

 **Maternal and Child Health Bureau**

**Seminars on Adolescent Health:
"Searching for a path through
bureaucratic systems: Helping youth
with multiple problems
June 30, 2004**

Health Resources and Services Administration
Maternal and Child Health Bureau

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"Through the Eyes of an Alumnus"

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**Helping Youth in Foster Care
Navigate Multiple Systems**

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HRSA Webcast, June 30, 2004

The PIPPAH Project

- ✦ Increase interdisciplinary collaboration among partners and within their organizations
- ✦ Partners include:
 - American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
 - American Bar Association
 - American College of Preventive Medicine
 - American Dietetic Association
 - American Medical Association
 - American Nurses Foundation
 - American School Health Association
 - National Association of Social Workers

Health for Teens in Care

- ✦ Youth in care have higher rates of:
 - serious emotional and behavioral problems
 - chronic physical disabilities
 - birth defects
 - developmental delays
 - poor school achievement

Health of Teens in Care

- ✦ San Francisco
 - 12% of teens in care had positive TB tests
 - Compared with 2.5% in healthy adult population and 6.1% of adult inmates
- ✦ Baltimore
 - 90% of large cohort of teens over 2 years had abnormality in at least one body system
 - 25% failed vision screen
 - 15% failed hearing screen
 - >50% required urgent or non-urgent dental care and mental health services
- ✦ Adolescents living with foster families or in group homes have 4x rate of serious psychiatric disorders than those with own families

Child and Family Services Reviews

- # Federal reviews of states' performance in child protection cases
- # ASFA: permanency, safety, well-being
- # Well-being outcomes
 - # Health (physical, mental, dental)
 - # Education
 - # Transition planning

Other Significant Issues for Teens in Care

- # Adolescents' conflicting feelings about permanency
- # Delinquency and status offenses
- # Teen pregnancy and parenting
- # Substance abuse
- # Interpersonal relationships (including domestic violence)
- # Education
- # Financial concerns

Teen Pregnancy and Parenting

- # Are appropriate health care services being provided?
- # Will the child be able to live with the teen mom and will she retain custody?
- # Are the teen's educational needs being met?
- # Is the current placement safe?

Teen Dating Violence

- # TDV associated with
 - Significantly higher rates of eating disorders
 - Lower self-esteem
 - Higher rates of suicide attempts
 - Lower levels of emotional well-being
- # Between 1993 and 1999, 22% of all homicides against girls 16-19 y.o. committed by intimate partner
- # Unhealthy relationships: statutory rape

Legal Issues and TDV

- # Delinquency system rarely addresses TDV
- # In civil context, few states authorize minors to seek protection orders
- # Teens therefore incapable of initiating own case
- # As result, cannot receive additional protections and services

Education Needs for Teens in Care

- # Right to education
- # Mandatory attendance
- # Children with disabilities
- # Fair discipline
- # Quality education & safe schools

Source: Kathleen McNaught, *Education Law Primer for Child Welfare Professionals (Parts One and Two)*, ABA Child Law Practice, March & April 2003.

Education Needs for Teens in Care

Four ways to meet education needs:

- Direct advocacy
- Courtroom attention
- Legislation
- Interagency collaboration

Source: Kathleen McNaught, *Creative Ways to Meet Education Needs of Children in Foster Care*, ABA Child Law Practice, April 2004.

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**Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention**

Serving Children, Families, and Communities

<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org>

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OJJDP Office of Justice Programs
Partnerships for Safer Communities
www.ojp.usdoj.gov

Presentation Overview

- ❖ OJJDP Mission and Program Goals
- ❖ OJJDP's Relationship with States, DC, territories
- ❖ Health-related Research and Demonstration Programs
- ❖ Working Together to Promote Child and Adolescent Health

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OJJDP's Mission

OJJDP provides national leadership, coordination, and resources to prevent and respond to juvenile delinquency and victimization.

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Formula Grants Program

Statutory Core protections:

- ❖ Deinstitutionalization of status offenders
- ❖ Separation of juveniles and adults in institutions
- ❖ Removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups
- ❖ Reduction of disproportionate minority contact

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State Law and Statistics

- ❖ National Center for Juvenile Justice
- ❖ Statistical Briefing Book
- ❖ State Statutory Compilations and Analysis
- ❖ <http://www.ncjj.org>

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Health Related Programs

- ❖ Work in Partnership with USHHS and Others
- ❖ Mental Health & Co-Occurring Substance Abuse Disorders
- ❖ Conditions of Youth Confinement

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Mental Health

- ❖ Increasing numbers of youth with mental health & co-occurring substance abuse disorders are entering the juvenile justice system
- ❖ Conditions go unrecognized and untreated
- ❖ Custody Relinquishment & GAO Study
- ❖ Promising programs and practices have emerged

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Research Findings

- ❖ Study of 1800 youth in in Juvenile Temporary Detention Center in Cook County, Illinois
- ❖ 64% of males and 70% of females met diagnostic and functional impairment criteria for one or more psychiatric disorders
- ❖ Nearly 50% of both male and female detainees had one or more substance abuse disorders

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Youth at Risk

- ❖ In 2001, law enforcement agencies made an estimated 2.3 million arrests of person under the age of 18
- ❖ Significant number of young people at risk for commitment to restrictive placements, many of whom have mental health and related problems

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OJDP Response

- ❖ National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice (<http://www.ncmhjj.com>)
- ❖ Develop comprehensive service delivery model
- ❖ Serve as national resource for collection and dissemination of evidence-based and best practice information to improve services to youth

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Conditions of Confinement

- ❖ Performance-based Standards to Address Conditions of Youth Confinement
- ❖ USDOJ Civil Rights Division

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Juvenile Court Improvement

- ❖ National Delinquency Court Guidelines
- ❖ National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
- ❖ Role of Judges, Attorneys, Probation Officers and Others in Addressing Health Needs of Youth

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OJDP Study Groups

- ❖ Child Delinquents
- ❖ Serious and Violent Juvenile Offenders
- ❖ Bulletin Series
- ❖ OJDP's Website and Publication Listing & National Criminal Justice Reference Service

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Other Major OJJDP Initiatives

- ❖ OJJDP Demonstration Programs Division
- ❖ Gang Reduction Program
- ❖ Juvenile Mentoring Program
- ❖ Truancy Reduction Program
- ❖ Safe Schools / Healthy Students

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Tribal Youth Program

Program areas:

- ❖ Prevention services to impact risk factors for delinquency
- ❖ Interventions for court-involved tribal youth
- ❖ Improvements to the tribal juvenile justice system
- ❖ Alcohol and drug abuse prevention programs

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Responding to Child Victimization

- ❖ OJJDP Child Protection Division
- ❖ Combating Juvenile Prostitution and Child Sexual Exploitation
- ❖ Strengthening Abuse and Neglect Courts in America

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Addressing and Preventing Substance Abuse

- ❖ Drug-Free Communities Support Program
- ❖ Enforcing the Underage Drinking Laws Program
- ❖ Drug Court Program

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What Works

- ❖ Blueprints: A Violence Prevention Initiative
- ❖ Innovative and Effective Program Development
- ❖ Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence
(<http://colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints>)

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Working Together

- ❖ State Juvenile Justice Specialists
- ❖ Juvenile Justice State Advisory Groups
- ❖ Sharing Our Respective Multidisciplinary Expertise

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