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OJJDP Model Programs 1993

JUVENILE JUSTICE BULLETIN

John J. Wilson, Acting Administrator

February 1994

The Gould-Wysinger Awards: A Tradition of Excellence

By Pam Allen

Established by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in 1992, the Gould-Wysinger awards honor James Gould and Deborah Wysinger, two OJJDP professionals who dedicated their lives to helping young people. In its inaugural year 18 winners were selected. This year each State and territory was invited to designate one program, funded in whole or in part with OJJDP funds, as its Gould-Wysinger award winner. The 1993 Gould-Wysinger awards represent national recognition of local achievement in improving the juvenile justice system and helping our Nation's youth. The 20 award winners continue to reflect a tradition of excellence.

Alabama

Juvenile Work Restitution

Located in Tuscaloosa, this program instills a sense of personal accountability, improves behavior, and reduces recidivism. Jobs are created in the public and private sectors, and juvenile offenders are matched to an appropriate job. Offenders work to reimburse victims and provide community service.

In operation since 1987, the program has helped reduce minority over-

representation in the State school and develop greater confidence in the juvenile justice system. Recidivism has been reduced by 10 percent.

For further information, contact:

John Upchurch
Tuscaloosa County Commission
Director of Court Services
6001 12th Avenue East
Tuscaloosa, AL 35404
(205) 349-3870

"The program has helped reduce minority overrepresentation."

Colorado

Juvenile Intervention Project

The goals of the Juvenile Intervention Project are jail removal and deinstitutionalization of status offenders. A training program for sheriff's officers explains screening criteria and procedures. Officers who perform intake screening are trained to provide status offenders with appropriate services. The program contracts with a host home to ensure a bed is available for status offenders. Crisis intervention, temporary holding or attendant care, and volunteer tracking and mentoring are also provided.

The program resulted in an immediate decrease in juvenile arrests and detention, and new patrol officers now participate in a special 4-hour field training program.

For further information, contact:

Kim Andree
Eagle County Sheriff's Department
P.O. Box 359
Eagle, CO 81631
(303) 328-6611

Florida

Griffin Alternative Learning Academy

Griffin Alternative Learning Academy (GALA) diverts students from failing in school, being suspended, needing court intervention, or dropping out of school. The program focuses on disruptive, unsuccessful, disinterested, and otherwise problematic students at Griffin Middle School in Leon County. The objective is to mainstream 75 percent of the at-risk students back into regular classes by providing individualized academic assistance and business mentoring.

Started in 1989, during the 1991-92 school year GALA exceeded its expected 30-percent level of participation by minority youth and economically disadvantaged juveniles.

From the Administrator

The Gould-Wysinger awards were established in 1992 to recognize exceptional achievements in enhancing the quality of juvenile justice. In their inaugural year, 18 programs received this mark of achievement.

The 20 Gould-Wysinger award winners for 1993 continue the tradition of excellence.

As the bulletin illustrates, this year's recipients represent a broad array of services—from intervention with youth at risk of delinquency to restitution by juvenile offenders. The settings of these services are equally varied—from community centers and alternative schools to youth homes and detention centers.

Such distinctions notwithstanding, each of the 1993 Gould-Wysinger award winners shares a common commitment to improving the future of the youth they serve. Each winner contributes to the community of which it is an integral part, and each one deserves the appreciation of a grateful Nation for a job well done.

John J. Wilson
Acting Administrator
Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention

A project evaluation confirmed overall improvement in participants' grade-point averages, a decrease in the number of absences and suspensions, and a reduction in delinquency referrals. All participants were promoted to the next grade. Because of the success of the program, the Governor's JJDP Advisory Committee funded replications of the project in two other schools during the 1992-93 school year.

For further information, contact:

Susan E. Foster
Coordinator of Special Programs
Leon County Schools
2757 West Pensacola Street
Tallahassee, FL 32304-2998
(904) 487-7322

Iowa

Rites of Passage

Rites of Passage was developed to address minority overrepresentation by reducing the delinquency rate among middle school African-American males from high-risk situations. The project involves tutoring, mentoring, crisis intervention, individual and family counseling, and recreational activities. Development of participants' self-esteem and personal responsibility are emphasized. The project is so safe and supportive that participants come even when activities have not been scheduled. Since its inception in 1991, the project has built a community of trust among participants and their mentors. As a result, participants' family lives and academic performance have significantly improved.

For further information, contact:

Karl Werner
Jane Boyd Harambee House
943 14th Avenue SE.
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
(319) 366-0431

Kansas

Kansas Children's Service League Juvenile Assessment and Intake Service

The Juvenile Assessment and Intake Service (JAIS), which serves Topeka and Shawnee Counties, protects children from unnecessary out-of-home placement and involvement with Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) and the juvenile court. The program advises SRS and the juvenile court about children who need special guidance, structure, or protection; reduces the number of children classified as Children-in-Need-of-Care who may be placed unnecessarily in locked detention; and assists law enforcement officers with decisions involving the placement of children.

Law enforcement officers, who provide all referrals to JAIS, increasingly use the service, and the number of

contacts for information or referral has grown consistently. The rate of placement of children in need of services in locked detention has decreased significantly. In 1992 JAIS diverted 58 percent of youth for whom a diversion option was available from out-of-home placement.

For further information, contact:

Mike Patrick
2600 SE. 23rd Street
Topeka, KS 66611
(913) 234-5424

Maryland

Partnership for Learning, Inc.

Partnership for Learning (PFL) was established in 1991 to screen first-time juvenile offenders who appeared in juvenile court in Baltimore and to identify and assist offenders diagnosed as learning disabled. After first-time offenders have been identified, tested, and interviewed, the requirements for participating in PFL are presented. Once an agreement has been executed, the child's case is postponed, and the child is matched with a tutor trained in a special reading and spelling program. Of the children matched with tutors, more than 80 percent have successfully completed or are actively involved in the program and have not become repeat offenders.

PFL is a joint project of the Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, the Office of the Public Defender, the Department of Juvenile Services, the Maryland State Department of Education, the Baltimore City Department of Education, and the Maryland Associates for Dyslexic Adults and Youth. It has gained national and international attention as a cost-effective program that reduces the rate of recidivism among youthful offenders.

For further information, contact:

Andrea D. Mason, Esquire
Baltimore City State's Attorney's
Office
206 Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr.,
Courthouse
110 North Calvert Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
(410) 396-5092

Mississippi

Hollandale Temporary Holding Facility

The Hollandale Temporary Holding Facility was established to provide a separate facility that meets all Federal and State standards for juveniles awaiting further action by a youth authority. Facility staff are on call 24 hours a day. Emergency care and crisis intervention include youth court counselors' services and referrals to a local community health service. The facility also provides supervised educational and recreational activities while youth are awaiting disposition or placement.

Between September 1991 and August 1992, the facility held 156 juveniles who would otherwise have been placed in an adult jail or lockup—decreasing by 90 percent the number of juveniles held in adult jails and lockups in the six counties served.

For further information, contact:

John McClay, Director
City of Hollandale
Hollandale Temporary Holding
Facility
P.O. Box 395
Hollandale, MS 39748
(601) 827-7276

Nebraska

Juvenile Detention Center Western Nebraska Juvenile Services

The Juvenile Detention Center was established to provide programming, intervention, and rehabilitation services for juveniles. A 20-bed facility

serving Scotts Bluff County and the surrounding area, it is the only secure juvenile detention center in western Nebraska.

The Center has a transitional living program designed to provide juveniles with the knowledge, skill, and experience to live independently. A family preservation component encourages the family to cooperate in the reconciliation of the offender to the family unit. A substance abuse program provides intervention and treatment. An educational program offers four types of programs: class continuation, credit work, GED programs, and college. The Center also offers a 4-H program, a craft program, and instruction in creative writing. Opportunities to attend church services are available.

As a result of the Center's programs, recidivism has been reduced by 50 percent. Acceptance of the Center has grown as other communities and counties increase their use of the facility.

For further information, contact:

Denise Shiffermiller
Juvenile Detention Center
830 Kimball Avenue
P.O. Box 206
Gering, NE 69341
(308) 436-2204

New Hampshire

Earn-It Project

Earn-It is a victim restitution program that serves as a sentencing alternative for juvenile court and the Juvenile Conference Committee. Juvenile offenders are referred to the program for monetary and community service work placements. The program arranges the work placement in an area business, nonprofit agency, or municipality by matching the offender's strengths with the needs of the worksite and monitors the youth's performance.

Since 1988 Earn-It has worked with more than 400 juvenile offenders in

17 towns within the jurisdiction of the Keene District Court. More than 80 percent of the offenders have completed their court-ordered community service obligations and restitution to their victims. Participants have per-

"Participants have given thousands of dollars to victims."

formed hundreds of hours of community service work and have given thousands of dollars to victims. The recidivism rate for youths completing the program is below 30 percent.

For further information, contact:

Jane E. Beecher
Juvenile Conference Committee
3 Washington Street
Keene, NH 03431
(603) 357-9810

New York

Prosocial Gang

This unique intervention program implements Aggression Replacement Training (ART) with gang members who are involved in delinquent behavior. The program is conducted at two Brooklyn sites—the Brownsville Community Neighborhood Action Center and Youth DARES. ART improves prosocial skills, moral reasoning, and anger control by channeling aggressive behavior into a positive force. As a result, gang members become a constructive influence in the community.

Four evaluations found that the program significantly improves the quality of the youths' interpersonal skills; enhances their ability to reduce and control anger; decreases the level of egocentricity and increases concern for the needs of others; substantially decreases antisocial behaviors; substantially increases prosocial behaviors; improves community functioning, especially with peers; and decreases criminal recidivism.

The program serves as a resource for the State Advisory Group (SAG) in identifying technical assistance and training needs, providing information and assistance to local agencies to help them develop proposals responsive to SAG priorities, and reviewing and prioritizing proposals for SAG funding.

Other program activities include collecting data for a needs assessment to identify local juvenile justice needs. In addition, RPD was involved in developing a proposal to address the Target Site Program Area. One component, "Neutral Zone," a collaborative effort to provide recreational services for high-risk youth, many of whom are involved in gangs, has been implemented.

For further information, contact:

Dan Bond
Northwest Youth Services
P.O. Box 2717
Everett, WA 98203
(206) 388-7200

Wyoming

Fremont County Youth Services

Begun in 1983, this program received its first OJJDP funding in 1988. Its goals are to improve the efficiency and the effective use of the juvenile justice system and existing services in

Fremont County, to develop programs to serve county youth, to assist the county in developing policies for secure detention of juveniles as well as for alternatives to detention in the county jail, and to reduce the liability of the board of commissioners and Sheriff regarding detention of juveniles prior to a court hearing. The program provides report/intake for law enforcement and the county attorney, a deferred prosecution program, a youth council coordinator, a work alternatives program, a sentencing alternatives program, presentence investigation for county courts, formal probation supervision, limited predispositional reports for juvenile court, home detention program supervision, 24-hour intake at county jails, youth advocacy, a cooperative agreement to provide staff-secure shelter care, and a jail removal transportation subsidy program.

Serving hundreds of children a year in a county of more than 9,000 square miles, the program has enabled the county to address the mandates of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

For further information, contact:

Charles Kratz
Fremont County Youth Services
Fremont County Court House
Lander, WY 82520
(307) 332-1085

Pam Allen, J.D., is the editor of JJ Coalition News. As director of special projects for the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (formerly the National Coalition of State Juvenile Justice Advisory Groups), she oversaw the Coalition's administration of the 1993 Gould-Wysinger award solicitation process.

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The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

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For further information, contact:

Howard Schwartz
New York State Division of Criminal
Justice Services
Executive Park Tower
Stuyvesant Plaza
Albany, NY 12203
(518) 485-7919

North Carolina

Project HELP

Project HELP (Helping Equip Little People) is an early intervention program that concentrates on delinquency prevention. The goals of the program are to promote wholesome values and moral living, impart work-readiness skills, develop social and cultural skills, give youth an opportunity to interact with positive adult role models, and involve parents in all phases of the program.

The program serves 20 youth ages 6 to 10 who have exhibited behaviors that make them at-risk of entering the juvenile justice system. Volunteers, who are matched with an appropriate youth, work with program staff, parents, and youth to develop individual

"No participants have become involved with the juvenile justice system."

programs and create opportunities for leadership development.

To date, every parent of a child in the program has become involved, and three-quarters of the children have participated in the social and cultural enrichment programs. Everyone has participated in community service activities either through the schools, local civic groups, or the housing authority. No program participants have become involved with the juvenile justice system.

For further information, contact:

Daryl Woodard
Wayne County Youth Outreach
P.O. Box 1051
Goldsboro, NC 27530
(919) 735-0008

North Dakota

Anger Management Program

Located in Bismarck, the Anger Management Program works with youth and their parents to help them control outbursts of angry, aggressive behavior. The 10-week training program reduces the frequency of aggressive or violent incidents by developing awareness of anger patterns and teaching new skills for handling anger-provoking situations. The curriculum includes separate groups for parents, junior and high school students, and fifth and sixth graders.

The program completed its first year of operation in 1991 and has served more than 150 adolescents and 160 parents. Young people enrolled in the program have reduced their involvement in aggressive and violent incidents. The program draws on the resources of virtually every youth-serving agency, public and private, that maintains a local staff. The State training school and a private residential facility have requested training in anger management to incorporate a similar component in their programs.

For further information, contact:

Mark LoMurray
Bismarck Police Youth Bureau
700 South Ninth Street
Bismarck, ND 58501
(701) 222-6738

Ohio

Sex Offender Assessment

The Sex Offender Assessment research project, which involves 76 youths and 45 parents, was created to improve the assessment and treatment of juvenile sex offenders and enhance understanding of the victimization

process. The project evaluates how offenders attempt to gain a victim's trust; what types of nonsexual behaviors are engaged in prior to the abuse; and how enticements, bribes, threats, and coercion are used to obtain cooperation in sexual activity. In the last phase of the project, the study findings will be disseminated to practitioners during a daylong State-wide workshop.

Before the project was initiated, little research was available to guide the assessment and treatment of adolescent offenders. The results will provide professionals with critically needed information and will improve caretakers' ability to treat offenders and victims.

For further information, contact:

Keith L. Kaufman, Ph.D.
Children's Hospital Research
Foundation
700 Children's Drive
Columbus, OH 43205
(614) 461-2100

Oklahoma

McAlester Alternative School Project

The McAlester Alternative School Project was developed to provide education services to at-risk students in the McAlester Public School District. The school allows students to learn at their own pace in a more relaxed setting. It provides onsite child care for teen parents and teaches fundamentals of child care. Class sizes are small, and a counselor is available throughout the day to provide personal, crisis, and career counseling. Attendance is voluntary.

In 3 years the program has served 174 students; 58 have graduated from high school, and 27 have entered vocational-technical training programs. Twenty-one students have been able to continue their education because of the onsite child care, and 9 parent/students have graduated. Increases in staff size have allowed the school to

serve even more students, and initial enrollment has grown from 40 to 75. The school has helped meet the needs of a community experiencing serious socioeconomic problems.

For further information, contact:

Lucy Smith, Superintendent
McAlester Public Schools
P.O. Box 1027
McAlester, OK 74502-1027
(918) 423-4771

Puerto Rico

Home for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency

This program provides shelter and other support services to 28 girls, the majority of whom have been removed from their homes because of sexual abuse or abandonment. Most of the girls, who range in age from 4 to 18, have parents who are physically or mentally unable to care for them adequately. The program provides crisis intervention, counseling, tutoring, educational placement, community services, and recreational and social activities.

In the past year the program has acquired its own building, and the staff now includes a psychologist, a social worker, and four instructors.

For further information, contact:

Sister Georgio Reiyó
Santa Ana Institute for
Juvenile Development
P.O. Box 554
Adjuntas, PR 00601
(809) 829-2504

Tennessee

Bright Future Project

This juvenile delinquency prevention project provides academic and social support to African-American youth ages 5 to 15. Bright Future provides study resources to help youth complete their homework assignments. Reading and comprehension testing and prescribed tutoring are available

for a limited number of youth. Decisionmaking rap sessions, discussions, and practice sessions are also provided. Supervised opportunities allow youth to contribute to their community by participating in neighborhood improvement projects.

The program serves some 30 children per day during the school year. About 330 young people have taken advantage of the afterschool tutoring and resource center, and 22 young people have participated in the special testing and remediating program. Teachers note that the quantity and quality of participants' schoolwork have improved.

The program has gained the respect of the community, and the Neighborhood Association has become the center of community life largely as a result of this project.

For further information, contact:

Henry I. Hargrow, Jr.
Memphis Area Neighborhood Watch
37 West Fairway
Memphis, TN 38109
(901) 789-5942

Virginia

Study of Serious Juvenile Offenders

This comprehensive study of serious juvenile offenders defines the population of juveniles who have been convicted in circuit court by offense and service history, compares transferred and convicted juveniles to those retained in the juvenile justice system and committed to learning centers, identifies jurisdictional variation in the transfer option, evaluates which factors influence the decisionmaking process for transfer-eligible juveniles, and develops recommendations for policymakers. Study findings are available in a detailed report.

The project makes a substantial contribution toward developing an informational base from which legislators can draw in deciding juvenile justice issues. There is a commitment to continue this important research.

For further information, contact:

Marian Kelly
Department of Criminal Justice
Services
805 East Broad Street, 10th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 225-4072

Virgin Islands

"Graffiti Street"

"Graffiti Street" is a teen talk show designed to prevent juvenile delinquency by improving communication and developing understanding between youth and adults. The format uses a teen panel, guest speakers, and guest performers. Participants represent a cross-section of the population. The show is very popular with youth and adults and has received a national public broadcasting award.

For further information, contact:

Calvin Bastian or Allison Petrus
WTJX-TV, Channel 12
Barbel Plaza South
St. Thomas, VI 00801
(809) 774-6255

Washington

Regional Juvenile Justice Program Development

The Regional Juvenile Justice Program Development (RPD) program is an interagency approach to developing strategies for preventing and reducing juvenile delinquency in Snohomish County. The major goal of the program is to implement the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Efforts continue to maintain local committee membership consistent with Section 223 (a) A through E; encourage and assist compliance with Sections 223 (a) 12, 13, and 14; and monitor the local detention facility. Project staff develop and recommend procedures for coordination of local juvenile justice activities and work to ensure that duplication and conflict between agencies are minimized, service gaps are identified, and systemwide problems are addressed.