

Asian Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center

After many months of hard work, the Oakland Community Response Plan (CRP) group is approaching publication of the long-awaited report of findings, "Under the Microscope: Asian and Pacific Islander Youth in Oakland, Needs ♦ Issues ♦ Solutions." In preparation for the release of the report, the CRP group is honing its media strategy skills and gathering community "voices" to include a qualitative aspect to the report. We have also completed a Resource Guide of service providers in Oakland to distribute to the juvenile courts, police, probation, and public health departments, as well as hospitals and schools. The need for such a guide came out of a discussion in one of the early CRP meetings; it is intended to assist decision makers in finding culturally appropriate interventions for API youth.

At the February CRP meeting, we held a "teach-in" with the group on the key findings from each of the chapters so they can use the report to become stronger advocates. Following are some of the highlights.

Education

- The ethnic make-up of the Oakland Unified School District is different from that of the city of Oakland. Caucasians make up 24.2% of Oakland's youth population, but they are only 5.7% of the OUSD population.

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Barry Krisberg, NCCD; Jane Bullock, SAFE; Susan Marchionna, NCCD; George Haddow, SAFE; Damon Coppola, SAFE; Ann Patton, Tulsa, OK; Doris Mildkye, KS; and Janine Lendl, Roseville, CA.

Conference on "The Community and Homeland Security"

On March 27th and 28th, 2003, NCCD and the SAFE (Securing America's Future for Everyone) Project hosted the first annual conference on "The Community and Homeland Security" at the San Francisco Foundation (SFF) in downtown San Francisco. The event was supported by the FAITHS Initiative of the SFF. The conference brought local leaders from several states who are responsible for shaping homeland security programs and activities in their communities together with representatives from federal, state, local, nonprofit, private, and international organizations working on homeland security-related issues. The conference allowed all of these practitioners, participants, and representatives to voice their concerns, share their experiences, and have their first opportunity to work together to identify existing problems with homeland security at the local level and to propose possible solutions to these

problems. The SAFE Project was originally developed by NCCD. It is a neighborhood-based strategy designed to foster citizen involvement in emergency and terrorism preparedness in the community. In the event of a crisis or emergency, the SAFE strategy will: 1) provide effective avenues for information and communications between and among a city's leadership and citizens; 2) encourage and permit concerned citizens to take responsible actions; and 3) help address local citizens' fears and enhance overall community preparedness.

The primary concern of those in attendance was well stated by Carol Lopes (Berkeley, CA), who said, "Though there has been a lot of progress, we are willfully unprepared. Community and neighborhood preparedness is the centerpiece of today's work. Our responsibility is to prepare a community before a disaster and assist after a

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Where's John DiIulio When We Need Him?

In the early 1990s Princeton University Professor John DiIulio (currently at the University of Pennsylvania) scared America's public officials with predictions that a wave of amoral youthful "super-predators" would be creating havoc in urban America. This frightening vision of the army of, in DiIulio's words, "fatherless, godless, and jobless" children resonated with the media-created image of a generation of "crack babies" with permanent neurological damage that were heading into our schools. Then things got even worse. A series of youths from rural and suburban schools such as Columbine High School in Colorado and Santana High School in California employed high-powered rifles to kill and injure their classmates and teachers.

2 These developments led to a national debate about juvenile crime and delinquency prevention. One of the outcomes was a rash of legislation designed to push more juveniles into the criminal court system—to prosecute children as young as age eight as if they were mature adults. But, there were positive developments as well. With the leadership of Attorney General Janet Reno, many communities took a new look at evidence-based prevention efforts, and worked to improve the lives of children, especially during their earliest years. Communities came forward with an impressive array of violence prevention programs that emphasized peer leadership and conflict resolution strategies. Several locales worked aggressively to restrict the trafficking in guns to teenagers. There were increased federal and state investments in developing more complete continua of care for

troubled youths. Communities increased the number of after school programs for vulnerable young people.

Fortunately, rates of violent crime among youths began a steady decline in the mid 1990s. The legions of super-predators failed to show up, and even though the media continued to fan the flames of hysteria by hyping the extent of youth violence, the national dialogue seemed to get a bit more rational. It was in this era that

As the economy continues to slide and unemployment rates rise, we can expect a resurgence in youth and adult violence.

NCCD, with the support of the U.S. Department of Justice, commenced its work in over 50 communities to help them implement the OJJDP Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Chronic, and Violent Offenders—a strategy that placed prevention and early intervention in the forefront. The Annie E. Casey Foundation launched an ambitious and ultimately very successful effort to reduce the number of youths in detention. Other government and foundation efforts promoted great use of intensive home-based services for troubled and troublesome young people. Despite the calls for prosecuting more juveniles as adults, the actual number of minors in prisons dropped significantly.

After the tragic events of September 11, 2001, the national picture changed again. The federal government and the Congress have made fighting terrorism the number

one priority. Federal delinquency and juvenile justice dollars are shrinking. A severe fiscal crisis that is affecting almost every state has curtailed local support for innovative juvenile justice models. A declining stock market has limited the ability of many foundations to continue their investments in youth development. At the most recent annual meeting of the Council on Foundations, there was not a single session devoted to youth crime.

Welcome to hard times. Conversations about juvenile crime are simply not on the media or political agendas right now. Ironically, it may be that the creative community efforts to reduce youth crime have lulled us into thinking that juvenile crime is not a problem. Obviously, this is a dangerous and delusionary social policy. As the economy continues to slide and unemployment rates rise, we can expect a resurgence in youth and adult violence. As families are under more pressure to simply survive, rates of child maltreatment are also likely to rise. And, if the Vietnam era provides any clues to the future, the U.S. at war is also a nation plagued with rising rates of violent crime.

Where is John DiIulio when we need him? I don't mean to pick on John, who has worked hard to get faith-based organizations to work with high-risk youths. He has also made it clear that putting more children in adult prisons and jails is not the answer. My real question is who will restart the national discussion on the importance of positive youth development, and who will rekindle the movement to reform the juvenile justice system? As President Ronald Reagan used to say—If not us, who? If not now, when? Isn't it time for members of the NCCD family to step into this gap?

NCCD Special Awards: In Recognition of Excellence...

The NCCD Board of Directors selected outstanding professionals in the fields of juvenile justice, adult criminal justice, and child welfare for the Special Award Honorees. There are many individuals who have devoted their careers to meaningful achievement in these fields. In the belief that such excellence deserves recognition, the Board chose its slate of honorees for the year 2003. All honorees will receive their awards at events that are relevant to their careers, attended by their colleagues and family members.

Orlando Martinez of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice is the board's choice for the Albert Elias Award for excellent contributions to the field of juvenile justice. Mr. Martinez was the first to receive his award on May 23rd at the Annual Conference of the Georgia Juvenile Services Association. This year's Donald Cressey Award goes to **Professor Charles Ogletree**, of the Harvard Law School for excellent academic contributions to criminology and criminal law. The Grace B. Flandreau Award for outstanding achievements in the compassionate care of youth is not necessarily awarded annually, but instead when the occasion to acknowledge excellent work arises. Unusual circumstances led NCCD to recognize two recipients this year for the award—**Judge Myrna Field**, Administrative Judge in the Family Court Division of the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas, and **Judge Michael Skwierawski**, Chief Judge of the Milwaukee County Court. For his commitment to criminal justice reform, NCCD recognizes **Judge Len Edwards** of the Superior Court of Santa Clara County, California, with the Roscoe Pound Award. For an elected official who exemplifies enlightened leadership in crime prevention and control policy, the Ira A. Lipman Award goes to former **Governor George Ryan** of Illinois. The year 2003 sees the inauguration of a new NCCD Award, in honor of Katie Nichols, for outstanding commitment and achievement at the community level for work in justice system reform. This award's premier recipient is San Franciscan **Mimi Silbert** of Delancey Street Foundation.

Congratulations to all Special Awards honorees!

Disproportionate Minority Confinement Study in San Mateo County

There is virtually no area that is immune to racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system, and measuring Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)—as it is referred to nationally—is a priority of states and jurisdictions throughout the country. Following in that trend, San Mateo County, a large county in the San Francisco Bay Area, has recently contracted with NCCD to conduct a study of the disproportionate representation of youth of color in the county's juvenile hall.

According to the 2000 Census, Latinos account for 27% of the county's total juvenile population, while Asian and Pacific Islanders and African Americans are 20% and 4%, respectfully. However, data released by the San Mateo Probation Department in 2002 show that Latino youth represent 43% of the youth that are in juvenile hall, while African Americans represent 19% and Asian and Pacific Islanders represent 9% of the youth detained in the county's juvenile hall. Racial and ethnic disparities have also been demonstrated among youth who are receiving other probation services.

The study to be conducted by NCCD builds from a community-mobilization strategy to collect school, community, and justice data, as well as to examine decision-making in the juvenile justice system, to inventory community and agency resources that are available in the county to increase its alternatives to detention, and to engage youth in the process of developing recommendations. Data collected in the study will be used to guide the development of specific areas that will enable the County Probation Department to implement strategic best practices to reduce, and eventually eliminate, the racial and ethnic disparities present in the juvenile justice system. For more information about this study, please contact Monique Morris, Senior Research Associate, at mwmorris@sf.nccd-crc.org.

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- The “model minority myth” portrays API youth as high academic performers, but, data disaggregated by specific API ethnicities show a different reality. Among API ethnicities, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Students, in particular Southeast Asian LEP Students, have very low test scores and grade point averages. Pacific Islander students are also performing poorly in test scores and have low grade point averages.

- Nearly 60% of API students (K-12) are designated Limited English Proficiency (LEP). Students who stay in LEP classes in high school will not obtain credit towards the state’s English requirement and may fail to graduate on schedule.

Juvenile Justice

- Nationally, API youth are the fastest growing population and are the only group with an increase in total arrests from 1980 to 2000—11.4% during a time when overall juvenile arrest numbers decreased by 47.9%.

- API youth are dealing with different issues than the general youth population in the juvenile justice system. In Oakland, API youth are arrested at disproportionately high rates for property crimes, but at low rates for drugs.

Health

- Substance abuse data for API youth in California show increasing use of alcohol, marijuana, and stimulants.

- A national study revealed that API youth scored higher than other groups on measures of depression and suicide ideation.

- The mental health needs of API youth are related to youth delinquency. Youth diagnosed with conduct disorder are more likely to transition from the mental health system to the juvenile justice system than youth with other diagnoses (Scott, Snowden, & Libby, 2002). An additional complication is a lack of medical insurance, putting many API youth at even greater risk.

Youth Input Sessions

Four youth input sessions were conducted last fall with eleven high school youth who are diverse in terms of ethnicity, gender, academic performance,

experience in leadership programs, and involvement with the juvenile justice system. During each session we presented data from the Community Response Plan and facilitated discussions on its meaning using different interactive strategies. Each session concluded with journal writing.

When asked how school attendance could be improved, the students emphatically agreed that teachers should use more interactive teaching styles or experiential learning, rather than just using “paper stuff.” Some of the youth in the group spoke about their experiences of being targeted by their race or age. One Asian youth was told to “stop acting Black” during a confrontation with a police officer. Another youth said, “It also seems like cops are being trained to be more aggressive to youth. It’s not fair because when youth act aggressive back, they get it reported and on their record.” On whether the police are effective at preventing crime, the youth felt that the presence of the police does not keep crimes from happening; they merely respond after incidents have occurred.

Depression and suicide were popular subjects as almost all of the youth knew of someone who was depressed or thought about committing suicide, including themselves. The girls expressed the need for more information on rape, reproductive health, and ways to relieve stress. The boys focused on the connections between substance abuse and mental health problems.

A common theme that arose in how to improve the educational experiences of youth were to have more trained and culturally sensitive teachers who knew “where [the students] were coming from” and fostered relationships of mutual respect. Another recommendation was to provide youth with more positive opportunities, like jobs and programs that allow them to learn things and meet new people. Also apparent was the need for more health-related information, on stress management, depression, suicide, sexual assault, reproductive health, and sexual identity.

References

Scott, M., Snowden, L., & Libby, A.M. (2002). From mental health to juvenile justice: What factors predict this transition? *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 11(3), 299-311.

Cutting Correctional Costs by Reducing Revocation Rates

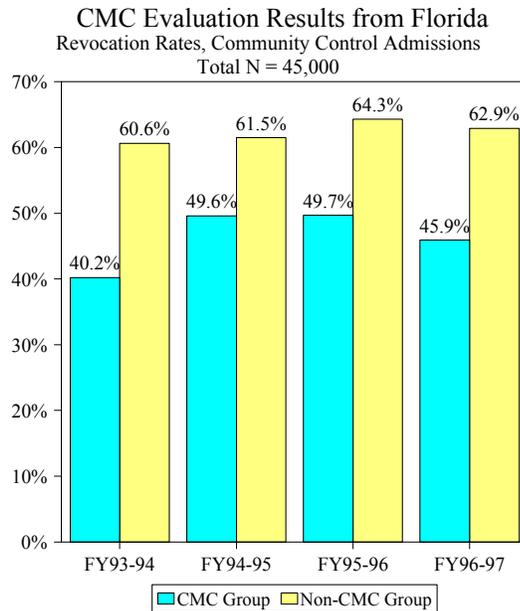
With crime rates beginning to rise and parole revocation rates at all-time highs in many jurisdictions, better methods of assessing and supervising offenders are clearly needed. After an extensive review of existing assessment and classification systems, NCCD has combined elements of the best tools available to assist agencies in dealing with the complex issues of offender treatment and supervision.

This new approach, the Correctional Assessment and Intervention System (CAIS), combines well-validated risk and needs assessments with the Case Management Classification (CMC) system. CAIS is presented in a state-of-the-art, web-based package that enhances efficiency, supports monitoring and quality assurance, and provides data for evaluating programs, policies, and procedures.

CMC is a time-tested method of obtaining and using information about offenders to develop effective case plans and use resources proficiently. Since 1981, CMC training has been supported by the National Institute of Corrections, and an estimated 15,000 correctional professionals have been trained in the system. The components of CMC were derived by experienced corrections officers, psychologists, and researchers. The components include an offender interview and classification system, supervision guides, and a case planning guide.

CMC has demonstrated the capacity to significantly reduce recidivism rates. For example, Florida researchers tracked four separate cohorts of admissions to its Community Control Program for two years. In every cohort, cases supervised by officers trained in

CMC had significantly lower rates of revocation than the comparison group.



Source: Leininger, K. 1998. Effectiveness of CMC. Florida Department of Corrections Research and Data Analysis

Other studies found similar results:

- In South Carolina, the return-to-prison rate within 12 months of release was 15% for parolees supervised by CMC-trained officers versus 38% for a comparison group (N = 419).

- In Texas, the rate at which pre-revocation warrants issued within 12 months of release from prison was 17% for the CMC group compared to 25% for a control group (N=2,551).

- In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, high risk probationers were randomly assigned to one of three groups: regular supervision, intensive supervision, and intensive supervision with CMC. Revocation rates for each group were 29.9%, 24.4%, and 19.7%, respectively (N = 422).

- Finally, a study in a Washington prison, funded by the National Institute of Justice, found

that use of CMC significantly reduced disciplinary incidents.

The CMC interview is an excellent source of information needed to complete risk and needs assessments. When combined with CMC, these assessments form the basis of a comprehensive supervision plan.

The risk instrument selected for CAIS has been validated in a wide variety of agencies and has proven to be robust over time and across jurisdictions. It has a high level of inter-rater reliability, and has repeatedly demonstrated that it effectively separates offenders into low, moderate, and high risk groups. CAIS also incorporates a simple

needs assessment instrument that adds consistency to case assessments.

The automated CAIS package scores the interview, performs sophisticated analysis of data collected to provide service recommendations, completes reliability checks to ensure accurate assessments, provides information on best practices in each service area, and offers aggregate data reports on assessments completed and programs utilized for routine evaluation of programs and practices.

CAIS is designed to help agencies maximize limited resources by effectively matching those resources to the needs of offenders, thereby improving outcomes in parole, probation, and re-entry initiatives. Evaluations completed across the U.S. demonstrate that CAIS components can reduce the cost of corrections.

Highlights from Philadelphia



Every year in March, Philadelphia hosts its annual Flower Show, a spectacular display of landscaped gardens with a thematic array of everything from the Mexican beach to the English countryside. The riotous colors packed into the Philadelphia Convention Center offer a striking contrast to the shades of grey of the urban landscape under winter skies. Another contrast, although more sobering, is the sight of stately Independence Hall, where both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were created. This year, the Hall was cordoned off with yellow police tape, under the watch of national guardsmen at each of the four cardinal points, closed to the public.

The NCCD Board of Directors gathered in Philadelphia in early March for its semi-annual board meeting. Two distinguished members of the NCCD board are Philadelphians. Board Chair Dr. Richard Cohen generously supported our activities by hosting the first day's meeting at the offices of his Philadelphia Health Management Corporation, as well as an evening reception at which President Barry Krisberg presented

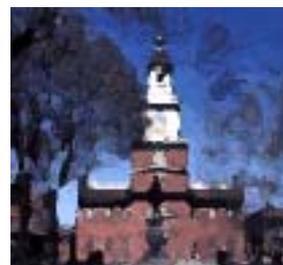
Ms. Estelle Richman her 2002 Grace B. Flandreau Award. In her former role as City Manager of Philadelphia, Ms. Richman was a leader in children's services, including mental health. She has since taken a position in the capital as the director of welfare for the state of Pennsylvania. Our second Philadelphian on the board, Judge Carolyn Temin of the Court of Common Pleas, was able to join us despite a bout of the flu.

The first day at PHMC began with the general updates of the President's report, the Midwest report, and the financial report. Following lunch, the board heard a presentation by NCCD Research Associate, Mary Lai, on the API Center's (page one) activities and accomplishments. We had planned an outing to the Eastern State Penitentiary, the oldest in the nation, now an historic landmark and museum. However, temperatures were in the 30s and descending as more freezing rain fell on the city. The Penitentiary, new in 1829, was a product of the thinking of the Enlightenment, a true conceptual revolution in prison design. Instead of a mere holding pen, the new penitentiary housed each person in individual cells, all of which were visible from a central surveillance

rotunda. Each cell had its own flush toilet and running water, making the penitentiary the most modern building in the country at that time. The goal of this new concept was to provide the physical environment and way of life for true repentance by the prisoners.

The second day we met at the Loews Hotel, where Chris Baird and Janice Erath of the Children's Research Center (CRC) gave a more detailed presentation on their major projects, Structured Decision Making and SafeMeasures (page 7). Judge Temin, representing the Nominations Committee, presented a new board candidate, Justice Stephen Limbaugh of the Missouri Supreme Court, whom the board voted to approve. Special Awards Honorees (page 3) were chosen from a poll of staff and board members. To conclude our Philadelphia visit, we heard a presentation by Bob Schwartz of the Juvenile Law Center on his advocacy efforts in juvenile justice in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. Mr. Schwartz is one of the nation's leading advocates for children.

The next board meeting will take place in San Francisco on September 11-12, 2003.



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disaster strikes. We must train a cadre of emergency prepared individuals who will interface well with first responders.”

Four principal areas of need emerged from these discussions:

1) Greater access to resources to fund homeland security programs and projects at the community level;

2) Greater access to practical information about application, eligibility, recruitment, retention, and other concerns;

3) Innovative and effective programming ideas; and

4) Focus on diverse and “special needs” populations.

Following the conference, the SAFE project staff completed a report that explores these four issues as they were defined by the speakers and the participants, drawing directly from the presentations, panel discussions, and facilitated participant discussions. The report can be found in pdf format on nccd-crc.org by following the link to What's New.

NCCD MISSION STATEMENT

The National Council on Crime and Delinquency, founded in 1907, is a nonprofit organization which promotes effective, humane, fair, and economically sound solutions to family, community, and justice problems. NCCD conducts research, promotes reform initiatives, and seeks to work with individuals, public and private organizations, and the media to prevent and reduce crime and delinquency.

Structured Decision Making Update

Michigan's implementation of Structured Decision Making (SDM), CRC's case management system for child protective service agencies, was recently a finalist for the Harvard Business School's prestigious Kennedy Award for innovation in government. From over one thousand programs nominated for the Award, Michigan's SDM project was among only fifteen that reached the final round. Michigan has been a leader in SDM development for well over a decade.

SDM continues to attract new jurisdictions. Norfolk County, Virginia, State of New Jersey, and Jacksonville, Florida, began SDM development within the past several months.¹ SDM has always provided reliable and valid assessments that have demonstrated reduction in future child maltreatment. Its value to jurisdictions has increased substantially now that federal outcome measures have been established. Many of the key outcome measures that states need to achieve in order to avoid fiscal sanctions are positively impacted by a quality SDM implementation.

SDM continues to take advantage of technological developments to make SDM more accessible and efficient. Thanks to Riverside County, California, underwriting development work, California counties are beginning to access SDM assessment tools via the web. This substantially reduces maintenance responsibilities within a jurisdiction, which is particularly valuable to smaller agencies with limited in-house management information staff.

Research on SDM continues to yield encouraging and informative results. Dr. Will Johnson of the California Department of Social Services recently completed a study that demonstrates strong validity for SDM's risk assessment tool post-implementation.

Foster/kinship care is an area that had not been included in the set of assessment tools that comprise SDM but is currently being developed. New Mexico provided the first research study for the development of a research based tool that would identify the likelihood that a foster home would be free of maltreatment or premature termination of a placement. Vermont built on earlier work by Michigan and Washington, D.C. to develop a tool to establish a difficulty of care level. CRC is using these efforts to construct a systematic approach to key decision points in foster care with the goal of reducing maltreatment in alternate care settings, reducing movement from home to home, and increasing child well-being during a foster care episode. A draft of the foster care component is expected to be ready in Fall, 2003.

For more information about SDM, contact Raelene Freitag, Senior Researcher, by email (rfreitag@mw.nccd-crc.org) or by phone, (608) 831-8882.

¹ Existing active SDM jurisdictions include all or part of Alaska, California, New Mexico, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Georgia.

New Publications

- “Homeland Security at the Community Level: Issues and Opportunities” NCCD, 2003
- “API Currents” API Center Newsletter, Vol. 3, No. 1
- “Under the Microscope: Asian and Pacific Islander Youth in Oakland, Needs♦Issues♦Solutions, Executive Summary” API Center, June 2003

New Projects

- San Mateo Crime Prevention Act County of San Mateo, CA
- San Mateo Disproportionate Minority Confinement County of San Mateo, CA
- duPont Teen Victims Jessie Ball duPont Fund
- Michigan Building Restorative Communities State of Michigan
- Michigan FIA Structured Decision Making II State of Michigan
- Marin Structured Decision Making County of Marin, CA
- Hennepin County Data Reports County of Hennepin, MI
- FSSNF Structured Decision Making State of Florida
- Norfolk, VA Structured Decision Making County of Norfolk, VA
- Missouri JJ Data Review State of Missouri
- New Jersey CPS Structured Decision Making State of New Jersey
- New South Wales Child Risk Tool Evaluation Australia
- Georgia Detention II Georgia Department of Corrections
- Sutter County SafeMeasures County of Sutter, CA
- San Luis Obispo County SafeMeasures County of San Luis Obispo, CA
- Solano County SafeMeasures County of Solano, CA
- Sacramento SafeMeasures County of Sacramento, CA



NATIONAL COUNCIL ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY
1970 BROADWAY, SUITE 500
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

Upcoming Events

- Board Meetings—September 11-12, 2003, San Francisco; March 2004, Location to be determined
- API Center Community Response Plan Meetings—July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8

For additional information, please visit www.nccd-crc.org or phone (510) 208-0500