

# Utah Board of Juvenile Justice

# ANNUAL REPORT

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## PRIORITY PROGRAM AREAS PROGRESS REPORT

The Utah Board of Juvenile Justice (UBJJ) serves as the federally designated State Advisory Group under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) of 2002. Under the Act, the Board must prepare a comprehensive plan advancing the goals of the Act in Utah, leveraging both federal and state resources.

After careful review of statewide data, the Board established funding priorities and provided grants to address identified issues. Under this plan, the Board provided funding for seventeen different projects last year. Thirteen of those projects provided direct services to children. The others focused on system improvements (e.g. JJDPA compliance monitoring, developing a female risk assessment, and project evaluation). Seven projects qualified for in-depth risk/protective factors assessment conducted by the University of Utah Criminal Justice Center (CJC). What follows is a summary report of progress made within the priority areas identified by the Board. This report is based on data gathered by the CJC and performance measures data from quarterly reporting.

### General Overview

In most cases, UBJJ funded programs target youth who are at greater risk and have less protection than their peers for delinquent behavior. The seven projects evaluated served 313 youth: 36% male, 63% female. This is the second consecutive year that the percentage of female participants has increased by six percent. Sixty-six percent of the youth served were youth of color. This is the second year the number of minorities entering UBJJ funded programs has decreased, although current rates continue to be much higher than those of the general population of youth in Utah.

All Programs target youth who are more at risk and less protected than Utah youth in general. The most common antisocial behaviors are suspension from school and attacking someone to seriously harm them. The most common risk factors are a low commitment to school and academic failure.

Findings indicate that UBJJ funded programs are successfully targeting youth with these problems. The rate of youth completing programs has risen from 52% in 2004 to 60%.

Nineteen percent of program targets showed positive changes. This means a risk factor targeted by the program was significantly reduced (or protective factor significantly increased) by program end. Ninety-eight percent of program targets showed either positive changes or no change. Although a target that shows no change is not ideal, taken within a developmental context, it suggests a moderately positive outcome. Most risk factors increase and protective factors decrease as a youth matures. Significantly delaying this increase is therefore helpful. Commonly, risk factors that are not targeted by a program will show significant negative results due to the increase that occurs with increasing age. Across all programs, only one factor in a single program showed negative change.

### Priority Areas

#### 1. Substance Abuse Prevention

Many of the programs funded show an ability to prevent the use of drugs and alcohol by minors. However, the Board funded two projects specifically designed to prevent substance abuse by youth. These projects served 75 youth, all of which completed program requirements. Families completing program requirements report 100% satisfaction.

Family and Youth Connections provides SAMSHA approved prevention curriculum to children of parents recovering from drug or alcohol abuse.

Grandfamilies provides support to children in kinship placement and their guardians. This grant funds the expansion of the program to Tooele. The majority of

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parents of the children involved in this project have substance abuse issues. Grandfamilies staff provided clients with approximately 60 hours of additional outreach and advocacy services in addition to the support received through attending regular Grandfamilies groups. None of the children receiving services reported engaging in drug or alcohol use.

The Board also supported the Central Utah Substance Abuse Conference held in Richfield where more than 500 youth participated in drug abuse prevention workshops.

**2. Delinquency Prevention**

Both Title V and Title II grants fund programs targeting delinquency prevention. Three programs were funded under this program area. They all represent expansion of after-school programming. These projects served 816 youth. In the two Title II projects 78% of the participants completed program requirements. They also participated in 1,473 service hours during the reporting period. Ninety-six percent of the youth and 100% of the parents were very satisfied with the projects.

**3. Disproportionate Minority Contact**

UBJJ supported four programs aimed at improving competencies of minority offenders. Ocho Pasos provides prevention and intervention services to Hispanic, gang affiliated youth. The Dream Team serves female youth in Ogden who live in low income, high crime neighborhoods. These girls are at high risk on most factors. Child and Family Empowerment provides culturally sensitive intervention services to Pacific Islander young women designed to increase self-esteem and attachment to their cultural community while reducing propensity for delinquency. (These last two projects are also classified as gender specific programming.) These three projects served 181 youth. Only 11% of those participating in these programs reported a new offense.

The fourth program involves the hiring of a Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Coordinator to ensure Utah's compliance with the DMC Core Requirement of the JJDP. The Coordinator also staffs the DMC Subcommittee of UBJJ. The Subcommittee has been very active over the past year. Accomplishments include:

- Collaboratively working with Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) to develop and implement three minority youth scenarios as a part of new cadets training curriculum. This work raises awareness of cultural

diversity and how to effectively deal with the diverse community when on duty.

- Identifying trends and areas of disparity at contact points in Utah's juvenile justice system. This data was used to develop a three-year strategic plan aimed at systematically reducing disparity through collaborative efforts with agencies throughout the State.

**4. Gender Specific Services for Girls - Priority for Minority Girls**

Four projects are supported by UBJJ in this area. Three of the four projects provide direct services to girls either at risk of entering the juvenile justice system or who are already on probation. Child and Family Empowerment Services and the Dream Team were mentioned previously. Discovering Possibilities, sponsored by Salt Lake County Youth Services, provides services for female youth referred by the Juvenile Court and related agencies. The program serves females from 13 to 17 years of age. These three projects served 136 girls with 76% completing program requirements. Participating girls reported significant improvement in self-esteem, body image, family relationships and perception of social support with a reoffense rate of only 3%.

Another project developed a risk assessment tool for girls entering the juvenile justice system to improve the ability of the juvenile justice system to provide services better suited for girls.

**5. Improve Mental Health Services**

Due to cuts in the federal grant program, only one award was made for the Coordination of Care Court in Third District Juvenile Court. This project provided therapeutic services for 15 youth. Seventy-three percent of the participating youth showed a reduction in antisocial behavior while 87% showed improved family relationships.

**State Gang Mini-Grant**

Four projects were funded serving 941 youth across the Wasatch Front. Two were prevention projects while the rest were early intervention. The forty-one participants in the YouthWorks project attended 471 hours of instruction and report that they all have refused gang involvement. Big Brothers Big Sisters reported that 92% of participants were doing the same or better at improving competencies of coping and communication. Ninety percent were doing the same or better in their academic performance. Boys & Girls Clubs of Weber-Davis reported enrolling 827

students in their mentoring programs. Participating youth came from communities identified as having high risk and low protective factors.

<b>FY08 Grants</b>	
<b>Title II First &amp; Second Year Projects \$0</b>	
Due to cuts in the federal grant program, no new grants were awarded last year and there were no second year projects.	
<b>Title II Third Year Projects \$160,250</b>	
Salt Lake Co.	\$29,000 - <i>Polynesian Young Women's Life Skills Group</i> Child & Family Empowerment
Tooele Co.	\$30,000 - <i>Grandfamilies</i> Children's Service Society
Salt Lake Co.	\$27,500 - <i>Discovering Possibilities</i> Salt Lake County Youth Services
Weber Co.	\$56,250 - <i>The Dream Team</i> Colors of Success
Statewide	\$17,500 - <i>Protective/Risk Assessment Enhancement for Females</i> Juvenile Justice Services
<b>Title II Fourth Year Projects \$80,793</b>	
Salt Lake Co.	\$20,125 - <i>Family &amp; Youth Connections</i> , Colors of Success
Salt Lake Co.	\$8,250 - <i>Ocho Pasos</i> Poder Para La Familia Hispana
Box Elder Co.	\$24,418 - <i>Youth &amp; Families</i> Technology Literacy Boys & Girls Clubs of Brigham City
Summit Co.	\$28,000 - <i>South Summit</i> Mentoring & Tutoring, South Summit Healthy Community Coalition
<b>Title II On-Going Projects \$154,480</b>	
Statewide	\$84,300 - <i>JJDP Act</i> Compliance Monitoring, Juvenile Justice Services
Statewide	\$19,500 - <i>Juvenile Jail</i> Removal, Juvenile Justice Services
Statewide	\$50,680 - <i>Outcome</i> Evaluation Survey, U of U Criminal Justice Center
<b>Title V Delinquency Prevention \$56,250</b>	
Salt Lake Co.	\$53,438 - <i>Granite Park</i> Youth Development, South Salt Lake City
<b>State Gang Mini Grants \$80,000</b>	
Salt Lake Co.	\$20,000 - <i>Education First</i> Juvenile Justice Services
Salt Lake Co.	\$20,000 - <i>Youth Works</i> Camp Anytown NeighborWorks, Salt Lake City
Weber Co.	\$20,000 - <i>Teens Mentoring</i> Youth Boys & Girls clubs of Weber-Davis
Wasatch Co.	\$20,000 - <i>Rural Mentoring</i>
Weber Co.	Big Brothers Big Sisters of
Washington	Utah