

(2) Recommend to the Secretary policies and programs to improve juvenile justice in this State;

(3) Participate in interpreting for the public the objectives of the Department; and

(4) Participate in planning the development and use of available resources to meet the needs of the Department.

2-115.

(b) The Department shall have a unit for research and development. The unit shall:

(1) Compile accurate statistics and reliable information on all aspects of the juvenile program of this State;

(2) Monitor current developments in the field of juvenile justice;

(3) Assess existing programs and activities, INCLUDING YOUTH SERVICE BUREAUS;

(4) Help develop new or improved means, INCLUDING GREATER UTILIZATION OF YOUTH SERVICES BUREAUS UNDER § 2-122 OF THIS SUBTITLE, to prevent juvenile offenses and control and treat juvenile offenders;

(5) If necessary, initiate studies to help the Secretary in general planning and program development for the Department; ~~and~~

~~(6) IN COLLABORATION WITH AFFECTED ENTITIES, UNDERTAKE ONGOING QUANTITATIVE ANALYSES OF THE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF PREDELINQUENT DIVERSION SERVICES PROGRAMS; AND~~

~~(7) For these and related purposes, use research and information available from all sources.~~

2-122.

(a) In this section, "youth services bureau" means a community-based entity that is operated:

(1) To provide community-oriented delinquency prevention, youth suicide prevention, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, and youth development;

(2) To ameliorate conditions that breed delinquency, youth suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, and family disruption; and

(3) To function as an advocate of youth needs.

(b) (1) The Department shall adopt rules and regulations that set eligibility guidelines for State funding of youth services bureaus under this section.

(2) The rules and regulations shall require that each State-aided youth services bureau: