

Mississippi's Title II Formula Grant Plan for FY 2021-2023

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Compliance with 34 U.S.C. 1133(a)

The Mississippi Division of Public Safety Planning (DPSP) is designated as the sole state administering agency responsible for the administration and implementation of the state's plan for the Title II Formula Grants Program per Executive Order 1017. The State Advisory Group (SAG), also known as the Mississippi Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (MSJJAC), includes members in compliance with the requirements in 34 USC § 11133 (a)(3) submitted as an attachment to this Plan. The MSJJAC participates in the development and review of the Title II 3-Year plan and is afforded the opportunity to review and comment. The DPSP has afforded the MSJJAC the opportunity to review and comment, not later than 30 days after their submission to the advisory group, on all juvenile justice and delinquency prevention grant applications submitted to the DPSP under paragraph (1) of the JJDP Act. The DPSP staff prepares the plan for MSJJAC review and committee members provide feedback and make recommendations prior to final submission. The MSJJAC is an active committee in that they participate in the Title II application reviews and makes funding recommendations. The MSJJAC provides assistance and advisement to DPSP staff in the review and data analysis and prepares and submits to the Governor on an annual basis, recommendations regarding state compliance with the requirements of paragraphs (11) (12) and (13) of the JJDP Act. The MSJJAC affirms to contact and seek regular input from juveniles currently under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system. The DPSP affirms that it provides that at least 66 and 2/3 per centum of funds received by the State under section 11132 of this title reduced by the percentage (if any)

under the authority of paragraph (25) and excluding funds made available to the State advisory group under section 11132(d) of this title, shall be expended - through programs of units of local government or combinations thereof, to the extent such programs are consistent with the State plan through programs of local private agencies, to the extent such programs are in alignment with the goals and objectives of the state's Plan. The DPSP provides for an equitable distribution of funding assistance received under section 11132 of this title including in rural areas.

I. Description of the Issue

In the state of Mississippi, each of the 82 counties is governed by an elected board of supervisors. There are 15 juvenile detention facilities, three (3) temporary holding facilities and one (1) youth development center within the state. Several agencies play a major role in how services are provided to justice involved youth and in Mississippi, the Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Services (DYS), the state's executive social services agency, administers juvenile probation, commitment to state facilities, and transition services. Detention is primarily administered by county and city government, county boards and commissions, youth courts, and local law enforcement departments, whereas juvenile probation is administered by youth service counselors, out of offices in the local youth courts and as the state moves towards collective uniformity, it is imperative to understand the flow of juvenile justice in Mississippi.

Mississippi law mandates mental health screenings for all youth entering detention centers and requires the use of the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument, 2nd Edition (MAYSI-2) in detention facilities. All of Mississippi's detention centers (excluding Rankin County) use the MAYSL 2 for mental health screening. Youths with high scores (7 scales for boys or 6 scales for girls) are further assessed utilizing evidence-based screening modalities such as the

GAINS, DLA20 (16 and up), Catas, or Pre-evaluation. Following further assessment, youths scoring high on the initial MAYSI 2 are referred to the local community mental health center or treatment provider used by the detention center. Treatment-providing therapists throughout the state support detained youth with therapy, community support, and medication monitoring. Youth who score in the warning range on the tool are referred to the local mental health center. The information is further communicated to the youth services counselors (probation officers) and the courts for follow-up. The MAYSI-2 in detention is administered at a cost to the counties where youth are housed.

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) supports 14 Juvenile Outreach Programs (JOP) operated by Community Mental Health Centers throughout the state, all of which provide linkage and access to mental health services to youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system. The programs provide assessments, community support, wraparound facilitation, and a number of other services to youth with serious emotional disorders and/or mental illnesses who are in detention centers or the juvenile justice system. The goal for the youth is to improve their behavioral and emotional symptoms and also prevent future contacts between them and the youth courts.

Mississippi's DYS provides institutional care to delinquent juveniles committed to MDHS/DYS custody. The psycho-educational program offered at the Youth Development Center begins with a standardized admission, intake, and orientation process conducted by designated staff. After students are assessed in the areas of mental health, physical, both academic and vocational aptitude, they are given a complete physical by a physician, evaluated by a dentist, then placed in academic and/or vocational classes. In Mississippi, the juvenile

justice system has exclusive jurisdiction over youth under the age of seventeen (17) and not serving in the Armed Forces or married.

In Mississippi, youth are referred to the youth court from a variety of sources. Referrals can come from law enforcement, parents, public agencies, or citizens. A youth's first point of contact with the youth court system is at intake at which time, a case may be handled officially or unofficially. A case is considered official when a petition is filed and placed on the court calendar by the judge or referee and unofficial when no petition is filed. Once a case has been officially processed, only the judge can decide what is to be done with a youth who appears before the court. Dispositional alternatives may range from release of the youth to placement in the state's Youth Development Center.

In the 2002 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature House Bill 974 was introduced and subsequently passed mandating minimum standards for Mississippi's juvenile detention centers be established for (1) health screenings for juveniles upon admission to juvenile detention facilities, (2) all juvenile detention facilities develop written procedures for juveniles who are new to the system, and (3) certain programs be provided at all juvenile detention facilities. In addition to these mandates, the Mississippi Legislature created the Juvenile Detention Facilities Task Force who developed uniform standards for juvenile detention facilities in the State. While developing the minimum basic standards and guidelines of operation, training, and programmatic services, the Task Force recommended the establishment of the Juvenile Facilities Monitoring Unit (JFMU) within the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, Division of Public Safety Planning (DPSP) under the Office of Justice Programs which has the authority to inspect and certify Mississippi's juvenile detention facilities based on the recommended minimum standards.

Secure detention in Mississippi is organized and administered at the local level with some facilities having regional catchment. Most of the Mississippi detention centers that currently exist are administered by county and city government, county boards and commissions, youth courts, and local law enforcement departments.

Youth services counselors screen referrals for pre-adjudication/disposition custody in secure detention and make recommendations for the court's approval at the detention hearing, under state statutes guiding the use of detention.

In addition to using secure detention prior to a delinquency case adjudication and disposition, by statute, youth can be sentenced to secure detention or placed in detention as a sanction for violating probation not to exceed 90 days. Youth may also be held in secure detention while waiting a placement in the state's Youth Development Center or other state placement.

State statutes provide general guidelines for detention decisions. These provisions provide a good deal of latitude for detaining juveniles. Specifically, a youth may be detained when the youth is at risk of harm or harming others, to ensure attendance at court, when no custodian or guardian is available to provide care for the youth, or when "there is no other reasonable alternative to custody."

Local youth courts typically have the responsibility for developing alternatives to detention, however, the SAA and SAG plan to assist with resources to aid with intensive supervision and electronic monitoring thereby, reducing the need for secure detention.

The eighty-two (82) counties in Mississippi presently are served by its own sheriff's department. Additionally, within the state there are approximately 299 incorporated areas mostly served by municipal police departments charged with providing primary law enforcement functions such as traffic control and criminal investigations within city limits. The sheriff's

department provides civil processing and other secondary functions and is responsible for full law enforcement services to the unincorporated areas. The role of law enforcement in the juvenile justice system remains focused on arrest and actions taken by law enforcement officers are limited by the Youth Court Act.

II. An analysis of Juvenile Delinquency Problems and Needs

Eighty-two (82) counties reported juvenile court referrals to the Mississippi Youth Court Information Data System (MYCIDS) in 2020. There were 6,301 unique youth aged 10-17 entered into MYCIDS in 2020 and, because some individuals were referred to youth court more than once during the year and may have committed multiple offenses, the total number of cases was 7,934 with 11,375 offenses committed (see Appendix A).

In 2020, Black youth had the highest total number of referrals to youth court (N=4,841) followed by White youth (N=2,611) and youth grouped into the “Other” category (N=282) – individuals who identified as Asian, Hispanic, Native American, or other (see Appendix B). In each racial category, youth were most often referred for status offenses (e.g., truancy and CHINS/runaway) while the second and third most common reason for referral varied by race. The second most common reason for referral among White youth was simple assault, while the third most common was drug offenses. Simple assault and disorderly conduct were the second and third most common reason for referral among Black youth. Among youth grouped into the “Other” category, disorderly conduct followed status offenses as the second most common reason for referral, while simple assault was the third most common reason for referral.

The types of offenses committed within each racial category also varied by sex. Status offenses were the most common reason for referrals for White males and females in 2019. For white males, simple assault and drug offenses were the second and third most common reason for referral. Among white females, domestic violence was the second most common reason for referral while

simple assault was third. Among Black youth of both sexes, status offenses were the most commonly committed offenses. The second and third most common offenses among Black males were disorderly conduct and simple assault. Among Black females, simple assault and disorderly conduct were the second and third most common reason for referral. Among those grouped into the “Other” category, status offenses were the most common committed offenses for males and females. For males, the second and third most common offenses were simple assault and drug offenses; for females, however, the next most common reasons for referral were disorderly conduct and domestic violence.

All analyses were conducted at the case level. Instances where a case had multiple associated offenses, the most serious offense was selected for inclusion. According to OJJDP, the first point of contact, arrest, occurs when a law enforcement agency apprehends, stops, or otherwise contacts a youth suspected of having committed a delinquent act or criminal offense. In Mississippi, there is no centralized database for capturing juvenile arrests as defined by OJJDP. With the available data, we are only capable of reporting the number of juveniles referred to youth court. As a result, the five stages assessed in this report include referral to juvenile court (in lieu of arrest), diversion, pre-trial detention, confinement in secure correctional facilities, and transfer of the case to adult court.

The racial categories used in MYCIDS are White, Black, American Indian, Asian, Other, and Unknown. Hispanic ethnicity is a separate variable within the system. We recoded the racial categories to include Hispanic as an option by grouping all individuals who identified with the ethnicity, regardless of what they marked as their race, in a new “Hispanic” racial category. In all, 88 cases in 2019 did not have a race/ethnicity reported.

Youth aged 10 to 17 years are the population identified by the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) as at-risk for juvenile justice involvement. The racial distribution of youth aged 10 to 17 was obtained for each of Mississippi's counties using OJJDP's web-based analysis tool "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 2019" (see Appendix D for more details). The total at-risk youth population for the state in 2020 was 325,728. White youth comprise about half the population (50.5%) and are followed by Black (43.1%), Hispanic (4.6%), Asian (1.2%), and American Indian (0.7%) youth. (see Appendix D)

In 2020, there were racial and ethnic disparities present at the referral stage. While Black youth comprised 43.1% of the population at risk, 62.6% of referrals to youth court involved Black youth. In stark contrast, White youth make up 50.5% of the population at risk but only account for 33.7% of those referred to juvenile court. Hispanic, Asian, and American Indian youth comprise a significantly smaller proportion of the youth population. Among these groups, the proportion of Hispanic (2.3%), Asian (0.3%), and American Indian (0.1%) youth referred to juvenile court is smaller than would be expected based on population figures.

In 2020, 42.6% of youth referred to juvenile court were diverted from further involvement with the justice system. Among youth referred to court, Asians had the highest percentage of youth diverted (N=22, 50.0%). Youth identified as Other or Mixed Race had the second highest percentage of youth diverted (N=36, 48.6%), followed by White youth (N=1,228, 46.4%), Hispanic youth (N=75, 41.7%), Black youth (4,914, 40.4%), and youth identifying as American Indian (4, 40.0%).

Further examination indicates that, among diverted youth, the largest proportion of individuals diverted from further system involvement are Black youth (59.5%). About one-third of diverted youth are White (36.8%) while Hispanic (2.2%), Asian (0.3%), American Indian (0.1%), and

Other/Mixed (1.1%) youth combine for a small fraction. While rates of diversion do not align with proportions within the youth population overall, diversion rates are more closely aligned with arrest rates. The diversion rate for Black youth is approximately 3% lower while the diversion rate for White Youth is 3% higher than would be expected based on the proportion referred to youth court. These relatively small differences suggest that, after being referred to the juvenile justice system, youth are being treated in a more equitable fashion at the point of diversion.

On average, 11.0% of youth referred to juvenile court were held in pretrial detention in 2020. Among individuals referred to court, Black youth had the highest proportion held in pretrial detention (N=554, 11.3%) followed closely by Hispanic youth (N=180, 11.1%). White youth had the third highest percentage (N=278, 10.5%) followed by youth identifying as Other/Mixed (N=7, 9.5%) and Asian youth (N=1, 4.5%). No youth Identified as American Indians were held in pretrial detention.

Looking specifically at youth held in pretrial detention, Black youth comprise the largest percentage of youth (64.4%) held in detention, a proportion that is slightly higher than the percentage of youth referred to youth court. Similarly, the percentage of White (32.3%), Hispanic (2.3%), Asian (0.1%), American Indian (0.0%), and Other/Mixed (0.8%) youth aligns with figures related to court referrals.

Among youth adjudicated delinquent in 2020, 28.4% were held in secure confinement as part of their disposition order. Almost one-third of Black (30.6%) and Hispanic (29.4%) youth were placed in secure confinement. One-quarter (24.3%) of White youth and 15.0% of youth identifying as Other/Mixed were placed in secure confinement. No Asian or American Indian youth were placed in secure confinement.

Focusing specifically on youth placed in secure confinement, the largest proportion of these

youth were Black (70.9%), a percentage that is higher than those present at previous points of contact. As a result, a smaller than expected proportion of delinquent White youth (26.2%) were held in secure confinement post-adjudication. Hispanic (2.2%), Asian (0.0%), American Indian (0.0%), and Other/Mixed (0.7%) percentages are similar to previous points of contact.

Transfers to adult court are extremely rare, as only 1.0% were transferred in 2019. Relative to the number of cases petitioned, transfers were relatively similar between Black (1.1%) and White (0.8%) youth.

A racial breakdown of petitioned youth transferred to adult court shows that 73.8% were Black youth, a proportion higher than would be expected based on the number referred to youth court. Among White youth, 26.2% were transferred to adult court, a proportion lower than would be expected based on the proportion referred to youth court. No youth from the other racial groups had a case transferred to the adult system.

Since 95.3% of cases referred to juvenile court identify as either Black or White, the analyses were conducted for offenses committed by White and Black youth. The study also used logistic regression to determine whether differences attributed to race/ethnicity remain when controlling for legal and extra-legal factors. (Appendix – Table 1)

Bivariate analyses of cases in 2020 showed a significant relationship between each predictor variable and diversion (Appendix - Table 3). Black youth (40.4%), males (38.5%), individuals held in contempt (21.3%), and individuals with prior offenses in 2019 (32.6%) were less likely to be diverted. A higher number of offenses per case (1.66), more severe offenses (2.00), and older age (15.05) were also associated with a lower likelihood of being diverted.

Bivariate analyses of cases in 2020 showed a significant relationship between each predictor variable and rates of formal petition (Appendix - Table 4). Those with prior referrals (63.7%),

males (57.9%), individuals held in contempt (75.3%), and Black youth (56.1%) were more likely to beformally petitioned. Those with a higher number of offenses committed per case (1.68), those with higher severity scores (2.01), and older youth (15.05) were more likely to be formally petitioned.

Bivariate analyses of cases in 2020 showed a significant relationship between five of the six predictor variables and pretrial detention (Appendix - Table 5). Those with prior referrals (18.5%), males(12.5%), and individuals held in contempt (19.9%) were more likely to be held in pretrial detention. Older individuals (15.30), those with a higher number of offenses committed per case (2.03), and those with higher severity scores (2.53) were more likely to be held in pretrial detention. At the bivariate level, race was not associated with pretrial detention.

Bivariate analyses of cases in 2020 showed a significant relationship between all of the predictor variables and placement in a secure correctional facility (Appendix - Table 7). Black youth (6.5%), males(7.4%), individuals held in contempt (22.3%), and individuals with prior offenses (10.0%) were more likely to be held in post-adjudication detention. Older youth (15.37), those with a higher number of offenses committed per case (2.39), and those with higher severity scores (2.64) were more likely to be place in post-disposition detention.

Bivariate analyses of cases in 2020 showed a significant relationship between several predictor variables and certification to adult court (Appendix - Table 8). Males (0.70%), older individuals (16.60), and individuals with prior offenses (1.4%) were more likely to be certified to adult court. Those with a higher number of offenses committed per case (4.88) and those with higher severity scores(3.05) were more likely to be certified to adult court. Contempt of court status and race were not significant predictors at the bivariate level. Following multivariate logistic regression analysis, sex was no longer a significant predictor of certification to adult court. All other significant factors

at the bivariate level remained significant.

Through this analysis, we found that Black youth are overrepresented in the areas of arrest/referral to youth court, pretrial detention, secure confinement, and transfer to adult court and are underrepresented at the point of diversion. Black youth are referred to youth court at disproportionately higher rates than white youth when compared to their representativeness within the population at large (comprise 43.1% of youth population but 62.6% of referred youth). Percentages for diversion, pretrial detention, and petitioning of cases were calculated using the number referred. Among those referred to juvenile court, a higher proportion of White youth were diverted (33.7% of referrals but 36.8% of deferred cases) while a higher proportion of Black youth were held in pretrial detention (62.6% of referrals but 64.4% of pretrial detentions). There was also a difference in proportions with respect to secure confinement. Relative to the proportion found delinquent, a higher proportion of Black youth received a dispositional order of secure confinement (65.4% of cases with delinquent findings but 70.9% of cases involving secure confinement). Finally, there was a larger proportion of Black youth transferred to adult court relative to white youth. Black youth comprised 64.8% of petitioned cases but were involved with 73.8% of cases involving transfer to adult court.

Results of these analyses demonstrate a continued trend of Black youth being referred to youth court much higher rates than would be expected given their share of the overall youth population. Although an improvement from 2019 in which disparities were identified at four points of contact, these results indicate that, regardless of youth characteristics and legal factors, the cases of Black and White youth have been handled differently at diversion and petition. The DPSP has developed an adequate research, training, and evaluation capacity within the state through the Mississippi State University's Office of Research and Sponsored Programs which is committed to providing

high quality data, research and evaluation services to federal, state, and local agencies. Moving forward, action plans will be developed identifying short and long-term goals to reduce these disparities within the state.

III. Project Goals and Objectives

Over the next three years the Office of Justice Programs and SAG will focus Title II funding on Intervention and Prevention programs and initiatives in the noted program areas. Title II funds will be solicited statewide for an equitable distribution of the funding to include rural areas. Eligible programs and services should be able to provide alternatives to detention for status offenders and survivors of commercial sexual exploitation with abilities to address the mental health and substance abuse needs of juveniles.

PROGRAM AREAS:

- 2 Alternatives to Detention**
- 6 Compliance Monitoring**
- 8 Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders**
- 10 Delinquency Prevention**
- 11 Disproportionate Minority Contact (RED)**
- 13 Diversion**

Targeted Programs and Services

1. State Juvenile Detention Centers
2. School Districts
3. Youth Court Electronic Monitoring Programs
4. Home Detention Programs (with or without electronic monitoring)
5. Non-secure Shelter/Group homes
6. Community Based Organizations (must have a contract or MOA in place with the youth court)
7. Submit annual RED report to the OJJDP

Goal 1: Mississippi in compliance with the Core Requirements of the JJDP Act

Mississippi will continue to remain in compliance with the Core protections and continue to reduce status offenders being detained by the implementation to:

1. Monitor all public/private facilities in the state that have public authority to hold juveniles. (facility classifications in the act include adult jails, adult lockups,

- correctional facilities, juvenile detention facilities, and other types of secure and or non-secure facilities)
2. Identify, classify, inspect, collect and verify data for the monitoring universe.
 3. Develop and maintain monitoring universe data and generate reports to facilities and the Department of Justice/Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.
 4. Create and update policies and procedures for compliance monitoring as needed.

Goal 2: The State Advisory Group (Mississippi Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee) provides statewide training opportunities through informed and effective alternatives to detention.

1. Prevent juveniles from being held in inappropriate places by having a compliance monitoring representative in all areas of the state for the necessary training to prevent these situations.
2. Train facilities that hold juveniles pursuant to public authority to hold juveniles in the correct areas in their facilities to prevent future criminal behavior until placement in an alternative to detention program comes available.
3. To provide juvenile justice professionals and local community-based organizations with information and methods that could be implemented to reduce minority youth contact with the juvenile justice system.

Goal 3: To provide training and local funding for effective local community projects that assist in identifying and reducing minority youth contact with the juvenile justice system.

1. Provide funding for projects that seek to reduce the number of status offenders placed in secure detention facilities.
2. Teach staff at detention facilities to hold status and non-offenders in non-secure areas if available.
3. To provide training and technical assistance to juvenile justice professionals and local community-based organizations on “how to” effectively address disproportionate minority contact issues.
4. Identify programs throughout the state that provide services to youth who have entered the juvenile system or providing preventive/mentoring services in this state. Once services or programs have been identified, the State Advisory Group will partner local youth courts/youth facilities with those programs in hopes given them additional resources for juveniles in their county or city.

Increasing the number of detention alternatives in counties that have compliance monitoring violations and/or youth court referrals which will lead to further reduction in Mississippi JJDPA core violations rate.

In 2020, the state had 11,375 referrals to youth court. This clearly shows a need for additional resources to fund local municipalities and non-profit groups to develop non secure hold over programs, transition programs, mentoring programs, and electronic monitoring programs for status and delinquent offenders so reduces the number of youth being detained in juvenile detention centers and adult jails and lockups, which will help further decrease the DSO and Jail Removal Rate and more importantly, place these youth in better environments where their needs can be addressed more promptly, and decrease their chances of being mentally and/or physically abused, or learning criminal behavior.

The SAA continues the partnership with Mississippi State University in identifying RED that exist within the state. A review of the youth court 2020 data from the Department of Youth Services revealed that Black youth are overrepresented in the areas of arrest and referral to youth court, pretrial detention, secure confinement, and transfer to adult court and are underrepresented at the point of diversion. Black youth are also referred to youth court at disproportionately higher rates than white youth when compared to their representativeness within the population at large (comprise 43.1% of youth population but 62.6% of referred youth). Based on this data, the conclusion can be drawn that African-American juveniles are referred to juvenile courts in the state disproportionately, when compared to the population make up of juveniles in the state. Resources are needed to develop and implement programs that address the needs of minority juveniles, especially African Americans, to reduce the level of contact with various components of the juvenile justice system.

The priority focus of the Formula Grants funding will be to address alternatives to detention and diversion. Most secure facilities are not equipped to provide the services needed to address mental health, substance abuse treatment and the emotional needs of youth and increased reliance

on detention can lead to overcrowding in some facilities. Youth are often exposed to violence, abuse and unhealthy conditions that exacerbate their conditions of confinement. The state will reach out to the Hope Home for Girls to address gender-specific services available to lower the number of female status and delinquent offenders. The Hope Home for Girls is a community-based, alternative -to-detention program for at-risk female youth (runaway, homeless, neglected, abused and throwaway youth) that provides street outreach, twenty-four (24) hour access and assessment, emergency and short-term shelter, family reunification, and school support. However, there remains an urgent need for the development and implementation of more community-based services as youth ages 12-17 years of age are more at risk of homelessness than adults, 75% of runaways are female and have dropped out of school or will drop out and those youth identifying as LGBTQ are usually at higher risk of being harassed or kicked out of their home. There are continual needs for gender-specific services for the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency as well as additional resources for the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency in rural areas in a manner that is equitable with urban areas. The DPSP and MSJJAC will work to enhance and support existing and new programs such as the Girls 2 Women Academy which offers mentoring, after-school care, mentorship programs, and summer camp in a non-residential setting to girls K-8th grade. The goal is to seek identified gender-specific communities with the development of resources and provide funding assistance for service providers.

IV. Project Design and Implementation

The DPSP and the MSJJAC will continue to collaborate with the Mississippi Attorney General's Office and Annie E. Case Foundation to implement JDAI efforts in identified rural areas around the state. Services for key areas of the state specifically in the North, Central and Southern regions were selected as pilot sites and will be used to help guide juvenile justice reform in the state of Mississippi. As a result of the collaboration, legislation passed resulted in uniform

detention standards for all juvenile detention facilities throughout the state. Goals of the Mississippi JDAI efforts remain to 1) eliminate inappropriate use of secure detention, 2) minimize re-arrest and failure-to-appear rates pending adjudication, 3) ensure appropriate conditions of confinement in secure facilities, 4) redirect public finances to sustain successful reforms, and 5) and reduce racial and ethnic disparities.

The counties that were a part of the JDAI pilot project (Adams, Harrison, Leflore, Ranking and Washington) are still working to implement programs targeting the reduction of the number of youth who come in contact with the juvenile justice system, through intervention programs, mentoring, treatment, tutoring, and counseling services. The DPSP will continue to work with the Mississippi Attorney General's Office on the JDAI initiative to develop and implement statewide initiatives that do not rely on local detention in efforts to develop a plan to reduce the number of children housed in secure detention and corrections facilities who are awaiting placement in residential treatment programs. The DPSP and MSJJAC will work with the Department of Mental Health in identifying and providing funding assistance to community-based alternatives for youth struggling with mental health and substance abuse issues.

Each county facility has in-house counselors assigned by the Department of Human Services to supervise the youth on probation and responsible for meeting the youth and family following the court hearing. Counselors prepare Strength Based Case Plans in collaboration with the family, complete a risk and supervision assessment, provide referrals for other assessments including mental health, psychological, drug and alcohol treatment, provide educational advocacy, supervise the collection of restitution, monitor the completion of court ordered sanctions and provide other court related services. The counselors also collaborate with the

Mississippi Department of Human Services, the Department of Mental Health and other community agencies in providing services to the youth and their families.

Reentry Planning by the State for juveniles includes an individualized planning process, designed with an outcome-oriented, strength-based and team-driven course of action that promotes successful movement from the community to a juvenile justice setting then to community reintegration. A written case plan based on an assessment of needs includes a Transition Plan containing all information related to the youth's strengths and needs – behavioral screening results, academic and vocational assessment results, education records, credit earned at community school, all medical and mental health records and where appropriate, other relevant information. In the pre-release plans for the juvenile, the Treatment Team develops, implements, and evaluates the written case plan and provides transition counseling to establish appropriate goals and objectives for rehabilitation. The Transition Coordinator links services between the institution and community to ensure a seamless transition of services upon the youth's return to the community.

The Community Transition Phase, or post-release plans, begin the day of the juvenile's return to the community. Community Counselors follow-up to verify youth and their families receive the services, support and supervision as outlined in the Transition Plan. Monthly community counseling sessions review the plan to assess the youth's achievement of his/her goals. Ongoing monitoring of needs and progress (e.g. academic, social, behavioral, vocational) are incorporated into the parole agreement to ensure successful adjustment and reintegration into the community. The family is involved in the processes of pre- and post-release planning.

It is the policy of the Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Services (DYS) that a successful transition plan development for a committed youth is critical

and consistent with the rehabilitative ethic embodied in the state's juvenile justice code (MISS CODE ANN Section 43-21-605(1)(g)(iii). This is an opportunity to redirect the lives of young people, through continuity of care, toward productive, self-sufficient, and law-abiding behavior to their own benefit while at the same time making communities safe places to live. Pre-Release Transitional Services are offered year-round. Additionally, the State incorporates the family dynamic for successful transitioning back into the community by providing Family Integrated Transitions Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST-FIT) which provides individual and family services to help justice-involved youth or youth out of home in placements with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders transition back into their home communities. The program is an intensive, 6-month family- and community-based treatment program, which begins during the last 2 months of a youth's residence in a residential facility. The next 4 months of treatment occur while the youth transitions back to their home community. The goals of the FIT program include lowering the youth's risk of recidivism, connecting the family with appropriate community supports, helping the youth achieve abstinence from alcohol and other drugs, improving the mental health status of the youth, and increasing the youth's prosocial behavior.

The DPSP and MSJJAC distributes funding solicitations through the RFP process to community-based and private as well as non-profit agencies, including governmental, educational, law enforcement, juvenile courts and other child and youth advocacy organizations. The DPSP and MSJJAC will continue to use Title II funding to enhance the work of community-based organizations responding to the needs of at-risk youth or youth who have come into contact with the juvenile justice system. Funding priority consideration will be given to programs that promote healthy youth development by increasing the level of family functioning

to reduce involvement with the juvenile justice system. Services can include, but not be limited to, assessment, counseling, skills training, referral, advocacy, case management and follow-up.

Additional Information Required in State Plan

The DPSP affirms to provide for the coordination and maximum utilization of evidence-based and promising juvenile delinquency programs, programs operated by public and provide agencies and organizations, and other related programs in the state such as education, special education, recreation, health, and welfare. There are cross-system collaborations in place for MSJJAC-SAG members and stakeholders to collaborate and plan by way of quarterly meetings, regional group meetings, and MSJJAC subcommittees representing multiple disciplines across the state.

The DPSP affirms that juveniles alleged to be or found to be delinquent or juveniles within the purview of paragraph (11) will not be detained or confined in any institution in which they have contact with adult inmates; and (B) there is in effect a policy that requires individuals who work with both juveniles and adult inmates, including in collocated facilities, to have been trained and certified to work with juveniles. The completed and signed Certification form for Mississippi has been uploaded in the OJJDP compliance tool. Furthermore, the DPSP affirms that no juvenile will be detained or confined in any jail or lockup for adults except as noted in sections (A) and (B) of the relative portion in the JJDP Act.

The DPSP affirms to provide for an effective system of monitoring jails, lockups, detention facilities, and juvenile correctional facilities to ensure that the CORE requirements of the JJDP are met and reports the monitoring results annually to the OJJDP Administrator. The DPSP affirms that youth in the juvenile justice system are treated equitably on the basis of gender, race, family income, and disability.

The DPSP affirms 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 including the involvement of grandparents and/or extended family members when possible and as appropriate along with the provision of family counseling during the incarceration of juvenile family members and coordinate family services as appropriate and feasible.

The DPSP affirms to provide for procedures to be established for protecting the rights of recipients of services and for ensuring appropriate privacy with regards to records relating to such services provided to any individual under the State plan. Mississippi juvenile criminal records are official documents pertaining to the criminal activity of persons under legal adult age in the state and/or within its respective jurisdiction and are kept confidential.

The DPSP affirms that any assistance provided under the JJDP Act will not cause the displacement (including a partial displacement, such as a reduction in the hours of non-overtime work, wages, or employment benefits) of any currently employed employee; activities 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.

The DPSP affirms strong internal fiscal controls and fund accounting procedures necessary to ensure prudent use, proper disbursement, and accurate accounting of funds received under the Title II Formula Grants Program. The Financial Management and Internal Controls questionnaire has been completed and signed by the Financial Point of Contact and attached to this Plan.

The DPSP affirms that federal funds made available under this part will be used to supplement and increase and not supplant the level of the state, local, and other nonfederal 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, tribal, and other non-Federal funds.

The DPSP affirms it will give priority in funding to programs and activities that are based on rigorous, systematic, and objective research that is scientifically based. The DPSP affirms to review the plan annually and submit to the OJJDP Administrator an analysis and evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs and activities carried out under the Plan and any modifications in the Plan, including a survey of state and local needs.

The DPSP 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 was successful in achieving specified goals. Funded programs will submit quarterly reports and in the review of continuation applications, prior program performance is considered as one of the factors for funding.

The DPSP affirms that if the state receives an amount that exceeds 105 percent of the amount received under such section for FY 2000, all of such excess shall be expended through or for programs that are part of a comprehensive and coordinated community system of services. The DPSP also affirms zero percent (0%), of funds received by the State under section 222 (other than funds made available to the State advisory group under the section 222(d)) will be used to reduce the caseload of probation officers within such units.

The DPSP affirms that, to the maximum extent practicable, will implement a system 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 such juveniles that are on file in the

geographical area under the jurisdiction of such court will be made known to such court as to provide for – (A) data in child abuse or neglect reports relating to juveniles entering the juvenile justice system with a prior reported history of arrest, court intake, probation and parole, juvenile detention, and corrections; and (B) a plan to use the data described in subparagraph (A) to provide necessary services for the treatment of such victims of child abuse or neglect. The Oakley Youth Development Center partnered with the Administrative Office of the Courts and their MYCIDS program and DYS’S CMS program to combine efforts that expand the electronic filing system capabilities for all youth courts statewide.

The DPSP affirms to work with the appropriate agencies in providing assurance 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 case plan review as defined in section 475 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 675).

The DPSP affirms the coordinated use of funds provided under this Title with other Federal and State funds directed at juvenile delinquency and intervention programs. Funding solicitations will be made available to community-based services that respond to the needs of at-risk youth or youth who have come into contact with the juvenile justice system. The DPSP and MSJJAC will promote evidence-based and trauma-informed programs and practices by noting in Request for Proposals (RFPs) that priority consideration for funding will be given to programs that apply these methodologies in program implementation. Targeted programs and services and focused goals are noted on pages 13-14 in this Plan. More specifically, programs and services that help the State address the RED data analysis in communities where numbers are extremely high will be placed as a priority to fund initiatives and programs in those identified jurisdictions. The DPSP will also seek to collaborate with agencies and/or service providers that follow the prevention evidence-

based models utilizing Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) and Family Functional Therapy (FFT) which have shown positive effects on recidivism rates. Therapeutic programs such as restorative programs, programs centered on skill building and counseling have been documented as effective.

Mississippi does not use abdominal restraints, leg and ankle restraints, wrist restraints behind the back, and four-point restraints on known pregnant juveniles, unless credible, reasonable grounds exist to believe the detainee presents an immediate and serious threat of harming herself, staff, or others; or reasonable grounds exist to believe the detainee presents an immediate and credible risk of escape that cannot be reasonably minimized through any method. Furthermore, the state will work with the appropriate agencies to put in place where none exist, policies, procedures and training for juvenile state correctional staff to eliminate the use of dangerous practices, unreasonable restraints, and unreasonable isolation, including developing effective behavior management techniques. (Section 223(a)(29))

Mississippi law mandates mental health screenings for all youth entering detention centers. All of Mississippi's detention centers (excluding Rankin County) use the MAYSL 2 for mental health screening. Youths with high scores (7 scales for boys or 6 scales for girls) are further assessed utilizing evidence-based screening modalities such as the GAINS, DLA20 (16 and up), Catas, or Pre-evaluation. Following further assessment, youths scoring high on the initial MAYSL 2 are referred to the local community mental health center or treatment provider used by the detention center. Treatment-providing therapists throughout the state support detained youth with therapy, community support, and medication monitoring.

Furthermore, the Department of Mental Health (DMH) supports 14 Juvenile Outreach Programs (JOP) operated by Community Mental Health Centers throughout the state, all of which provide linkage and access to mental health services to youth who are involved in the juvenile

justice system. The programs provide assessments, community support, wraparound facilitation, and a number of other services to youth with serious emotional disorders and/or mental illnesses who are in detention centers or the juvenile justice system. The goal for the youth is to improve their behavioral and emotional symptoms, and also to prevent future contacts between them and the youth courts. (Section 223(a)(30)(A))

The Substance Use Disorder Treatment offered at Oakley Youth Development Center, *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Cannabis Youth Treatment Series—(Motivational Enhancement Therapy and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Adolescent)* is designed to help train substance abuse treatment counselors to conduct a brief five-session treatment intervention for adolescents with cannabis use disorders.

The Adolescent Health Program in the state partners with many agencies and organizations to address health disparity issues among children, adolescents and young adults. The Advisory Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse advises on prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services for children, adolescents and young adults, in collaboration with Mississippi Department of Mental Health. The Adolescent Health Services Program also maintains a comprehensive and holistic view of adolescents' health and well-being, from pre-adolescence to young adulthood. The Program looks at the overlap between behaviors, their underlying common causes, and successful interventions. (Section 223(a)(30)(B))

The state of Mississippi, in conjunction with the Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Services provides parole initiatives for youths reentering society after detention. “Parole” is defined as a period of time when a youth who has been released from a MDHS/DYS institution is closely supervised by the Community Services Section, Youth Services Counselor in his or her community of residence. Parole is instituted for a period of six months

unless otherwise specified by the Judge. The Community Services Section, Youth Services Counselor performs the following tasks on behalf of the paroled Youth:

- Creates a parole agreement for the youth
- Communicates with the Transitional Coordinator to ensure that all appropriate needs of the youth are addressed prior to the youth being paroled
- Responsible for matching locally available services and supports with identified criminogenic needs.
- Facilitates enrolling youth in individual and group counseling for troubled youths and or youths in the juvenile justice system.
- Ensures mandatory school attendance requirements are fulfilled.
- Provides oversight and monitoring of youth on supervision and provides counseling and support to aid in youths' rehabilitation.
- Prepares and maintains files, documentation, legal documents, and various reports.
- Provides access to supervision, leadership, and programs for troubled youth and/or youth in the juvenile justice system.
- Conducts a service and treatment planning meeting for any youth paroled on psychotropic drugs with the A- Team in accordance with A-Team Policy 36.

The Community Services Section, Youth Services Counselor explains the parole agreement to the paroled youth and parent or guardian using youth friendly language suitable for children's developmental stage, age, education and cognitive abilities. Upon acknowledgement of the terms of the parole agreement, the youth and his or her parent or guardian signs it. If the youth fails to follow the rules of parole agreement, the Community Services Section, Youth Services Counselor will be responsible for reporting the violation to the court. With their signatures on the agreement, paroled youth and parents agree to potential consequences for parole violations including a written apology letter, earlier curfew, electronic monitoring, or a new detention placement. A parole tracking form will be completed monthly on all regularly paroled youth until their eighteenth birthday, whether the youth is currently on parole or not. (Section 223(a)(31))

The DPSP and the MSJJAC will work to identify post-placement programs that help youth develop the skills necessary for successful employment by providing high-quality vocational training and other employment supports including providing information about how to interview and behave appropriately in the workplace. Vocational training that includes classes in welding, carpentry, small engine repair, brick masonry and basic business computer.

The Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated Section §43-21-321 requires that educational services be provided to students detained in a juvenile detention facility. In efforts to ensure that academic and behavioral concerns are addressed, the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) has set standards for the provision of educational services in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws. The law mandates that the Mississippi Department of Education promulgate rules for educational services. In efforts to provide educational services to juveniles while in detention, the MDE will develop and implement an Individualized Academic Plan for each juvenile placed in a juvenile detention center. A team consisting of a certified teacher provided by the local sponsoring school district or a private provider agreed upon by the youth court judge and sponsoring school district, the appropriate official from the student's home school district, and the youth court counselor or representative will be responsible for the development of the plan. The plans shall be based upon the student's entry assessments and past educational history and must address the areas of academic, literacy, and life skills. The development of the plan, in order to measure educational progress, shall be developed within ten (10) calendar days of the juvenile's entrance into the juvenile detention center. (Section 223(a)(32))

Children under the age of eighteen (18) who are induced to engage in a commercial sex act are considered victims of sex trafficking which includes: 1) Engaging in sex acts; 2) The production of sexually oriented materials; or 3) Sexually explicit performances. Under Mississippi law, a minor

under the age of eighteen cannot be prosecuted for the crime of prostitution. (*Miss. Code Ann. § 97-29-49(4)*). Any minor taken into custody for the crime of prostitution will be presumed to be a victim of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. (*Miss. Code Ann. § 43-26-3(3)*).

If a child is suspected to be a victim of human trafficking, the MDCPS Human Trafficking Coordinator must be notified within twenty-four (24) hours. The MDCPS Human Trafficking Coordinator will activate the emergency specialized human trafficking assessment team to assist with consultation or interventions of the alleged human trafficking report as needed during the investigation.

When MDCPS receives a report of alleged human trafficking, MCI must immediately notify local law enforcement in the jurisdiction where the alleged trafficking occurred. Local law enforcement in this case means the local sheriff's office and city police, if applicable. Law enforcement will investigate and make a preliminary report to the district attorney's office within twenty-four (24) hours. (*Miss. Code Ann. § 43-21-353(1)*). If custody is required, MDCPS will locate a placement where the child is safe and not likely to recruit other foster children. The placement must ensure the child will have no access to adult perpetrators involved in human trafficking. The investigator, COR worker, youth court, and other community partners will assist with locating a placement and any services needed. MDCPS staff will utilize the MDT teams to assist the family as needed. If a placement requires a therapeutic ruling, the CAC will assist MDCPS in obtaining this recommendation from a mental health counselor at their facility. MDCPS workers will use the placement matching tool on SharePoint to find available placements. (Section 223(a)(33))

Consultation and participation of units of local government

The Mississippi Division of Public Safety Planning, Office of Justice Programs collaborates with various local and state agencies to address juvenile justice issues. The Juvenile Justice Specialist serves as a liaison between OJP and other agencies by actively participating in

various task forces and committees associated with juvenile justice issues throughout the state. The Juvenile Justice staff provides technical assistance to agencies as well as partner with various task forces and committees.

Collecting and sharing juvenile justice information

Mississippi juvenile justice agencies continue to utilize and rely on the Mississippi Youth Court Information Delivery System (MYCIDS) to gather juvenile justice information and data. MYCIDS is the most universal data collection tool used to improved tracking and gathering information regarding juvenile offenders. Where there is an unwillingness or reluctance to use MYCIDS by state or local entities, youth court judges have the authority to order the agency to release the records.

The primary barrier that had been an issue for the state in terms of information sharing was associated with not having a uniform system, once obtaining a system not recognizing its full reporting capacity/uses as well as in a few rare instances of agencies failing to report adequate data. Fortunately, agencies in most instances have been willing to comply. There are tools in place to ensure that agencies report and share data.

PLANS FOR COMPLIANCE

These plans have been uploaded in the OJJDP Compliance Monitoring Tool (CMT).

PLAN FOR COLLECTING DATA FOR PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Mississippi will collect and report data on each performance measure for each applicable program area for each year of the award. OJP will collect, review and report the mandatory data in the OJJDP PMT Reporting System as required by Title II reporting guidelines. Analyses of juvenile data for the RED report entered into the Office of Administration Courts MYCIDS data tool system will be evaluated annually by case level. In cases of multiple associated offenses,

the most serious offense will be selected for inclusion. RED data examines eight of the nine points of contact outlined by the OJJDP: (1) referral to juvenile court, (2) diversion, (3) pre-trial detention, (4) formal petition or filing of charges by the county prosecutor, (5) adjudication or finding that the child is delinquent, (6) probation, (7) confinement in secure correctional facilities, and (8) transfer of the case to adult court. In Mississippi, there is no centralized database for capturing juvenile arrests as defined by OJJDP. At this time, we are limited to reporting the number of juveniles referred to youth court.