC.org.

Campaign to stop the shackling of detained youth

At the urging of the Miami-Dade County Public Defender's Office, Florida may be poised to end its policy of shackling detained youth in court. In many courts in Florida, children detained under juvenile delinquency laws are routinely brought into court shackled, regardless of their age, their crime or the likelihood they will flee. Youth advocates argue that shackles can unnecessarily demean, alienate and terrify children.

In December 2006, then-Governor-elect Charlie Christ told the Associated

Press that he felt that kids shouldn't be shackled indiscriminately. That same month, Miami-Dade's County Commissioners passed a resolution urging the Florida Legislature to enact legislation banning the indiscriminate use of chains and shackles on detained children in Florida courtrooms. Individual Florida judges have issued rulings to halt the practice.

These actions by officials came after a year-long public campaign by the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office

to end the shackling of children. Public defenders drafted a motion requesting that their clients be allowed to appear before the court free from degrading and unlawful restraints. As a result, the Florida media has intensified its coverage of this issue.

The legal motions, news articles, photographs and Florida juvenile justice policies can be found at the Miami-Dade Public Defender's website at www.pdmiami.com/unchainthechildren.

OJJDP guidelines for juvenile information sharing

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention published "Guidelines for Juvenile Information Sharing" (NCJ 215786). This online report outlines a course of action for

states and local jurisdictions involved in efforts to improve information-sharing among key agencies that work with at-risk youth and juvenile offenders.

The report is available on the OJJDP website at <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications>.

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.

Santa Cruz County, Calif.

Judith Cox, Chief Probation Officer
Laura Garnette, Juvenile
Division Director
Santa Cruz Probation Department
P.O. Box 1812
3650 Graham Hill Road
Santa Cruz, CA 95061
(831) 454-3800
judy.cox@co.santa-cruz.ca.us

Cook County, Ill.

Michael J. Rohan, Director
Juvenile Probation and Court Services
1100 S. Hamilton Avenue
Chicago, IL 60612
(312) 433-6575
mrohan@cookcountygov.com

Multnomah County, Ore.

Rick Jensen, Detention
Reform Coordinator
Jim Stegmiller, JDAI Consultant
Multnomah County Department of
Community Justice
1404 N.E. 68th Avenue
Portland, OR 97213
(503) 988-5698
rick.k.jensen@co.multnomah.or.us

Bernalillo County, N.M.

Doug E. Mitchell
JDAI Coordinator
Bernalillo County Juvenile
Detention Center
5100 Second St. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107
(505) 761-6600 ext: 24
demitchell@bernco.gov

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Bart Lubow, Director of Programs
for High-Risk Youth
Gail Mumford, Senior Associate
701 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
(410) 547-6600
www.aecf.org