



2024-2026 ACTION PLAN

Juvenile Justice Council:

Ron Stultz- Bonner County Justice Services- Council Chair

Kelly Jo Hilliard- Kootenai County Diversion- Council Vice Chair

Gerry Benson- Coeur d' Alene Tribe

Bernie Thomas -Coeur d' Alene Tribe

Bryan Alexander- Kootenai County Juvenile Probation

Jay Logsdon- Kootenai County Public Defender's Office

Mike Smith-Shoshone County Probation

Emily Gleason-Benewah County Juvenile Probation

Cindy Harris-Lindauer- Health and Welfare

Jenn Romero- Treatment Provider

Robin Bessey- District 1 Juvenile Detention Center

Dustin Cook- Health and Welfare

District Council Chair:

Ron Stultz

Council Mission Statement:

Our mission is to support at-risk youth and strengthen families by eliminating barriers to service, creating a robust mental health system, and offering effective interventions to promote healthy families and assist youth in reaching their full potential.

Council Values Statement:

District I JJC will continue an environment of collaboration with stakeholders who are accountable for the support of healthy youth development; support those youth who are at risk of juvenile delinquency; educate ourselves to better understand the needs of youth struggling with mental health and trauma related difficulties; and provide evidence-based service and support to our juveniles and their families.

District I JJC recognizes the vital importance of family engagement in supporting the social, emotional, physical, and academic growth of our at-risk youth. Finding ways to enhance parental involvement and strengthening family dynamics is essential in the success of our youth development. It can also be a key part of our intervention plans for first time and status offenders, many who find themselves detained and putting us in violation of Federal DSO mandates.

SECTION I: PLANNING & SUMMARY

How does the plan support the Balanced Approach & Restorative Justice?

As in past plans, the District 1 Juvenile Justice Council believes there is no one single approach for balanced and restorative justice, and we continue to focus on early intervention, restorative justice practices, outreach and education, attention to mental health needs and childhood trauma, reintegration and stakeholder/community collaboration. This year's priority areas of Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders, Trauma-Mental Health and Family Engagement continue this work. A Balanced and Restorative Justice Model is established on support from the community and community involvement in preventing and controlling juvenile crime, improving neighborhoods, and strengthening the bonds among community members which results in community protection. Through understanding the human impact of their behavior, accepting responsibility, expressing remorse, taking action to repair the damage, and developing their own capacities, juvenile offenders become fully integrated, respected members of the community. Juvenile justice professionals, as community justice facilitators, organize and support processes in which individual crime victims, other community members, and juvenile offenders are involved in finding constructive resolutions to delinquency. All goals and objectives of our action plan in the three priority areas will include this community support and involvement as well as the community education and outreach component.

How did the Council Identify priorities?

The Council members met and reviewed the previous Three-Year Plan to provide feedback on what goals were achieved and what remained unaddressed. 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 met to discuss the statewide priority of deinstitutionalizing status offenders (DSO). Specific areas identified in Council meetings from the past several years include an emphasis on keeping status offenders out of Juvenile Detention Centers (JDC). Council members highlighted those goals and incorporated them into the new Three-Year Plan.

How did the Council solicit and receive public input?

Council members incorporated into the Three-Year plan ideas discussed in their respective counties and agencies. The final plan was voted on in a public council meeting on January 18, 2024. Feedback was obtained from county partners representing juvenile justice, children's mental health, treatment providers, tribal probation, public defender's office, school district and health district.

How will the Council report to the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections, 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

Provide an analysis of the data used to guide the Action Plan.

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

SECTION III: PRIORITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Complete each priority area (limit priorities to a maximum of 3-5). Councils are asked to review data regarding compliance with the Core Protections of the OJJDP Act. Set goals and objectives to address any issues as one Priority Area.

Reminder: Core Protections of the JJDP Act: Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders, Jail Removal, Sight and Sound Separation, Racial Ethnic Disparities.

STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION

PRIORITY AREA 1: Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders

Core Protections of the JJDP Act: Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders

GOAL: Address status offenders in District 1.

Objective A: Develop partnerships with key stakeholders to divert runaway juveniles from detention centers.

Objective B: Utilizing evidenced based curriculum, partner with key stakeholders to offer training/assistance to law enforcement.

DSO Action Step	Due	Measurement
1. Ongoing training for law enforcement and new hires to mitigate status offenders entering juvenile detention centers.	10/1/26	Complete Incomplete
2. Educate stakeholders of Crisis Respite in region I to minimize runaways in the community and divert youth in juvenile detention facilities.	10/1/26	Complete Incomplete
3. Provide and support by creating opportunities in a robust system.	10/1/26	Complete Incomplete
4. Support district Runaway intervention services program or similar intervention programs offered by county stakeholders.	10/1/26	Complete Incomplete
5. Continued collaboration between juvenile justice personnel and stakeholders in determining appropriate sanctions to mitigate/address risky behaviors.	10/1/26	Complete Incomplete

SECTION III: PRIORITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

PRIORITY AREA 2: Mental Health

GOAL: Educate youth, families and stakeholders on mental health, trauma, and resiliency.

Objective A: Increase protective factors and reduce the risk factors that lead to both substance abuse and mental health issues in youth.

Objective B: Encourage and support efforts in expanding the accessibility and availability of crisis respite.

Mental Health Action Step	Due	Measurement
1. Continue to seek youth programs to support engagement in prosocial activities and interests.	10/1/26	Complete Incomplete
2. Help build and support and build resources for kids and families in District 1.	10/1/26	Complete Incomplete
3. Reach a minimum of 300 youth within District 1 through a drug and alcohol class.	10/1/26	Complete Incomplete

SECTION III: PRIORITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

PRIORITY AREA 3: Family Engagement

GOAL: District I will continue promoting family engagement for justice involved youth.

Objective A: Partner with stakeholders to provide evidenced based training programs to youth and families.

Family Engagement Action Step	Due	Measurement
1. Provide schools and families with the Strengthening Families Program (SFP) through virtual and live training.	10/1/26	Complete Incomplete
2. Increase referrals to Children's Mental Health.	10/1/26	Complete Incomplete
3. Create an outreach by sending a survey to community parents.	10/1/26	Complete Incomplete

I. Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders

District I Council would benefit from continued support and collaboration from county stakeholders as increased population growth and a healthy economy has drastically stressed the availability of mental health service providers in all (5) counties. The North Idaho Region comprises Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah, and Shoshone counties. According to Northern Regional Economist, Sam Wolkenhauer, “The increasingly diverse economic base and lifestyle of the northern Idaho region have attracted thousands of new residents in recent years, making it Idaho’s second most populous region. The largest city, Coeur d’Alene, is 33 miles from Spokane, Washington (Idaho Department of Labor, June 2020).” In addition to population growth, runaway status offenders continue to be detained in juvenile detention centers. Financial support is needed to bring alternative solutions to the area for stakeholders and families.

Why is this important?

North Idaho has five distinct counties with urban and rural communities that have different needs and gaps. Due to a lack of access to internet (bandwidth) and transportation in many rural counties, youth are unable to access mental health or substance abuse service providers. In addition, youth do not have access to alternatives to running away from home.

If accomplished, what will be different? The Council will have the opportunity to provide resources and support to each county based on the individualized needs of 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

Include attachments:
Council Membership Roster
Minutes showing approval of plan.

Submitted by Council Chair

Name:

Date: