



Juvenile Justice
Advisory Group

Annual Report 2016

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**New York State
Juvenile Justice Advisory Group
2016 Annual Report**

The U.S. Congress requires the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group to report to the Governor and Legislature annually. This report fulfills that requirement for 2016.

Juvenile Justice Advisory Group Membership

MEMBER	TITLE
Jack Carter	Juvenile Justice Advisory Group Chair
Euphemia Adams	Executive Director, Families on the Move
Thomas Beilein	Chair, state Commission of Correction
Jenny Besch	Director, Westchester and Rockland Mediation Centers
Gladys Carrión	Commissioner, New York City Administration for Children's Services
Hernan Carvente	New Leaders Council National Youth Chair, Coalition for Juvenile Justice
Joseph Cocozza	Director, National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice
Brendan Cox	Chief, Albany Police Department
Michelle Diaz	Youth Member
Edward Fergus	Deputy Director, Metropolitan Center for Urban Education
Mike Green	Executive Deputy Commissioner, state Division of Criminal Justice Services
Martha Walsh Hood	Family Court Judge, Onondaga County
Emily Tow Jackson	Executive Director, Tow Foundation
Robert M. Maccarone	Deputy Commissioner, state Division of Criminal Justice Services and state Probation Director
Emanuel McCall	Program Specialist, YouthBuild Schenectady
Sheila Poole	Acting Commissioner, state Office of Children and Family Services
Meredith Ray-LaBatt	Deputy Director, Division of Integrated Community Services for Children and Families, state Office of Mental Health
Karen Richmond	Executive Director, Children's Home of Jefferson County
Lester Young	Regent-At-Large, University of the State of New York

Table of Contents

I. Introduction and Background.....	1
II. Federal Mandates: Monitoring and Compliance.....	2
III. Juvenile Justice Advisory Group Activities	4
A. New York State’s Three-Year Plan for Juvenile Justice.....	4
B. Support for Regional Youth Justice Teams.....	7
C. Special Projects	12
D. Approval of New Projects.....	15

I. Introduction and Background

New York State's Juvenile Justice Advisory Group is a federally required panel of criminal justice, human service, research and court professionals and community members tasked with the responsibility of improving the state's juvenile justice system and ensuring compliance with federal mandates outlined in the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. The panel is empowered by New York State Executive Order 80, and its members are appointed by the Governor.

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Group oversees the development and implementation of the state's plan to comply with federal juvenile justice mandates; distributes approximately \$2 million annually in federal grants to fund delinquency prevention, effective interventions to justice-involved youth and juvenile justice systems reforms; and advises the Governor and Legislature on effective juvenile justice policies.

In addition to the broad directive to develop and implement juvenile justice policy, the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group monitors the state's compliance with:

- Sight and sound separation of juvenile delinquents from adult offenders;
- Deinstitutionalization of status offenders;
- Removal of juvenile delinquents from adult jails and lock-ups and
- Reduction of disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system.

Federal law also requires each state to designate an agency to develop and implement its plan for juvenile justice. In New York, the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) serves in that capacity. DCJS staff provides administrative support to the JJAG and oversees the implementation and monitoring of contracts on the advisory group's behalf. The agency also collaborates with the state Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) on juvenile justice initiatives.

Congress requires the JJAG to report to the Governor and Legislature annually. This report fulfills that requirement for 2016.

II. Federal Mandates: Compliance and Monitoring

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

States receiving federal Title II formula grant funding are required to comply with four core protections guaranteed by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. DCJS contracts with the state Commission of Correction to assure monitoring and compliance with the first three requirements, which are related to permissible methods of confinement for youth.

The first, *deinstitutionalization of status offenders*, prohibits placing youth deemed to be persons in need of supervision in secure detention or correctional facilities. The second, *separation of juveniles from adult offenders*, requires that juveniles who are alleged or found to have been delinquent and/or persons in need of supervision are kept away from any contact with adult inmates awaiting trial or convicted of a crime. The third core protection, *removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups*, prohibits using adult jails and lock-ups to confine juveniles for any length of time.

The Commission has statutory authority to perform monitoring of correctional facilities across the state. Existing state laws meet or exceed federally mandated requirements for the custody and detention of status offenders and non-offenders; separation of juveniles from adult offenders; and removal of juveniles from adult jails and lock-ups. Because of this, facilities in New York State either meet or exceed federal requirements in almost every case where state law is being strictly followed.

The Commission maintains a monitoring schedule that ensures that all adult jails, lock-ups and secure facilities are inspected at least every three years. In addition, the Commission monitors a secure online portal, which agencies are required to use to report any suspected violations in real time. OCFS and New York City's Administration for Children's Services are responsible for operating juvenile facilities in New York. The two agencies, the Commission and DCJS have agreements in place permitting onsite inspections and reviews of records in all juvenile facilities throughout the state to ensure they are in compliance.

New York's strategy for reducing disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system includes a state-level compliance management effort; local reform and best practices that are expected to reduce disproportionate minority contact; and a technical assistance component. Title II funds support a full-time statewide race equity coordinator – formerly known as the disproportionate minority contact coordinator – to monitor and improve race and ethnicity related data; identify and advise on implementing best practices and to provide technical assistance and training regarding racial and ethnic disparities for local and state-level stakeholders.

The race equity coordinator is responsible for monitoring compliance with strategies to reduce disproportionate minority representation in the juvenile justice system across the state through the use of the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's five-phase disproportionate minority contact reduction model. This includes working with state and local entities to enhance the quality and quantity of data measuring disproportionality, collaborating with localities to investigate root causes of disproportionality when it is found and implementing strategies to reduce racial and ethnic disparities.

For example, the race equity coordinator provides training and technical assistance to local and statewide partners, helping to identify policies and practices that may contribute to disparate treatment of minority youth in the system. Training includes both the historical perspective of race equity and the impact implicit bias has on decision making. In 2016, activities included the following:

- Training for Onondaga County Probation Department on racial and ethnic disparities and implicit bias;
- Technical assistance on implementing the Second Chance Act "SMART on Community Supervision" award to six counties participating in the Partnership for Youth Justice and on the Policy Academy Action Network Project;
- Presentations on disproportionate minority contact and racial and ethnic disparities issues at local and national conferences; and
- Providing racial and ethnic disparities support to the Regional Youth Justice Teams.

Prison Rape Elimination Act

This federal law requires all federal, state and local institutions to perform an analysis of prison rape incidents and to provide resources to protect individuals from such acts. The federal Department of Justice has promulgated standards for prisons and jails, lockups, residential community confinement facilities and juvenile facilities. These standards took effect in 2012 and states were required to use a portion of their Title II funding to support compliance efforts.

Juvenile facility standards under the law apply to OCFS, which administers state-operated juvenile detention facilities and oversees detention facilities run by local agencies. DCJS partnered with OCFS to engage the Center for Children's Law and Policy to coordinate activities related to this law.

The Center worked with OCFS and DCJS to develop implementation materials for local juvenile detention facilities, including a comprehensive toolkit with practical resources in key areas, such as staff training, youth education and policy development. In June 2016, the Center helped train facility administrators from around the state on the toolkit and answer questions about implementation issues. As part of the project, the Center also provided individualized technical assistance and support to detention facilities based on their identified needs.

The Center also developed and delivered trainings for investigators and staff at the New York State Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs. This training included the most recent Justice Department data on the dynamics of sexual victimization in juvenile justice facilities.

III. Juvenile Justice Advisory Group Activities

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Group met quarterly, alternating primary meeting sites between Albany and New York City. These meetings covered a range of topics, including summary presentations of select projects; reviews of federal funding commitments and balances; briefings on state and federal juvenile justice initiatives; and discussions of policy and funding priorities. The DCJS Office of Youth Justice provides support staff to the board to help manage meeting logistics, provide programmatic oversight for projects, and develop funding solicitations based on the group's identified priorities, in addition to other administrative functions. The DCJS Office of Program Development and Funding oversees contracts and budgets to ensure compliance with federal funding requirements. The DCJS Office of Justice Research and Performance compiles juvenile justice arrest data and case processing points, including detention, probation intake, family court decisions, probation supervision and placement admissions, and releases. This data is used to generate county profiles and statewide and regional tables, in addition to a comprehensive juvenile justice data report that is updated annually to include the prior year's data.

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Group continued to monitor previously approved projects – including support for the regional youth justice teams – and implemented a number of new initiatives:

A. Three-Year Plan for Juvenile Justice (2015 – 2017): Updates

The federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention requires states to develop three-year plans outlining long-range strategies for use of Title II Formula funds. During interim years, states submit annual applications that update accomplishments, provide juvenile justice data and demonstrate compliance with the federal law's core protections.

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Group's current three-year plan identifies the following priorities:

- Implement a best practice institute;
- Address the intersection of education and juvenile justice;
- Narrow the 'front door' at points of re-entry, community-based diversion, probation and successful probation completion and others;
- Include the voices of affected people;
- Engage in a facilitated planning process; and
- Incorporate disproportionate minority contact reduction strategies into all activities.

A number of initiatives undertaken in 2016 have broad implications for addressing these priority needs. Work at the state level will continue building New York's capacity for disseminating, implementing and assessing evidence-based and promising practices. Local awards have been used to pilot promising efforts that build capacity on a number of levels, from overall system improvement to addressing the needs of specialized populations.

Youth Justice Institute

DCJS and OCFS partnered with the State University of New York to establish the Youth Justice Institute at the University at Albany's School of Criminal Justice. The goals of the Institute are to promote best practices to reduce recidivism, improve outcomes for youth and enhance public safety.

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Group authorized funding to support the Institute; this represented a major step in realization of the vision initially set forth in New York's first-ever strategic plan for juvenile justice, published in 2011. The Youth Justice Institute is governed by an executive committee consisting of representatives from DCJS, OCFS, the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group, the state Office of Court Administration and UAlbany. The committee is co-chaired by the commissioners of DCJS and OCFS.

The Institute's goals are to educate stakeholders and the public about evidence-based and promising practices in the area of youth justice; conduct research, evaluation, quality assurance, and quality improvement of new and existing youth services; and develop infrastructure, systems and mechanisms for disseminating, implementing and sustaining high quality youth justice in New York. Formal agreements for the Institute are in place and a search for an executive director is underway.

Race Equity Work

In addition to work performed by the state's race equity coordinator, the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group funded several projects designed to impact racial and ethnic disparities. These projects included the Partnership for Youth Justice Training Conference; the Georgetown Racial and Ethnic Disparities Certificate Program; the Youth Empowerment Academy; and two police youth interaction training events that covered topics related to adolescent brain development, trauma, implicit bias and youth engagement.

The Partnership for Youth Justice State Training Conference – titled "Creating a Fair and Equitable Justice System" – was hosted in Syracuse and attended by more than 130 state, local and court officials, and juvenile justice practitioners.

The DCJS Office of Youth Justice hosted the Youth Empowerment Academy, which trained nine young men and women who were formerly involved in the juvenile justice system to facilitate focus groups and synthesize the resulting information into a report detailing youth recommendations to improve the juvenile justice system. All attending youth completed the weekend-long training and four of them conducted focus groups in Buffalo, Albany and on Long Island.

Utilizing a similar set of questions, each of these youth-facilitated focus groups met with diverse groups of children, young adults and families. The focus groups were conducted through a faith-based organization, a local alternative to detention program, and a residential placement facility. The final report resulting from these focused groups included the following recommendations:

- Involve youth in policy and program discussions as early as possible;
- Create and maintain a New York-specific onboarding/training curriculum for formerly justice-involved youth and families to facilitate their participation in local regional and state level committees and task forces;
- Create a youth subcommittee of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group;
- Recommend that youth and families are represented and actively engaged at the Regional Youth Justice Team meetings and the Partnership for Youth Justice;
- Provide a stipend for youth to compensate for time and cover transportation costs;
- Conduct ongoing academies using a community-based organizations to facilitate planning focus groups, and
- Partner youth with a professional mentor on all projects.

One Academy participant was appointed to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group, while another provided input and feedback to county probation leadership regarding policy and practice changes in the area.

The Academy realized cost savings and ultimately came under budget. DCJS, the New York City Administration for Children's Services, Office of Family Engagement and Youth Advocacy used the remaining funds to send youth to the 2016 Youth Summit hosted by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice Youth in Washington, D.C. Topics at the summit included advocacy; the school-to-prison pipeline, youth and police interactions, reentry; racial and ethnic disparities; and mental health and trauma.

Youth-Police Relationships

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Group supported two different approaches to improving interactions between law enforcement and young people. Strategies for Youth, a policy and training organization, delivered a four-day, train-the-trainer module to 16 officers from the Albany and Newburgh police departments. This training aimed at helping officers understand adolescent development and interaction through three approaches: assessment, a review of policies and training other trainers or coaches. Additional training is planned for 2017.

The Pennsylvania Disproportionate Minority Contact Youth-Law Enforcement Curriculum is an evidence-based reduction strategy first implemented at the Philadelphia Police Academy in 2009. The two-day, train-the-trainer model brings youth and police officers together to share and understand their differing perspectives. Youth can also become trainers for future sessions. The model provides both support and technical assistance throughout the process.

B. Support for Regional Youth Justice Teams

Nine Regional Youth Justice Teams continued their work fostering a multi-county approach toward juvenile justice program and policy work. Staff at the DCJS Office of Youth Justice serve as a liaison between the teams and the state, advising the teams of state-level trends and initiatives and communicating local concerns and accomplishment to state agencies and other state-level policy makers.

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Group's grants to teams in 2015 have supported local and regional juvenile justice system improvement efforts, including needs assessment, strategic planning and data improvement activities that are enhancing community responses to justice-involved youth and their families.

The work of the teams will continue in 2017 with expanded leadership from different disciplines and counties. The Youth Justice Institute will provide technical assistance to the teams to help with goal-setting and outcome measurement.

Local awards

Local and regional activities focused primarily on building community capacity for responding to justice-involved youth through training and technical assistance for justice professionals, clinical staff and other community stakeholders. Regional youth justice teams coordinated these efforts, identifying local needs and priorities and formulating strategies that included disseminating information, increasing awareness, skill-building and enhancing the capacity of localities to provide evidence-based practices.

Activities related to the needs of youth with deeper system involvement included training for probation officers and clinicians who work with higher-risk youth, and other community assessment and planning activities. These efforts are aimed at building local capacity and informing the state's response to youth in need of mental health services by giving justice professionals experience with specific interventions and opportunities for comparing approaches and results. Also offered were topics covering community and family engagement; restorative practices; and others relevant for youth with early system involvement

Many of the teams stressed the need for training to help professionals and community members recognize the effects of the trauma and mental or behavioral health issues prevalent among justice-involved youth. Identifying youth needs and appropriate responses is essential to developing case plans and services that can promote successful diversion. Grant-funded activities of the Regional Youth Justice Teams included the following:

Capital Region:

Participating Counties: Albany, Columbia, Delaware, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren and Washington counties

Lead agency: Schenectady County Department of Probation

Goal: Develop a regional juvenile justice framework through a series of trainings and facilitated activities focused on factors that contribute to juvenile justice system involvement.

2016 accomplishments: The Capital Region team completed a nine-county strategic plan for juvenile justice and is moving forward with implementation. The team utilized training and technical assistance to assess needs and resources; address data gaps and service needs; and to build capacity for collaboration. This culminated with the creation of the plan, which will

be used as the team's guiding document for changing and creating practice and policies to improve the juvenile justice system. After identifying differences in data collection practices a barriers for effective problem analysis – especially with regard to race and ethnicity – the Capital Region team developed a uniform set of race/ethnic data fields to be used by any juvenile justice stakeholders tracking these characteristics.

Central New York:

Participating Counties: Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego, Tompkins and Tioga counties

Lead agency: Onondaga County Probation Department

Goal: Use training and technical assistance to optimize funding and other opportunities.

2016 accomplishments: The team sponsored training in collaborative problem solving to strengthen and unify cross-county collaboration. To better target juvenile justice issues, the team developed a set of 15 key data fields automatically generated from the county profiles available from the DCJS Office of Justice Research and Performance. These are reviewed by juvenile justice stakeholders before quarterly meetings, allowing them to better assess trends and areas of particular concern.

Finger Lakes:

Participating Counties: Chemung, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Yates, Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming counties

Lead agency: Monroe County Probation Department

Goal: Solidify cross-system juvenile justice reform efforts through staff training, data collection, technical assistance and administrative support. Increase collaboration across service sectors and enhance regional capacity for responding to youth impacted by mental health issues and trauma.

2016 accomplishments: Mental health first aid training was conducted in several counties and enabled participation by juvenile justice stakeholders and community partners. The Finger Lakes Web Portal was completed and launched in 2016. All team members have access and are using it as a communication venue.

Long Island:

Participating Counties: Nassau and Suffolk counties

Lead agency: Suffolk County Probation Department

Goal: Implement strategies to strengthen the collaborative relationships among juvenile justice stakeholders on Long Island. These include support for team participation in regional and state meetings and training; planning and conducting activities designed to build trust between young people and local law enforcement; and developing a comprehensive database for analyzing regional juvenile justice data.

2016 accomplishments: The two school districts that participated in the 2015 Youth-Police Initiative continued following up with youth and families involved in those sessions. Autism awareness training was provided to juvenile justice stakeholders, including law enforcement, probation, social services and service providers.

Mid-Hudson:

Participating Counties: Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester, Sullivan and Ulster counties

Lead agency: Westchester County Department of Probation

Goal: Through training, build regional capacity for using best practices to understand and respond youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

2016 accomplishments: After completing workshops and training on topics such as trauma and secondary trauma, juvenile fire setting, juvenile sex offenders and gang affiliations and activities in 2015, the team continued using quarterly meetings as a vehicle for cross-county communication and information sharing.

Mohawk Valley:

Participating Counties: Herkimer, Oneida, Fulton, Montgomery, Otsego and Schoharie counties

Lead agency: Oneida County Probation Department

Goal: Conduct regional needs assessments to outline the needs of youth, existing resources and gaps in the regional and local delivery systems so that the team and its partners can develop solutions reflecting the common goals and individual nuances of each county.

2016 accomplishments: The team supported training for a diverse group of stakeholders, including probation officers, social services workers, judges, police officers, schools, community providers and grassroots organizations:

- “Think Trauma” training (75 participants)
- Training in Cultural Competency (50 participants)
- Family Engagement training (75 participants).

New York City:

Participating Counties: Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens and Richmond counties

Lead agency: New York City Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (New York City Department of Probation and Administration for Children’s Services)

Goal: Increase capacity for a cross-systems approach to meeting the needs of youth and families impacted by both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

2016 accomplishments: Activities supported the expansion of the Crossover Youth Practice Model to encourage collaboration between probation, law enforcement and child welfare professionals to better address the challenges of youth involved with both systems. Quarterly meetings provide opportunities for communication and strategizing among the primary agencies and organizations concerned with youth-involved or at risk of involvement with the juvenile justice system.

North Country:

Participating Counties: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, St. Lawrence, Jefferson and Lewis counties

Lead agency: The Children’s Home of Jefferson County

Goal: Provide evidence-based trauma-informed training and staff development opportunities to an array of professionals within all seven counties.

2016 accomplishments: After deciding to implement Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics, the North Country team collectively selected 23 clinicians to attend the 12-month intensive training. With most completing this training in late 2016, efforts were started to send an additional 10 clinicians to training for 2017. Further, eight clinicians from the first round of training were selected for an additional six months of training to be certified as trainers.

Western New York:

Participating Counties: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Niagara counties

Lead agency: Erie County Probation Department

Goal: Build regional capacity for addressing the service needs of young people with emotional and behavioral issues – particularly those impacted by trauma – and increase regional collaboration by bringing together professionals for training, workshops and discussion.

2016 accomplishments: Several school-based teams participated in a four-day, intensive train-the-trainer program in restorative practices. Over the course of the year, these teams piloted restorative approaches, implemented restorative circles in their schools, and then trained colleagues to facilitate circles.

C. Special Projects

Youth with Problem Sexual Behaviors

DCJS and OCFS worked collaboratively to develop capacity for an evidence-based intervention designed to address the needs of youth exhibiting inappropriate sexual behaviors. The agencies provided training for six sites in the model developed by the Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center. The school-age program is designed for children between the ages of 7 and 12 and their caregivers. Through this project, 27 mental health providers, six clinical supervisors, two case managers, and seven senior leader administrators were trained and consulted in the implementation and delivery of the model. All six sites are serving these children, and the clinicians will continue to participate in consultation calls until the sites achieve fidelity to the model. Potential next steps include providing a train-the-trainer component for sustainability and expansion, and supporting staff training in the adolescent model that is designed to treat youth between the ages of 13 and 18.

Gender-specific Services

A Juvenile Justice Advisory Group grant supported the New York State Girls' Justice Initiative, a collaboration led by the New York State Unified Court System and implemented by the New York State Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children in partnership with the New

York University Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, and DCJS. The Initiative began in Westchester County and will address the documented criminalization of girls' behaviors. This includes those behaviors related to status offenses and technical violations of probation, which often reflect trauma-induced responses and the need to implement gender-specific, trauma-informed policies and programs for girls at-risk or involved with the juvenile justice system.

In addition, a larger group of state professionals will bring experts together to develop an action plan to rollout an agenda to improve outcomes, provide opportunities and address the unique needs of girls of color so they are able to succeed in school and life. This group will first focus on learning the best practices on trauma responsive care; engage in authentic conversations around systemic racism and other 'isms' associated with the challenges in society and school that directly impact girls of color. They will also discuss what works while reviewing data and understanding disparities and needs facing girls of color.

Support for Families of Justice-Involved Youth

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Group took several approaches to providing support and increasing competencies of the families of justice-involved youth. At the local level, regional youth justice teams channeled funds into training. The Capital Region team sponsored the evidence-based Strengthening Families Program, while the Long Island and the Mohawk Valley teams hosted Family Engagement training by the Bronx-based organization, Community Connections for Youth.

Families Together in New York State administers the Parent Empowerment Program, a training and consultation program designed to train family peer advocates: parents or primary caregivers who have navigated the child welfare, social services and/or court system on behalf of their child, who are trained and credentialed to work with other families receiving services. There are seven modules included in the training, which provides family peer advocates with skills training and content knowledge to effectively engage and empower the parents with whom they work. In 2016, Families Together worked through a Juvenile Justice Advisory Group-supported grant on development of a juvenile justice module for the training. The new module will help the training better serve families with children involved in the juvenile justice system.

Aid to Rural Areas

For six months in 2016, the DCJS Office of Youth Justice staff worked with a consultant to establish the Rural Community of Practice, a learning community of rural counties. This established seven cross-county multidisciplinary teams representing 20 counties that

participating in the collaborative. Teams met locally for planning purposes and received technical assistance. This initial phase of work with rural counties was capped with a two-day training and planning session that brought teams together for the first time.

The teams identified a range of juvenile justice-related issues in their localities and some common themes emerged: a lack of transportation; gaps in services stemming from both a shortage of appropriate services and waiting lists for existing services; and information and communication gaps between referrers and service providers. Participants also identified specific needs related to mental health and substance abuse; youth with problem sexual behaviors; trauma; factors related to the school/ justice intersection, such as school attendance and disciplinary practices; racial disparity across systems, parental engagement and other issues.

Teams identified strategies to address many of the identified concerns, including training and technical assistance for staff from juvenile justice system agencies, law enforcement and service providers; and piloting program models that meet or are adapted to meet local needs, such as restorative practices, mentoring, mobile case management or therapeutic strategies and parent peer coaching.

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Group agreed to provide funding for projects proposed by the teams and a final report detailing the creation, work and accomplishments of the Rural Community of Practice includes a number of recommendations for continuing and broadening these efforts. The Office of Youth Justice is committed to maintaining a focus on rural communities. In addition to monitoring activities funded through local assistance grants, plans are underway for a series of webinars with agencies including OCFS and the state Education Department. Based on positive response to the statewide meeting of teams, the Office of Youth Justice may host an annual gathering to share and learn about delinquency prevention and treatment needs, as well as effective best practices in rural communities.

D. Projects Approved in 2016 Implementation

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Group members approved the following projects:

PROJECT	AWARD
Center for Children's Law and Policy (Racial And Ethnic Disparities)	\$250,000
Regional Youth Justice Team Training Seminar	\$100,000
Regional Youth Justice Team Technical Assistance	\$500,000
Regional Youth Justice Teams	\$2,250,000
Travel for Rural Learning Collaborative Kickoff Meeting	\$15,000
Supplemental Funds for Georgetown University Certificate Program	\$8,600
Travel for Policing the Teen Brain Training	\$7,200
Aid to Rural Areas Request for Proposals	\$350,000
New York State Education Department – Connecting Youth in Transition	\$100,000
Juvenile Justice Advisory Group Strategic Plan	\$50,000