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OJJDP NEWS @ a Glance

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OJJDP Priorities for 2003

Children are the nation's greatest resource, and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to become a productive member of society is at the heart of OJJDP's mission. Reflecting a renewed focus on children who are most at risk of missing out on that opportunity, OJJDP's program priorities for 2003 will be as follows:

- ▶ **Child prostitution.** Exploitation through prostitution and pornography is an extremely damaging form of child victimization. OJJDP is collaborating with other agencies and the law enforcement and social services communities to address this often neglected problem from three perspectives: prevention, protection, and prosecution. An important first step, a National Summit on Child Prostitution, has already been taken (see page 5).
- ▶ **Truancy.** The effects of truancy are pervasive. The problem takes its toll not only on students (who are more likely to fall behind in school, drop out, and become involved with the juvenile justice system), but also on schools and communities. Building on lessons learned at seven truancy reduction demonstration sites, OJJDP will work to ensure that communities have access to strategies that work.
- ▶ **Disproportionate minority contact (DMC).** The 2002 preauthorization of the JJDP Act broadened the concept of disproportionate minority **confinement** to address the disproportionate numbers of minority youth who come into **contact** with the juvenile justice system at any point—from arrest to reentry. Overrepresentation of minority youth in the system relates directly to the issue of fundamental fairness. Ultimately, the answer to this problem lies in minimizing system involvement for all youth through prevention and diversion and improving system response. OJJDP will intensify its efforts to identify and disseminate sound strategies for reducing DMC.
- ▶ **Tribal youth assistance.** Recognizing the unique needs of tribal communities, OJJDP will continue its direct support of delinquency prevention and juvenile justice projects that originate with the tribes themselves. These projects incorporate indigenous customs and draw on tribal strengths to help youth live up to their potential.

OJJDP Administrator J. Robert Flores discussed these program priorities and other topics in a 1-hour satellite videoconference aired December 11, 2002. The presentation also featured segments on research initiatives, information resources, and training and technical assistance programs.

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OJJDP Priorities for 2005 (continued from page 1)

During the discussion, Mr. Flores emphasized the importance of **collaboration** among the many federal agencies whose missions and programs relate to children. He noted that the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention serves as a vehicle to promote the cost-effective use of resources, avoid duplication of effort, and present a unified vision to the

field. Mr. Flores also called for a **new dynamic in research and evaluation** at OJJDP, one that emphasizes awareness of child-focused research at other agencies, more timely dissemination of evaluation findings, and information on impact rather than processes.

Responding to a number of questions and comments from videoconference participants, Mr. Flores stressed that OJJDP wants to **"listen first"**

before it develops and disseminates new programs, to be certain that it provides states and localities with tools they want, need, and can use.

To view "OJJDP Report: A Discussion With J. Robert Flores" on the Web, visit www.trc.eku.edu/jj/archive.html. Videotapes of the conference are available for \$15 from the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse (see contact information on page 3 of this newsletter). ■

Nation Celebrates Second Annual Mentoring Month

Proclaiming the first National Mentoring Month in January 2002, President George W. Bush said:

National Mentoring Month allows us to recognize the important contributions made by the millions of our fellow citizens who choose to strengthen our nation by giving their time, effort, and heart to serve as a mentor and role model for a young person.

In January 2003, National Mentoring Month blossomed into a collaborative, public-private initiative led by the Harvard Mentoring Project and MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership. The initiative is supported by the White House, Congress, the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education, governors and mayors across the country, and a wide array of nonprofit organizations, media companies, and individuals.

The goals of the National Mentoring Month initiative are to raise public awareness and recruit both individuals and organizations. The initiative seeks to show how individuals, businesses, government agencies, schools, faith communities, and nonprofit organizations can work together to increase the number of mentors and ensure a brighter future for the nation's youth.

The theme for National Mentoring Month 2003 was "Who mentored you? Thank them . . . and pass it on!" A major public relations initiative was built around the theme, including the launch of a special Web site (www.whomentoredyou.org) by the Harvard Mentoring Project featuring commentary from prominent people about mentors in their own lives.

Mentoring: A Proven Delinquency Reduction Strategy

Juvenile mentoring programs are an effective means of providing adult support and positive role models to help at-risk youth overcome the challenges they face. Since 1995, OJJDP's Juvenile Mentoring Program (JUMP) has supported one-to-one mentoring projects for youth at risk of failing in school, dropping out of school, or becoming involved in delinquency (including gang activity and substance abuse). Over

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Online Resources for Mentoring

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of America: www.bbbsa.org
- Boys & Girls Clubs of America: www.bgca.org
- Harvard Mentoring Project:
www.hsph.harvard.edu/chc/mentoring.html
- Juvenile Mentoring Program (JUMP):
www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/jump/index.html
- MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership:
www.mentoring.org
- "Mentoring Matters" satellite videoconference:
www.trc.eku.edu/jj/archive.html
- National Mentoring Center:
www.nwrel.org/mentoring

New Publications

All publications may be viewed and downloaded at OJJDP's Web site. (Visit the "Publications" page at ojjdp.ncjrs.org/pubs/ijpubs.html for access to alphabetical and topical listings of titles, with links to content summaries and full-text files.) The publications may also be ordered from the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse at 800-638-8736, 410-792-4358 (fax), and online at puborder.ncjrs.org. Be sure to check the Web site's "New Releases" page at ojjdp.ncjrs.org/pubs/new.html for the latest news on OJJDP publishing activity.

Juvenile Arrests 2000. Analyzes juvenile arrest trends through 2000, based on data from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

Bulletin. November 2002. 12 pp.
NCJ 191729.

Juvenile Residential Facility Census, 2000: Selected Findings. Summarizes selected national and state-level data from the first Juvenile Residential Facility Census and analyzes Census findings on facility crowding and deaths of juveniles in custody.

National Report Series Bulletin. December 2002. 4 pp. NCJ 196595.

Trends in Juvenile Violent Offending: An Analysis of Victim Survey Data. Uses information gathered from

victims of crime in the National Crime Victimization Survey to examine trends in juvenile violent offending over the past two decades.

Bulletin. October 2002. 20 pp. NCJ 191052.

Violent Victimization as a Risk Factor for Violent Offending Among Juveniles. Analyzes relationships between violent victimization and violent offending among juveniles, based

on data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health.

Bulletin. December 2002. 12 pp.
NCJ 195737.

Coming Soon . . .

Latest Resources From OJJDP

A comprehensive, easy-to-use guide to information available from OJJDP through the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse, titled *Latest Resources From OJJDP*, will soon be available. Among other features, the guide includes an annotated listing (arranged by topics) of all publications issued by OJJDP during 2001 and 2002.

Mentoring Month (continued from page 2)

the years, JUMP projects have provided mentoring services to thousands of youth.¹

OJJDP also created and supports the National Mentoring Center, which offers training, technical assistance, and other resources for mentoring projects throughout the country. In early February 2003, an OJJDP-sponsored satellite video-conference, "Mentoring Matters," highlighted the importance of mentoring as an effective approach to delinquency prevention; examined mentoring in community, faith-based, school, and work settings; and shared strategies for effective mentor recruitment. ■

¹ Under the 2002 reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, mentoring and several other programs soon will be consolidated into a single Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Block Grant Program (see "Funding Update," page 4).

In Memory of Lauren Ziegler

OJJDP staff members were saddened by the loss of their friend and coworker, Lauren S. Ziegler, 34, who died of a pulmonary embolism on November 7, 2002. For more than 4 years, Ms. Ziegler managed the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, a cooperative effort of OJJDP and the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. She was scheduled to receive an award from the White House Advisory Commission on Drug-Free Communities in recognition of her efforts to prevent drug abuse among youth.

Ms. Ziegler, whose career was committed to helping others, was also a devoted community volunteer, donating much of her free time as

a grief/bereavement aide for Hospice Care of DC. She received numerous awards, including recognition from OJJDP for exemplary leadership and from the Hospices of the National Capital Region for her outstanding dedication.

A memorial service was held on December 3 at the Office of Justice Programs. During the service, Ms. Ziegler's mother, Cynthia Ziegler of Chatham, NJ, accepted posthumous recognitions of her daughter's professional accomplishments from Greg Dixon, Administrator, Drug-Free Communities Support Program, Office of National Drug Control Policy, and Deborah J. Daniels, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs. ■

Funding Update

Be sure to check the OJJDP Web site regularly for the latest news on OJJDP funding opportunities, including grant application information, materials, and deadlines. (Go to ojjdp.ncjrs.org and click on the “Grants & Funding” icon.) To receive e-mail notification of new funding opportunities, subscribe to JUVJUST. (Go to ojjdp.ncjrs.org and click on the “Subscribe to JUVJUST” icon.)

Current Solicitation

The deadline for FY 2003 grant applications for the **Drug-Free Communities Support Program** is March 11, 2003. Applications must be completed online using the Office of Justice Programs’ Grants Management System; applicants

must register on GMS by February 25. For details, visit the OJJDP Web site at ojjdp.ncjrs.org/grants/current.html.

FY 2003 Funding for OJJDP

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002—part of the Department of Justice reauthorization act signed into law on November 2, 2002—restructures much of OJJDP’s funding activity. The new act consolidates several previously independent programs into a single Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Block Grant Program and introduces a number of other significant changes.

OJJDP’s funding situation for 2003 is complicated by a combination of this restructuring and issues related to the continuing resolution (CR) process that governs spending by federal agencies until Congress enacts appropriations for the current budget year. OJJDP is working with the Office of Justice Programs to determine the options available for funding programs in 2003 and to ensure that important funding streams are not interrupted.

At the time this newsletter went to press, OJJDP was operating under a CR scheduled to expire January 31, 2003. For the latest information on the status of funding for FY 2003, visit the OJJDP Web site at ojjdp.ncjrs.org or the Office of Justice Programs Web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov. ■

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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.

News @ a Glance is OJJDP’s bimonthly newsletter, bringing you up-to-date notices of agency activities, recent publications, funding opportunities, and upcoming events—with an emphasis on providing quick access to online sources for publications and other resources. Let us know what types of features would be most useful to you (e-mail askjj@ncjrs.org).

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OJJDP Convenes First Department of Justice National Summit on Child Prostitution

Child prostitution is underreported, underrecognized, and undertreated, and this conference is our opportunity to rectify those problems.

—J. Robert Flores
Administrator, OJJDP

More than 130 people from across the country recently gathered for a 2-day summit to address the problem of child prostitution. The OJJDP-sponsored event—Protecting Our Children: Working Together To End Child Prostitution—took place in Washington, DC, on December 13–14, 2002. The summit was designed as a working meeting to encourage networking, raise national awareness, build knowledge about effective practices, assess the needs and strengths of the field, and develop a consensus for action. Participants included representatives from a variety of disciplines and perspectives.



A panel discussion at the Child Prostitution Summit focused on the “three P’s”: prevention, prosecution, and protection/assistance. J. Robert Flores (left), OJJDP Administrator, moderated the discussion. Panelists included (left to right) Joseph M. Canibano, Dallas (TX) Police Department; Donna M. Hughes, University of Rhode Island; The Honorable Nina R. Hickson, Fulton County (GA) Juvenile Court; Norma Hotaling, Standing Against Global Exploitation Project, Inc.; Laura Barnitz, U.S. Campaign To End the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children; and Marianne L. Barrett, San Francisco (CA) District Attorney’s Office. (Department of Justice photo)



Deputy Attorney General Larry D. Thompson addresses Child Prostitution Summit participants. (Department of Justice photo)

The summit opened with remarks from Larry D. Thompson, Deputy Attorney General; Deborah J. Daniels, Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs; and J. Robert Flores, OJJDP Administrator. All of the speakers stressed the importance of the summit as a first step in improving the nation’s response to this critical problem.

Participants divided into working groups to develop recommendations for policy considerations and action steps at the federal, state, and local levels. They identified a

number of needs: expanded treatment services, a comprehensive media campaign, model statutes for prosecution, and additional research (including reliable estimates of the number of children affected by commercial sexual exploitation) and resources.

Participants also heard from individuals who had experienced sexual exploitation as children, many of whom spoke in favor of substituting “commercial sexual exploitation of children” for the term “child prostitution” because the latter connotes criminal behavior and

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Child Prostitution Summit (continued from page 5)

legal consent by the children. A common theme throughout the proceedings was that the children involved should be viewed as victims, not as criminals.

In his closing remarks, Ron Laney, Director of OJJDP's Child Protection Division, said that summit participants' recommendations would serve to guide and inform federal policy, including OJJDP's child prostitution initiative. OJJDP plans to launch a Web page devoted to this important issue; the launch will be announced at ojjdp.ncjrs.org. ■

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