



**MISSISSIPPI JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

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**MISSISSIPPI'S
JUVENILE JUSTICE AND
DELINQUENCY PREVENTION PLAN
2024 - 2027**

MS Department of Public Safety
Division of Public Safety Planning

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

I. Description of the Issue

As the state administering agency of the Title II Formula Grants Program, the SAA has identified the challenges of limited alternatives to detention and the lack of adequate resources can significantly impact the juvenile justice system and effective change. In the state of Mississippi, each of the 82 counties is governed by an elected board of supervisors. There are 15 juvenile detention facilities, four (4) 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 reentry 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 requires the use of the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument, 2nd Edition (MAYSI-2) in detention facilities. 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.

Mississippi's DYS provides institutional care to delinquent juveniles committed to MDHS/DYS custody. The psycho-educational program offered at the State Training School 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 juvenile correctional facility.

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.

The JFMU is responsible for inspecting all juvenile detention facilities in the state on a quarterly basis. The unit reviews the facilities with regards to the defined minimum standards for operation, certifies that juvenile detention facilities are compliant with established standards, and provides technical assistance and advisement to facilities to assist in compliance with 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 for a placement in the state's juvenile correctional facility 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 2023. There were 9,921 unique youth aged 10-17 entered into MYCIDS in 2023 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 12,508 with 17,898 offenses committed (see Appendix A).

In 2023, Black youth had the highest total number of referrals to youth court (N=8,002) followed by White youth (N=3,403) and youth grouped into the “Other” category (N=449) – 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) and simple assault. While the second most common reason for referral varied by race. The third most common reason for referral among White youth was domestic violence, while disorderly conduct was the third most common reason for referral among Black youth and those youth grouped into the “Other” category.

Although the proportions varied, the most common offenses committed among Black youth did not vary by sex. Both Black males and females were most often referred to court for status offenses (18.3% of all offenses among males and 31.8% among females) followed by simple assault (13.7% for males and 19.9% for females) and disorderly conduct (10.1% for males and 16.4% for females). The types of offenses committed varied by sex among White youth and youth grouped into the “Other” category. While status offenses were the most common reason for referrals for both White males (27.4%) and females (44.5%) in 2023, the second and third most

common offenses were simple assault (12.5% for males and 12.9% for females) and domestic violence (8.0% for males and 10.7% for females). Among those grouped into the “Other” category, status offenses were the most commonly committed offenses for males (40.2%) and females (47.7%). For males, the second and third most common offenses were drug offenses (8.8%) and disorderly conduct (8.8%); for females, however, the next most common reasons for referral were simple assault (10.8%) and domestic violence (9.2%).

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.

Juveniles’ age at the time of referral was calculated in years by subtracting the date of birth from the juvenile justice intake date. In accordance with OJJDP’s DMC assessment guidelines, the analysis sample was restricted to juveniles 10 to 17 years of age leaving 12,508 eligible cases.

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, 417 cases in 2023 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: 2020” (see Appendix D for more details). The total at-risk youth population for the state in 2020 was 323,825. White youth comprise about half the population (50.5%) and are followed by Black (43.0%), Hispanic (4.7%), Asian (1.2%), and American Indian (0.7%) youth.

In 2023, there were racial and ethnic disparities present at the referral stage. While Black youth comprised 43.0% of the population at risk, 67.6% 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 28.6% 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 (2.9%), Asian (0.2%), and American Indian (0.1%) youth referred to juvenile court is smaller than would be expected based on population figures.

In 2023, 34.3% 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=12, 52.2%). Youth identified as Other or Mixed Race had the second highest percentage of youth diverted (N=33, 50.8%), followed by White youth (N=1,354, 39.2%), Hispanic youth (N=120, 33.7%), Black youth (N=2,627, 32.1%), and youth identifying as

American Indian (N=4, 23.5%).

Further examination indicates that, among diverted youth, the largest proportion of individuals diverted from further system involvement are Black youth (63.3%). About one-third of diverted youth are White (32.6%) while Hispanic (2.9%), Asian (0.3%), American Indian (0.01%), and Other/Mixed (0.8%) 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 4% lower while the diversion rate for White Youth is 4% 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, 11.6% of youth referred to juvenile court were held in pretrial detention in 2023. Among individuals referred to court, Other/Mixed race youth had the highest proportion held in pretrial detention (N=9, 13.8%) followed closely by Black youth (N=1,048, 12.8%) and White youth (N=328, 9.5%). Hispanic youth had the fourth highest percentage (N=19, 5.3%) followed by Asian youth (N=2, 8.7%). No youth Identified as American Indians were held in pretrial detention in 2023.

Looking specifically at youth held in pretrial detention, Black youth comprise the largest percentage of youth (74.5%) held in detention, a proportion that is slightly higher than the percentage of youth referred to youth court. Similarly, the percentage of White (23.3%), Hispanic (1.4%), Asian (0.1%), American Indian (0.0%), and Other/Mixed (0.6%) youth aligns with figures related to court referrals.

Among youth adjudicated delinquent in 2023, 32.6% were held in secure confinement as part of their disposition order. Two-thirds (66.7%) of Asian (N=2) youth found delinquent were placed in secure confinement (though this number is misleading given the small sample size). Nearly half of Hispanic youth (N=25, 43.1%) were placed in secure confinement, the second highest proportion among all racial groups followed by Black youth (N=657, 35.4%), and White youth (N=171, 24.3%). About one-quarter of American Indian (N=1, 25.0) and Other/Mixed race (N=2, 20.0%) youth were confined.

Focusing specifically on youth placed in secure confinement, the largest proportion of these youth were Black (76.6%), 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 (19.9%) were held in secure confinement post- adjudication. Hispanic (2.9%), Asian (0.2%), American Indian (0.1%), and Other/Mixed (0.2%) percentages are similar to previous points of contact.

Transfers to adult court are extremely rare, as only 0.4% were transferred in 2023. Relative to the number of cases petitioned, transfers were relatively similar between Black (0.5%) and White (0.2%), and Hispanic (0.9%) youth. No Asian or American Indian youth had a case transferred to the adult system.

A racial breakdown of petitioned youth transferred to adult court shows that 82.8% were Black youth, a proportion slightly higher than would be expected based on the number referred to youth court. Among White youth, 10.3% were transferred to adult court, a proportion slightly lower than would be expected based on the proportion referred to youth court, while a higher rate of Hispanic youth (6.9%) was transferred.

Because 96.2% of the 12,508 referred cases involve a youth who identifies as either Black or White, we conducted bivariate analyses of offenses committed by White and Black youth at each point of contact. We also used logistic regression to determine whether differences attributed to race/ethnicity remain when controlling for legal and extra-legal factors. Descriptive statistics for the variables are located in (Appendix – Table 1).

Bivariate analyses of cases in 2023 showed a significant relationship between each predictor variable and diversion (Appendix - Table 3). Black youth (32.1% versus 39.2% for White youth), males (30.7% versus 40.3% for females), individuals held in contempt (10.1% versus 35.4% for those not held in contempt), and individuals with prior offenses in 2023 (29.5% versus 35.6% for those with no priors) were less likely to be diverted. A higher number of offenses per case (1.14), more severe offenses (1.47), and older age(14.80) were also associated with a lower likelihood of being diverted.

Bivariate analyses of cases in 2023 showed a significant relationship between each predictor variable and rates of formal petition (Appendix - Table 4). Those with prior referrals (65.2% versus 56.6% for those with no priors), males (62.9% versus 51.4% for females), individuals held in contempt (89.3% versus 57.0% for those not held in contempt), and Black youth (60.6% versus 53.9% for White youth) were more likely to formally petitioned. Those with a higher number of offenses committed per case (1.63), those with higher severity scores (1.84), and older youth (14.96) were more likely to be formally petitioned.

Bivariate analyses of cases in 2023 showed a significant relationship between six of the seven predictor variables and pretrial detention (Appendix - Table 5). Those with prior referrals (20.1%

versus 8.8% for those with no priors), males (13.8% versus 7.8% for females), and individuals held in contempt (25.5% versus 10.7%) were more likely to be held in pretrial detention. Older individuals (15.14), those with a higher number of offenses committed per case (1.91), and those with higher severity scores (2.43) 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 2023 showed significant relationships between each predictor variable and whether a youth were found delinquent (see Table 6). Those with prior referrals (29.0% versus 19.6% for those without priors), males (25.9% versus 15.0% for females), those held in contempt (50.9% versus 20.3% for those not held in contempt), and Black youth (22.7% versus 20.4% for White youth) were more likely to be found delinquent. In addition, older individuals (15.03), those with higher severity scores (2.43), and a higher number of offenses per case (2.03) was more likely to be found delinquent.

Bivariate analyses of cases in 2023 showed a significant relationship between each of the predictor variables and placement in a secure correctional facility (see Table 7). Black youth (8.1% versus 5.0% for White youth), males (8.7% versus 4.7% for females), individuals held in contempt (33.2% versus 5.8% for those not held in contempt), and individuals with prior offenses (11.6% versus 5.8% for those with no priors) were more likely to be held in post-adjudication detention. Older youth (15.19), those with a higher number of offenses committed per case (2.45), and those with higher severity scores (2.52) were more likely to be placed in post-disposition detention.

Bivariate analyses of cases in 2023 showed a significant relationship between several predictor variables and certification to adult court (Appendix - Table 8). Males (0.4% versus 0.0% for

females), older individuals (16.33), and individuals with prior offenses (0.7%) were more likely to be certified to adult court. Those with a higher number of offenses committed per case (3.47) and those with higher severity scores (2.97) 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 at each point of contact (arrest/referral to youth court, pretrial detention, secure confinement, and transfer to adult court). Relative to their percentage of the total youth population (43.0%), Black youth comprised 67.6% of all youth court referrals, 63.3% of diversions, 74.5% of pretrial detention, 76.6% of secure confinement, and 82.8% of transfers to adult court. Once youth have entered the justice system, there appears to be more equitable treatment of Black youth. Using the proportion of referrals to youth court as a point of reference (67.6%), Black youth were slightly underrepresented at the point of diversion (63.3%) and overrepresented at the stages of pretrial detention (74.5%), secure confinement (76.6%), and transfer to adult court (82.8%).

Using multivariate analyses that control for youth characteristics and legal factors (gender, age, race, offense severity, prior referrals, referral for contempt of court, and number of offenses per case), we found statistically significant differences at three stages in the justice system. Black youth remained less likely to be diverted and more likely to be petitioned and held in pretrial detention regardless of youth characteristics and legal factors. This is a regression from 2020 in which disparities were identified at the two points of contact of diversion and formal petition.

Bivariate analyses indicated the Black and White youth were moved through at disproportionate rates at every point within the juvenile justice system. Black youth were less likely to be diverted and more likely to be held in referred to youth court, petitioned, held in pretrial detention, found delinquent, held in confinement in a secure correctional facility, and transferred to adult court. Black youth remained less likely to be diverted and more likely to be petitioned and held in confinement post-adjudication regardless of youth characteristics and legal factors.

III. Project Goals and Objectives

Over the next three years the Office of Justice Programs will focus Title II funding on programs and services 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. Reporting Centers (City of Greenville and Hinds County)
3. Youth Court Electronic Monitoring Programs
4. Home Detention Programs (with or without electronic monitoring)
5. Non-secure Shelter/Group homes
6. Community Service Programs (most have a contract or MOA in place with the youth court)
7. Submit annual RED report to the OJJDP

Goal 1: Mississippi is 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 provide 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 of giving 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 will lead to further reduction in Mississippi JJDP core violations rate.

In 2023, the state had 12,091 referrals to youth courts. This clearly shows a need for additional resources to fund local municipalities and non-profit groups to develop non secure hold over programs, reentry 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 2023 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 43.0% of youth population but 67.6% 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 other youth programs in the state to address gender-specific services available to lower the number of female status and delinquent offenders.

There remains an urgent need for the development and implementation of more

community-based services, that are specific to the needs of female offenders and 13 to 14 years old offenders whose numbers continue to grow at an alarming rate. Additional resources are needed to provide treatment and rehabilitation services for juveniles in their own communities.

IV. Project Design and Implementation

The SAA and the SAG-MSJJAC will continue to work together 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 our cooperation, 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 are still working to implement programs targeting the reduction of the number of youths who encounter the juvenile justice system, through intervention programs, mentoring, treatment, tutoring, and counseling services. The process also began piloting a risk assessment instrument allowing the State to focus on Diversion and Alternatives to detention.

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.

Additional Information Required in State Plan

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 several 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 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. Curriculum: SAMHSA: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Cannabis Youth Treatment Series Manual.

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 the 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 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. (Section 223(a)(31))

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 partners 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 improve 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.