



# Utah Board of Juvenile Justice

# 2009

# 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), 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 as required by the JJDPA. Under this plan, the Board provided funding for nineteen different projects last year. Fourteen of those projects provided direct services to children. The others focused on system improvements (e.g. JJDPA compliance monitoring, project evaluation and training support). 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.

### Outcome Evaluation Model

The goal of the UBJJ Outcome Evaluation Project is to assess and improve outcomes for at-risk and delinquent youth participating in UBJJ funded programs. This monitoring system also assists in establishing accountability for the expenditure of public funds. The project is guided by the Risk and Protective Factor Model which identifies factors that put youth at risk for or protect from the problem behaviors of substance abuse, delinquency, violence, teen pregnancy and school dropout.

First year programs administer the risk and protective factors survey to youth only once, as they enter the program to

ensure youth fit the program model. In subsequent years the survey is given as a pre and post test to measure program effectiveness.

Next, the degree to which the programs follow empirically supported principles is assessed using a tool consisting of research based guidelines. This entails on-site observations and detailed interviews with staff members.

Seventeen 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. One hundred 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 as the child increases age.

Grant projects funded by UBJJ served 2,568 youth throughout the State. The rate of youth completing programs remains stable at 61%.

### New Community Assessment Tool

The Risk and Protective Factors Information Tool (RAPIT), developed at the University of Utah Criminal Justice Center, provides comprehensive information on the well-being of youth in Utah. The tool uses more than 20 data sources to provide current information on alcohol and drug use, antisocial behavior and risk/protective factors related to these behaviors. Data can be searched based on geographic region, numerous demographics, and individual risk and protective factors.

The tool was designed for use at both the State and local level to assist in

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prioritizing community needs and program planning. The tool can be accessed at: [www.juvenile.utah.gov](http://www.juvenile.utah.gov).

**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 three projects specifically designed to prevent substance abuse by youth. They are located in Tooele, Green River and South Salt Lake City. These projects served 156 youth, with a completion rate of 57%. Families completing program requirements report 100% satisfaction.

**2. Delinquency Prevention**

Both Title V and Title II grants fund programs targeting delinquency prevention. Two programs were funded in this program area. Both projects provide prevention and early intervention youth services in rural areas of the State. These projects served 703 youth with an 82% completion rate. They also completed 1,012 service hours during the reporting period.

**3. Disproportionate Minority Contact**

UBJJ supported four programs aimed at improving competencies of minority offenders. Two programs target minority girls in the Salt Lake and Ogden areas who are living in low income, high crime neighborhoods. These girls are at high risk on most factors. (These last two projects are also classified as gender specific programming.) A third project provides parenting classes and life skills to Hispanic youth in Summit County with 1 or 2 offences. These three projects served 80 youth. Only 9% of participating youth in these programs reported a new offense.

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

- Continued collaborative work with Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) to raise awareness of cultural diversity and teach how to effectively deal with diverse communities when on duty. The Subcommittee is currently partnering with the University of Utah's Center for Public Policy and Administration to assess, develop and implement an integrated community relations training curriculum for new cadets.
- Worked to increase the utilization of court diversion programs for Hispanic

youth in Utah County and Weber County. Partnerships have been developed in each county to address the issues. Continued collaborative efforts are underway to further assess the diversion program and identify contributing factors to DMC.

- Identified trends and areas of disparity at contact points in Utah's juvenile justices system. This data was presented to local law enforcement, local government officials, and juvenile court judges and staff to increase awareness of existing DMC issues and develop collaborative relationships.

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

Two projects are supported by UBJJ in this area. They provide direct services to girls either at risk to enter the juvenile justice system or who are already on probation. These two projects served 45 girls with 51% 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 9%.

**5. Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment**

A single project funded under this program area has served 20 youth to date in the Salt Lake area. These are NOJOS (Network on Juveniles Offending Sexually) Level 1 and Level 2 offenders. None have reoffended and only one has been charged with a formal probation violation. They completed 218 service hours. One hundred percent reported improved self esteem and coping skills.

**State Gang Mini-Grant**

Four projects were funded serving 1,260 youth across the Wasatch Front. Two were prevention projects while the rest were early intervention. The forty-five participants in the YouthWorks project attended 39 workshops and 18 community service or diversity events. Only three were documented as gang-involved. Big Brothers Big Sisters reported that 53% of participants were doing the same or better at improving competencies of coping and communication. Seventy-one percent were doing the same or better in their academic performance. Boys & Girls Clubs of Weber-Davis reported enrolling 1,127 students in their mentoring programs. Participating youth came from communities identified as having high risk and low protective factors. The Girls with a Voice program reported serving 67 young women who attended a 12 week life skills group. None of them received new charges while participating in the program.

**FY09 Grants**

<b>Title II First Year Project \$319,088</b>	
Salt Lake Co.	\$50,000 – <i>South Salt Lake Substance Abuse Prevention City of South Salt Lake</i>
Salt Lake Co.	\$76,000 – <i>Choices Sex Offender Treatment Program Center for Family Development</i>
Summit Co.	\$58,322 – <i>Connections Colors of Success</i>
Emery Co.	\$45,918 – <i>PRI for Kids Green River Community Center</i>
Uintah Co.	\$88,848 – <i>Uintah Basin Youth Services Utah Division of Juvenile Justice Services</i>
<b>Title II Second and Third Year Projects \$0</b>	
Due to cuts in the federal grant program, no grants were awarded these years.	
<b>Title II Fourth Year Projects \$77,500</b>	
Salt Lake Co.	\$20,000 - <i>Polynesian Young Women's Life Skills Group Amanaki Inc.</i>
Tooele Co.	\$20,000 – <i>Grandfamilies Children's Service Society</i>
Weber Co.	\$37,500 – <i>The Dream Team Colors of Success</i>
<b>Title II On-Going Projects \$163,645</b>	
Statewide	\$91,945 – <i>JJDP Act Compliance Monitoring, Juvenile Justice Services</i>
Statewide	\$21,200 – <i>Juvenile Jail Removal, Juvenile Justice Services</i>
Statewide	\$50,500 – <i>Outcome Evaluation Survey, U of U Criminal Justice Center</i>
<b>Title V Delinquency Prevention \$71,488</b>	
Tooele Co.	\$71,488 – <i>Tooele Youth Services, Tooele County Commission</i>
<b>State Gang Mini Grants \$80,000</b>	
Salt Lake Co.	\$20,000 – <i>Girls with a Voice Colors of Success</i>
Salt Lake Co.	\$20,000 – <i>Youth Works Camp Anytown NeighborWorks, Salt Lake City</i>
Weber Co.	\$20,000 – <i>Teens Mentoring Youth Boys &amp; Girls clubs of Weber-Davis</i>
Wasatch Co.	\$20,000 – <i>Rural Mentoring</i>
Weber Co	Big Brothers Sisters of Utah
Washington	
<b>Title II Short-Term Projects \$13,797</b>	
Salt Lake Co.	\$8,797 – <i>Kearns Area Project SL Co. Youth Services</i>
Weber Co.	\$3,000 – <i>Northern Utah Gang Conference Ogden City Police Department</i>
Statewide	\$2,000 – <i>Troubled Youth Conference SL Co. Youth Services</i>