

# New Hampshire State Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice

*Report to the Governor  
2009*



The vision of the State Advisory Group (SAG) is that all at-risk children and their families have access to resources, programs, and activities that promote positive youth development and enhance the well-being of communities in New Hampshire.

## The tasks of the State Advisory are to:

**Monitor** New Hampshire's compliance with the core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJJPA), which are:

- **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders** Status offenders or non-offenders cannot be securely detained or confined in adult facilities for any length of time.
- **Jail Removal** Delinquent youth can only be securely detained for up to six hours in a metropolitan area, while in a non-metropolitan area they can only be securely detained for up to 48 hours provided that no existing acceptable alternative is available.
- **Sight and Sound Separation** Contact between delinquent, status offender and non-offender juveniles and adult offenders in secure institutions, including part- and full-time security staff or direct care staff of a jail or lock-up facility(s) for adults is prohibited.
- **Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)** The state is obligated to employ efforts to reduce the overrepresentation of minority youth at any point of contact in the juvenile justice system.

Compliance with the JJJPA serves two purposes:

- Supports the development of a juvenile justice system that protects community safety, promotes juvenile offender accountability, rehabilitation and positive youth development
- Ensures state eligibility for federal delinquency prevention funds

## Advise and inform

- Submit annual report to the Governor outlining NH's compliance with the four core requirements
- Advise and support the Division for Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) consistent with the JJJPA
- Inform the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation about state and national juvenile justice issues during the annual Coalition for Juvenile Justice conference in Washington, DC

## Plan and Prioritize

- Development and submit a comprehensive three-year plan to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)
- Determine priority areas for the allocation of delinquency prevention funds

## The Four Committees of the SAG

Each member of the SAG serves on at least one of the following four committees:

### Community Relations

- Provide public education concerning juvenile justice issues and initiatives through conferences, press releases and testimonials from involved youth.
- Oversee the Spirit of Youth Award process
- Identify potential members for appointment to the SAG

### Disproportionate Minority Contact

- Oversee the five phases of DMC: identification, assessment, implementation, monitoring and evaluation
- Collaborate with the juvenile justice specialist in the development of goals and objectives for DMC for the 3-year plan
- Utilize data to develop and fund programs to reduce the overrepresentation of minority youth in the system
- Disseminate DMC information to designated state and local leaders

### Planning and Research

- Prepare and submit annual report on juvenile justice to the Governor and legislature
- Oversee development of a comprehensive 3-year plan
- Develop requests for proposals
- Monitor juvenile justice data
- Serve as liaison to the Division for Juvenile Justice Services
- Act as a catalyst for research projects and evaluation

### Program Committee

- Oversee the Request for Proposal process
- Evaluate grant applications
- Make recommendations for funding
- Monitor grantee performance

For more Information:

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**Coalition for Juvenile Justice**  
<http://juvjustice.org>

**Office of Justice, Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention**  
<http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/about/ojjdpact2002.html>

**2005-2007 NH SAG Activities**

- Hosted a conference on Adolescent Brain Development
- Funded the implementation of Performance Based Standards (PBS) outcome measures, which build performance improvement and accountability for DJJS
- Provided funds to New Futures to help support a conference on adolescent substance abuse for judges and juvenile probation and parole officers from DJJS
- Trained law enforcement personnel on juvenile justice topics and the four core requirements in collaboration with the NH Police Academy
- Supported Juvenile Detention alternative Initiative activities
- Funded an evaluation of youth attendant programs across the state
- Funded the JOLT (Juvenile Offender Location Teams) and Operation Night Owl, intensive programs that focus on supervising and monitoring youth who are on probation
- Funded a full time psychiatrist for DJJS to provide direct evaluation and treatment services to juveniles, to train staff and providers in resiliency theory and positive youth development and to create more effective collaboration with mental health and other community-based organizations
- Funded training and educational opportunities for youth counselors at SYSC
- Supported the coordinator position for youth drug courts
- Funded the Maple Sugar Program, a self-sustaining maple sugar operation at SYSC
- Held community forums in both Manchester and Nashua regarding DMC issues
- Created local DMC committees in Manchester and Nashua
- Presented the Spirit of Youth Award to recognize a young adult with previous involvement with the juvenile justice system, who overcome personal obstacles and who is making significant contributions to society

**Current Activities**

- Ensure compliance with the four core requirements
- Oversee implementation of current 3-year plan
- Fund mental health programs
- Fund Disproportionate Minority Contact programs
- Fund Juvenile Detention Alternative programs
- Educate SAG members and the public about state and national issues impacting children, youth and families
- Review the role of the SAG in advocating for change

**Grant Priorities**

Each year NH receives approximately \$640,000 of funding from JJDDPA grants. From 2005 through 2007 the NH SAG awarded a total of \$1,412,095 for delinquency prevention and system improvements activities. Specific grant awards covered the following areas:

- Data collection
  - Management information systems
  - Analytical reports to guide future planning
  - Statewide data collection efforts
  - Status of Juvenile Justice in NH reports (Gebo, 2005 and 2006)
- Delinquency prevention efforts
  - Based on positive youth development
  - Decrease the number of youth entering the juvenile justice system, specifically in Carroll, Coos and Sullivan Counties
- Substance Abuse
- Drug Court initiatives
- Increase educational opportunities for members of the SAG
- DMC system improvement
- Mentoring programs
- After school programs
- Family education and support
- Alternative to suspension and expulsion programs
- Assist in the creation of alternatives to secure detention and detention reform
- Support court data development
- Fund trainings for staff of the Sununu Youth Services Center (SYSC)
- Fund and provide training to law enforcement for use of the dispositional guideline form

**Status of NH's Compliance with the Four Core Requirements**

The activities of the SAG are supported by two administrative positions assigned to the Division for Juvenile Justice Services. Those positions are the Juvenile Justice Specialist and the Jail Compliance Monitor. The role of the Juvenile Justice Specialist is to manage all the OJJDP grants awarded to New Hampshire and to act as the liaison between DJJS and the SAG. The role of the Jail Compliance Monitor is to conduct on-site visits to all secure and non-secure facilities throughout New Hampshire and to provide education, guidance and technical assistance to the staff of these facilities in an effort to reduce and correct any violations.

OJJDP uses a statistical formula to determine the threshold for allowable violations permitted each year. New Hampshire is allowed twenty-eight (28) violations each year.

The SAG and the Jail Compliance Monitor have worked collaboratively with OJJDP to create a plan that assures compliance with the four core requirements. During the period of 2005 through 2007 NH maintained compliance with the four core requirements as set forth below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>DSO</b>	<b>Jail Removal</b>	<b>Sight/Sound</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>101*</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>

\*These violations were identified and addressed through changes to agency policy and procedures.

Hispanic and Asian youth were disproportionately over represented in the juvenile justice system as compared to the number of Caucasian youth in the juvenile justice system during this time period. When minority youth are over represented by one percent or more compared to Caucasian youth, the State must assess the factors that may have lead to youth being over represented in the system.