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Juvenile Grant Planning and Review Council
(also known as the State Advisory Group)

Annual Report to Governor Larry Hogan and
Members of the Maryland General Assembly

Executive Order 01.01.2014.15

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Submitted by:

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**JUVENILE GRANT PLANNING AND REVIEW COUNCIL
(Maryland's State Advisory Group)**

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction

Executive Order 01.01.2014.15 designates the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention ("Office") as the State Administering Agency for federal appropriations from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

The Juvenile Grant Planning and Review Council ("Council"), Maryland's State Advisory Group, functions according to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 ("Act"), as amended in 2002, and is mandated to meet certain requirements including the four core protections, which are:

1. Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders, Section 223(a)(11), which states that status offenders and juveniles who are not charged with any offense, but who are aliens or alleged to be dependent, neglected or abused, shall not be placed in secure detention/correctional facilities. This provision excludes juveniles who are charged with or who have committed a violation of 922 (x)(2) of title 18 US Code, or of a similar state law, juveniles charged with or who have committed a violation of a valid court order, and juveniles held in accordance with the Interstate Compact;
2. Sight and Sound Separation, Section 223 (a)(12), which states that accused and adjudicated delinquents, status offenders and non-offending juveniles will not be detained or confined in any institution where they may have contact with adult inmates. Moreover, the Act mandates that professionals who work with both adults and juveniles, including in co-located facilities, receive training and certification;
3. Removal of Juveniles from Adult Jails and Lockups, Section 223(a)(13), which states that juveniles cannot be detained in any adult jail or lockup. However, the Act offers an exception for juveniles who are accused of non-status offenses and detained in a jail or lock-up for a period not to exceed six hours, during processing or release, while awaiting transfer to a juvenile facility, or when making a court appearance. The Act also provides for a rural exception which allows juveniles who are accused of delinquent offenses to be detained in an adult facility for up to 48 hours, after being taken into custody and while awaiting an initial court appearance.
4. Reduction of Disproportionate Minority Contact, Section 223(a)(22), which mandates the states to address juvenile delinquency prevention and system improvement efforts designed to reduce, without establishing or requiring numerical standards or quotas, the disproportionate number of juvenile members of minority groups who come into contact with the juvenile justice system.

In June 2015, the Council submitted its 2015-2017 Three-Year Plan to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Annual updates to the Three-Year Plan were submitted in 2016 and 2017 and the final update was submitted in May 2018. Beginning in the Fall of 2017, the Council initiated an extensive planning

process to develop its 2018-2020 Three-Year Plan. Based on the Title II Formula Grant program areas, the Council chose the following as its priorities over the next three years:

- ❖ **Aftercare & Reentry:** Community-based programs that prepare targeted youth to successfully return to their homes and communities after confinement in a training school, youth correctional facility, or other secure institution. These programs focus on preparing youth for release and providing a continuum of follow-up, post-placement services to promote successful reintegration into the community.
- ❖ **Juvenile Justice System Improvement:** Programs, research, or other initiatives to examine issues or improve practices, policies, or procedures on a system-wide basis (e.g. examining problems affecting decisions from arrest to disposition and detention to corrections).
- ❖ **Delinquency Prevention:** Comprehensive juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs that meet the needs of youth through collaboration of the many local systems before which a youth may appear, including schools, courts, law enforcement agencies, child protection agencies, mental health agencies, welfare services, health care agencies, and private nonprofit agencies offering youth services.
- ❖ **Community-Based Programs and Services:** These programs and services are those that work with:
 - Parents and other family members to strengthen families and to help keep youth in the home;
 - Youth and their families during and after confinement to ensure the youth's safe return to the home and to strengthen the families; and
 - Parents with limited English-speaking ability.

Juvenile Grant Planning and Review Council

Membership

The membership requirements of the Council are outlined in Section 223(a)(3)(A) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. The required minimum 15 and maximum 33 members must be appointed by the Governor and each member may serve up to two consecutive three-year terms. The Council currently has 33 appointed members.

Of the minimum membership, one-fifth of the members must be under the age of 24 at the time of their appointment and at least three members shall have been or are currently under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system. The Council currently has six members who were under the age of 24 at the time of their appointment and three members of which have personal experience with the juvenile justice system. The Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention dedicates three positions to the management of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act mandates: the Senior Director of Juvenile Justice and Victim Services who serves as the State's Juvenile Justice Specialist, as mandated by the Act; the Statewide Disproportionate Minority Contact Coordinator; and, the Compliance Monitor.

Subcommittees

To further enhance its work and to ensure all goals of the Three Year Plan are being met, the Council has established six standing subcommittees which are outlined below. Updates for the past year are also included.

Grant Monitoring Subcommittee

Responsibilities include supporting staff with ongoing monitoring of sub-grantees; developing a structure for sub-grantees to present to Council; conducting site visits to sub-grantees and providing technical assistance when indicated; and, working with sub-grantees to develop strategies to promote information sharing.

During the course of the year, members conducted four site visits with sub-grantees. Through this effort, members discussed the needs of clients, trends, system referrals, underserved populations, partnerships and community resources, program highlights, barriers, sustainability planning and performance tracking. In addition, two sub-recipients presented to the full Council in March of 2018.

Recruitment, Training, and Regionalization Subcommittee

This subcommittee assists with the recruitment of new members and makes recommendations to the Governor for approval; develops new member orientation; collaborates with the Emerging Leaders subcommittee to recruit appropriate youth; develops and oversees a regionalization plan for the Council and a plan to raise the Council's profile statewide.

The Office, in conjunction with the Recruitment, Training, and Regionalization subcommittee, hosted two orientation sessions for newly appointed members during the year. Additionally, meetings were held in different locations throughout the State as an effort to regionalize the Council. Recruitment efforts have been successful in yielding several new appointments. Additionally, on October 30, 2017, the Office, in collaboration with the subcommittee, hosted a training on the Department of Juvenile Services' (DJS) Racial Equity model. The topics focused on establishing a shared equity language and expanding capacity of juvenile justice professionals to develop and guide racial equity strategies. Participants explored definitions for race, racism, and bias; examined the impact of structural racism; and reviewed and practiced the use of the DJS Racial Impact Assessment Lens, a tool designed to guide agency policy and practice with explicit considerations for youth and families of color.

Emerging Leaders Subcommittee

This subcommittee is comprised of all Council youth members and is supported by adult members. The agenda and projects are developed by the youth and are tailored to include mechanisms for obtaining broader youth input. Youth members have participated in full Council meetings and in focus groups with youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system. The youth members have also had communication with youth members in other states to discuss ways to further integrate the youth voice into the Council's work. One way this has been achieved is through the grant review session. The youth members have the opportunity to review and comment on assigned applications. Their comments are taken into consideration when funding decisions are made.

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Subcommittee

This subcommittee is staffed by the State DMC Coordinator and includes the local DMC Coordinators. The DMC committee assists with drafting the strategic plan to reduce disproportionate minority youth contact at various decision making points in the system. The committee also works to demonstrate the impact of policy and program initiatives through the development of expedited and comprehensive data collection mechanisms.

Recent data shows that Maryland has made significant progress by reducing racial and ethnic disparities at various contact points throughout the juvenile justice system. This is based on the Relative Rate Index (RRI), a tool that calculates the rate of activity for minority youth versus white youth at each contact point of the juvenile justice system. It is worth noting that Maryland's RRI rates are trending towards the national averages. The DMC subcommittee reconvened in May 2018 to plan and coordinate efforts to continue the reduction of DMC in the State of Maryland.

Executive Subcommittee

This subcommittee makes executive level decisions on behalf of the full Council, when necessary, such as approving the Council's support of legislative initiatives.

Legislative Subcommittee

This subcommittee reviews and tracks juvenile justice related legislation throughout the legislative session and keeps the full Council notified should they wish to take action individually. During the 2018 legislative session, the subcommittee met weekly to analyze legislation and provide updates to members.

Juvenile Justice Grants and Programming

The Office, in collaboration with the Council, continued to fulfill its role in distributing federal funds to support the juvenile justice system in Maryland. The federal purpose areas are: aftercare/reentry, alternatives to detention, diversion (which includes addressing Disproportionate Minority Contact), and probation. The Council and the Office will continue to support programs that have been successful in diverting youth from the juvenile justice system while also promoting accountability and preventing future delinquency.

The Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention released a Notice of Funding Availability in May 2018 for the Title II Formula Grant. Per the Act, the Council reviewed the grant applications and made recommendations for funding to the Office. The grants will begin on July 1, 2018.

Plan for Compliance with the Core Protections of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

In accordance with the Act, the Council works with the Office to ensure compliance with the four core protections. Maryland must provide for an adequate system of monitoring to ensure that the core protections are met. This includes visiting and collecting information from all secure facilities and submitting an annual compliance monitoring report to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Maryland's level of compliance with each of the four core protections determines eligibility for its continued participation in the Title II Formula Grant program.

Maryland has continued to strengthen its efforts to achieve and maintain full compliance with the core protections of the Act during FY 2017- FY 2018. The Office utilizes a web-based Compliance Monitoring Data Collection System (CMDACS) to actively monitor all secure and non-secure facilities within the State. This system has been recognized at the state, national, and federal level and at least one state is interested in replication. The Office also provides ongoing training and technical assistance to law enforcement and facility staff to ensure that there is a thorough understanding of the federal mandates and policies. In 2018, the Office

will conduct regional in-service training on the Act for all primary contacts in the CMDCS. The Office will continue to work with the Council on recommendations to improve the juvenile justice system and ensure compliance with the core protections of the Act.

Plan for Compliance with the Disproportionate Minority Contact Core Requirement

The purpose of this core requirement is to ensure equal and fair treatment for every youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Statistics at the state and national level show the cumulative impact of racial disparities through each decision point in the juvenile justice system. Decisions made at one stage contribute to increasing disparities at subsequent stages. The Council's current plan will focus on the following goals:

- ❖ Reducing the number of arrests of minority youth and increasing the number of diversion and alternative to detention opportunities.
- ❖ Increasing the level of awareness of DMC (through a trauma-informed approach) for schools, law enforcement, court officials, and the community at-large.
- ❖ Reducing the number of referrals to the Department of Juvenile Services.

The Council will utilize the aforementioned goals to expand upon progress that the State has made to reduce Disproportionate Minority Contact in Maryland.

Plan for 2018-2019

The Council will continue to focus exclusively on the requirements of its mandate, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Additionally, the Council will continue to collaborate with the Department of Juvenile Services' State Advisory Board, of which the Chair of the State Advisory Group is an appointed member. It is the Chair's vision for the Council to help facilitate greater collaboration between state agencies and stakeholders around juvenile justice issues.

Consistent with its FY 2016-2017 priorities, the priorities of the Council will continue to be:

- ❖ Administering federal and state juvenile justice funds;
- ❖ Monitoring Maryland's compliance with the core protections of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, including the removal of juveniles from adult jails and police lockups, the deinstitutionalization of status offenders, and the separation of juveniles from adults while in police custody;
- ❖ Reducing the overrepresentation of minorities in the juvenile justice system; and
- ❖ Reviewing progress and accomplishments of projects funded with federal and state juvenile justice funds.

The Council will continue to provide funding to implement programs based on the following principles for preventing and reducing high-risk behaviors:

- ❖ Promoting prevention and intervention strategies as the most cost-effective approach to reducing juvenile delinquency;

- ❖ Providing methods of effective intervention in the early stages of delinquent behavior to prevent delinquent offenders from becoming chronic offenders or from progressively committing more serious and violent crimes;
- ❖ Establishing a system of graduated sanctions that holds each juvenile offender accountable, protects public safety, and provides programs and services that meet identified treatment needs; and
- ❖ Observing and analyzing the issues surrounding the small percent of serious, violent, and chronic juvenile offenders who commit the majority of juvenile felony-level offenses.

To this end, the Council will continue to:

- ❖ Analyze juvenile arrest data and trends;
- ❖ Explore research efforts conducted by stakeholders and institutions of higher education; and
- ❖ Determine the influence of the above items on disproportionate minority contact and other identified priority areas.

The Council is excited about the potential of its efforts and looks forward to continuing its collaboration with the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, service providers, and the Department of Juvenile Services. The Council will continue to review its current priority areas to determine what needs may still exist within those areas and if other priorities should be undertaken or studied in greater detail.

APPENDIX A

Juvenile Grant Planning and Review Council Membership List

Heather Chapman, Chair, United Way Ben Franklin Center

Michelle Becote-Jackson, Vice Chair, Y of Central Maryland

Kara Aanenson, Department of Juvenile Services

Secretary Sam Abed, Department of Juvenile Services

Kirsten Anderen, YMCA of Silver Spring

Marcus Bennett, Youth Member

Tya Blount, Department of Family Services

Zachary Caplan, Student

Anne-Marie Hansen-Combs, Department of Juvenile Services

Lynn Davis, Frederick County Child Advocacy Center

Bruce Edwards, Advocates for Youth, Inc.

Detective Sgt. Kathy Estrada, Montgomery County Police Department

Donald Foley, Youth Member

Eric Ford, Choice Program at UMBC

Rebecca Jones Gaston, Department of Human Services

Jonathan Gray, National Capital Area Teen Challenge

M. Hammett, Maryland Department of Transportation Police Department

Robert Johnson, Prince George's County Public Schools

Leon Lockett, Youth Member

John McGinnis, Maryland State Department of Education

Elizabeth Park, Greenbelt Cares

Gavin Patashnick, Department of Juvenile Services

Janelle Riddick, Volunteer

Senator Justin Ready, District 5, Carroll County

Heidi Rochon, Maryland Coalition of Families

Kimberly Sauer, Office of the State's Attorney of Baltimore City

Zara Schwartz, Youth Member

Melanie Shapiro, Office of the Public Defender

Judge Michael Stamm, St. Mary's County Circuit Court

Darren Stephenson, Prince George's County Public Schools

Derrick Watson, Youth Member

Samantha Wiggins, Youth Member

Jennifer Winter, Parent/Advocate