

## **2007 NM Juvenile Justice Conference Workshop & General Session Content What you need to know to select which workshop to attend!**

### **Gangs & Gang Members: What's New?**

Public officials and the media are broadcasting alarms about skyrocketing gang activity, but how much crime is actually attributable to juvenile gangs? How can communities and policy makers differentiate between perceived threats and actual challenges presented by gangs? What are the most current effective approaches that work with gang-involved youth? Come and hear the latest from a national expert who has co-authored a new report on gang activity and interventions.

### **Rocky Mountain Youth Corps Learning Lab Program**

If you are looking for an effective new approach to dealing with students suspended, expelled or chronically truant from school and who are involved in the JPPO system, you should attend this workshop. This program in Taos provides a structured, supervised learning environment, and teaches positive social development skills through community service projects and leadership development.

### **Reclaiming Futures**

This is a new approach to helping teenagers caught in the cycle of drugs, alcohol and crime. This national demonstration project is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in 10 sites in the U.S., and focuses on systemic change through integration of several models such as systems of care and restorative justice. Hear from the leading national expert from Portland State University.

### **Underage Drinking: 18 or 21?**

In recent years, there have been effective new efforts to reduce underage drinking in New Mexico and other states, through prevention, education and law enforcement aimed at restricting youth access to alcohol. However, there are now some efforts nationally to lower the drinking age to 18, with the rationale that 18 year olds can vote and serve in the military. Hear the national perspective on this controversy from the federal Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws program.

### **The Media: How do they Affect the Perception of Juveniles & the Public's View of Juvenile Justice?**

Is the media having a negative or positive affect on the public's perception of juveniles and the juvenile justice system? A media panel of local dynamic personalities in the fields of newspaper and T.V. will present their views. You will have an opportunity to question the media tactics and their style of presenting stories on juveniles and the juvenile system in our communities. Can the media present more positive stories of successful juveniles that have become contributing and productive citizens of New Mexico?

### **Truancy and Dropouts: A Pipeline to the Juvenile Justice System?**

So what's wrong with being truant or dropping out of school? Come and hear a leading national researcher and author present his latest findings on the short and long-term effects of chronic truancy and dropping out of school, and how many of these young persons become juvenile justice clients.

### **The Federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)**

PREA is a federal act applying to both adults and juveniles that establishes a zero tolerance standard for the incidence of inmate/client sexual assault and rape; establishes national standards; and increases accountability of officials who fail to act. It applies to any juvenile facility, secure or non-secure, including those operated by private organizations. The National Institute of Corrections trainers will offer an overview of PREA and discuss how it applies to your facility or program.

### **Data: How to report it and use it to improve your programs and increase funding**

The use of Juvenile Justice data can provide opportunities. Private foundations and government agencies today expect your program to report meaningful data. Data can assist you in good planning and making sure your activities and programs are doing what they were intended to do. Sound data can be converted into interesting reports that can further your presentation and provide better justification to secure funding for your program

### **The Juvenile Justice Continuum and House Bill 21**

The 2007 Legislature passed House Bill 21, the Juvenile Continuum Act, and appropriated \$2 million into the Continuum fund. This workshop will describe what a local juvenile justice Continuum of interventions and graduated sanctions is, how to create one in your county, and how to access state and federal funding for this. Juvenile Justice Officials from three counties will describe their successes and challenges in creating a local Continuum.

### **Disproportionate Minority Contact with Juvenile Justice: What's Happening in NM**

DMC is a nationwide issue that all states are addressing. Learn from the State DMC Panel, the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, and two communities how the state and local Continuum sites are dealing with this issue, and how they can help your community.

### **Girls and Violence: Is the Gender Gap Closing ?**

Public and juvenile justice professional's concern about girls' aggression and physical violence has been increasing rapidly. Is this true? How much of this is media hype? Hear from a University of Hawaii Professor and nationally-known author of the book "Beyond Bad Girls" what the latest information is on this topic.

### **Trauma and PTSD in New Mexico Girls**

What does the picture look like in our state regarding young women in our juvenile justice system who have experienced trauma and violence leading to PTSD in their lives? In one workshop, a New Mexico Child Psychiatrist who is an expert in working with this population will provide updated information on this problem. Another workshop will provide detailed information about a promising New Mexico program that deals with youth who have co-occurring disorders and extensive trauma in their lives.

### **Options for Native American Detention Reform**

Detention reform statewide involves alternatives to secure detention and changes in court processes, with Bernalillo County serving as a national model site for this. How would detention reform work in a Native American jurisdiction, including those with more traditional court systems ? A panel of Tribal officials will discuss various approaches to this.

### **The Impact of Parental Incarceration on Children**

Incarceration of one or both parents in prison or jail can have a devastating, life-long effect on their children. Hear from an experienced New Mexico program what these effects can be, including entry of some of these children into the juvenile justice system, and learn from this program what is being done to help these children.

### **The Chatham County, Georgia, Youth Commission: How to get Youth Involved**

Many programs and local governments have difficulty getting youth involved in a meaningful way in planning and program operations. Hear about a very promising approach in Chatham County, Georgia to get youth actively involved in leadership roles - - this could work in your County or program in New Mexico!

### **General Session : The Latest in Adolescent Brain Development and Juvenile Justice**

Learn about the most current, as of December 2007, research and information regarding development of the adolescent brain and the implications for the juvenile justice and legal systems. Whatever your role is in juvenile justice, this is important for you to know in your practice. National expert Dr. Abigail Baird will provide this updated information.

### **General Session: Lt. Governor Diane Denish and Children's Cabinet Secretaries**

This luncheon session will feature our Lt. Governor, Diane Denish, and several Cabinet Secretaries. The Lt. Governor has been an innovative leader in addressing children and youth issues in our state, and she and the Secretaries will describe some current exciting initiatives from the Children's Cabinet and these Departments.

### **General Session: The 2007 Juvenile Justice Commission and System Reform**

The Juvenile Justice Commission created by CYFD, partnering with Bernalillo County, has drawn from the expertise of many juvenile justice leaders from throughout New Mexico to develop recommendations for system reform in juvenile justice. Hear from Commission leaders what some of these recommendations are, and learn about similar reforms in the State of Missouri that might work in our state. Additionally, you will hear first-hand how juvenile detention reform can lead to overall system reform - - this has happened in the national model sites for the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, which includes Bernalillo County.

**PLUS MORE** --- there will also be workshops on:

- "Youth Mentoring Youth"
- "Native American Promising Practices for youth involved with Law Enforcement"
- "Gender Responsive Services for Juvenile Justice Girls"
- "How Schools Interface with the Juvenile Justice System"
- and an "Open Space" workshop where any or all current hot or troublesome topics you are thinking about can be discussed with others