IN THIS ISSUE:

- Message from the Executive Director
- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Reauthorization
- Juvenile Justice Institute Project Updates
- North Carolina Legislative Updates

Message from the Executive Director

Welcome to the summer issue of the Juvenile Justice Institute’s 2015 newsletter. In this issue we have included information on projects in which we are involved as well as new Juvenile Justice Bills that may be of interest to the Juvenile Justice community and could reshape the future of Juvenile Justice in North Carolina.

As you will see in this issue, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquent Prevention Act of 1974, one of the most significant pieces of legislation produced on Juvenile Justice, is currently being reauthorized by the US Congress. (It is being processed in the House as bill: HR 2728 Youth Justice Act). During this process modifications are being recommended in the form of amendments.

The reauthorization, as pointed out in the article, retains the 4 core federal requirements that help youth avoid the criminal justice system, a system more geared to retribution than rehabilitation. Most of amendments being considered in this reauthorization are positive recommendations to the Act and will enable more services to needy youth. Refreshing is the focus on prevention and the effort to include some of this language in the bill that will make it more preventive nature. (The full version of the Youth Justice Act can be reviewed at: www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2728/related-bills. A reference to a related bill, The Youth Promise Act, may also be worth your viewing: www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2197/related-bills)

A review of new NC state laws and bills that prohibit the exposure of tobacco and alcohol to young people is a sign that the State is moving in the right direction in providing preventive measures that will have a positive effect on the health and future of juveniles.

The two current grants that are being managed by JJI: Campus, Community, Coalition (C3)-SAMHSA, and Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) are going well. In the SAMHSA grant our focus is to reduce substance abuse and HIV on the campus of NCCU and in the surrounding community. Young people on campus and in the community are participating and responding positively to this research/service project. JJI’s effort on DMC has involved us in working with the Durham Public Schools and Law Enforcement in a positive way as we move toward developing an action plan that will be used by both these institutions to address the DMC problem in Durham County. We hope to reduce the racial imbalance of 3 minority court referrals to one white referral. This we believe criminalizes minor behavior that could be handled better by social and educational institutions.
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Reauthorization

It has been over 40 years since Congress enacted the landmark Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act in 1974 (last reauthorized in 2002). The JJDP establishes standards for care and custody of juveniles while protecting community safety. The four core requirements of the JJDPA include: Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders; Sight and Sound Separation; Jail and Lockup Removal; and Disproportionate Minority Contact.

H.R. 2728, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2015, was introduced in the House of Representatives on June 11, 2015 by Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA) and referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations on July 1, 2015. The bill would reauthorize the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA), which expired in 2007, and adds provisions currently found in the Youth PROMISE Act including: a phase out of the valid court order (VCO) exception, which allows states to incarcerate youth for behaviors such as truancy and running away from home; requiring that juveniles awaiting trial in adult criminal court be sight and sound separated from adult inmates; and requiring states to establish implement policy, practice, and system improvement strategies to identify and reduce both racial and ethnic disparities among youth that come into contact with the juvenile justice system. Other requirements in the bill include: states must develop plans for treatment services for juvenile offenders who are victims of child abuse and neglect; states are required to eliminate dangerous practices, unreasonable restraints, and unreasonable isolation by developing effective behavior management techniques for youth in secure custody; provide mental health treatment services for juvenile offenders; and provide enhanced reentry services for confined youth.

JJI Project Updates

**Campus Community Coalition:** As the second year of our three year SAMSHA grant to address substance abuse and high risk sexual behaviors came to a close, the implementation of evidence base substance use and HIV prevention activities continued. Some of the notable activities this year included a successful Keeping it Real peer theater performance for incoming students, the installation of condom dispensers in three residence halls, a social norms campaign with a rotation of 10 posters, the organization of the NCCU College TRY Coalition, Sticker Shock campaigns, Lock it up Talk it up campaigns, and Lock it Drop it campaigns.

**DMC in Durham County:** JJI is working with Durham Public Schools, Durham Police Department, and the Durham Sheriff’s Office to facilitate DMC reduction strategies in schools and police districts identified as having disproportionate minority referral rates. This project is funded by the NC Governors Crime Commission.

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

~ Franklin D. Roosevelt ~
North Carolina Legislative Updates

New Laws…

HB158/S.L. 2015-21, Jim Fulghrum Teen Skin Cancer Prevention Act  The law prohibits operators and owners of tanning facilities to allow persons under age 18 to use tanning equipment.  (signed by Governor on 5/21/2015 becomes effective 10/1/2015)

HB294/S.L. 2015-46, Prohibit Cell Phone/Delinquent Juvenile This law makes it a Class H felony to provide a mobile telephone or other wireless communications device to a delinquent juvenile in secure custody.  (signed by Governor on 6/2/2015 becomes effective 12/1/2015)

HB295/S.L. 2015-41, Juvenile Media Release  This law permits the Deputy Commissioner of Juvenile Justice or the Deputy Commissioner's designee to determine whether it is appropriate to release certain information about an escaped delinquent juvenile based on the level of threat posed by a juvenile who escapes from custody.  (signed by Governor on 5/29/2015 effective when signed)

HB879/S.L. 2015-58, Juvenile Code Reform  This law includes a variety of code revisions with the purpose of improving due process, confinement, and reentry of juveniles. The law increases the age from 13 to 15 whereby a parent, guardian, custodian, or attorney must be present for an in-custody admission or confession to be admissible; establishes the requirement for adjudicatory hearings to be separate hearings from probable cause and transfer hearings; outlines a process to suppress evidence in adjudicatory hearings; requires that if a juvenile has not had a prior complaint the juvenile court counselors must make reasonable efforts to meet with the juvenile and juvenile's parent or guardian which may influence the decision to approve more diversions; requires trial judges to inform juveniles of their rights to expunction; provides for the extension of probation of a term of one year; defines prior adjudication; and requires hearings to be held at intervals no less than 10 days (with the possibility of a 30 day waiver) for juveniles in secure custody awaiting disposition or placement.  (signed by Governor on 6/4/2015 becomes effective 12/1/2015)

Bills to watch…

SB286, Regulate the Sale of E-Liquid Containers  This bill prohibits the sale of e-liquid containers without child-resistant packaging and without labeling e-liquid containers that contain nicotine.  Any person found in violation is guilty of a Class A1 misdemeanor.  Any person, firm, or corporation that violates this act is liable for personal injury as a result of the violation.  This bill was passed by both the Senate and House and has been sent to the Governor for signature or veto.

SB343, Student Assault on Teacher/Felony Offense  This bill would make assault on a school employee when the employee is discharging or attempting to discharge his or her duties by a student who is 16 or older who does not have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan a Class A1 misdemeanor for the first offense, Class H felony for the second offense, and Class G felony for any subsequent offenses.

HB290, Prohibit Powered Alcohol  This bill prohibits the sale, transport, import, delivery, furnishing, purchase, consumption, or possession of powdered alcohol.

HB380, Statewide School Safety Management  This bill authorizes the Department of Public Safety to implement a statewide school risk and response management system, to make conforming changes to other school safety requirements, and provide grants for additional school counselors.
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.

Juvenile Justice Institute
North Carolina Central University
Department of Criminal Justice
1801 Fayetteville Street
208 Whiting Criminal Justice Building
Durham, North Carolina 27707
(919) 530-7092

Arnold Dennis, Executive Director ~ adennis@nccu.edu
Meredith Weinstein, PhD, Associate Project Director ~ mweinste@nccu.edu
Michelle Peebles, Administrative Assistant ~ michelle.peebles@nccu.edu