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**OJJDP**

# NEWS @ a Glance

Office of Justice Programs  
Partnerships for Safer Communities  
www.ojp.usdoj.gov

September/October 2004  
Volume III Number 5

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OJJDP Administrator

## PbS Program Wins Prestigious Award

OJJDP's Performance-based Standards (PbS) for Youth Correction and Detention Facilities was one of five recipients of the 2004 Innovations in American Government Award from the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University and the Council for Excellence in Government. Barbara Allen-Hagen, Senior Social Science Analyst with OJJDP's Child Protection Division, has been instrumental in the project's design and development, working closely with the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA), Braintree, MA, and the PbS project team. (For more information about CJCA, see page 4.) OJJDP Administrator J. Robert Flores represented the Department of Justice at the award ceremony held on July 28, 2004.



The annual Innovation Award recognizes federal, state, and local programs that exemplify creative and effective government at its best. Winning programs receive \$100,000 grants to support replication and dissemination activities. The 2004 winners were chosen from among nearly 1,000 applicants.

OJJDP launched the PbS program in 1995 to collect and analyze data to improve conditions and services in juvenile facilities. Developed under the direction of Edward J. Loughran, Executive Director, CJCA, PbS sets national standards for safety, education, health and mental health services, security, justice, and order within facilities and gives agencies tools to collect data, analyze performance results, design improvements, implement change, and measure effectiveness.

The PbS system is used in 26 states and the District of Columbia to improve the quality of life for youth in custody. In keeping with President Bush's Management Agenda, which focuses on performance and results, the goal of the PbS program is to integrate PbS into facility operations as a management tool for continuous self-improvement. An example illustrates how it works. When the PbS system showed that the average time for keeping a youth in isolation

To be successful, correctional and detention facilities for young offenders must be held accountable for the conditions of confinement and the quality of services they provide to juveniles in custody. The PbS program provides these facilities with a strategy and the tools they need to improve and enhance the services they provide.

—J. Robert Flores, OJJDP Administrator

(Continued on page 4)

## Register Now for National Truancy Conference

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools are sponsoring a national conference on truancy prevention, to be held December 6–8, 2004, in Washington, DC. The conference theme is "Partnering To Prevent Truancy: A National Priority."

Truancy is a multifaceted problem, and the conference is designed to address the needs of a wide range of organizations and individuals involved in truancy prevention efforts—including schools, law enforcement agencies, courts, service providers, community- and faith-based organizations, and state and local policymakers. Participants will learn about practical approaches to addressing truancy and related issues. The focus will be on strategies that:

- ▶ Have demonstrated effectiveness in preventing or reducing truancy.
- ▶ Adopt a comprehensive approach that addresses the many risk factors that contribute to truancy.

▶ Are multidisciplinary and collaborative in their implementation.

- ▶ Target underserved populations, such as minority groups, youth with disabilities, tribal youth, youth in foster care, youth with English as a second language, and youth reentering the community from the juvenile justice system.



Among the topics to be addressed are family involvement, motivating at-risk youth, alcohol and substance abuse prevention, collaboration building, staff development, and program funding and evaluation.

Registration instructions and additional information about the conference are available on OJJDP's Web site ([www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp)). The hotel registration deadline for the conference, which will be held at the Capital Hilton, 1001 16th Street NW., Washington, DC 20036, is November 10, 2004. ■

## Listening Conference Addresses Tribal Youth Issues

On September 27–28, 2004, OJJDP and other federal agencies took part in a Tribal Leaders Listening Conference in Washington, DC. The conference, which was held at the U.S. Department of Justice's Great Hall, coincided with the grand opening of the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), located on the National Mall.

OJJDP convened the listening conference to foster collaboration between tribes and the federal government on issues and challenges affecting tribal youth. Tribal leaders from 13 regions met with representatives from OJJDP and other Justice Department offices and the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and the Interior. Presentations and roundtable discussions addressed a variety of topics, including tribal justice issues; education; prevention and intervention; health-related issues such as teen pregnancy, substance abuse, domestic violence, and child abuse; and resources and technical

assistance available to help tribal communities meet the needs of their youth.

The conference opened with a traditional ceremony that included a presentation of tribal flags, a cedar and sage blessing, and an honor song. Conference participants also attended a working dinner at the Canadian Embassy, one of the entities taking part in a 2-week celebration commemorating the opening of the NMAI.

During the summer, conference participants had gathered at regional focus groups in San Francisco, CA, and Green Bay, WI. These sessions served to initiate discussions and shape the content of the final conference.

OJJDP supports and manages the Tribal Youth Program, which seeks to help tribal communities prevent delinquency and improve their juvenile justice systems. For additional information, visit the Tribal Youth Program page of OJJDP's Web site.

## New Publications

Publications may be viewed and downloaded at OJJDP's Web site ([www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojdp](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojdp)). Print publications may also be ordered from the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse (call 800-851-3420 or order online at [puborder.ncjrs.org](http://puborder.ncjrs.org)).

**Assessing the Mental Health Status of Youth in Juvenile Justice Settings.** Presents the results of a study that used the Voice DISC, a self-administered version of the Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children (DISC), to screen for psychiatric disorders in youth newly admitted to juvenile correctional institutions.

Bulletin. August 2004. NCJ 202713.

**Disproportionate Minority Confinement: 2002 Update.** Provides a concise picture of developments in addressing disproportionate minority confinement (DMC) at the national, state, and local levels during the past 5 years.

Summary. September 2004. NCJ 201240.

**Juvenile Arrests 2002.** Summarizes and analyzes national and state juvenile arrest data presented in the FBI's report *Crime in the United States 2002*.

Bulletin. September 2004. NCJ 204608.

**Juvenile Justice Journal, Vol. IX, No. 1 (Causes and Correlates Issue).** Focuses on research that assesses how and why children become delinquent.

Journal. September 2004. NCJ 203555.



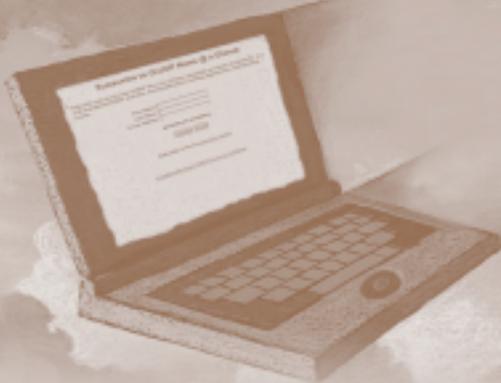
**Trends in the Murder of Juveniles: 1980-2000.** Draws on statistics from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program—in particular, supplementary homicide report data—to analyze trends in the murder of juveniles between 1980 and 2000.

Bulletin. September 2004. NCJ 194609.

## CD-ROM Teaches Youth About Nation's Founding Documents

In keeping with President Bush's initiative to promote and enhance the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and civics, OJJDP, in partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of America, created *America's History in Writings: A Resource for Young Americans*. This CD-ROM contains the text of the nation's founding documents—including the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution—and age-appropriate information about their significance. It provides Spanish translations for many of the documents.

*America's History in Writings* will be sent to more than 4,000 Boys & Girls Clubs across the country. Counselors are encouraged to plan activities that will help members learn about America's history and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. ■



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## Funding Update

Be sure to check the OJJDP Web site ([www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp)) for the latest news on OJJDP funding opportunities, including grant application information, deadlines, and links to the Office of Justice Programs' online Grants Management System (GMS). To receive e-mail notification of new funding opportunities, subscribe to JUVJUST via the OJJDP Web site.

### Recent Awards

OJJDP recently awarded three cooperative agreements under the **Tribal Juvenile Accountability Discretionary Grant** program. Recipients are the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, the Chickasaw Nation (Oklahoma), and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. Authorized through the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants program, this initiative provides funds to federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes to strengthen tribal juvenile justice systems by encouraging tribes to implement accountability-based programs and services. Recipients received up to \$300,000 for a 3-year project and budget period.

The **Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative**, a collaborative effort of the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services, recently awarded 24 new grants to local educational agencies to support and expand existing activities related to youth violence prevention and healthy childhood development. Award amounts ranged from a maximum yearly award of \$1 million for rural school districts and Bureau of Indian Affairs schools to \$2 million for suburban school districts and \$3 million for urban districts.

### Recent Solicitation

Applications for the **Safe Start: Promising Approaches for Children Exposed to Violence** project were due on September 10, 2004. This project will help communities implement collaborative cross-agency strategies to reduce the impact of children's exposure to violence, with emphasis on young children (age 6 and younger) and their families. OJJDP is currently reviewing applications and expects to make award announcements in early 2005.

### Other Funding News

OJJDP has assumed leadership of the juvenile and family components of the Office of Justice Program's Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program. These two components were formerly administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

On October 1, 2004, the grant management responsibilities for the Drug-Free Communities Support Program were transferred from OJJDP to the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. CSAP, in collaboration with the Office of National Drug Control Policy, announced the FY 2004 awards to new grantees. ■

*PbS (continued from page 1)*

in an agency's facility exceeded the PbS standard, the agency wrote a new policy, developed a behavior management program, and trained staff to use options other than isolation. Within 18 months, the average time in isolation dropped from 11.25 days to less than 48 hours.

For additional information about the PbS program, visit [www.pbstandards.org](http://www.pbstandards.org). ■

### CJCA

The Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators, OJJDP's partner in the PbS program, is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the improvement of juvenile correctional services and practices. Established in 1994, CJCA brings together the nation's top administrators in a collaborative effort to improve and advance juvenile corrections systems. Through CJCA, chief executive officers of juvenile correctional facilities exchange ideas and philosophies about best practices, discuss common issues, and work together to develop a national strategy for juvenile corrections.

## Federal Officials Visit Texas Community To Discuss Youth Issues

On July 29, 2004, federal officials traveled to Sugar Land, TX, to join students, parents, teachers, school officials, and other community members in a “back-to-school” town hall meeting on the community’s problems with illegal drug use and disruptive rivalries among middle and high school youth. OJJDP Administrator J. Robert Flores and White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Director John Walters participated in the meeting, which was sponsored by Sugar Land’s congressional representative, House Majority Leader Tom DeLay.

Administrator Flores noted that although the number of violent crimes committed by youth is decreasing, the types of crimes are becoming more violent. Flores challenged the parents at the meeting to take an active interest in their children’s lives and prevent them from falling into criminal behavior such as gang activity. He said, “Children today are so disconnected. They are desperately looking to belong. The gang situation today is really about connection.”

Director Walters noted that fewer teens are using drugs but that experimentation is beginning at a younger age. He added, “Today, the short period from experimentation to dangerous behavior is decreasing.” ■



House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Director John Walters, and OJJDP Administrator J. Robert Flores discuss youth issues with Sugar Land, TX, residents.

## OJJDP Web Site Redesign Wins Award for Excellence

OJJDP’s redesigned Web site won a 2004 Award for Publication Excellence (APEX) as one of the nation’s Most Improved Web and Intranet Sites. The 16th annual APEX competition drew nearly 5,500 entries from communicators in corporate, nonprofit, and government settings. A total of 1,667 Awards for Excellence were presented in 109 categories. The awards are based on excellence in graphic design, editorial content, and success in achieving overall communications effectiveness and excellence.

The redesigned Web site has a contemporary look and many new features that make it easier for users to find the information they need. For example, a Topics page offers quick access to all types of information—funding opportunities, programs, events, publications, etc.—on specific topics. The May/June 2004 issue of *OJJDP News @ a Glance* includes an article summarizing features of the redesigned site. ■



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Office of Justice Programs  
*Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention*

Washington, DC 20531

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NCJ 206629

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