



Juvenile Justice Institute

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JUVENILE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

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Message from the Executive Director

It has been a busy year for the Juvenile Justice Institute. In this edition of our newsletter we have highlighted some of our notable accomplishments. We also updated our research agenda and have shared a summary on the following page. Our most exciting news is that we have launched a collaborative HIV and substance abuse prevention project funded by SAMHSA. This project involves collaborative efforts by the Juvenile Justice Institute, Departments of Psychology, Public Health, Social Work, Student Health and Counseling Services and our community partners of Durham TRY and the Durham County Department of Public Health. This project will offer a comprehensive array of universal, selected, and indicated evidence-based substance abuse and HIV prevention strategies. The mission of the Campus Community Coalition Program (C3P) is to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS and to prevent substance abuse among African-American young adults (ages 18 - 24) on the campus of North Carolina Central University and in the surrounding community. The goals of the project include: reduce new HIV infections; reduce alcohol consumption and substance use; reduce tobacco use; increase access to care and improve health outcomes for people living with HIV; reduce HIV-related disparities and health inequalities; and assist in the development of a coordinated national response to the HIV epidemic. Over the next few months the project team is conducting a community needs assessment and a strategic planning process and has a goal of implementing interventions in the spring of 2014.

The problem of over representation of minorities in the Juvenile and Criminal Justice Systems still remains a problem for the Juvenile Court. In NC the percentage of school based referrals exceeds 40% of the total number of referrals to the juvenile court. The referrals from individual counties vary depending on the location. In Durham County the rate of minority complaints referred to the Juvenile Court from schools and law enforcement in 2010 was a ratio of 6 minorities to 1 white. In response to this high rate, the Durham Juvenile Crime Prevention Council established a subcommittee on Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) to monitor and address the problem. Two interventions were put in place in 2010: Community Education about DMC and a Juvenile and Family Resource Manual developed by JJI. It is too early to determine what impact these interventions have had, but it is clear that the Durham community seems more aware of DMC and is interested in addressing the problem. For example, Durham Public Schools is currently discussing ways to reduce its out of school suspensions and referrals to the Juvenile Court, both of which involve a disproportionate number of minorities. Although this problem is a long way from being resolved, Durham seems to be moving in the right direction. The Department of Public Safety /Division of Corrections and Juvenile Justice is also assisting Durham with community education about DMC and tracking the number of minority referrals to the Juvenile Court. The Division and JJI have been involved with DMC efforts in several NC Counties and have shared with them possible interventions to better address their DMC problem. We applaud Durham and the Department of Public Safety for their good work in this area. We ask for your continued support as we continue our effort to address the many challenges facing Juvenile Justice in North Carolina.



2014-2016 Research Agenda



"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

~ Franklin D. Roosevelt ~

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC): JJI will continue research and outreach in the area of DMC by evaluating and monitoring interventions designed to reduce DMC; and providing technical assistance, training, and workshops to reduce DMC.

School to Prison Pipeline: JJI plans to continue providing technical assistance to school districts on ways to reduce school suspensions and school based court referrals; examining the role and training of School Resource Officers; evaluating and monitoring school based interventions designed to reduce DMC for school suspensions; conducting workshops to discuss the consequences of the School to Prison Pipeline; and developing a model restorative justice approach to school discipline.

Substance Abuse/HIV: JJI, along with collaborating departments and community organizations is working on a three year SAMSHA funded project to deliver evidence based HIV and substance abuse prevention programs and services to the NCCU campus and surrounding community. The goal is to prevent substance abuse and the transmission of HIV/AIDS among African-American young adults (ages 18-24) on the campus of North Carolina Central University and in the surrounding community.

Restorative Justice: JJI will continue to focus on the applications of restorative justice within the juvenile justice system. JJI will investigate the current use of restorative justice in the local community implement a community project using restorative justice principles.

Parental Incarceration: JJI will begin to explore aspects of parental incarceration including identifying existing programs that support relationships between incarcerated parents and their children; examining the consequences of parental incarceration on the child; and examining reentry programs emphasizing family reunification.

Spatial Analysis: JJI will begin to explore using GIS to study the location of delinquency relative to alcohol outlet density, schools, other public places, and food deserts; and the location of delinquency relative to community economic, crime, and density, indicator.

A more detailed research agenda can be found on the JJI website.

2013 Accomplishments

Connecting the Dots: JJI conducted a year long examination of school suspensions, juvenile justice system involvement and Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) related issues within selected North Carolina counties.

DMC in Durham County: JJI has been actively involved in the Durham County DMC Workgroup which is addressing DMC issues facing Durham's youth.

Campus Community Coalition: JJI has received a 3 year, \$897,840 SAMSHA grant to address substance abuse and high risk sexual behaviors among minority 18 to 24 years olds.

Restorative Justice: JJI has established a interdisciplinary workgroup to investigate the current use of restorative justice in the community and to develop a community program utilizing restorative justice principles.

Seminars/Workshops/Conferences: Throughout the year, JJI conducted, co-hosted, and participated in a number of educational events for the campus, professional community, and public.



What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative justice is a theory of justice with the goal of repairing the harm caused by delinquent behavior. This goal is accomplished by bringing together the parties affected by the delinquent behavior; the offender, the victim, and the community. The offender is held accountable by accepting responsibility and acting to repair the harm done to the victim and the community. Restorative justice helps offenders understand the implications of their actions and provides them an opportunity to reconnect with their community.

There are several community-based, non-adversarial, and informal restorative justice programs that are being used in the United States and internationally including family group conferences, victim-impact panels, victim-offender mediation, circle sentencing, and community reparative boards.

Restorative justice has been successfully implemented both as a method of juvenile justice diversion as well a method of school based disciplinary diversion. It is possible to transform to a restorative justice model if the community and organizational leadership embrace the change in philosophy. The approach requires youth to take responsibility for their behavior and requiring them to repair the harm they caused to the victim and community. The approach also requires the involvement of victims and community members in the process and providing services directed toward victims.

An interdisciplinary committee at NCCU is developing a community service project focused on restorative justice. Updates on the project will be provided as they become available.



North Carolina Juvenile Justice Updates

Secretary Frank Perry of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety announced on September 10th that the Division of Juvenile Justice and Division of Adult Corrections will be consolidated to form a single Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice. Department leadership has indicated the changes only will affect upper management not direct service delivery; however, some advocacy groups have spoken out against this consolidation and its potential impact on juveniles.

Effective December 1, 2013, the Volunteer School Safety Resource Officer Program authorizes sheriffs and chiefs of police to establish a volunteer school safety resource officer (SSRO) program. A volunteer SSRO must have at least two years of experience as either a sworn law enforcement officer or a military police officer. Volunteer SSROs are also required to receive training on the social and cognitive development of school-age children. The Volunteer School Safety Resource Officer Program is being implemented along with other school safety efforts such as increased funding for school resource officers and the establishment of the Center for Safer Schools.

Effective October 1, 2013 minors, defined as any person under the age of 18, are not subject to prosecution for prostitution. Any minors suspected of prostitution must be treated as undisciplined juveniles and taken into protective custody, DSS shall be notified, and an investigation for abuse or neglect shall be initiated. These changes are part of broader human trafficking prevention efforts in North Carolina.



About Us

The Juvenile Justice Institute conducts research on juvenile justice issues and uses the findings to help North Carolina policy makers and practitioners make well-informed policy and program decisions to reduce juvenile crime and improve the juvenile justice system.

In addition, the Institute focuses on assisting public agencies to incorporate evidence-based knowledge and practices into new and existing programs in order to improve performance and outcomes. Our approach stresses the relevance of linking theory to practice, and consequently bridging the gap between science and service.

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