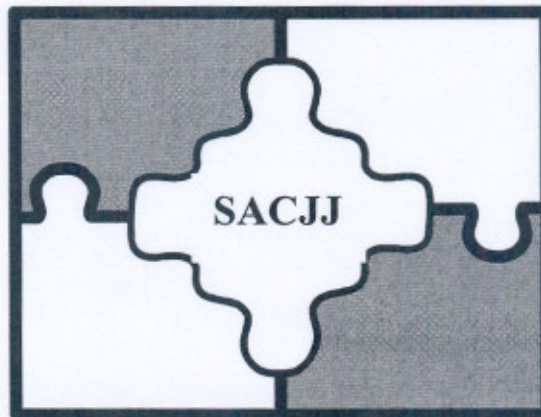


# WYOMING STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

## ANNUAL REPORT

2008

SACJJ



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The vision of the SACJJ is a Wyoming where children and families will receive education, care and support to become responsible, successful citizens.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

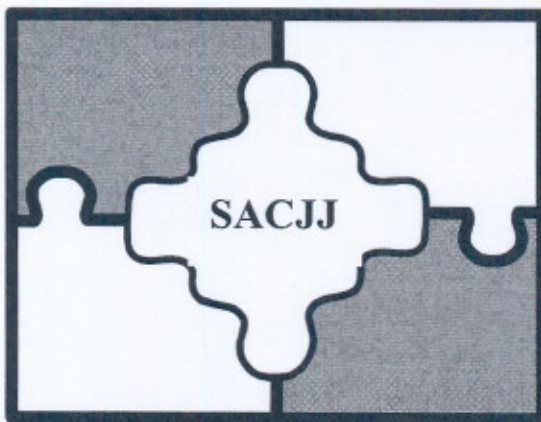
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|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Mission Statement</b>                               | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Letter to the Governor</b>                          | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Council Members</b>                                 | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Responsibilities</b>                                | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>2008 Highlights</b>                                 | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>2008 Accomplishments</b>                            | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>Future Direction</b>                                | <b>11</b> |
| <b>Recommendations to Governor and Legislature</b>     | <b>13</b> |
| <b>Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act</b> | <b>14</b> |
| <b>Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG)</b>      | <b>17</b> |

# MISSION

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**The SACJJ is to provide vision, training, and support for a model juvenile justice system in Wyoming.**



**Wyoming State  
Advisory Council on  
Juvenile Justice**

January 2009

Dear Governor Freudenthal, Members of the Wyoming State Legislature, and Wyoming residents:

On behalf of the Wyoming State Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice, I am pleased to present to you the 2008 Annual Report.

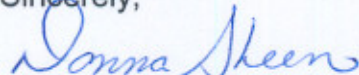
During 2008, the Council awarded approximately \$817,978.00 to 16 Wyoming counties from \$1,138,504.00 in funding requests. This money is used to fund a variety of programs, many of which were for juvenile diversion programs. The Council worked closely with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to reshape our goals and objectives. Wyoming is the only state that does not comply with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974 which is now the JJDP Act of 2002. As a non-complying State, Wyoming does not receive the OJJDP funds directly and in the past, the Wyoming County Commissioners Association has been the grant recipient that disburses funds. This year, Volunteers of America became the grant recipient for fund disbursement.

Since Wyoming joined the new Interstate Compact for Juveniles in 2008, the State Advisory Council agreed to act as the "State Council". That requires additional members of a legislator, Senator Tony Ross, a representative from Victims Services of the Attorney General's Office, Sean Brazzle and a judicial representative, Judge Bruce Waters.

The Council believes in promoting proven evidence-based best practice programs, in holding those receiving funding accountable, and in improving our data collection so that we may clearly measure progression.

While we celebrate the accomplishments of the past, we recognize there remains much to be done to ensure the health and well being of youth and families of our state, we look forward to the future as we work to help build a truly outstanding Juvenile Justice System in Wyoming.

Sincerely,



Donna Sheen, Chair  
Wyoming State Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice

**WYOMING STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE  
2008 MEMBERS**

|                    |             |              |            |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| Donna Sheen        | Chairperson | Cheyenne     | District 1 |
| Bruce Waters       | Vice-Chair  | Cody         | District 5 |
| Matthew P. Keating | Secretary   | Casper       | District 7 |
| Lori Hutchinson    | Treasurer   | Cheyenne     | District 1 |
| Stephen Aaron      |             | Evanston     | District 3 |
| Sharon Bates       |             | Torrington   | District 8 |
| Charlene Edwards   |             | Gillette     | District 6 |
| Deejanae Kelly     |             | Casper       | District 7 |
| Melinda Dennington |             | Sheridan     | District 4 |
| April Dittman      |             | Rock Springs | District 3 |
| Gary Gilmore       |             | Worland      | District 5 |
| Gary P. Hartman    |             | Cheyenne     | District 1 |
| Ronn Jeffery       |             | Cheyenne     | District 1 |
| Les Pozgi          |             | Cheyenne     | District 1 |
| Steve Kozisek      |             | Buffalo      | District 4 |
| James Pond         |             | Laramie      | District 2 |
| Marc Homer         |             | Laramie      | District 2 |
| Brandon Snyder     |             | Rawlins      | District 2 |
| Rene Kemper        |             | Douglas      | District 8 |
| Wade Sanford       |             | Worland      | District 5 |
| Kristina Smith     |             | Jackson      | District 9 |
| Dustin Von Krosigk |             | Cheyenne     | District 1 |
| Catherine Wilking  |             | Casper       | District 7 |
| Lynn Davies        |             | Basin        | District 1 |
| Lori Fertig        |             | Cheyenne     | District 1 |
| Dr. Rick Patterson |             | Torrington   | District 8 |
| Cindy DeLancey     |             | Rawlins      | District 2 |
| Adriene Freng      |             | Laramie      | District 2 |
| Anne LaPlante      |             | Casper       | District 7 |
| Sen. Tony Ross     | ICJ member  | Cheyenne     | District 1 |
| Debra Dugan-Doty   | ICJ member  | Cheyenne     | District 1 |
| Sean Brazzale      | ICJ member  | Cheyenne     | District 1 |

## SACJJ RESPONSIBILITIES

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The State Advisory Group (SAG) or State Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice (SACJJ), which is Wyoming's version, consists of no less than 15 members and no more than 33 members appointed by the Governor. The members have training, experience and special knowledge concerning the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency and administration of juvenile justice. The Council includes representation from juvenile justice agencies, public agencies, private nonprofit organizations, citizens and locally elected officials.

The SACJJ is authorized under State Statute 14-10-101 to receive and allocate federal funds under the JJDP Act. Funds associated with the JJDP Act include the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) and Title V (which is not utilized). In addition, Council is responsible for establishing a coordinated enforcement plan for reducing juvenile crime.

The Council's roles and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Advocating for full compliance with the JJDP Act and its core requirements for the funding of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs;
- Establishing priorities for allocating funds of the JABG to programs that comply with the JJDP Act ;
- Advising the Governor and the Wyoming Legislature on matters related to the improvement of the juvenile justice system and its services to youth and families; and
- Providing leadership to the state of its local communities in developing and maintaining a coordinated, best practice approach to juvenile justice prevention, intervention, and public safety.

## 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

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- Awarded \$817,978.00 to 16 Wyoming counties
- Increase of 8 adult jails that do not hold juveniles (total of 14 counties)
- 12 facilities reduced the number of juveniles securely detained
- 7 counties reduced JJDP jail violations
- 74% reductions in status offender violations
- 67% decrease in jail removals
- 73% decrease in total jail violations

## 2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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During 2008 the Council met four times:

March 27 & 28 – Casper:

- Heard presentation on Senate File 66, Community Juvenile Service Boards. \$2,000,000 available for Wyoming communities to develop a continuum of care from diversion to secure detention. The SACJJ will have a major role in the implementation.
- Presentation from Dr. Steve Brown and Bill Sexton from Wyoming Behavioral Institute that 70% of the children in the juvenile justice system have mental health issues and 20% of that number have severe mental issues.
- Presentation from Bob Quick of Department of Family Services on the Washington Assessment tool that is research based. The object is to identify the high risk children who then can be provided the necessary services.
- A compliance jail monitoring report was given by Dr. Beth Evans. Sixteen counties now qualified under the “rural exception” for the JJDP compliance.

August 13 & 14- Laramie

- Discussion about the Annual Report to the Governor and the Legislature. Sub-committee appointed.
- DFS Director Tony Lewis made a presentation:
  - a. Implementation of Community Juvenile Service Boards
  - b. Safely reduce number of children in placement
  - c. Close working relationship between SACJJ and DFS
- Presentation by Eyde Trautwein of Department of Health:
  - a. Programs that work with at-risk youth
  - b. Collaboration with Medicaid Services
  - c. Services to families prior to out of home placements
  - d. SAGE Initiatives activities
- Presentation of non-compliance grantee of \$800,000 available to distribute to Wyoming communities.



- Presentation by Dr. Beth Evans:
  - a. Wyoming's report on compliance monitoring submitted timely
  - b. Fourteen adult facilities chose not to hold juveniles
  - c. Nine facilities reduced number of juveniles securely detained
  - d. Seven counties reduced number of violations between 2006 and 2007
  - e. Status offender violations in lock-up decreased 74%
  - f. Jail removal violations decreased 67%
  - g. Total violations decreased 73% between 2006 and 2007
  - h. Total violations for State of Wyoming 294
    - 1. Campbell County- 297 violations
    - 2. Park County- 27 violations
    - 3. Lincoln County- 16 violations
    - 4. Albany County- 2 violations
- SACJJ agreed to act as the "State Council" for the newly adopted Interstate Compact for Juveniles. Wyoming statute requires a Legislator, a representative from the Attorney General's Office of Victim Services and a Judge appointed by the Board of Judicial Policy and Administration.

October 9 - 10

- Juveniles in Adult Court in Wyoming  
Adrienne Freng, Associate Professor University of Wyoming
  - WYSAC report
- Wyoming's Current Regional Detention Crisis  
Tony Lewis, Director Department of Family Services
- Update on Annual Report  
Judge Hartman
- Report on WCCA-OJJDP Grant- Data Analysis  
DeAnn Roll
- JABG Grant Discussion  
Lindee Wiltjer
- DMC Committee Update  
Chuck Kratz
- Community Juvenile Service Boards  
Chris Smith, Department of Family Services
  - Update on Rules
- Non-Compliance Grantee-RFP report  
Craig Figus, VOA  
Debby Lynch, VOA
- Discussion regarding youth members

December 4 & 5- Casper

- Reviewed the draft of the Annual Report
- Formed sub-committees
- Heard presentations from:
  - Youth Challenge Program
  - Pat Arthur of the National Center for Youth Law
  - Community Juvenile Service Boards
- Tour of Regional Juvenile Detention Center in Casper

## 2008 FUTURE DIRECTIONS

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The Council recognizes that a major part of its core business is to approve the award of funds and provide ongoing oversight to the juvenile justice grants that are administered through the Department of Family Services. To be effective in this role, the Council continually engages in a coordinated planning process that impacts local and statewide juvenile justice policy, informs and improves practice, fosters the development of model programs, and defines consistent philosophies for how to address the needs of children in Wyoming's juvenile justice system.

In addition, the Council understands the need for collection of data in order to be able to accurately measure progress. The Council also understands the need for improving sharing of information across agencies involved in juvenile justice and related areas. Additional focus in these areas is needed to be able to evaluate effectiveness of programs and assure that we are doing everything possible to reduce recidivism.

The SACJJ remains committed to its leadership role in providing tools to the state and local communities for the development and maintenance of a coordinated, best practice approach to decision making in the areas of juvenile justice. The Council remains an active partner in this effort and is prepared to confront the challenges ahead in order to continually improve the quality of justice for Wyoming's youth.

In May of 2006, the Council held a day and half strategic planning session. During this session, the Council renewed its commitment to advocate for youth by supporting the four core requirements by building upon our goals and objectives to bring Wyoming into compliance with the JJDP Act.

**Compliance with the core requirements of the JJDP Act.** Wyoming is the only state that does not comply with the JJDP Act. Compliance status not only has direct implications for grant eligibility, but also is reflective of how policy and practice in the field are with regard to the way juveniles are treated within law enforcement facilities and detention centers. The Council is committed to working to identify opportunities for: 1) the provision of training and technical assistance to Wyoming's communities; 2) to collaborate with communities in order to support effective alternatives for detention; and 3) to identify existing local resources in order to avoid compliance violations. The Council is committed to become a state that comes into compliance in the near future.

**Technical Assistance.** The Council will provide technical assistance for mapping and assessing to communities who request it. This will assist communities in formulating their plan to receive money for the Community Juvenile Service Boards.

**Disproportionate Minority Contact.** As dictated by the core requirements of the JJDP Act, the Council is committed to a continued partnership with the Wyoming County Commissioners Association to develop effective strategies and programs to address minority youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system. Essential to this effort is the establishment of an integrated and comprehensive approach to identifying opportunities for community-level change with respect to policing, developing culturally competent assessments and services, and identifying existing model programs and available resources.

**Prevention, Early Intervention, and Family Support.** The Council recognizes that rehabilitation of children who come into contact with the juvenile justice system is dependent upon an approach that emphasizes effective treatment, services and prevention. Earlier identification of youth at risk, implementation of best practices that focus on balanced and restorative justice, and promotion of alternative approaches that will make consequences more meaningful to juveniles are ideas that should be explored and expanded.

**Public Education.** The Council has identified public education as a key component in their strategic plan. The Council is interested in communicating accurate information about the juvenile justice system to a variety of audiences in Wyoming. Other elements of a public education strategy include providing information to communities regarding available resources and tools, social indicator data that facilitates the development and improvement of local programs.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE WYOMING STATE LEGISLATURE**

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The Council would like to make the following recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature for consideration.

1. Bring Wyoming into compliance with the core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.
2. De-criminalize the minor in possession of alcohol statutes to make MIP alcohol a status offense. Doing this would greatly assist Wyoming in moving closer to compliance with the JJDP requirements.
3. Develop a statewide juvenile data collection system on Wyoming juveniles.
4. Promote the "single point of entry" systems in the Wyoming Criminal Justice Process using the new PACT assessment tool to identify and provide necessary services to juveniles identified as high risk.
5. Encourage Wyoming communities to develop a continuum of service plan for juveniles from diversion to secure detention, to keep children in their own communities.

# JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION (JJDP)

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## The Four Core Requirements

The JJDP act requires Wyoming to demonstrate compliance with the four core requirements in order to receive formula grant funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The Council maintains a focus on these core requirements in both their policy recommendations and funding priorities:

### **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO)**

Juveniles who are charged with or who have committed offenses which would not be criminal if committed by an adult (ie: status offenders) and non-offenders, shall not be placed in secure detention or secure correctional facilities. The following are considered status offenses: truancy, runaway, violations of curfew, underage possession and/or consumption of tobacco products, and underage alcohol offenses.

### **Sight and Sound Separation (Separation)**

Juveniles alleged to be or found to be delinquent, as well as status offenders and non-offenders, cannot be detained or confined in any institution in which they have sight or sound contact with adult offenders.

### **Adult Jail and Lock-up Removal (Jail Removal)**

Juveniles who are accused of delinquent acts may not be held in a secure area of an adult jail or lockup for longer than six hours, while remaining separated by sight and sound from adult offenders.

### **Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)**

States are required to address juvenile delinquency prevention efforts and system improvement efforts designed to reduce the disproportionate number of minority youth who come in contact with the juvenile justice system.

## **JJDP Fund Description**

**The Title II Formula Grant** supports a wide range of programs for prevention of, or early intervention in juvenile delinquency.

**The Challenges Grant** targets areas that are considered significant challenges to the juvenile justice system.

**The Title V Incentive Grant** focuses exclusively on prevention delinquency of at-risk youth by utilizing the Communities That Care model. This model incorporates a community risk and resource assessment and relies heavily on overall community mobilization to prevent juvenile delinquency.

## **JJDP Program Areas**

### **Title II**

- **Compliance Monitoring**
- **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders**
- **Delinquency Prevention**
- **Alternatives to Detention**
- **Native American Programs**

### **Challenge**

- **Basic System Services**  
Developing and adopting policies and programs to provide basic health, mental health and educational services to youth in the juvenile justice system
- **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders**  
Developing and adopting policies and programs to remove status offenders from the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, when appropriate.

- **Aftercare Services**

Increasing aftercare services for juveniles in the justice system by establishing programs, and developing and adopting policies to provide comprehensive health, mental health, education, family and vocational services to youth upon release from the juvenile justice system. Program emphasis is on services for girls who have been in the system.



# Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG)

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## JABG Fund Description

**JABG** is an entitlement grant and allocations are available to eligible units of government. JABG provides states and local units of government with funds to encourage the development of juvenile justice policies, procedures, and programs that promote juvenile accountability.

The stated goals of the program include:

- **Reduction of juvenile delinquency**
- **Improvement of the juvenile justice system**
- **Increased accountability for juvenile offenders**

## JABG Priority Program Areas

- **Quality in Confinement and Training**  
Building, expanding, renovating or operating temporary or permanent juvenile correction or detention facilities; hiring detention and corrections personnel and establishing and maintaining training for personnel to improve facility practices and programming.
- **Risk and Needs Assessment**  
Establishing and maintaining programs to conduct risk and needs assessments of juvenile offenders that facilitate the effective early intervention and the provision of comprehensive services, to include: 1) mental health screening and treatment and 2) substance abuse testing and treatment to offenders.
- **Information Sharing**  
Establishing and maintaining interagency information-sharing programs that enable the juvenile and criminal justice systems, schools, and social services agencies to make more informed decisions regarding the early identification, control, supervision, and treatment of juveniles who repeatedly commit serious delinquent or criminal acts.