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Date: January 20, 2012
To: OJP Science Advisory Board
From: Mark Lipsey, Chair, OJJDP Subcommittee
Re: Progress Report

Committee Members

From the SAB

Mark Lipsey (chair), Vanderbilt University
Judge Theodore McKee, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
Ed Mulvey, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Ad hoc members added April, 2011

Michelle Chino, University of Las Vegas
David Finkelhor, University of New Hampshire
Linda Teplin, Northwestern University

Ad hoc member added October, 2011, to fill the vacancy left by Michelle Chino's resignation

Jeffrey Butts, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

OJJDP Liaison to the Subcommittee

Brecht Donoghue, Research Coordinator, OJJDP

Meetings and Contacts

May 16, 2011: Mark Lipsey & Jeff Slowikowski (telephone)

May 27, 2011: Subcommittee, Blumstein, Beckman (telephone)

June 17, 2011: Subcommittee, Blumstein, Donoghue (telephone)

September 16, 2011: Subcommittee, Blumstein (telephone)

October 11, 2011, at the OJJDP Pre-Conference: Subcommittee, OJJDP Administrators (Jeff Slowikowski, Janet Chiancone, and Brecht Donoghue)

October 11, 2011, at the OJJDP Pre-Conference: Presentation by Mark Lipsey and discussion with Subcommittee members for investigators with OJJDP funded research projects

January 19, 2012: Subcommittee meeting prior to the SAB meeting, including an initial discussion with Melodee Hanes, the newly appointed Acting Administrator for OJJDP, and Jeff Slowikowski, former Acting Administrator.

Summary

The scope of OJJDP programs, initiatives, and activities is very broad, encompassing support for research and evaluation, program support, statistical compilations, training, publication, and various forms of information dissemination. The Subcommittee's activities to date have consisted mainly of efforts to better understand the structure and functions of OJJDP and discussions about where to focus attention in ways with potential to be productive in relation to the SAB's charge and reflective of concerns and priorities among the OJJDP leadership.

One feature of OJJDP that is quite clear to the Subcommittee is that the ability of OJJDP to make the most effective use of available research evidence in many of its programs is constrained by the requirements of some of the funding streams received through the Congressional appropriations process. Examples include formula grants for programs with little ability to direct

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that funding toward evidence-based practices and funding required for certain program approaches such as mentoring that are not necessarily those with the soundest evidence for addressing the problems that concern Congress and motivate the associated appropriation. The Subcommittee suggests that the SAB consider whether there are ways to use its position to provide advice to Congress about better ways to let evidence inform effective programming.

The Subcommittee continues to deliberate about possible aspects of OJJDP structure and functions that would be productive for further inquiry and possible recommendations to the SAB. The major topics under consideration reflect the broad scope of OJJDP activities:

- Priorities for research and evaluation, the process for setting those priorities within OJJDP's funding constraints, and the peer review process for selecting projects for funding.
- The extent to which research evidence is incorporated in program solicitations and the evidence base for the program areas OJJDP must fund.
- The evidence base and scientific quality of the information OJJDP disseminates through such means as the new journal and other publications, the model programs guide, training and technical assistance, and the like.
- Organizational and personnel aspects of OJJDP that may facilitate or hinder effective development and use of research evidence.