



YOUTHS IN THE USVI

☐ Faced with limited resources

Exposed to the same risk factors as mainland youths





USVI JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

- Juvenile Justice is administered under the Department of Human Services (DHS)
- □ There is vacant "Administrator" of Juvenile Justice position available. . .
- There are two District Managers (one in STX and one in STT) with social workers and a Probation Officer that work in each district
- ☐ There is one juvenile detention facility for the Territory called the Youth Rehabilitation Center (YRC) that accepts ALL youth remanded



HISTORICAL DATA

- USVI Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Symposium entitled "Strategies & Solutions for the Virgin Islands" conducted in June of 2006 (6/14- St. Croix & 6/15-St. Thomas) by the Law Enforcement Planning Commission (LEPC)
- Addressed concerns of a broad group of community entities in the success of youth in the Juvenile Justice System (JJS) & those at risk





HISTORICAL DATA

The Daily News, Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Virgin Islands

Symposium aims to stem delinquency

By AESHA DUVAL Daily News Staff

ST. CROIX — Curbing violence among young people in the territory will be the focus of a two-day symposium being hosted this week by the Law Enforcement Planning Commission and the State Adviso-

The V.I. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Symposium starts at 8 a.m. today at Divi Carina Bay Resort and Casino on St. Croix and moves to St. Thomas' Wyndham Sugar Bay Resort on Thursday at 9 a.m. The community and people who work with young people are invited to attend.

Mental illness, juvenile justice, Internet chat rooms and the links between child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency are just some of the topics to be discussed during the symposium, State Advisory Group member Kimberly Gomez

"The symposium marks the very beginning of a new discussion that we need to have," Gomez said. "We've been reading about the chaos and violence among youth in our community, and we are starting

the stage of gathering information on how we need to intervene and ensure there is effective programming for our youth.

She said the goal of the symposium will also be to foster better neglect. coordination of youth services in

breakout sessions led by local presenters on the following topics: meeting the needs of the female adolescent, caring and treating mental illness in adolescents, and innovative perspectives and projects for professionals working with youth

On Thursday, the St. Thomas breakout sessions will also focus on the challenges and opportunities with the school environment and preventing crimes against youth on

The presenters represent public and private agencies, including the V.I. Police Department, V.I. Superior Court, V.I. Education, the Youth Rehabilitation Center and St. Croix Women's Coalition.

The keynote address will be given by John Tuell, director of the Child Welfare League of America. Tuell will speak on the connection

between child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency and discuss a five-phase framework that could improve outcomes for young people who have experienced abuse or

Giving remarks at today's opening session on St. Croix will be Each symposium will include LEPC Drug Policy Adviser Meredith Nielsen, V.I. Delegate to the Congress Donna Christensen, V.I. Senate President Lorraine Berry and Gov. Charles Turnbull.

Shane Salter, an author and executive director of the national Court Appointed Special Advocate program in Washington, D.C., will give his personal account of being a foster child.

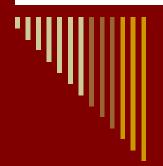
Gomez said the symposium is going to be "youth-driven" with youth representatives participating in topic discussions.

"It's time to stop blaming each other for everything and come together and figure out what to do."

Participants are asked to register by calling 773-2323 ext. 2004 or 774-6400 ext. 219.

Contact Aesha Duval at 774-8772 ext. 453 or e-mail

- Set the stage for gathering information on how to intervene & ensure effective programming
- Information collected provided the basis for research & data collection specific to the USVI



PROGRESSION OF INITIATIVE

September 2006, follow up meeting held, hosted by USVI Superior Court, Family Court Judge, Marjorie D. Steele, facilitated by SAG Member, Kimberley C. Gomez, & CWLA Consultant, John Tuell.

Attendees agreed to form a coalition, Virgin Islands
Systems Integration Executive Committee, to examine
and make improvements in integrated program
development, policy development & service delivery for
children, youth & families served by child welfare, juvenile
justice, & related youth serving systems.



PROGRESSION OF INITIATIVE

- □ Three primary subcommittees were established:
 - 1) Data Collection & Information Management
 - 2) Resource and Assessment
 - 3) Legal & Policy



Data Collection & Information Management:

Conducted a Point-In-Time Survey (St.

Croix District only) for all open child welfare/juvenile justice cases at the Department of Human Services (DHS) for June 29, 2007



Data Collection continued....

Point-In-Time Survey: Social Workers at DHS/Division of Children, Youth & Families (CYF), the Youth Rehabilitation Center (YRC), & Virgin Islands Behavioral Services (VIBS) were asked to complete a six page survey





Data Collection continued....

Point-In-Time Survey Form detailed:

- 1) Child's name & demographics
- 2) Abuse & juvenile justice history
- 3) School history
- 4) Mental health & substance abuse history



Each case was entered into a database to determine any duplication of cases (i.e. those cases that existed at both YRC and DHS), to determine which cases had entered the JJS, & to identify all of the current dual jurisdiction cases (youth entering the JJS with a history of maltreatment)



Data Collection continued....

Point-In-Time Survey data findings:

- Females in the JJS were disproportionately affected by abuse, representing 27% of all youth with a history of abuse, but only 12% of youth with no history of abuse
- Over 60% of all dual-jurisdiction youth are CURRENTLY living in ether Foster Care or at YRC. 80% of all dual-jurisdiction youth have a HISTORY of living in Foster Care, at YRC or both
- > 86% of dual-jurisdiction youth are either in school or currently enrolled in GED training. Over 95% have a history of ongoing problems at school



Data Collection continued....

Point-In-Time Survey data findings:

- DHS had 347 open cases in the St. Croix District on June 29, 2007
- Of the 347 cases, 123 cases had youth who entered the Juvenile Justice System (JJS)(35.7% of all open cases)
- > 19 cases of substantiated maltreatment among the 123 youth who entered the JJS. There were an additional 47 cases of unsubstantiated maltreatment, creating a total of 66 youth with a history of maltreatment (53.7% of all open JJS)
- > Females in the JJS were disproportionately affected by abuse, representing 27% of all youth with a history of abuse, but only 12% of youth with no history of abuse



Data Collection continued....

Point-In-Time Survey data findings:

- Close to half of all dual-jurisdiction have a history substance abuse and/or a mental health diagnosis.
- > A total of 34 youth were incarcerated at YRC. Of the 34 youth, 21 had a history of maltreatment, representing 62% of YRC's population.
- > YRC residents represented 32% of all dual-jurisdiction youth.
- > There were 45 youth on probation, representing 68% of all dualjurisdiction youth.

(Note: See handouts- Appendix A)



 Resource and Assessment:
 Researched & documented current assessment instruments, resources and services available to youth

Completed an inventory of existing services & resources for dual-jurisdiction youth

Completed a flowchart that maps the service delivery process in the JJ & CW systems

(Note: See handouts- Appendix B and C)



Resources & Assessment continued....

Identified gaps in services and staffing

Prioritized existing and needed services

Made recommendations for micro-level & macro-level change in the child welfare & JJS



□ Legal and Policy Subcommittee:

Conducted an analysis of existing federal and local statutes regarding confidentiality, sharing of information, and parental responsibility.

Completed a flowchart that maps a juvenile case court process.

Researched and collected information regarding the specific confidentiality policies of relevant government agencies (i.e. Department of Education, Attorney General's Office, DHS).

(Note: See handouts- Appendix D & E)



Legal and Policy Subcommittee continued:

These analyses revealed the existing laws and policies that will allow for the development of a multidisciplinary team to address the case management and sentencing recommendation needs of dual-jurisdiction youth.

These analyses revealed parental responsibility provisions are vague and should be strengthened to mandate real consequences for neglectful parents.

(Note: See handouts- Appendix D & E)



SUMMARY & NEXT STEPS

- Improved cross-system understanding of roles in child welfare and juvenile justice
- Data-driven Decision Making promoting efficiency and effectiveness across systems
- Improved understanding case characteristics
- New grant is submitted with support from the SAG for additional funds to further the work
- Construction of protocol to ensure steps in new practice



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