

Idaho Juvenile Justice Commission

District Two Juvenile Justice Council

2021 - 2023 Action Plan

Council Values Statement

“The Region II Juvenile Justice Council engages in collaborative efforts to improve and expand services for at-risk and delinquent youth.”



Amy Guier, Chair

Section I. Planning Summary

A. How does the plan support Balanced and Restorative Justice?

The plan supports Balanced and Restorative Justice by addressing potential problems and areas which affect our youth prior to entering the Juvenile Justice System. We plan to provide competency development, offender accountability, and community protection to youth, as well as their support systems to reduce recidivism and address family dynamic needs prior to entering the Juvenile Justice System.

B. How did the Council identify priorities?

First, the District Liaison created a survey for Council members to use in personally reviewing the previous Three Year Plan to provide feedback on what goals were achieved and what remained unaddressed. Next, the Council met to discuss the survey results and brainstorm ideas for the new Three Year plan. Meeting participants selected the unaddressed areas from the previous three year plan, and discussed ways to incorporate those goals into the new Three Year Plan.

Council members present at the meeting talked about the statewide priority of deinstitutionalizing status offenders (DSO), and reviewed ways to incorporate that topic area into the District II Three Year Plan. Specific areas identified in Council meetings from the past several years include an emphasis on truancy recidivism and keeping status offenders out of the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC). Council members highlighted those goals and worked them into the new Three Year Plan.

Every County in the State is required by statute to have a Multi Disciplinary Team (MDT) to address child abuse and neglect reports received by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW). Many youth listed on MDT reports are also involved in the juvenile justice system. The Council determined it would be beneficial to serve our youth and communities to ensure each MDT in District II complies with the MDT statutory requirements of Idaho Code 16-1617.

Finally, many regions in District II share the same judicial officer in juvenile court - Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce Counties. Our jurisdictions recently began implementing a screening team procedure for the newly amended Idaho Juvenile Rule 16. That process inspired the Council to create a template IJR 16 screening team protocol with buy in and feedback from partner agencies, to suggest for all jurisdictions in District II.

C. How did the Council solicit and receive Public Input?

Council members incorporated into the Three Year plan ideas discussed in their respective agencies and jurisdictions. For example, within the past year the Idaho Governor's Task Force on Children at Risk (IDCARTF) began a statewide survey to monitor MDT statutory compliance in all Idaho counties. That feedback in District II prompted Council members to incorporate MDT compliance into the new Three Year Plan.

D. How will the Council report to IDJC, the Juvenile Justice Commission and other stakeholders?

The Council Chair and District Liaison will report to IDJC and the Juvenile Justice Commission at regularly scheduled meetings and reports will be prepared as requested. The council will hold no less than six (6) meetings yearly and updates and discussion will be held during that time. The Council will keep track of tangible results from the three year plan, and produce information to IDJC, JJC, and other stakeholders for review.

Section II. Data

The Action Plan was developed during a video round table discussion involving collective members from varying agencies. This data was used to identify goals to address the priority areas within our communities. Please refer to attached District II Juvenile Justice Council meeting minutes.

- I. Priority Area: Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders
 - A. Between January 2018 and August 2020, Nez Perce County received thirty-seven referrals for truancy cases. Of those referrals, approximately thirty-five participated to some extent in the Nez Perce County Attendance Court program. Approximately fourteen are still actively involved in the program.
 - B. Only two of the five counties in District II have an Attendance Court program, but all five counties have truancy cases.
 - C. According to the United States Census Bureau, all five counties in District II are rural with the exception of a small portion of Nez Perce County. Rural America, last accessed August 6, 2020, <https://gis-portal.data.census.gov/arcgis/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=7a41374f6b03456e9d138cb014711e01>, Many rural areas in District II do not have enough truancy referrals for member school districts to feel comfortable supporting an Attendance Court program. Mentors are a viable alternative to prevent youth from habitual truancy.
 - D. Institutionalizing status offenders “does not reduce reoffending and may increase it for certain youths.” OJJDP Literature Review: Status Offenders, pg. 2, September 2015, https://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/litreviews/Status_Offenders.pdf, citing Lipsey, Mark W., and Francis T. Cullen. 2007. “The Effectiveness of Correctional Rehabilitation: A Review of Systematic Reviews.” *The Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 3:297–320.
- II. Priority Area: Support Dually Adjudicated Youth
 - A. In 2017 there were 2,714 Idaho children placed in foster care during the state fiscal year. Of those children, 25.7% were between the ages of twelve and seventeen. Idaho Governor’s Children at Risk Task Force 2018 Three Year Report, page 10, April 2018. https://24160071-1add-46eb-842c-4e1c4c03e8cf.filesusr.com/ugd/3764e3_6d7b0cee8abf417b82d19443c5ed5e63.pdf.
 - B. According to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare: “[d]uring state fiscal year 2019, CFS received a total of 23,108 referrals regarding concerns of abuse, neglect, or abandonment. Of these, 11,562 were assigned for a safety assessment. From those assessments, 1,407 children were placed in foster care.” IDHW Annual Legislative

Foster Care Report, 2019, page 3, available at: <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Portals/0/Children/AbuseNeglect/FC-ReportSFY2019.pdf>.

- C. In state fiscal year 2019, fifty-five children in IDHW custody transitioned from foster care to Department of Juvenile Corrections Custody. IDHW Annual Legislative Foster Care Report, 2019, page 10, available at: <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Portals/0/Children/AbuseNeglect/FC-ReportSFY2019.pdf>.

Section III. Priorities & Recommendations

PRIORITY ARE:

Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders

Core Protections of the JJDP Act: Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders.

Goal #1: Address truancy in District II.

Objective A: Develop and maintain productive Attendance Court programs in District II.

JJDP Act Funding Area: U.S.C. § 11133(a)(9)(B), (C), (E), (L).

Action Step	Assignee	Due	Measurement/Deliverable	
1. Research existing Attendance Court programs in District II.	District II JJ Council	10/1/2023	Complete	Incomplete
2. Develop template Attendance Court program for District II.	District II JJ Council	10/1/2023	Complete	Incomplete
3. Offer template programs to school districts throughout District II, and provide support to new and existing Attendance Court programs.	District II JJ Council	10/1/2023	Complete	Incomplete

Objective B: Develop mentoring program to support DSO, with a specific focus on habitually truant youth.

JJDP Act Funding Area: U.S.C. § 11133(a)(9)(B), (C), (E), (L), (Q); Rural Area Juvenile Programs.

Action Step	Assignee	Due	Measurement/Deliverable	
1. Develop a platform for a mentoring program in rural communities in District II, including training mentors to recognize factors contributing to antisocial values and beliefs, with an emphasis on truancy triggers.	District II JJ Council	10/1/2023	Complete	Incomplete
2. Recruit potential mentors	District II JJ Council	10/1/2023	Complete	Incomplete
3. Establish and support mentoring programs in District II.	District II JJ Council	10/1/2023	Complete	Incomplete

Goal #2: Keep status offenders out of Juvenile Detention Centers in District II.

Objective A: Train partner agencies to recognize status offenses and keep status offender youth out of JDC in District II.

JJDP Act Funding Area: U.S.C. § 11133(a)(9)(A),(C); Rural Area Juvenile Programs.

DSO Action Step	Assignee	Due	Measurement/Deliverable	
1. Develop a training specific to status offenses that explains why youth cannot go to JDC for a status offense, and provide suggested alternatives to JDC.	District II JJ Council	10/1/2023	Complete	Incomplete
2. Offer training in person or virtually to identified law enforcement partners.	District II JJ Council	10/1/2023	Complete	Incomplete

Goal #3: Inform youth and parents of the benefits and risks of technology on the school and parent/professional levels.

Objective A: Research and identify local technical specialists and sponsor training throughout the District.

JJDP Act Funding Area: U.S.C. § 11133(a)(9)(L), (P), (V); Rural Area Juvenile Programs.

Action Step	Assignee	Due	Measurement/Deliverable	
1. Identify trends in technology and substance abuse	District II JJ Council	01/31/2021	Complete	Incomplete
2. Identify speakers to present recognized subjects.	District II JJ Council	04/01/2021	Complete	Incomplete
3. Help provide trainings on identified subjects as needed	District II JJ Council	09/01/2021	Complete	Incomplete

PRIORITY AREA:

Support Dually Adjudicated Youth

Goal #1: Strengthen Multi Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) in District II.

Objective A: Assist MDTs in District II in meeting the statutory requirements set forth in Idaho Code Section 16-1617.

JJDP Act Funding Area: U.S.C. § 11133(a)(9)(C), (D).

Action Step	Assignee	Due	Measurement/Deliverable	
1. Collect data from District II MDT administrators to determine if each MDT meets the statutory requirements in I.C. 16-1617.	District II JJ Council	10/1/2023	Complete	Incomplete
2. Identify areas for improvement in District II MDT programs.	District II JJ Council	10/1/2023	Complete	Incomplete
3. Offer support for areas of improvement through training, grant opportunities, and discussions about best practices.	District II JJ Council	10/1/2023	Complete	Incomplete
4. Follow up with MDT programs in the District to determine whether statutory criteria in I.C. 16-1617 is satisfied.	District II JJ Council	10/1/2023	Complete	Incomplete

Goal #2: Achieve District wide consistency on Idaho Juvenile Rule 16 Screening Team procedure.

Objective A: Implement consistent Idaho Juvenile Rule 16 Screening Team procedure in District

JJDP Act Funding Area: U.S.C. § 11133(a)(9)(C), (D).

Action Step	Assignee	Due	Measurement/Deliverable	
1. Research and identify example IJR 16 screening team procedures from other regions throughout Idaho.	District II JJ Council	10/1/2023	Complete	Incomplete
2. Discuss with stakeholders in District II the various needs, resources, and abilities of local jurisdictions to create a workable IJR 16 screening team procedure for District II.	District II JJ Council	10/1/2023	Complete	Incomplete
3. Develop and disperse IJR 16 screening procedure using data and information previously gathered.	District II JJ Council	10/1/2023	Complete	Incomplete

IV. Recommendations

Recommendation Statement: District II Council would benefit from continued support and collaboration from stakeholders as they know what the primary needs are in their communities.

Why is this important? Within the State of Idaho we have a vast majority of differing communities, from rural to urban areas. It is important to look at each county and district differently and provide an individualized plan for success. What may be important in urban areas is out of reach for rural areas, due to lack of funding or resources available.

If accomplished, what will be different? We will have the opportunity to provide resources and support to each county and district as needed specifically for their youth and families in their communities.

Specific Recommendation: Continue to have wide-spread conversations regarding needs across Idaho to support youth and families involved in the Juvenile Justice System.

Appendix:

Minutes showing approval of plan

Data sets and graphs

Council Member Roster