



State of Maine
JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP
Maine Department of Corrections
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Comprehensive Three-Year Plan
For
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Fiscal Years 2021 - 2024
Submitted to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
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Maine 2021 Title II Solicitation

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Proposal Narrative

Narrative Overview

The Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC) is the designated state agency responsible for the preparation and administration of the Three -Year Plan. The Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG) is the State Advisory Group (SAG) established under the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (JJDP), which was most recently reauthorized in 2018 and has been codified in Maine law (Title 34-A M.R.S. §1209) giving the MDOC the ability to execute the Three Year Plan. The JJAG is made up of ex-officio and appointed at-large members representing a range of justice and youth-related areas. The JJAG is responsible for supporting compliance with the core protections (Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders; Sight & Sound Separation; Jail Removal; Racial & Ethnic Disparities) of the JJDP Act reauthorized in 2018, and providing information about the Act's requirements to state agencies and local policymakers. As part of its federal obligations, the JJAG is also required to participate in the development of the State of Maine Three Year Plan that provides a road map for utilizing JJDP Title II federal funds in Maine to address juvenile justice and delinquency prevention needs, including providing for staff support to assist the JJAG in carrying out its functions. Maine's JJAG currently has two full-time staff housed at the MDOC. The JJAG shall be afforded the opportunity to review and comment on the plan, not later than 30 days after their submission to the advisory group, on all juvenile justice and delinquency prevention grant applications submitted to the state agency designated under paragraph 1. Maine affirms that

recommendations regarding compliance with the requirements of paragraphs (11), (12), and (13); are submitted to the chief executive officer and the state legislature annually.

In recent years, the JJAG 3-year plan has focused on advancing comprehensive system reform. To this end, the JJAG has funded several major initiatives designed to better understand the needs and gaps in Maine's justice system to help inform reform efforts and federal and state investment. These included a 2017 assessment of Maine's existing restorative justice programs and blueprint for a state-wide expansion; a 2017 audit of Long Creek Youth Development Center, Maine's remaining secure youth detention and commitment facility; a 2019 report on school safety and the use of school resources officers (SROs) and a 2020 comprehensive juvenile justice system assessment. Conducting a comprehensive systems assessment was one of the recommendations included in the 2017 audit to help determine factors outside of Long Creek Youth Development Center that may be contributing to youth being incarcerated for low-level offenses, to the high rate of referrals to Long Creek from mental health placements, and to the lack of community-based alternatives.

In 2019, a [state-wide Task Force](#) was formed by the JJAG in collaboration with the Maine Legislature and MDOC to work with the Center for Children's Law & Policy (CCLP), the organization that conducted the Long Creek audit. The Task Force guided and informed the larger assessment conducted by CCLP. The assessment analyzed data, reviewed policies, procedures, and programs used in the juvenile justice system, documented stakeholder interviews, and gathered community input including from juveniles currently under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system. The JJAG will continue to contact and seek regular input from juveniles currently under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system. The Maine Juvenile Justice System Assessment report was released in early 2020, had short, medium, and

long-term recommendations designed to guide changes to law, policy and practice to improve outcomes for Maine's justice-involved youth.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, some Task Force members and other stakeholders came together on a series of calls to problem-solve, to share information, and to build support for system-involved youth, with a focus on youth in the community and those transitioning out of secure care. This effort led to the development of [Regional Care Teams](#) to work across systems and in collaboration with community partners to support youth and families, and to continue to identify, prioritize, and address policy and practice barriers in line with the System Assessment recommendations. Maine provides for the active consultation with and participation of units of local government in combinations therefor in the development of the state plan which takes into account the needs and requests of unit of local government. Maine has a Regional Care Teams that met monthly throughout the past year, providing opportunities for communication between the state agency, units of local government, and other local justice stakeholders. This structure gives localities an opportunity to give input into the state planned the juvenile justice priorities. Additionally, the JJAG provided emergency COVID response funds to these teams to reduce the use of detention by supporting youth in their communities.

As a result of these and other efforts, the MDOC has continued to successfully divert youth from the justice system and has significantly reduced the use of secure confinement and detention. Currently, there are [fewer than 30 total detained and committed youth in Long Creek](#) and the [MDOC Juvenile Services 2021-2022 Action Plan](#) includes an increased budget for community-based alternatives for justice involved youth to better support them locally.

Over the next three years, the JJAG will continue to build on its prior investments to more effectively target the system gaps and meet the needs of youth by supporting the implementation

of the recommendations included in the Systems Assessment and other research and data reports. The goals of the proposed 3-year plan will support MDOC and other agency and stakeholder efforts to support and strengthen a community-based continuum of alternatives to incarceration for youth, to reduce racial and ethnic disparities at all points of the justice system, to improve system policies and procedures consistent with national best practices and recommendations from the 2020 Systems Assessment, and to foster youth voice and agency in collective reform efforts.

JJAG Goals & Objectives for the 3-Year Plan

Goal 1: The JJAG will leverage available federal resources to support efforts to support the development of a community-based continuum of care for youth involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, the juvenile justice system.

Objectives:

- a) The JJAG will work with other stakeholders and devote resources to support the development of more effective crisis responses for Maine youth, with a focus on community-based crisis responses that successfully minimize or eliminate the role of law enforcement in responding to the behavioral health needs of youth in schools, residential settings, and in the community.
- b) The JJAG will work with other stakeholders and devote resources to support the development of inclusive supportive housing for system-involved youth with an emphasis on youth transitioning out of secure care. The JJAG focus will be on supporting community-based support services for youth in transitional living in coordination with other efforts to increase access to programs and models that provide payment mechanisms (vouchers, subsidies) and to develop availability of housing stock.

- c) The JJAG will continue to support efforts in response to COVID-19 that help streamline and accelerate the reintegration process to reduce the number of youth in Long Creek and related risk of COVID spreading within the facility for both youth and staff. Resources will help ensure youth are released safely, in accordance with a transition plan, and supported successfully in the community to minimize risk of return.

Goal 2: The JJAG will leverage available federal resources to support efforts to address the particular needs of historically and currently marginalized populations of youth involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, the juvenile justice system, including youth of color, immigrant youth, LGBTQ/GNC youth, youth with disabilities, and tribal youth.

Objectives:

- a) Guided by the RED/DMC plan, the JJAG will work with other stakeholders and devote resources to support targeted diversion and related capacity-building efforts in community-based organizations to meet the needs of youth in historically or currently marginalized populations. (See: DMC/RED Draft Goal #2)
- b) The JJAG will work with other stakeholders and devote resources to community-based programs who work with girls and LGBTQ/GNC youth involved in or at risk of being involved in the juvenile justice system. This is in support of the Department of Corrections work with the Vera Institute to end girls incarceration in Maine.
- c) The JJAG will continue to support local and regional efforts to establish sustainable restorative and transformative justice practices that demonstrate effectiveness in reducing system-involvement and promoting accountability and healing. Efforts will focus on ensuring that youth of color, immigrant youth, LGBTQ/GNC youth, youth with

disabilities, and tribal youth have access to restorative and transformative justice practices.

Goal 3: The JJAG will leverage available federal resources to support efforts to improve system policies and procedures consistent with national best practices and recommendations reflected in the recently completed system assessment to reduce the number of youth in the justice system or at risk of becoming involved in the justice system.

Objectives:

- a) The JJAG will work with other stakeholders to support training for judges, court staff, defense attorneys, law enforcement, and other juvenile justice personnel on trauma-informed responses to delinquent behavior, adolescent development, mental and behavioral health needs, race and equity, and gender-responsivity, across the state. (See: DMC/RED Draft Goal #3)
- b) The JJAG will work with DOC, DHHS, and other stakeholders to ensure that Maine has evidence-based programs and practices in place throughout the state to assess the behavioral health needs of youth at risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system.
- c) The JJAG will support agency efforts to improve the quality of and accessibility to appropriate, evidence-based and promising programs to meet the behavioral health needs of youth and divert them from justice system involvement.
- d) The JJAG will work collaboratively with all youth-serving systems to advance juvenile policies and procedures that address inequities across all points of system contact. (See: DMC/RED Draft Goal #3)

- e) The JJAG will work with other stakeholders to support recommendations included in the Maine Juvenile Justice System Assessment.

Goal 4: The JJAG will leverage available federal resources to elevate and amplify the voices of youth involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, the JJ system, to ensure that Maine youth are authentically engaged in reform efforts.

Objectives:

- a) The JJAG will collaborate with other stakeholders and partners who have expertise in youth engagement and youth-adult partnerships to ensure that youth voices are elevated, and that youth are authentically engaged in the decisions that impact their lives.

Specifically, this work will address the need to ensure that the voices of youth involved in or at risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system are included in system reform and accountability efforts.

- b) The JJAG will develop and implement a plan to increase the participation of JJAG youth members in the day to day work and operations of the JJAG.
- c) The JJAG will finalize the Paul Vestal Award process and plan to award at least \$5000 per year directly to system involved youth in support of their efforts to transition successfully to adulthood.
- d) The JJAG will work with systems, schools and community-based organizations to connect with justice involved youth across all parts of the system, to amplify youth voice to help promote racial equity. (See DMC/RED Goal #4)

Implementation

Over the course of the 3-year period reflected in the 2021-2024 Comprehensive Juvenile Justice Plan, the JJAG will meet monthly to execute the mission of the JJAG and to make the decisions necessary to implement the plan. At least one meeting each year will occur at Maine's only secure juvenile correctional facility, Long Creek Youth Development Center in South Portland, Maine. Additionally, established JJAG committees (Executive, Governance, Racial & Ethnic Disparity, Legislative and Systems Improvement) will meet regularly to develop specific tasks in support of the JJAG and the goals and objectives of the 3-year plan. Some specific activities will include: development and launch of a JJAG website and related social media to support outreach and improve public education around the JJAG and juvenile justice issues in Maine; collection and dissemination of data and research in the juvenile justice and youth development field to help educate the legislature, local government agencies, and the general public; providing JJAG members and other stakeholders with racial equity training and support as recommended by the RED Committee.

All JJAG work on the 3-year plan will be informed by Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Committee, which will be identifying and supporting community-based programs whose staffing decisions reflect the youth they serve. Additionally, given Maine's large rural demographic, opportunities to address the needs of rural communities in meeting the goals and objectives of the 3-year plan will be a priority. Maine provides for an equitable distribution of the assistance received within the state, including rural areas. This occurs through the Regional Care Teams

that help inform local entities as well as the state about challenges and needs throughout the state. This information, in conjunction with youth crime analysis data, helps inform the funding decisions made.

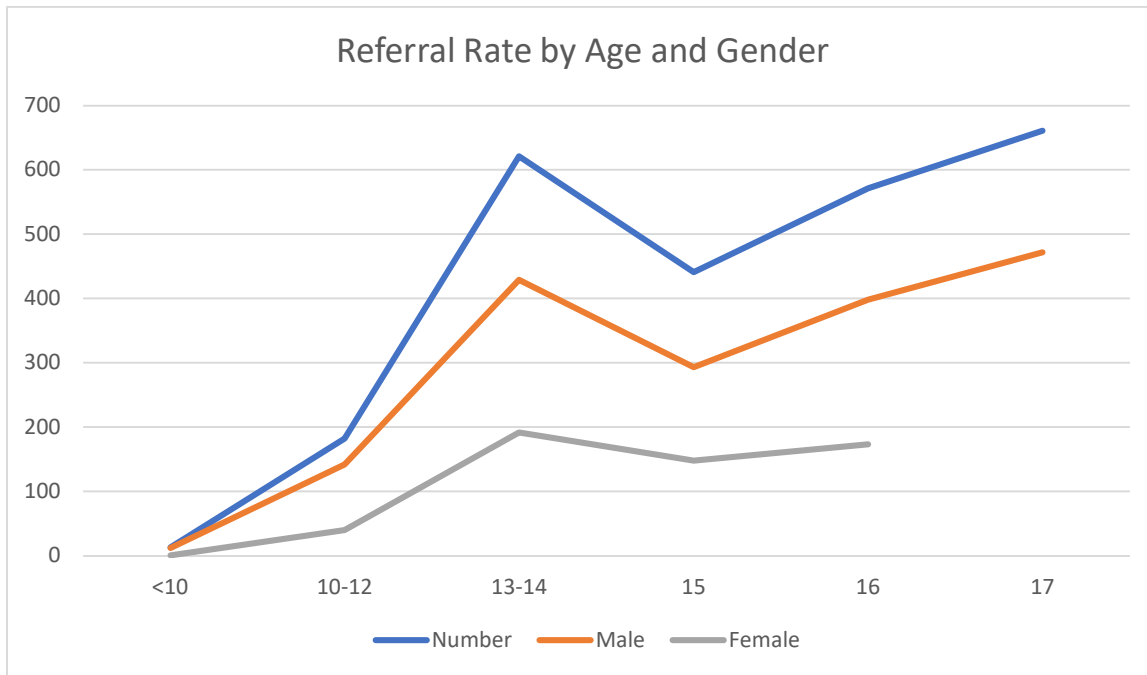
Analysis of Youth Crime & Needs

Contact Points

Using data from the MDOC Juvenile Services Division, referrals are measured at five data points over the entire juvenile system. Referrals (Arrests), Diversion, Detention, Secure Confinement and Adult Transfer. The 2019 numbers show that overall Maine had 2,271 referrals to the juvenile court intake. Of these 936 youth were offered a diversion alternative. Maine held 553 youth in detention pre adjudication and 40 were held in secure confinement. No Maine juvenile was transferred to the adult system. Maine does have a challenge with racial and ethnic disparities showing up most prominently at the referral, diversion and the detention data points. The JJAG will continue to work with our RED Committee to address these areas. More detail can be found in the Maine RED report in the Office of Justice Performance Measures Platform.

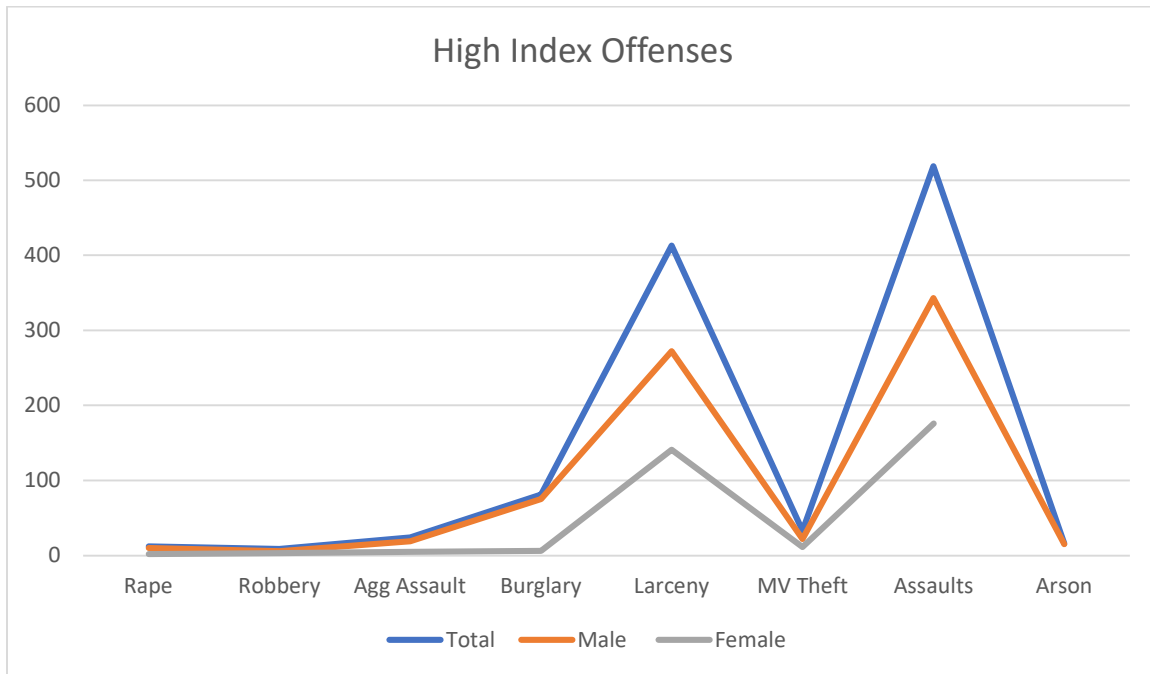
Ages & Gender

According to data from the Department of Public Safety in 2019 more males than females were referred by an almost a two to one margin. The highest rate of referrals is for the ages 13 -14 and 17 years old. This indicates that the JJAG should be targeting the ages of 13 – 17 for prevention interventions and building more community-based options target to this group.



High Index Offense

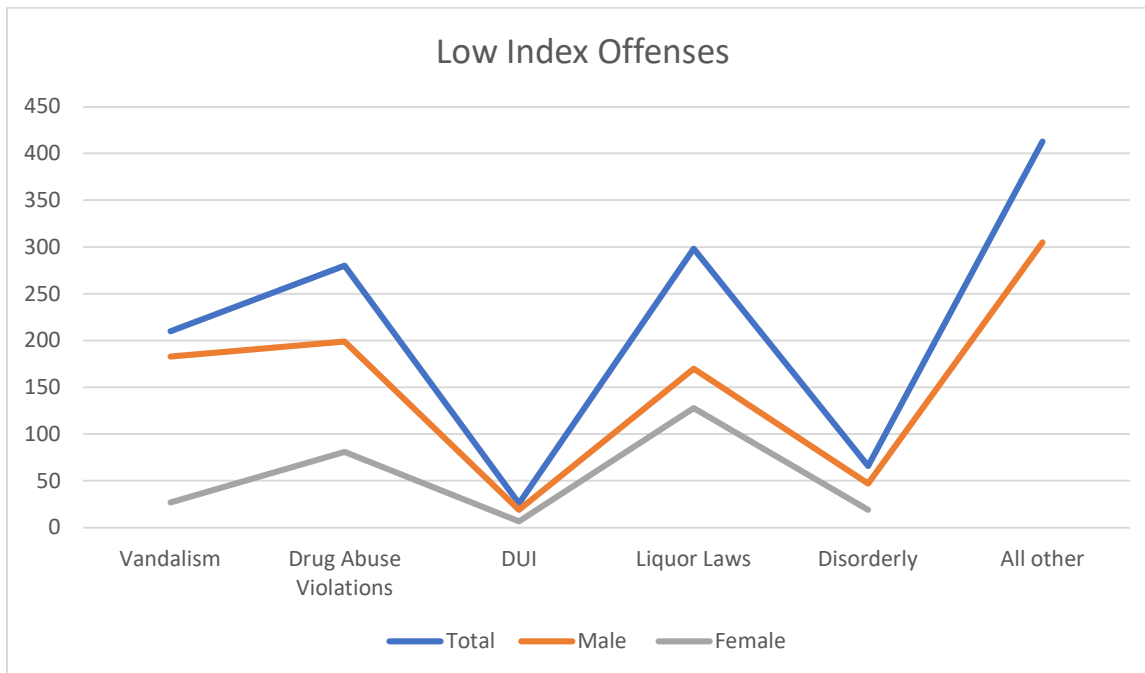
As indicated in chart below the highest index offense are in the Larceny and Other Assaults categories. This is referral data and does not reflect the resolution data on these cases.



Low Index Offenses

As indicated in the chart below Drug Abuse Violations and Alcohol are two of the most frequent low index offenses, and the All Other Offenses (Except Traffic) is the most frequent offense.

This is referral data and does not reflect the resolution in these cases. The MDOC does use flexible funding options to assist youth in their communities with treatment when needed. There are also funds available through the Regional Care Teams that are supported with funding via the JJAG.



Statement of the Problem

Maine has made meaningful progress in recent years to reduce the number of youths, coming into contact with the youth justice system, but challenges remain. The 2020 Systems Assessment found some good policies and practices, but also identified areas for improvement to sustain these achievements and identified the need to develop an effective community-based continuum of care for youth involved in or at risk of becoming involved in the justice system. The System Assessment found access to diversion for youth statewide remains a challenge, use of detention and length of stays were too long and not consistent with best practices, and, while the numbers of committed youth are relatively low, nearly half are present low or moderate risk suggesting that they could be more effectively served in the community. The JJAG 3-year plan is informed by the System Assessment and seeks to support the implement of the recommendations to address these findings.

Plan Items

In line with the 3-year plan goals and Objectives the JJAG intends to award grants to programs and entities that have demonstrated knowledge regarding adolescent development and behavior. The JJAG's plan includes investment in training of attorney's, clerks, and Judges, on adolescent development and behavior. Maine strives to limit referrals into the youth justice system by having robust options for diversion and supporting the training of more people in restorative justice practices.

The JJAG will strive for the equitable distribution of award funds by ensuring the RFP practices of the state are followed and allowing for any entity that feels they can meet the criteria to apply. Some funds from prior fiscal years have already been awarded to the Micmac and Maliseet tribes in Aroostook County, in order for them to hire culturally appropriate staff to lead their youth mentor and engagement positions, within the tribal Boys & Girls Clubs. The JJAG will use sole source awards only when the sole source has an existing infrastructure that is supported by other funding, benefits the JJAG's work and will assist the JJAG in completing 2021 – 2024 goals.

JJAG will continue to support gender-specific services for the prevention of youth delinquency and part of Maine's work on the deinstitutionalization of girls, a goal set out in collaboration with the Vera Institute. The JJAG has also supported the evidence-based and gender-specific programs of SMART Moves; SMART Girls; Youth Advocate Programs (YAP) mentors.

The JJAG is planning initiatives that will increase the number of services to youth in rural areas. Some of this will be through the JJAG's work with Tribal members and groups as referenced above. Other work will include engaging in alternative crisis responses for youth that fosters partnerships between schools, agencies, youth, and families, to avoid the involvement of local law enforcement.

In Maine, the Juvenile Code does not permit the use of detention for status offenses, so a violation of the OJJDP's definition is also a violation of Maine code. Maine complies with the core requirement of deinstitutionalization of status offenders.

Maine complies with the Jail Removal core requirement, and the documentation can be found submitted in the compliance plan. Also the fully completed and signed Certification of Data form.

Maine does perform screenings for youth who may be victims of commercial sexual exploitation during probation intakes as well as detention or commitment intakes. This information is documented in states records. If any of the screenings show this to be an area of concern, the case is referred to the appropriate human services agency for assistance. Maine does not charge the victims of human trafficking with crimes. Also, per Maine Juvenile Code, those who are known to have been a victim of commercial sexual exploitation are not charged with such offenses. The JJAG supports several alternatives including Youth Court, Diversion Panels Accountability Boards, and Community Circles. MDOC provides flexible funding to assist in access to these therapeutic programs. JJAG also supports flexible emergency COVID funding to deal with issues created by the pandemic. Regional Care Teams are an integral part of multi-disciplinary teams gathering to screen problems within individual cases to creatively use the federal funding to ensure the best outcomes for Maine youth.

Over the last two years, Maine has successfully reduced the number of youths who are detained on technical violations of probation and those youth committed for longer terms at the Long Creek Youth Development Center. Maine recently enacted legislation that prohibits the use of detention for those youth awaiting treatment in a residential treatment program. The 2021 MDOC Action Plan diverts funds from Long Creek to other community-based services, including the purchase of short-term beds at residential facilities that can be utilized to address violations of probation. The JJAG has supported the training of JCCO's in the use of the Change Companies Interactive Journaling tools to avoid detention for youth on probation or community reintegration. JJAG has actively supported contracts for mentors via YAP and the Credible Messengers models. Regional Care Teams were created to help streamline the release of youth committed to Long Creek during the pandemic. The JJAG will continue to support these teams

and provide some funding for them to continue this process. The MDOC has used funding diverted from Long Creek to open two staff secure community-based homes, Steps for girls, and Bearings for boys. The JJAG will continue to support smaller, community-based solutions over secure commitment facilities.

In Maine much of the work done by the JCCO with youth on probation includes input and family engagement at every step of the process from intake to discharge. When a youth is committed discharge planning and family engagement begin at intake. The JJAG has supported having a community engagement counselor both in the Lewiston/Auburn area and in rural Aroostook County, to help support populations that have historically disproportionately been impacted by the justice system. The focus of these engagement counselors is to engage youth and families before they encounter the youth justice system, but they are also available to youth within that system.

The JJAG will release an RFP for agencies willing to partner with school and families to respond to youth's mental and behavioral health problems that occur in school settings, without engaging law enforcement in the response. The JJAG plans to support this effort for two years and is hoping it will result in a model that can be sustained and replicated throughout the state.

When sub-awards are granted priority is given to agencies that use evidence-based program such a Boys & Girls Club SMART Moves and SMART GIRLS to help youth recognize risky situations and behaviors and avoid early exposure to drugs, alcohol, tobacco or premature sexual experiences. Programs that show promising data that have ongoing positive engagement rates and outcome rates are also prioritized over programs with little to no data.

As mentioned in the Compliance Report in 2017 Maine enacted a law to eliminate the use of restraints on visibly or known pregnant detained or committed residents (policy 18.19.1 and 13.19.1). This applies to any circumstances of transport or during labor and delivery and the only way restraints can be employed is if a Judge issues a court order to authorize the use of shackles because of a present and immediate threat to themselves, others, or a credible risk of escape.

Maine affirms that they have developed an adequate research, training and evaluation capacity within the state through the University of Southern Maine Muskee Research Center, which is dedicated to providing high quality data, research, and evaluation services to an array of entities including federal, state, and local governments. In addition, the JJAG has supported an evaluation of the state wide juvenile justice system to yield useful information leading to improvements in the operations of the juvenile justice system, including for staff training for those who work in the system.

The JJAG includes members from MDOC, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Department of Education (DOE), Department of Public Safety (DPS), and the Courts. Each month these agencies report out on ongoing activities and how they relate to the work of the JJAG and the 3-year plan to allow for more effective coordination of federal and state funding.

When sub-awardees are reporting out on their programs, they are asked for demographic information, but not information that may identify the participants. The JJAG values the privacy of the youth involved with the youth justice system and takes pains to ensure that identifiable information is not released publicly. During Regional Care Teams interdisciplinary committee meeting a confidentiality protocols are followed, and the requirement is made clear as part of the meeting. As Maine has a small population families and individuals may have histories with

multiple state agencies, this reminder helps ensure no identification of individuals or families might occur inadvertently.

Maine has established procedures to protect the rights of recipients of services and for ensuring appropriate privacy with regard to record relating to such services provided to any individual under the state plan. All agencies that contract with DOC are compliant with HIPPA and other relevant laws related to information sharing and privacy concerns.

Maine provides assurances that youth in the juvenile justice system are treated equitably based on gender, race, family income and disability.

Maine provides assurances that consideration will be given to and that assistance will be available for approaches designed to strengthen the families of delinquent and other youth to prevent juvenile delinquency.

Maine affirms that any assistance provided under this Act will not cause the displacement (including a partial displacement, such as a reduction the hours of non-overtime work, wages, or employment benefits) of any currently employed employee; activities assisted under this Act will not impair an existing collective bargaining relationship, contract for services, or collective bargaining agreement; and no such activity that would be inconsistent with the terms of a collective bargaining agreement shall be undertaken without the written concurrence of the labor organization involved.

Maine has strong internal fiscal controls and fund accounting procedures necessary to ensure prudent use, proper disbursement, and accurate accounting of funds received under this title. The Financial Management and Internal Controls questionnaire has been completed and signed by the Financial Point of Contact and is attached.

Maine assures that federal funds made available under this part will be used to supplement and increase (but not supplant) the level of state, local, and other non-federal funds that would be used in the absence of such federal funds made available for these programs, and will in no event replace such state, local, and other non-federal funds.

Maine will give priority to the extent practicable in funding programs and activities that are based on rigorous, systematic, and objective research that is scientifically based. DOC is prioritizing dissemination of evidence-based practices by supporting training and technical assistance for agency staff and service providers. Some projects include evaluation components; others include programmatic fidelity requirements.

Maine's crime data section provides an analysis of juvenile crime annually, showing declines in indicators of delinquent activity among juveniles at state and local levels. Effectiveness of funded programs is reviewed annually by the JJAG and used to inform continuation funding decisions.

Maine affirms that funds will not be provided to carry out a program if the recipient of funds has failed during the preceding 2-year period to demonstrate, before the expiration of the 2-year period, that the program achieved substantial success in achieving the specified goals. Programs submit quarterly progress reports. When subaward applications are reviewed, prior program performance is considered as one of the factors for funding.

The JJAG will to the extent practicable give priority to funding programs and activities that are based on rigorous systematic and objective research that is scientifically based. The JJAG will conduct a site visit with each sub-awardee at the halfway point of their contract. If their contract is longer than 12 months, these site visits will take place every six months to ensure the analysis

and evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs and activities carried out under the plan and allows for any modifications to the plan if needed.

Maine complies with this requirement, and the documentation can be found on page 9 of the information submitted in the compliance tool.

Maine affirms that if the state receives under section 222 an amount that exceeds 105 percent of the amount received under this section in FY2000, all such excess would be expended through or for programs as part of a comprehensive and coordinated community system of services. Maine has compared the amount received in FY 2000 (\$579,100.00) with the amount to be received in FY22 (400,000.00) and the FY 22 amount does not exceed 105 percent of the FY 20 amount.

Under section 222(d) Maine will not reserve any funds to provide incentive grants local government that reduce the caseload of probation within such units.

Maine affirms that to the extent practicable, a system has been implemented to ensure that if a juvenile is before a court in the juvenile justice system, public child welfare records, including child protective services records, relating to that juvenile are on a file in the geographical area under the jurisdiction of such court will be made known to such court. These files are maintained by the court and are accessible to provide the necessary services for the treatment of such victims of child abuse or neglect.

Maine provides assurances that juvenile offenders whose placement is funded through section 472 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.672) receive the protections specified in section 471 of such Act (42. U.S.C. 671) including a case plan and a case plan review as defined in section 475 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 675).

The JJAG strives to coordinate with other youth serving state agencies like DHHS, DOE, and DOC to ensure that federal funds are leveraged appropriately, and efforts are not duplicated. As described above, this happens through regular agency updates at JJAG Board Meetings, and may include presentations from other agencies seeking support for needs they may have, such as training or implementation funds per a grant request activity related to the goals of the JJAG 3-year plan. If the JJAG is unable to fulfill the request they may issue an RFP for competitive bids based on the request, if it agrees with and meets JJAG plan Goals and Objectives as stated.

Staff that work with youth receive training in the use of dangerous practices, unreasonable restraints and unreasonable isolation (policy 9.15 & 10.01). Their training also includes development of effective behavior management techniques (policy 15.01) and an understanding of adolescent development and behaviors (policy 10.03) as well a use of force continuum (policy 09.18). Maine policy prohibits the use of unreasonable restraints and isolation. A violation of this policy could result in a corrective action, a work suspension or even termination if management found the violation to be egregious.

At the detention intake at Long Creek Youth Development Center the youth is given a risk assessment (MAYSI and PREA Screen) by staff on duty. Nursing uses a structured screening tool which includes questions about mental health and substance disorder. Within 7 days youth meet with a clinician who conducts a mental health appraisal to determine needs. This is a comprehensive list of conditions, services, and needs that the youth may have. It was developed by the DOC and DHHS Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) and helps determine who needs immediate clinical support. OCFS provides a licensed clinician in detention who conducts the assessment within 7 days and provides clinical support to youth in detention. Day One is the state provider contracted to provide treatment to youth for substance misuse, or

disorder. Wellpath is contracted to provide mental health treatment to youth. Upon a commitment to Long Creek Youth Development Center a youth is assessed using the PREA Assessment, Socrates, ACES, AC-OK, MEGAN, DSM tool for screening substance use and SAVRY, OYAS and depending on individual need of the resident may be screened using other psychological measures which may include MMPI, Beck Depression Inventory, WAIS and other validated assessments.

Youth are assessed and a case plan is developed within 30 days of commitment. The plan is reviewed monthly by the team and quarterly by the classification board and targets areas such as family, education, friends, substance use, peers, and emotional health. This informs a release plan which includes housing, services, and supports the youth will need when they leave the facility. Discharge planning also includes an agreement between Long Creek Youth Development Center and state schools as well as the work of the transition coordinator for the transfer of credits earned by youth to their home school. At Long Creek Youth Development Center youth are offered academic and vocational program. The program there includes credit for courses at the post-secondary level. This option allow youth to earn high school credit and college credit. During the 2020 compliance visit to this facility it was noted that youth who had come in with individual educational plans, were able to advance their learning enough to no longer require IEP's. As part of the vocational experience there are certifications for small engine repair, food services, wood working. These programs are OSHA and METRIX certified, which are nationally recognized. And when possible, there are students who have participated in Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) vocational program. All programs are recognized by employers as appropriate to their needs.

