



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), 2002. Under the Act, the Board must prepare a comprehensive plan for Utah's compliance with the core requirements of the Act, thus making Utah eligible for federal grants.

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. Thirteen of those projects provided direct services to children. The others focused on system improvements (e.g. JJDPA compliance monitoring, project evaluation and training support). Four projects qualified for in-depth risk/protective factors assessment conducted by the University of Utah Criminal Justice Center (UCJC). A summary report of progress made within the priority areas identified by the Board follows. This report is based on data gathered by the UCJC and performance measures data from quarterly reporting.

Outcome Evaluation Model

In 2009, UBJJ implemented a new evaluation process called the UBJJ Program Evaluation and Improvement Project. This process evolved out of the UBJJ Outcome Evaluation Study which has evaluated the outcome of UBJJ funded programs since 2002. The new evaluation process is designed to rapidly move UBJJ funded programs from the startup phase to a level of maturity where a program's effectiveness can be empirically tested. Implementing and maintaining an effective, evidenced based program is a difficult process that can take many years. For example, even when an existing curriculum is used, adapting this intervention to the local setting, ensuring

the intervention is delivered in an effective manner, and maintaining trained, quality staff, is a considerable task for the best administrator. UBJJ funds only new programs and only for three or four years. Most of these programs are small and many are rural. These characteristics make the task of taking a program from the startup phase to maturity formidable. In order to increase the number of programs that successfully navigate the process, the new evaluation structure focuses on providing extensive guidance to funded programs on how to implement factors which characterize effective, evidenced based programs. This guidance is tailored to each program in terms of the program targets, type of youth, curriculum, setting, and size. The overall objective of the evaluation is to increase the number of effective programs. This is important not only because the youth and their families deserve such, but also because these programs receive public funding and therefore UBJJ needs to know that the money is well spent.

The evaluation is conducted by the Utah Criminal Justice Center at the University of Utah. Besides the guidance noted above, two tools have been developed to answer the evaluation questions. The Risk and Protective Information Tool (RAPIT) provides information on a wide array of indicators of the well-being of Utah youth. This tool is used to assist the Board in identifying areas of need throughout the state of Utah. The Program Directory Tool complements RAPIT by providing information on what programs already exist for a specific need, population, or geographic location. This information is readily available on the Board's web site. (The Program Directory will come online in 2011.) The theoretical model, reliable and valid survey instruments, and a cost-effective delivery system allow outcome assessments across a range of primary prevention and intervention programs.

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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. They are located in Green River and South Salt Lake City. These projects served 190 youth, with a completion rate of 44%. Sixty-six percent of participating youth showed a reduction in propensity for substance abuse. Families of children completing program requirements report 83% 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 993 youth with a 95% completion rate. They also completed 6,803 service hours (about 7 hours per youth) during the reporting period. The re-offense rate for youth, while in the program was only 6%.

3. Disproportionate Minority Contact

UBJJ supported four programs aimed at improving outcomes of minority offenders. One program focused on minority girls in the Salt Lake area living in low income, high crime neighborhoods. Another project provided parenting classes and life skills to Hispanic youth in Summit County with one or two offenses. A third project made efforts to provide early intervention services to Native American youth in the Uintah Basin. These three projects served 321 minority youth. Only 4% of youth in these programs reported a new offense while participating.

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

DMC Subcommittee Accomplishments:

- Completed the Community Relations Curriculum for Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) to raise awareness of cultural diversity and teach officers how to effectively work with diverse communities. The Curriculum was approved and adopted by the POST Council. A performance evaluation tool is being developed to evaluate the long-term effectiveness of the training.

- Worked to increase the use of court diversion programs for Hispanic youth in Utah, Weber, and Salt Lake Counties. Collaborative efforts and a diversion study are underway to further assess the diversion program and identify mechanisms contributing to DMC. An assessment plan is also being developed for the contact points of arrest and referral to juvenile court.

- Identified trends and areas of disparity at various contact points in Utah's juvenile justice system. This data was presented to local law enforcement officers, local government officials, juvenile court judges and staff members, to increase awareness of existing DMC issues. Presentations have been made to more than 220 community members and professionals.

4. Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment

A single project funded under this program area served 36 youth last year in the Salt Lake area. These are NOJOS (Network on Juveniles Offending Sexually) Level 1 through 4 offenders. None have reoffended and only one has been charged with a formal probation violation. They completed 201 service hours. Eighty-three percent reported improved self esteem and coping skills.

State Gang Mini-Grant

Five projects were funded serving 849 youth across the Wasatch Front. Three were prevention projects with the remaining two being intervention. The 29 participants in the Mestizo ArtWorks project attended 190 workshops and completed four community art murals. Only three youth were documented as gang-involved at program end. Big Brothers Big Sisters reported that 63.5% of participants were doing better at improving competencies of coping and communication. Seventy percent were doing a little better or much better in their academic performance. Boys & Girls Clubs of Weber-Davis reported enrolling 728 students in their gang prevention programs. Participating youth came from communities identified as having high risk and low protective factors. None of the Reaching One participants have been charged with a new criminal offense or dropped out of school. All participants maintained a school attendance rate of 85%. The South Salt Lake Police Athletic League Boxing Center reported 59 youth participants. Forty-five percent of participants reported improved perceptions of police officers while 65% reported a 2.0 GPA or better.

FY09 Grants

Title II First Year Projects \$0

Due to cuts in the federal grant program, no grants were awarded these years.

Title II Second Year Projects \$266,352

Salt Lake Co.	\$37,500 – <i>South Salt Lake Substance Abuse Prevention City of South Salt Lake</i>
Salt Lake Co.	\$68,400 – <i>Choices Sex Offender Treatment Program Center for Family Development</i>
Summit Co.	\$52,490 – <i>Connections Colors of Success</i>
Emery Co.	\$41,326 – <i>Too Good for Drugs/Too Good for Violence Green River Community Center</i>
Uintah Co.	\$66,636 – <i>Uintah Basin Youth Services Utah Division of Juvenile Justice Services</i>

Title II Third & Fourth Year Projects \$0

Due to cuts in the federal grant program, no grants were awarded these years.

Title II On-Going Projects \$240,000

Statewide	\$91,100 – <i>JJDP Act Compliance Monitoring, Juvenile Justice Services</i>
Statewide	\$23,000 – <i>Juvenile Jail Removal, Juvenile Justice Services</i>
Statewide	\$50,500 – <i>Outcome Evaluation Survey, U of U Criminal Justice Center</i>
Statewide	\$75,400 – <i>Juvenile Disproportionate Minority Contact Reduction Coordinator, CCJJ</i>

Title V Delinquency Prevention \$45,942

Tooele Co.	\$45,942 – <i>Tooele Youth Services, Tooele County Commission</i>
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State Gang Mini Grants \$80,000

Salt Lake Co.	\$20,000 – <i>Reaching One Colors of Success</i>
Salt Lake Co.	\$20,000 – <i>Mestizo Project NeighborWorks, Salt Lake City</i>
Salt Lake Co.	\$20,000 – <i>PAL Boxing Center, South Salt Lake City</i>
Weber Co.	\$10,000 – <i>Teens Mentoring Youth Boys & Girls clubs of Weber-Davis</i>
Wasatch Co.	\$10,000 – <i>Mentoring</i>
Weber Co	Big Brothers Sisters of Utah
Washington	

Title II Short-Term Projects \$20,400

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	\$3,150 – <i>Troubled Youth Conference SL Co. Youth Services</i>
Statewide	\$5,453 – <i>POST Cultural Competency Curriculum, U of U Criminal Justice Center</i>