



Juvenile Justice/Mental Health Training Announcement

The National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice is pleased to announce a new Juvenile Justice/Mental Health training initiative for state juvenile justice systems. This project is jointly supported by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (MacArthur Foundation), and is being coordinated by the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice (NCMHJJ). Up to ten states will be selected to participate in this effort to create sustainable mental health training capacity within juvenile justice systems.

This project is part of a broader collaboration between OJJDP and the MacArthur Foundation and includes three additional initiatives:

- **Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Reduction:** Using a data-driven approach and effective strategies to achieve measurable reductions in racial and ethnic disparities within the juvenile justice system. Technical assistance and project oversight will be provided by the Center for Children's Law and Policy (CCLP). Contact CCLP at tdavis@cclp.org
- **Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare System Integration:** Implementing effective multi-system early intervention practices for maltreated youth involved in the juvenile justice system to reduce recidivism, placement and correctional alternatives. Technical assistance and project oversight will be provided by the Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps. Contact RFK Children's Action Corps at ituell@rfkchildren.org or jwiig@rfkchildren.org
- **Mental Health Screening and Risk/Needs Assessment:** Using evidence-based tools for effective case planning and measurable reductions in out of home placements and recidivism rates. Technical assistance and project oversight will be provided by the National Youth Screening and Assessment Project (NYSAP) at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Contact NYSAP at Laura.Guy@umassmed.edu

OJJDP and the MacArthur Foundation are interested in involving as many jurisdictions as possible in this collaboration. While jurisdictions are not prohibited from applying for more than one initiative, the selection process will consider whether a jurisdiction is applying for multiple projects.

Background

The majority of youth in contact with the juvenile justice system experience mental health disorders, with some youth significantly impaired. Many of the juvenile justice staff supervising and working with these youth in juvenile detention and correctional facilities have received little formal adolescent mental health training to

effectively respond these youth. A new specialized training curriculum- the ***Mental Health Training Curriculum for Juvenile Justice (MHTC-JJ)***- which was developed and extensively tested by the Models for Change Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Action Network through support from the MacArthur Foundation, was created to address this need. The ***MHTC-JJ*** is one day training focused on adolescent development, mental health disorders and treatment, the important role of families and practical strategies for engaging and interacting with youth.

The ***MHTC-JJ*** allows for the inclusion of site-specific information or data, case studies, and real-life examples that are relevant to the target audience and can be modified as needed to reflect the unique issues and challenges of a local jurisdiction or an individual training audience. The training is provided in a classroom setting and is intended to be highly interactive. It includes a mix of didactic presentations, interactive exercises, videos and opportunities for discussion.

Overview

The NCMHJJ will select up to 10 states to participate in this project and receive training on the ***MHTC-JJ*** using two person expert consultant training teams provided by the NCMHJJ. A Train the Trainer approach will be used in each state to train trainers who will, in turn, provide training to juvenile detention and/or correctional staff throughout the state. Train the Trainers are a highly efficient way to maximize and target resources and consultant expertise. There are two goals to this approach: 1) to ensure that participants acquire mastery of the subject matter; and 2) to teach participants how to present the material to ensure on-going sustainability of this effort in the selected states. Once complete, each state will have a cadre of “trained trainers” who can proceed to skillfully deliver the MHTC-JJ to staff as well as to new trainers throughout the state, creating an infrastructure that will support on-going training efforts.

States or local/regional jurisdictions selected to participate in this initiative will be expected to:

- Provide training at least three times over a twelve month period following the Train the Trainer with the first of these training sessions scheduled within three months of the Train the Trainer
- Participate in an evaluation of the Train the Trainer and in an evaluation of one training session
- Include no more than 50 trainers at the Train the Trainer session
- Provide training space for the Train the Trainer
- Provide computer equipment to accommodate the Train the Trainer (laptop computer with Windows Media, speakers to play audio, LCD projector and screen).

For the selected jurisdictions, the NCMHJJ will send a two person training team of national expert trainers to the site to conduct an intensive 1.5 day Train the Trainer. These experts will train the trainers on the content of the curriculum as well as how to expertly deliver it. The NCMHJJ will cover all trainer travel and consulting fees, and provide all training materials. Among the anticipated outcomes from this effort include:

- An increased understanding of youth mental health needs and concerns among juvenile justice staff who receive training
- Juvenile justice staff who are better prepared and able to respond to these youth appropriately
- An increase in staff competency handling crisis situations involving these youth

Eligibility Criteria

This solicitation is open to state juvenile justice agencies that are responsible for overseeing and managing juvenile correctional and/or detention facilities, and local or regional juvenile justice agencies responsible for overseeing juvenile correction and/or detention services in medium to large jurisdictions. “Core” states participating in Models for Change (Pennsylvania, Illinois, Louisiana and Washington) and “partner states” participating in the Models for Change Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Action Network (Colorado, Connecticut, Ohio and Texas) are not eligible to apply.

The Application Process

To apply, states will be asked to complete an application. Applications will be evaluated against a set of criteria that includes the state’s demonstrated interest in providing mental health training to juvenile justice staff; their commitment to improving the knowledge base of staff working with youth who have mental health needs; their willingness to participate in an evaluation; and their capacity to support a statewide training infrastructure.

An electronic copy of the application, along with a brief description of the Mental Health Training Curriculum for Juvenile Justice, can be obtained by visiting the NCMHJJ website at www.ncmhjj.com

Completed applications must be submitted by email and are due to the NCMHJJ by 5:00 pm eastern time February 24th, 2012. Please submit all emailed applications to the following address: ncmhjj@prainc.com All emailed applications will receive an electronic confirmation of receipt. All applicants will be notified of our selection decisions by March 23rd, 2012.

Questions? Contact:

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