

2019 MSJJAC ANNUAL REPORT

& RESOURCE GUIDE



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee

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WORKING TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE1

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

On behalf of the Mississippi State Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (MSJJAC), I am honored to present to you the 2019 Juvenile Justice Annual Report. The MSJJAC is an advisory group appointed by the Governor to advise on various areas, relating to juvenile justice, in the State of Mississippi. This committee is comprised primarily of juvenile justice volunteers and practitioners. The committee is overseen by the Mississippi Division of Public Safety Planning which is a division of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety. Within the Division of Public Safety Planning, the JJAC is managed by the Office of Justice Programs. We hope that you and the full legislative body find this document to be comprehensive and a useful juvenile justice resource tool.



Alfred Martin, Jr. Ph. D.

MSJJAC Chairman

One of the goals of the MSJJAC is to better conditions for juveniles in Mississippi who come into contact with the juvenile justice system. The JJAC does so by utilizing a variety of methods while adhering to federal JJDPA guidelines.

The mission of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) program in Mississippi includes funding programs at the local level to support delinquency prevention and effective intervention to at-risk youth and their families throughout the state.

Community -based juvenile programs are the keys to alleviating juvenile crime; therefore, funds are distributed locally to support innovative programs that might otherwise not receive financing.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the State Advisory Group is to be a voice for youth and families in Mississippi and enhance the lives of youth by actively advising policymakers and the public on matters related to improving the juvenile justice system, enhancing interagency community collaboration, and promoting laws and policies that make a difference in the lives of youth and families in Mississippi.

VALUES STATEMENT

Knowledge

We will stay on the cutting edge of effective juvenile justice by keeping abreast of facts, information, data and best practices as they become available. To achieve the SAG's mission, we apply this knowledge with competence according to laws, regulations, policies and procedures. The youth, families and communities we work with are our first priority. We will proactively create opportunities to improve the juvenile justice system.

Professionalism

As representatives and ambassadors of SAG, we will strive to behave responsibly, appropriately, and with discipline. We achieve best results through collaboration with stakeholders, youth, families and communities.

Respect

We treat everyone equitably and impartially, recognizing the diversity of individuals and their viewpoints. We are aware of body language, tone and words during our conversations. We acknowledge the issues of others and always strive for a clear solution.

Integrity

We are honest, truthful and non-judgmental in all our professional interactions. We follow policy and procedures and accept responsibility for our actions. Our decisions should be ethical and always honor confidentiality. We build trust through transparency and ethical behavior.

Dedication

We are fully committed to fulfilling our mission. We serve as ambassadors of the board, representing it with loyalty, enthusiasm, and perseverance. We work as a team of stakeholders from various disciplines and agencies that impact juvenile justice.

Effective Communication

We are good listeners. When we communicate with our colleagues and stakeholders, we do so clearly and concisely in a timely manner. Our communications are respectful, accurate, constructive, candid and relevant, offering well-considered solutions.



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Office of the Administrator

Washington, D.C. 20531

August 3, 2020

Ray Sims
Director
Mississippi Department of Public Safety Planning
1025 Northpark Drive
Ridgeland, MS 39157

Dear Director Sims,

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has completed its review and analysis of Mississippi's federal fiscal year 2020 Compliance and Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Plans, and its compliance data and supporting documentation covering the federal fiscal year 2019 reporting period. OJJDP conducted the review to determine (1) whether Mississippi has described an effective system of monitoring, and (2) the extent of Mississippi's compliance with the four core requirements pursuant to Section 223(a)(11), (12), (13), and (15) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (the Act) as amended.

Based on our review and analysis of your 2020 compliance plan in the category 1 submission and your compliance monitoring report in the category 2 submission, OJJDP has determined that Mississippi has provided for an effective system of monitoring. This is not a determination that Mississippi, in fact, has an effective system of monitoring, which can be determined only through an onsite audit, but indicates that the state has described an effective system of monitoring, pursuant to section 223(a)(14), including the submission of compliance data for at least 85% of facilities in the State required to report data. (See 28 C.F.R. § 31.303(f)(5)).

Based on our review and analysis of the federal fiscal year 2019 Compliance Monitoring Report and the 2020 RED Plan, OJJDP has determined:

- Mississippi is in compliance with Section 223(a)(11) of the Act (the deinstitutionalization of status offenders or DSO requirement).
- Mississippi is in compliance with Section 223(a)(12) of the Act (the separation requirement).
- Mississippi is in compliance with Section 223(a)(13) of the Act (the adult jail and lockup removal requirement).
- Mississippi is in compliance with Section 223(a)(15) of the Act (the racial and ethnic disparities or RED requirement).

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This project was supported by 2016-JF-FX-0020 Title II Formula Grants Program from the U. S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention administered by the Mississippi Division of Public Safety Planning, Office of Justice Programs.



42ND JUVENILE JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM

The Division of Public Safety Planning, Office of Justice Programs, in collaboration with the Mississippi Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee hosted the 42nd Juvenile Justice Symposium, **July 31-August 2, 2019** in Biloxi, Mississippi. To ensure the skills needed to be productive in the workforce, conference participants were trained on an array of topics. Participants were informed on federal mandates by Administrator Harp with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and other topics including racial and ethnic disparities, mental health, education, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS).



Administrator Caren Harp, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention



2019 CJJ NATIONAL RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES CONFERENCE

A Time for Action: Combating Racial and Ethnic Disparities through Inclusion, Equity, and Respect

MSJJAC-SAG attended the Coalition for Juvenile Justice's (CJJ) 2019 Racial and Ethnic Disparities Conference which highlighted techniques that could be utilized by youth, communities, law enforcement, court officials, advocacy groups, and the State Advisory Group to combat racial and ethnic disparities and to foster pro-social community engagement..

The primary goal of CJJ's 2019 National Racial and Ethnic Disparities Conference was to help system stakeholders explore evidence-based solutions to racial and ethnic disparities through peer-to-peer learning and expert training.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

In 2019, the Mississippi Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee visited various juvenile detention centers to observe internal operations. The facilities visited were Adams County Juvenile Detention Facility, Harrison County Juvenile Detention Facility, and Oakley Youth Development Center. The Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Services hosted the final quarterly meeting of 2019 at Oakley Youth Development Center.



Mississippi Juvenile Detention Centers

The fifteen (15) juvenile detention centers and three (3) temporary holding facilities share common goals for youth served in Mississippi. In addition to public safety, juvenile detention centers strive to provide youth served with opportunities to rectify behaviors by offering quality services and programs to equip youth with the essential resources and skills needed to effectively transition to their communities. The facilities focus on areas such as education, mental health, skill development treatment needs to put the youth on the path to rehabilitation. The purpose of a juvenile detention center is to *temporarily confine* youth while his/her case is being processed through youth court. Oakley Youth Development Center, by contrast, offers longer-term placement for youth who have been adjudicated as delinquent and are subsequently ordered by a youth court judge to be confined instead of supervised in the community. Aspiring to make a difference in the lives of the youth served, prior to exhausting all rehabilitation measures, is what each center strives to accomplish. To ensure detained youth are provided quality services the Mississippi Association of Juvenile Detention Professionals (MAJDP), promotes “best practices” for the juvenile justice system in the State of Mississippi through:

- (1) Information sharing and cooperation among detention centers, holding facilities and Youth Courts in the counties of the State of Mississippi regarding issues relevant to juvenile justice;
- (2) Promotion of professionalism through training and staff development;
- (3) Continued collaboration with the Courts and Criminal Justice organization;
- (4) Promotion of effective programs including, but not limited to, substance abuse treatment and mental health treatment throughout the state.

Providing educational and exciting *quarterly* meetings throughout the state, the MADJDP invites anyone having a passion for enhancing the juvenile justice system to join. For more information contact:

Mrs. LaKeisha Bryant-Hall
 MAJDP President, State Advisory Group Stakeholder
 110 Alcorn Avenue
 Hattiesburg, MS 39401
 601-545-6183
 601-545-3935 (Fax)
lbryant@co.forrest.ms.us

Mississippi Department of Mental Health

The Department of Mental Health, Children's Division provides emotional and behavioral health services to youth and families. The Division provides evidenced based services through Community Mental Centers, Private Providers, and Non-profit organizations. Services such as Crisis Response, Community Support, Day Treatment, Outpatient Therapy, Juvenile Outreach services and Pre-Evaluation screenings are just a few community based services offered to youth and families. The Division is committed to reducing inappropriate and out of home placement for youth who have serious emotional disturbance (SED). through the Making A Plan (MAP) Team It is a goal to ensure health, hope, happiness and equal opportunity for all children, youth, and families.

The Mississippi Department of Mental Health's (DMH) Division of Children and Youth Services plans and develops community-based mental health services for the children and youth in our state. The Division works in partnership with other child-serving agencies at the state and local levels to promote a family-driven, youth-guided System of Care. Public and private mental health providers certified by DMH offer an array of services that include outpatient mental health services, physician/psychiatric services, crisis response services, community support services, peer support services, day treatment, and pre-evaluation screenings. Grant funding supports fourteen (14) Juvenile Outreach Programs operated through a partnership between the juvenile detention centers and local Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs). In these settings, mental health staff from the local CMHCs, conduct mental health assessments and provide treatment for youth detained in the juvenile detention centers. Aftercare appointments to continue mental health services are scheduled upon their release. Multidisciplinary Assessment and Planning (MAP) Teams, comprised of community stakeholders, work to reduce inappropriate and out of home placements for youth who have serious emotional disturbance (SED) and provide needed resources and funding to keep children and youth in their homes. Through these services and supports, the Division of Children and Youth Services strives to provide health, hope, happiness, and equal opportunities for all children, youth, and families.

For more information contact:

Dwayne Nelson

Juvenile Mental Health Coordinator

Mississippi Department of Mental Health

601-359-6218

Community Mental Health Center (CMHC)

There are thirteen (13) Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) regions in the state of Mississippi. These CMHC provide outpatient behavioral health care services to children and youth in all eighty-two (82) counties of the state. In most cases, the services include Community Support Services (Case Management), therapy, psychological, and psychiatric services. CMHC generally serves children between the ages of five (5) to eighteen (18) with serious emotional disorders and substance use. One of the major goals of CMHC is to provide a high quality of care that allow the individuals served to remain in the community and not have to be admitted or committed to any type of institution (hospital or detention). CMHC works closely with schools, parents, Youth courts, detention centers, law enforcement, hospitals, and other support systems that may be in place in the various communities. CMHC team members are available 24 hours a day through emergency call lines and crisis teams working together to provide a person-centered and family oriented holistic approach of service for the youth and families served.

For more information contact:

Don G. Brown

Deputy Executive Director

Warren Yazoo Behavioral Health

3444 Wisconsin Avenue

Vicksburg, MS 39180

601-638-0031 | 888-558-2077

Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Services

The mission of the Mississippi Department of Human Services is to offer Mississippians young and old tangible help today to create lasting hope for tomorrow.

VISION

The vision of the Mississippi Department of Human Services is that every child experience success in caring families and nurturing communities that cherish children and teach them to value family and community.

The Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Services (DYS), administers probation/aftercare services and institutional programs for juveniles who have

been adjudged delinquent in Mississippi Youth Courts or are at-risk of becoming delinquent. Additionally, the Division collaborates with other Mississippi Department of Human Services staff, families, youth court judges, counselors and the community to rehabilitate youth who are at risk for becoming delinquent.

COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS

Goals

- To ensure a balanced approach of accountability, competency development and community safety while providing quality services that addresses the needs of youth, their families, individual victims and the community.
- To test the effectiveness of community-based programs on reducing commitments to institutional care.
- To establish multi-agency, cooperative partnerships within local communities.
- To establish uniformity in DYS services, case management practices and procedures.
- To strengthen the use of graduated incentives by providing tangible incentives for the successful completion of action steps and goals.

Services

Probation and After-Care Services are provided to youth referred to the Youth Courts in all eighty-two (82) counties in Mississippi. Individual, group and family counseling, pre-court investigations, case management, referral and placement services are provided by Youth Services Counselors.

The Interstate Commission for Juveniles (ICJ) along with the DYS, provides for the welfare and protection of juveniles and the public. Its purpose is accomplished through the cooperative supervision of delinquent juveniles on probation or parole who move to Mississippi, the return of runaways, absconders and escapees, the return of youth charged as delinquent and additional measures that any two or more-party states may find desirable. For additional information, please contact:

*Toni Kersh, Division Director
Mississippi Department of Human Services
Division of Youth Services
601.359.4987*

The map below represents DYS regions and the respective supervisor's name and contact information.

Region 1

Melissa Chipman
662-252-6709
melissa.chipman@mdhs.ms.gov

Region 2

Cheryl Clark
662-843-8556
cheryl.clark@mdhs.ms.gov

Region 3

Marketa Motton
601-859-1276
marketa.motton@mdhs.ms.gov

Region 4

Shermenia Jackson-McCloud
601-485-7880
shermenia.jackson@mdhs.ms.gov

Region 5

Valerie Jackson
601 823-9058
valerie.jackson@mdhs.ms.gov

Region 6A

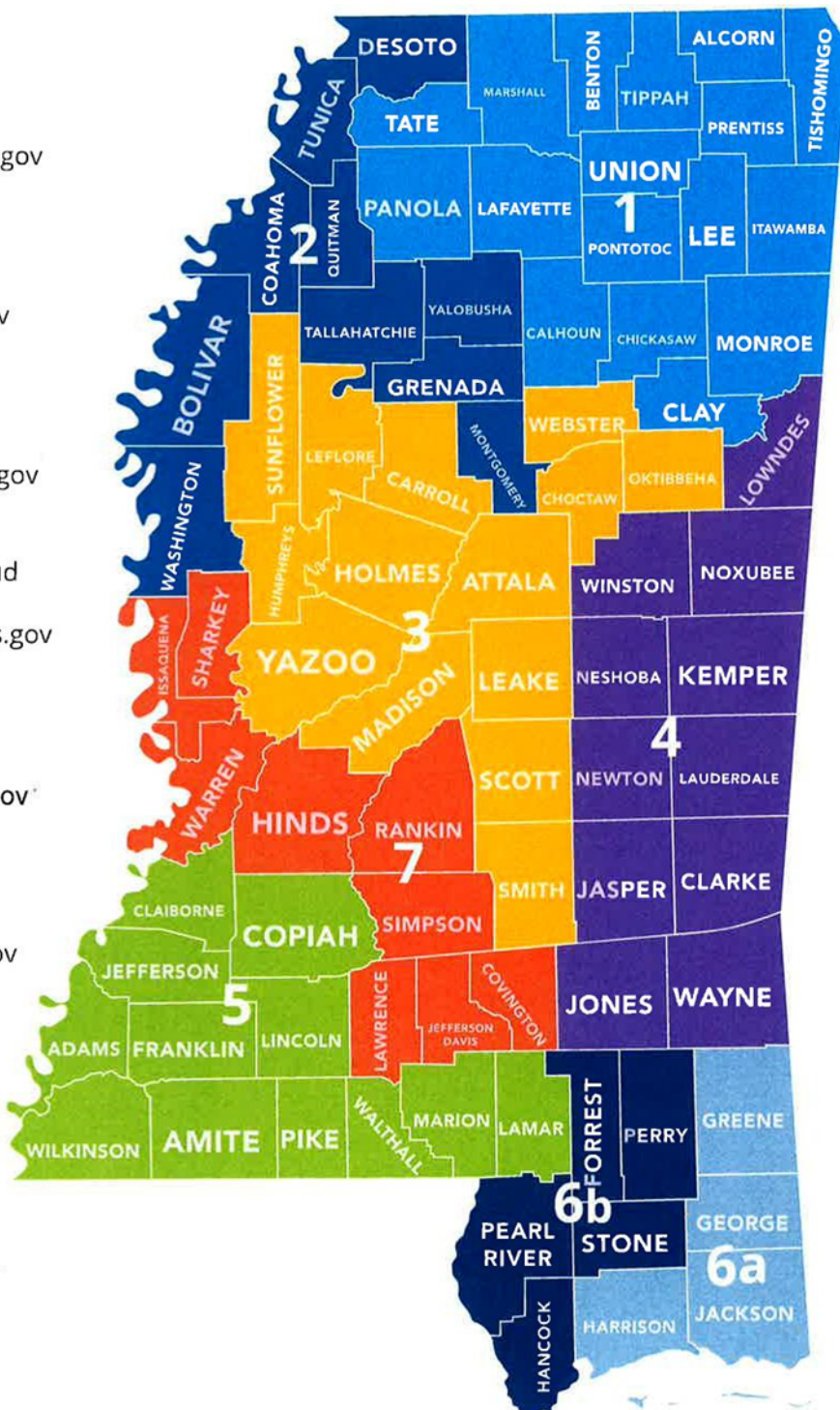
Kizzie Wells-Daniels
228-696-6501
kizzie.daniels@mdhs.ms.gov

Region 6B

L.A. Pegues
228-466-6234
l.a.pegues@mdhs.ms.gov

Region 7

Joye Green
601-364-7758
joye.green@mdhs.ms.gov



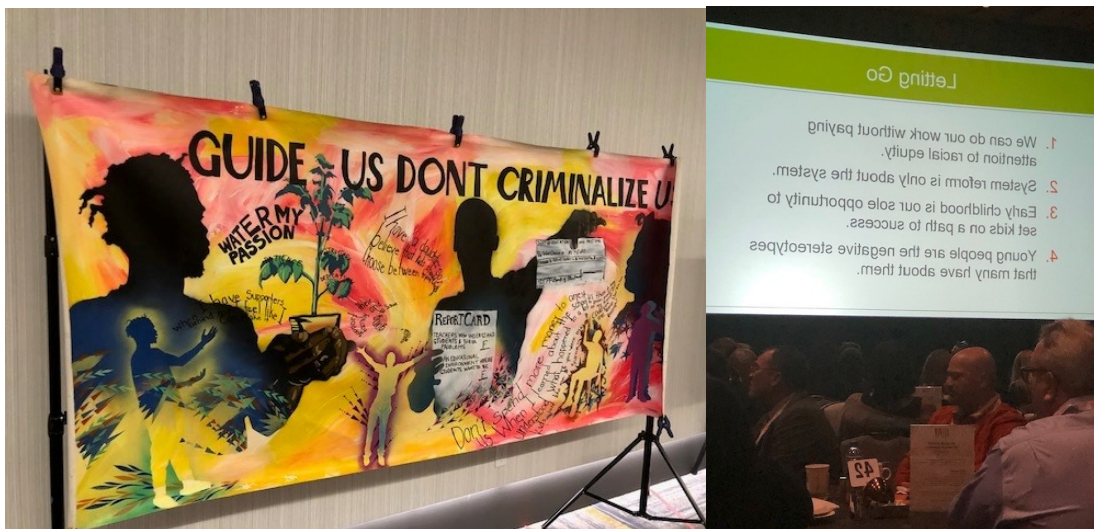
BRING IT BACK ADOLESCENT OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (AOP)

The Mississippi Adolescent Opportunity Program is a needed community-based program that utilizes evidenced based practices to improve the lives of the at-risk youths. The program focused on adolescent brain development, trauma and its relation to behavior. The program was proven to reduce recidivism rates, improve meaningful family engagements, foster familial problem solving, strengthen communication, and reduce out-of-home placements. Also, by utilizing evidence-based practices to aid youth in remaining in their community, youth avoided incarceration which increased their chances of graduating from high school. Along with the lasting positive impact of localized systems of support from practitioners, family, peers and friends, community-based programs are the most cost effective and beneficial method of service delivery to at-risk youth.



JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE (JDAI) UPDATE

In January 2019, the Annie E. Casey Foundation appointed Lisa Hamilton as President and Chief Executive Officer. The Annie E. Casey Foundation hosted the 2019 Inter-Site Conference in Seattle, Washington where over 700 attendees from 40 states and Washington, D.C. joined together for two days of engaging and invigorating conversations and workshops on juvenile justice. Conference attendees were received training in the areas of restorative justice and probation transformation programs. Mississippi's delegation included representatives from JDAI county sites in Adams, Harrison, Jackson, Rankin, Washington, and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. The five JDAI sites were provided additional training on improving their data collection practices and implementation of the Mississippi Youth Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (MYDRAI) which seeks to reduce the number of youths in correctional facilities.



Overview

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is a leader in efforts to reduce the overrepresentation of minority youth in the Nation's juvenile justice system. Funding through OJJDP's Formula Grants program (Title II) helps states address juvenile delinquency and supports improvements to the juvenile justice system.

The funds also help states address the core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act):

- deinstitutionalization of status offenders,
- separation of juveniles from adult inmates,
- removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups, and
- identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities (RED) among youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system.

Racial and ethnic disparities exist if a specific minority group's rate of contact at a particular point in the juvenile justice system is different than the rate of contact for non-Hispanic whites or other minority groups.

Beginning in fiscal year 2019, OJJDP's State Relations and Assistance Division (SRAD) implemented a streamlined Title II application process that simplified racial and ethnic disparities data collection requirements.

States achieve compliance with this core requirement when they address racial and ethnic disparities through the following: identification, development of an action plan, and an outcome-based evaluation.

The number of contact points for which reporting is required has been narrowed to five that research supports as the most critical. In addition, OJJDP will now be asking states to identify how they define success with their racial and ethnic disparities reduction efforts and to evaluate the outcome of their plans to assess what impact they had, if any, on disproportionality.

Core Requirement of JJDP Act

In December 2018, the [Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018](#) (JJRA) was signed into law, reauthorizing and substantially amending the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (JJDP Act).

Pursuant to the JJDP Act, as amended at 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(15), states and territories must "implement policy, practice, and system improvement strategies at the state, territorial, local, and tribal levels, as applicable, to identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities among youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system, without establishing or requiring numerical standards or quotas, by—

- A. Establishing or designating existing coordinating bodies, composed of juvenile justice stakeholders (including representatives of the educational system) at the state, local, or tribal levels, to advise efforts by states, units of local government, and Indian Tribes to reduce racial and ethnic disparities;

- B. Identifying and analyzing data on race and ethnicity at decision points in state, local, or tribal juvenile justice systems to determine which such points create racial and ethnic disparities among youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system; and
- C. Developing and implementing a work plan that includes measurable objectives for policy, practice, or other system changes, based on the needs identified in the data collection and analysis under subparagraph (B).

Each State must report on its progress in its comprehensive JJDP 3-year plan and subsequent plan updates. OJJDP reviews the plan updates annually. Any State that fails to identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities among youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system stands to lose 20 percent of its Formula Grants allocation for the year.

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)

In December 2018, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act (JJRA) of 2018 was signed into law, reauthorizing and substantially amending the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act (Pub. L. No. 93-415, 34 U.S.C. § 11101 et seq.)

The requirements to address "disproportionate minority contact" have been revised. States must now identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities (as defined in Section 103(41)). (Section 223(a)(15)).

For historical information regarding data collected for years prior to FY 2019, visit our [DMC webpage](#).

Using Data to Identify and Address Racial and Ethnic Disparities in MS Youth Courts

Dr. Sheena K. Gardner

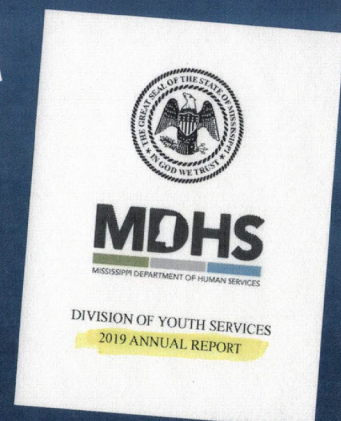
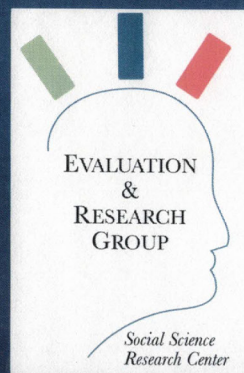
Assistant Research Professor

Mississippi State University.

Using Data to Identify and Address Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Mississippi Youth Courts is available in Pdf in PowerPoint presentation format upon request to Dr. Sheena K. Gardner.

Who am I?

- ◆ Conducts annual reporting for the Division of Youth Services and the Department of Public Safety Planning
- ◆ Involved in a federally-funded research project in MS youth courts
- ◆ Served as an evaluator for MS youth courts
- ◆ Member of the MS Juvenile Justice Collaborative (JDAI)
 - ◆ MYDRAI subcommittee



WE RING TRUE

WORKING TOGETHER TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE

The work of the MSJJAC-SAG is an on-going process to enhance the lives of those we faithfully serve. The MSJJAC-SAG is a committed group of volunteers that work tirelessly to make meaningful change regarding juvenile justice throughout the state.

The work is unending and requires continuous effort and dedication. Although exhaustive, at times, its meaningful rewards are the faces seen on the path to success. The benefit that comes from touching a youth's life in any way is fulfilling and lasts a lifetime. The MSJJAC-SAG will continue the work to ensure that juvenile justice becomes equitable and hopes that one day there is no longer a need for such a system.

The MSJJACE-SAG will continue to work on empowering youth and their families ensuring they are treated fairly and humanely. We will continue to provide training to juvenile justice practitioners throughout the state and provide the most current evidence-based information in today's ever-changing society. Funding of projects when possible, through the Title II initiative, is a primary objective to aid stakeholders in meeting state and federal guidelines.

We are continuing to work to be the change that we seek!



RESOURCE TOOLS

This section identifies helpful documents, publications, research and authorized public information in the area of Juvenile Justice

- An Assessment of Disproportionate Minority Contact in Mississippi's Juvenile Justice System
Sheena K. Gardner, Ph.D. and Andrew Tatch, M.S.
Social Science Research Center | Mississippi State University
- Disproportionate Minority Contact in Mississippi's Juvenile Justice System
Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED)
Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs
<https://www.dps.state.ms.us/divisions/public-safety-planning/office-office-of-justice-programs/>
- Mississippi Department of Public Safety
Regulation Regarding the Licensure of Juvenile Detention Facilities
- MDHS Mississippi Department of Human Services
Division of Youth Services
Annual Reports
<https://www.mdhs.ms.gov/media-news-room/division-of-youth-services-annual-reports/>
- Uniform Rules of Youth Court Practice
Mississippi Youth Court Act
<https://www.msbar.org>
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)
- Social Science Research Center; Crime and Justice Research Unit
<https://cjrj.ssrc.msstate.edu/>

RESOURCE CONTACT LISTINGS

(Information provided is relative to local, state and national resources that are available online)

LOCAL RESOURCES

Juvenile Justice Symposium

<http://beta3.msjjac.org/>

National Council on Alcohol & Drug Dependence of MS (NCADD)

<https://www.thenationalcouncil.org>

Mississippi Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee

www.msjjac.org

STATE RESOURCES

Disproportionate Minority Contact in Mississippi's Juvenile Justice System

Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs

<https://www.dps.state.ms.us/divisions/public-safety-planning/office-of-justice-programs/>

Social Science Research Center, Crime and Justice Research Unit

<https://cjru.ssrc.msstate.edu/>

Mississippi Department of Education

www.mdek12.org

Mississippi Department of Human Services – Division of Youth Services

<http://www.mdhs.ms.gov/division-of-youth-services-annual-reports/>

Mississippi Department of Mental Health

<https://www.dmh.ms.gov/>

Youth Courts in Mississippi

Courts.ms.gov

NATIONAL RESOURCES

Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ)

<http://www.act4jj.org/resources>

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) Fact Sheet

Conditions in Youth Facilities

www.act4jj.org

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)
www.ncjfcj.org

National Mentoring Summit

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)

The National Partnership for Juvenile Services (NPJS)
<http://npjs.org/symposium/>

MS JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - SAG

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