



Utah Board of Juvenile Justice

2017

ANNUAL REPORT

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The Utah Board of Juvenile Justice (UBJJ) serves as the federally designated State Advisory Group under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA), as amended in 2002. UBJJ prepares a comprehensive plan for Utah's compliance with the four core protections of the JJDPA, thus making Utah eligible for federal grants. With this money, the Board is able to help youth by providing services such as delinquency and substance abuse prevention.

In recent years, funding for juvenile justice at the federal level has significantly reduced, and this has in turn hindered UBJJ's ability to award grants. In the past few years, UBJJ has shifted its focus to making impacts in policy areas and less on the awarding of grants. The following are highlights of the progress made within juvenile justice areas.

Utah's "Do the Write Thing" Challenge

UBJJ annually hosts the "Do the Write Thing" (DtWT) Challenge. This project is in collaboration with the National Campaign to Stop Violence, sponsored by the Kuwait Foundation. The DtWT Challenge encourages 7th and 8th grade students to submit writing, and voice their views and experiences about how violence affects their lives and how it can be prevented. The objective is to empower young people in Utah and around the country to make a personal, written commitment to combat youth violence in their communities. In 2017, more than 2,000 students participated in classroom discussions, 1,937 students wrote about youth violence, and over 900 chose to submit their writing for review. Twelve submissions were selected, and scholarships and other

gifts were awarded to the authors. In addition, the top boy and girl as Utah National Finalists traveled with their parents and teachers to Washington, DC, to participate in the National Recognition Ceremony, where they met with members of Utah's Congressional Delegation. The students' submissions were made into a book and placed in the Library of Congress. The Utah DtWT Challenge is managed by the UBJJ Youth Committee.

Youth Justice Awareness Month

In 2015, Governor Herbert declared October as Juvenile Justice Awareness Month to highlight and celebrate milestone achievements in the juvenile justice system. UBJJ hosted the third annual event in October 2017, *Pipeline to Success: Celebrating Partnership in Reform*, which highlighted the significant juvenile justice reform recently passed during the 2017 legislative session. Representative Lowry Snow and Senator Todd Weiler were awarded UBJJ's "Youth Advocate of the Year" for their legislative efforts to improve juvenile justice system reform, known as House Bill 239 – Juvenile Justice Amendments.

The Honorable Steve Teske, Chief Judge, Clayton County, GA and National Chair of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, was the keynote speaker. The event highlighted the many significant changes to the juvenile justice system that would:

- Promote public safety and hold juvenile offenders accountable;
- Control costs; and,
- Improve recidivism and other outcomes for youth, families, and communities.

Utah Board of Juvenile Justice

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*Youth Member

Juvenile Justice Reform

UBJJ members were heavily involved during the study phase and now play an integral part of overseeing the implementation phase of Utah's juvenile justice reform. On March 24, 2017, Governor Gary Herbert signed into law House Bill 239 – Juvenile Justice Amendments. The law is based on 55 recommendations from the Juvenile Justice Policy Working Group (JJWG), which consisted of 19 individuals representing various stakeholders across the juvenile justice profession. Over a period of six months from June 2016 to December 2016, the JJWG reviewed Utah's data and, through various subcommittees, came to a consensus on the recommendations, which became the "foundation for statutory, budgetary, and administrative changes" in House Bill 239. The overarching philosophy of the policy recommendation was to:

- 1) Prevent deeper involvement in the juvenile justice system for lower-level youth;
- 2) Protect public safety by focusing on system resources; and,
- 3) Sustain improvement outcomes through reinvestment and increased accountability

As result, UBJJ members continue to support the implementation phase of the law. Members are actively participating and taking responsibility within the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee to ensure the successful implementation of the law. Information on HB239 and the implementation progress information is available at: <https://justice.utah.gov/juveniles/hb239>.

Delinquency Prevention

In 2017, UBJJ funded one program with the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, located near Cedar City in Iron County. The Native Youth Program served 174 youth aged 5-17 in groups and individual after-school and summer programming. The program's goal is to develop "academic, social and cultural skills, receive recognition for their efforts and success while at the same time associating and bonding with positive adult mentors that set clear standards." The program served five Bands of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah located in Iron, Washington, Millard, and Sevier County.

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)

UBJJ supported the funding of a Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Coordinator to ensure Utah's compliance with the DMC Core requirement of the JJDPA. This position was critical in accomplishing the items noted below:

- Continued collection of data to identify trends and areas of disparity at nine contact points in Utah's juvenile justice system.
- Collaborated with stakeholders to develop a strategic plan to address the overrepresentation of minority youth. The strategic plan included raising awareness with various stakeholders, conducting assessments to identify causes of DMC, and creating interventions to reduce DMC.
- In conjunction with the Utah State Board of Education (USBE), significant progress was made with the SRO Manual/Curriculum as required by HB460, which passed during the 2016 General Legislative Session. The curriculum creates protocols and standardizes practices for School Resource Officers (SROs) and School Administrators (SAs) across jurisdictions on how to handle delinquent youth and determine whether to resolve the case at the school or to refer the case to the juvenile court.
- Successfully formed the Utah County and Weber County DMC Local Working Groups. The groups continue to meet and develop local DMC Strategic Plan to reduce the disparity of minority youth in conjunction with the DMC Statewide group.
- Ongoing collaboration with the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) to support Community Relations training in raising awareness of cultural diversity and teaching cadets to work effectively with diverse communities. The training was provided to 749 firefighter and law enforcement cadets during 2017.

FY2017 Grants

Title II First Year Projects \$0

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

Title II Second Year Projects \$0

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

Title II Third Year Projects \$30,313

Iron County \$30,314 – *Native Youth Program, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah*

Title II Fourth Year Projects \$0

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

Title II On-Going Projects \$226,157

Statewide \$100,332 – *JJDP Act Compliance Monitoring, Juvenile Justice Services*
 Statewide \$ 24,977 – *Juvenile Jail Removal, Juvenile Justice Services*
 Statewide \$8,168 – *DMC RRI Data Project, U of U Criminal Justice Center*
 Statewide \$92,680 – *Juvenile Disproportionate Minority Contact Reduction Coordinator, CCJJ*

Title II Short-Term Projects \$9,000

Weber Co. \$4,500 – *Northern Utah Gang Conference*
 Ogden City Police Department
 Statewide \$4,500 – *Troubled Youth Conference*
 Shelter Kids Inc.

Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) \$9,700

Statewide \$9,700 – *UBJJ SHARP Data and Rapid Tool Contract – Bach Harrison, LLC.*