

State of Idaho Juvenile Justice Commission

District 1

Strategic Plan 2018

Serving the Counties of:

Benewah

Bonner

Boundary

Kootenai

Shoshone

May 17, 2017

Ross Point, Post Falls, Idaho

The District 1 planning session was scheduled for and held May 17th, 2017, at the Ross Point Conference Center, Post Falls, Idaho. The planning session was attended by members of the District 1 Juvenile Justice Council, along with invited stakeholders from The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, the Coeur d'Alene School district, as well as Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Barry Black, Idaho Juvenile Justice Commission Chair, Carolyn Peterson, and District 2 Juvenile Justice Council Chair, Gabe Baker. Alan Miller, Juvenile Justice Specialist and Grants Administrator, from the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections was invited to facilitate and guide our planning process.

Following opening remarks from Stacy Brown, District 1 Chair, the meeting was turned over to Alan Miller who began the session with introductions of those present. A key component of this introductory process was having each participant identify the area of juvenile justice they felt was important in the development of this three-year plan. The initial thoughts may be found below:

Initial Thoughts:

Education System

Develop Appropriate Resources

Young Offenders

Substance Abuse

Patience – allow the youth to grow

Independent Living Skills

Age of Responsibility

Community Engagement

Transportation

Family Engagement

Collaboration

After a planned break, the guests were excused, and the Council members from the District 1 Juvenile Justice Council, remained to continue the strategic planning

The initial thoughts were summarized and sorted and placed into two categories, collaboration and communication, and developing appropriate resources. These areas became the initial strategic focal areas of District 1 Juvenile Justice Council's three-year plan.

SUMMARY:

Area 1

Collaboration/communication

1. Dealing with young offenders
2. Patience
3. Education system

Area 2

Developing Appropriate Resources

1. Independent living skills
2. Community engagement
3. Family engagement
4. Transportation

Discussions shaping our strategic plan focus:

District 1 Juvenile Justice Council (D1 JJC) recognizes the vital importance of family support and engagement in supporting the social, emotional physical and academic growth of our at-risk juveniles. Finding ways to enhance parental involvement is essential in the success of our juvenile's development.

D1 JJC recognize the paradoxical relationship with juvenile brain development and childhood trauma and the law. Research indicates adolescence brain development, lasting roughly from the ages of 10-25, is the brain's final stages of maturation, and impacts reasoning and impulse control. Adolescents during this time, live in between the innocence and immaturity of childhood and the responsibility and accountability of adulthood. Additionally, young adults, those in their early 20's, are more likely to show a lack of maturity and underdeveloped sense of responsibility.

D1 JJC understands appropriate resources for our juveniles, including those juveniles who are transitioning from residential programs, can be key components in improving outcomes for our at-risk juveniles. Developing these resources and programs can impact nearly all levels of our juvenile justice

system. From diversionary interventions for first time, low risk offenders; probation supervision for medium to high risk offenders; residential community-based programs; to secure correctional programs for the most serious chronic offenders, all benefit from community based programs and resources.

D1 JJC finds value in continuing a restorative approach to juvenile justice, as restorative practices are a process to proactively build healthy relationships and a sense of community. We believe you have to address trauma in order to build healthy relationships, increase resiliency and reduce, prevent and improve harmful behaviors. Building resilience can help resolve conflict, teach accountability, repair harm and restore positive relationships.

Effectively, the members of the D1 JJC felt the best course of action was incorporating the focal areas above and to stay the course established by the previous three-year plan, concentrating on maintaining the progress established thus far with, early intervention through interdisciplinary efforts, outreach and education, resiliency including restorative justice practices, and reintegration.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION: D1JJC will focus on intervention strategies that could potentially protect our at-risk juveniles from the adverse consequences of current mental health challenges. D1JJC will continue to strive forward in understanding childhood traumatic stress throughout all developmental stages.

GOAL #1 District One will continue to educate JJ Stakeholders, including our community partners, on current youth challenges regarding mental health needs. We will continue to better understand and implement change in our skills, so we can make connections between changes that occur because of our training and education. We will continue our process of exploration, to find tradition-shattering ways to meet the mental health needs of our youth, as new paradigms and challenges emerge.

- Understanding Child Traumatic stress
- Developing stakeholder's capacity to deliver trauma-informed services, finding ways to shift the perspective of stakeholders when dealing with challenging behaviors. Educate stakeholders in finding ways to ameliorate the negative impact of adverse childhood experience reactions
- Promote the use of screening instruments that can be administered to identify the signs and symptoms of trauma in the clients we work with.
- Strengthen and Develop Community Based services, such as:

- YES Program
- ACES- Resiliency
- Strengthen and Develop communication with schools
- Strengthen and Develop family relationship services
- Family Group Decision Making
- Restorative Practices
- Resiliency

EARLY INTERVENTION: Although the members of D1 JJC chose early intervention as one of the focal points of the previous three-year plan, the council found the focus generated on resiliency and early childhood trauma, effectively influenced, in a positive way, the efforts towards early intervention. D1JJC realizes preventative services, such as the ACES program, restorative practices, assessment tools to identify risk levels, family centered interventions, and school involvement, can create a harmonious proactive interdisciplinary effort, that can reduce risk and potentially prevent low risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system. The collaboration between these various disciplines, is a strong force within our Council. D1 JJC will continue efforts to find active ways to intervene at the earliest signs of problem behaviors.

GOAL #1 In District One there will be a reduction in low risk juveniles entering the juvenile justice system.

- Shift the perspective of stakeholders when dealing with challenging behaviors. Educate stakeholders in finding ways to ameliorate the negative behaviors in more restorative way, instead of retributive punishments.
- Develop appropriate community resources
- Strengthen family dynamics
 - Parent/family supports
 - Family Group Decision Making
 - Develop Life Skills
- Challenge Zero Tolerance in school
- Support adolescent development
- Use of risk evaluation assessments

Communication and collaboration: D1 JJC will communicate and collaborate though District -wide forums on a regular basis.

- Identify, propose and provide or recommend training to implement new and underutilized prevention practices for youth in our communities
- Collaboration with stakeholders/community members: i.e. improving relationships between law enforcement and our at-risk juveniles and their parents – (realizing each community’s results would look different from every other community, so more of a paradigm shift instead of a strategy.)
- Coordinate an effort to fill knowledge gaps and translate existing knowledge about adverse childhood experiences
- Bluejeans project – stronger communication. The ability to have visual communication is potentially a more effective way to communicate with less chance for misunderstandings.

GUIDELINES INCORPORATED FROM PREVIOUS PLAN:

1. The plan should be revisited and updated annually to reflect progress. When items are complete, this should be noted under the “**When**” section of the plan.
2. This District Council and associated groups should consider the following meeting rules to allow for better functioning, less burnout, and more effective decision-making:
3. a) The Rule of One: One person is not sufficient to accomplish a new or good idea. Seek more than one person to assist with most tasks and spread leadership and volunteerism around. If only one person is interested in doing a task, it may be a worthwhile task, but it is not a good idea for the group at this time. This reflects how willing participants are to work on an area. Further, if one person always volunteers it may either lead to burnout or concentrate too much responsibility in one person.
4. b) Silence is Assent: too often we cede control of our groups to those who either do not show up or do not respond. Get the group to agree that silence when asked to comment is the same as support for an idea and that absence from a meeting indicates your trust and support of the group to move forward. When needing decisions by e mail, indicate a time certain for the response reminding participants that silence by the due date will be construed as assent. This ensures that decisions are made in a fully informed manner. Lengthy notice is helpful in all these matters.

5. Live Strategic Planning: Put strategic plan topic areas that are coming due on to the agenda under a permanent agenda item entitled "Strategic Plan Report". This ensures the plan is not forgotten. Be flexible when items are not completed. Readjust dates and seek ways to assist in each elements completion. This is a form of accountability and follow-up (we ask no more of our kids, right?)
6. Over-commitment: Top out how many tasks an individual can do and ask others to step up and take the lead on an area rather than one of the "usual suspects". If no one volunteers, consider (b) above.
7. Be careful not to over-complicate things. If you suddenly see an easier way to accomplish something, modify your plan.

District 1 Strategic Plan

Believing there is no single approach for balanced and restorative justice, D1 JJC will continue the focus on early intervention, restorative justice practices, outreach and education, focusing on mental health needs and trends, childhood trauma, reintegration, and stakeholder/community collaboration.

- **Outreach and Education**
- **Continue developing ACES/Resiliency skills for JJ System practitioners**
- **Develop life skills**
- **Reintegration**
- **Promote evidence based practices**
- **Restorative Justice Practices**
- **Develop family skills/parenting**
- **Addressing the trauma of juveniles as prevention**

Members Present: Stacy Brown, Debbie Nadeau, Ron Stultz, Kelly Jo Hilliard, Robin Jacobson, Lynn Thompson

Others Present: Alan Miller, Jim Crowley, Kathy Roberts, Jen Romero, Barry Black, Gabe Baker, Andi West, Linda Hoss, Carolyn Peterson, Joann Frame.