

Florida Girls Study

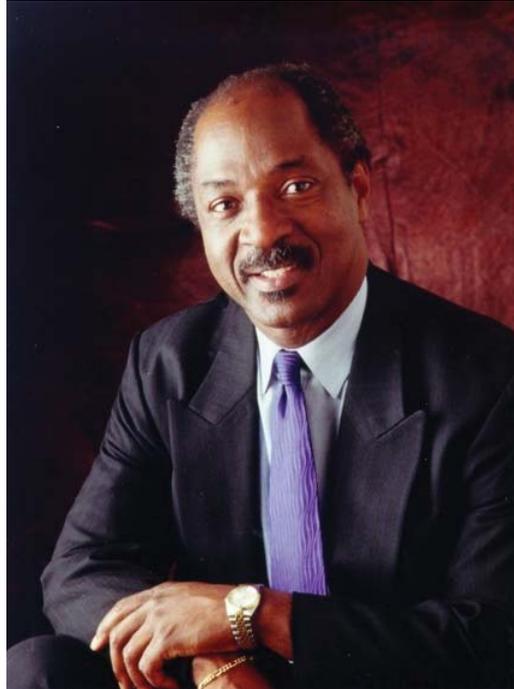
The National Council on Crime and Delinquency was funded by the Jessie Ball duPont Fund to conduct a research study of over 300 girls in the Florida juvenile justice system using NCCD's Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS) instrument. JAIS measures each girl's level of need in several categories, including physical and mental health, family relationships, social skills, peer relationships, vocational skills, value orientation, substance use and abuse, and educational issues. It also provides a public safety risk score and recommends a supervision strategy based on likely response to treatment. The report, *A Rallying Cry for Change: Charting a New Direction in the State of Florida's Response to Girls in Juvenile Justice* presents new research findings on the "pathways" of girls into the juvenile justice system and identifies their treatment needs.

Major Findings

The major pathways that played a role in the delinquent behavior for these girls were emotional

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Continuing the Struggle for Justice



Professor Charles Ogletree

The months are passing quickly as plans are proceeding for NCCD's Centennial celebration this fall. A well rounded series of New York events promises to mark this passage memorably. The culmination of the events will be our gala dinner at the Essex House Hotel on Friday evening, October 20. We will be toasting NCCD with a keynote address by Professor Charles Ogletree of Harvard Law School, and taking the opportunity to salute some very special award recipients—the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Doug Nelson, President, the Vera Institute of

Justice, Michael Jacobson, Director, Jeremy Travis of John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Joan Petersilia of UC Irvine, Judge Chandlee Kuhn of the Family Court of Delaware, and author Bebe Moore Campbell.

In looking back at NCCD's history, we have uncovered some wonderful facts, such as the cost of annual membership dues in 1907—twenty-five cents. Some of the more recognizable names on NCCD's board over the years are Bill Cosby, Norman Lear, Dr. Karl Meninger, and Elliot Richardson.

Most important, of course, is the evolution of NCCD's purpose from its beginning as a professional organization for the promotion of probation to the complex identity it has at present with its activities of research, community mobilization, technical assistance, computer assisted risk

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Do we possess the political will to solve the crisis in our prisons and jails?

The unexpected resignation of California Corrections Secretary Roderick Hickman was a dramatic symptom of the crisis in the largest state prison system. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger faces a daunting challenge of digging out of the deep hole that public officials and the citizenry helped create over the past 30 years by enacting ever harsher sentencing laws. California is not alone in confronting this dire situation. Unquestionably, policies leading to mass incarceration created a dangerous crisis in state prisons and county jails. Recidivism rates have reached record highs. Nationally, over 700,000 prisoners return home each year, ill-prepared to live law abiding lives and facing many barriers to achieving employment, adequate housing, and substance abuse treatment in the community. Virtually every aspect of California's adult and juvenile systems is under court-mandated supervision. Many other states and communities face the same judicial regulation of their corrections departments. Riots and lethal violence in penal facilities are on the rise.

On the positive side, many states including California have proposed to expand prison rehabilitation programs and to improve services to assist

ex-prisoners to successfully re-enter society. States are trying to rid their penal systems of a legacy of abuse and corruption. For example, Florida's Governor Jeb Bush just fired his top prison director and is promising to clean house.

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Governor Schwarzenegger has suggested that taxpayers fund billions of dollars in bonds for 83,000 new prison and jail cells. Few other governors are backing massive prison building plans on this scale. I do not believe that a new wave of prison building will solve the current California crisis. At best, new prison and jail construction must be part of a balanced and comprehensive strategy that expands safe alternatives to incarceration, uses proven programs to reduce recidivism and funds effective community re-entry programs. There is an old saying—"If

you find that you are in a deep hole, stop digging." The new prison beds that California built during the past 20 years (even while crime rates declined), did not reduce crowding. On the contrary, overcrowding is worse than ever. Other states such as Ohio, Michigan, and New York have achieved greater or equal reductions in crime than California without its massive increases in the number of prison inmates.

During the period in which California increased prison beds by over 300%, the inmate population grew by over 800%. Given this history, if the proposed beds are built, the system will likely be more crowded than it is already. We have already tried to fix crowded prisons and jails by adding more space, but like empty vessels, we just fill them up. Remember that the annual budget of the California's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is more than \$8 billion. Governor Schwarzenegger's building plans would require at least \$12 billion in new bonds and another \$15 billion to operate the new beds over the next 20 years.

California and the rest of the states are at a crossroads and must face up to the crisis in corrections. We have been here before. In the 1980s and 1990s, numerous studies and high-level panels

suggested practical refinements of sentencing laws, highlighted the best sentencing and rehabilitation policies, and tried to address obstacles to successful re-entry to society. In the past 30 years, few, if any, of these ideas were enacted in California although states such as Michigan, Kentucky, and Alabama have been more proactive in reform efforts.

There are clear, evidence-based pathways that could lead us out of the corrections imbroglio faced by many jurisdictions. California and other states may yet find their way to a more rational correctional policy, but it will take public courage and truthfulness about what is not working. Even in places where new penal policies have been put forth, their implementation will take persistence and steady attention to details.

Meaningful corrections reform requires the following:

- Realistic prison and jail projections about future capacity requirements and fiscal impact statements of current and future policies.
- A bold, statewide program to fund the development and implementation of safe alternatives to imprisonment, such as community corrections legislation passed in Oregon and Minnesota.
- Systematic replication of evidence-based correctional programs that are already

proven to reduce recidivism, for example, drug courts, intensive drug-treatment programs in the community, and vocational training and job placement for inmates returning home.

- A complete overhaul of parole systems. Failed parole policies and high recidivism rates are still a major hurdle to reducing the prison population.
- Major sentencing reforms to revise many laws that have packed the prisons and not advanced public safety. This list would include reform of “three strikes,” laws, “truth in sentencing” laws and mandatory-minimum penalties for nonviolent offenses.
- A statewide master plan for the future is a must. This plan needs to define and fund the most cost-effective use of alternative sentences, probation, jails, and prisons. There is no more effective means of guiding wise investments of public funding in the future.
- Truth-telling about effective crime-control policies and about the damaging community impact of policies of mass incarceration. The public debate on crime control has been dominated by myths, half-truths and fears.

In addition, we must respond to the urgent needs of the millions of children whose parents are incarcerated. Building and filling more prison and jail beds can only worsen this problem.

Small Business Technology Grant

The Children's Research Center, in partnership with Developmental Systems Inc. of Columbus, Ohio, has received a small business technology grant from the National Institutes of Health. The grant will fund the development of a web-based assessment system to identify TANF children that are at risk of entering the Child Welfare System. Funds will support the development and implementation of risk and need assessments, a competency-based training curriculum, and a rigorous evaluation of the system's impact on the rate of subsequent abuse and neglect reported for this population. The project is viewed as a primary prevention initiative with the goal of developing a system that can be used nationwide to reduce child maltreatment.

This project will be funded for two to three years. The first year's funding will cover the planning and system development. The second-phase funding will support training, implementation, and evaluation activities.

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factors, family issues, and youth substance abuse. More specifically, 79% of the girls had significant emotional factors (depression, trauma, anger, self-destructive behaviors, and a mental health or clinical diagnosis), 61% had committed an offense against a family member, and 46% had a significant drug or alcohol abuse problem that contributed to their delinquency. While girls may have a multitude of needs, these commonalities are dominant issues regardless of program restrictiveness level (non-residential, low-risk, moderate-risk, high-risk, maximum security) or JAIS risk to re-offend level.

Other factors such as social inadequacy, criminal orientation, and school inadequacy were significant in less than 25% of the girls. Further, self-report data showed that 40% of the girls experienced their first arrest before the age of 13 and that many were committed to moderate- (73%) and high-risk (33%) DJJ programs as their first placement.

Implications

The findings have implications for an essential set of services and a system of care that meets the different needs of girls in the juvenile justice system at all levels, from prevention to residential programming. These include specialized mental health and medical care services, substance abuse and addiction treatment, family-focused services, alternative educational and vocational services, and transitional placements and services for girls.

The research supports change in the response to girls, both in treatment services and in policy and system changes, to match the identified treatment needs. The major findings, coupled with lack of services and other systemic issues facing girls in Florida's juvenile justice system (inadequate or unavailable treatment in the community or in lesser restrictive DJJ programs, symptomatic behavior that results in placement transfers, inappropriate

placement of girls, and gaps in gender-responsive services and training) help to explain the escalating numbers of girls into the system and the challenges faced by the system.

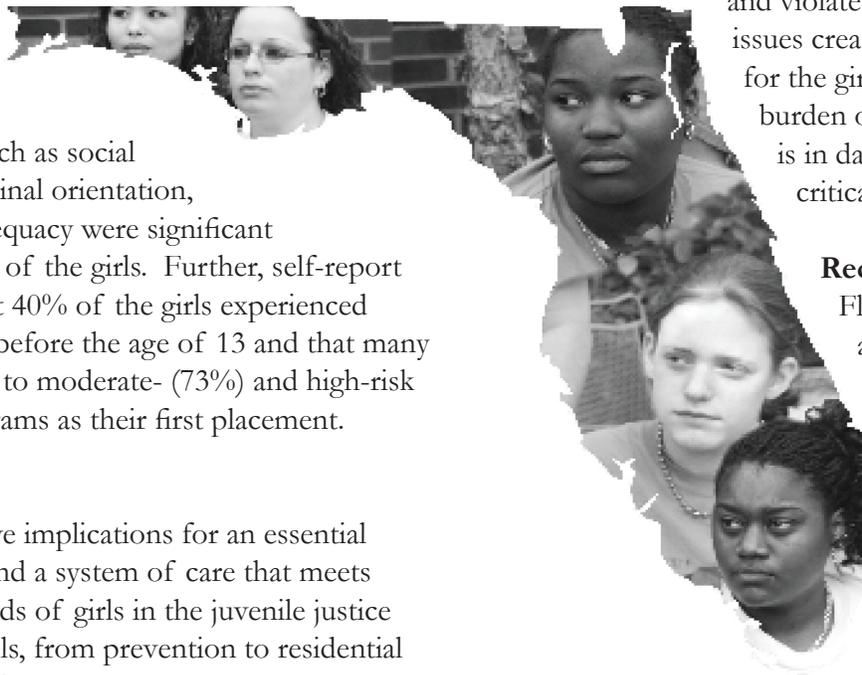
If the identified needs are not met, both in treatment and in systematic policy changes, we can assume that the girls will continue to penetrate deeper into the juvenile justice system. They will continue to be inappropriately placed, pick up new charges while in placement, re-offend after release, and violate probation. These issues create further instability for the girls and an additional burden on the system that is in danger of reaching a critical breaking point.

Recommendations

Florida has approximately 1,000 girls in residential programs on a given day. NCCD urges the state to invest in essential treatment services, gender-

responsive assessment, appropriate programs, and gender-specific training for staff along the entire continuum, and to consider pilot programs such as female probation units or diversion programs that focus on the pathways research. NCCD recommends additional policy initiatives that create community treatment options, enhance aftercare, and examine policies and procedures that negatively impact girls. The goal is to reverse the escalating numbers of girls entering the system and to improve success with the girls that are already there.

The full report can be downloaded at: www.nccd-crc.org

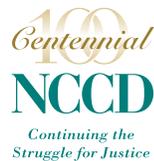
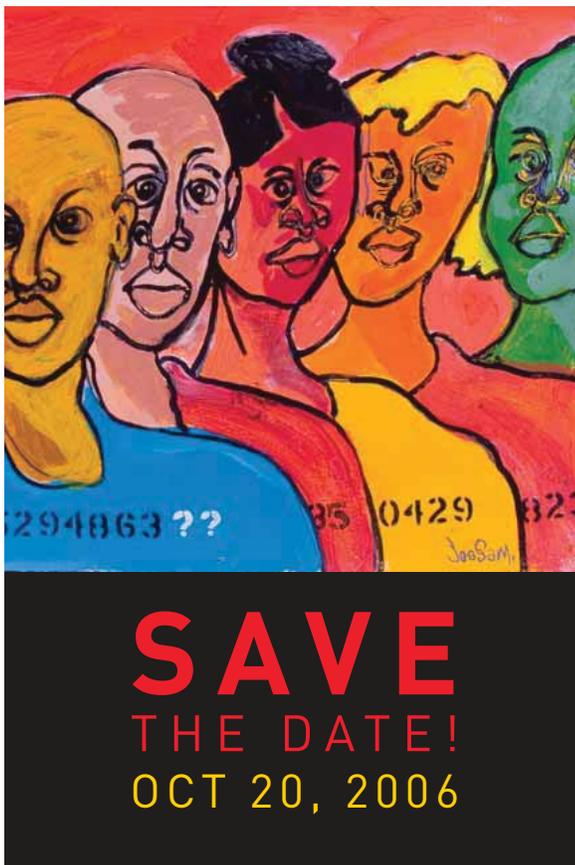


assessment, and case management. We have compiled a fascinating collection of essays from the NCCD Board and staff that shows both that the thinking at NCCD has evolved and that there are themes that were fundamental in 1907 that are still relevant today—such as the need for alternatives to incarceration.

The writings of NCCD Board and staff members throughout the years has left a rather stunning testament to the breadth and depth of thinking that contributes to the identity of the agency. We have compiled what we hope is some of the best representations of that thinking into one volume that will be produced by Sage Publications. That unique volume will be available to everyone on our list.

Staying true to the academic basis of NCCD's work, we will host a summit meeting at New York University School of Law the day before the dinner, Thursday, October 19th. This panel and group discussion will take stock of how far we have come and look ahead to assess the trajectory of justice in America. Then, incorporating the important voices of youth, we will host an event at John Jay College of Criminal Justice that provides an opportunity for young people to express their views about the systems that control their lives.

We are reaching out to anyone and everyone that has had an interest in NCCD over its long years. Please make sure we have your mailing address if you would like to receive an invitation and join in celebrating NCCD's Centennial.



National Council on Crime and Delinquency

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The National Council on Crime and Delinquency will celebrate its Centennial this year with a gala dinner at the Essex House Hotel in New York.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Professor Charles Ogletree of Harvard Law School

FOR EXCELLENCE IN THEIR FIELDS, NCCD WILL HONOR:

Doug Nelson, for the Annie E. Casey Foundation

Michael Jacobson, for the Vera Institute of Justice

Joan Petersilia, UC Irvine

Jeremy Travis, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Hon. Chandlee Kuhn, Family Court of Delaware

Bebe Moore Campbell, Author

Please save October 20.

We are making every effort to find everyone that has had an interest in NCCD throughout the years. If you know someone or some group that we should be sure to invite, please contact us and let us know how to reach them.

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Joe Sam, "Children Found," 2006 (Detail)

NCCD March Board Meeting

The NCCD Board of Directors met in home town Oakland in March. We got to show off Jack London Square and Yoshi's night spot and met in the familiar surroundings of our own conference room. For some of the board members, and for our Wisconsin staff, a few days in California was a welcome break from the chills of winter.

We welcomed two new local members to our board. Diane Aranda has recently joined The California Endowment as a program officer, although she is currently on maternity leave. Diane has a special knowledge of issues that NCCD cares about, expertise in community involvement in public policy, building organizational capacity, and health disparities in diverse communities. Rhonda Magee is a professor of law at the University of San Francisco. She received her B.A. with distinction, her M.A., and her J.D. from the University of Virginia, where she was on the editorial board of the Virginia Law Review. After returning to the bay area, she practiced at the San Francisco office of Sonnenschein, Nath, and Rosenthal for five years. Rhonda has expertise in the area of race and the law.

We value them both for their enthusiastic participation and their fresh energy.

The first order of business was to hand over the leadership of the board from outgoing chair Juan Sanchez to incoming chair Rose Ochi. We gratefully acknowledge Juan's leadership and welcome Rose to the helm. We are truly fortunate to have a

wide range of experience and knowledge among our board members, and we rely on them for guidance.

This meeting's agenda covered a briefing on the Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System, which is a tool for screening and addressing the needs of youth in detention that has enormous potential. We brought everyone up to date on the preparations for this fall's Centennial celebration, heard details of a new 5-year project on immigration and youth

violence prevention funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and held a workshop on succession planning. This last item will develop under the guidance of a joint committee of staff and board members.

We intend to carefully plan the change of staff leadership at NCCD, a process which is bound to last for several years.

We also managed to schedule time to visit two of our local youth programs. Tumi's is a for-profit, full service communications design studio that helps support the East Side Arts Alliance, a collective of artists that is just opening a new community center where young people have a place to create. From there we went to Youth Uprising, whose facility and atmosphere stunned everyone. Youth Uprising helps young people transform themselves through leadership development, education, and the arts. If only we could replicate this program all around the country.

The next board meeting will take place in New York City on October 19, 2006.



Jack London Square

Update on the Center for Latino Youth Development

Under the auspices of NCCD, the Center for Latino Youth Development continues to convene Latino community stakeholders working across California on youth development and violence prevention. The first three of the four planned meetings were major successes. The first meeting was held in San Francisco in October of 2005, the second was held in Pomona on January 24, 2006, and the third was held in Fresno on May 31, 2006. These regional convenings are structured to identify the greatest needs of the constituency we intend to reach through the Center on Latino Youth Development. As we approach the fourth meeting in Stockton in October, it is clear that the part of the Latino community that works with youth welcomes the chance to partner with NCCD. Together we hope to form a critical mass to address Latino youth development and juvenile justice issues.

The Center aims to conduct research and become a source of useful and reliable information to Latino communities. The Latino parents, youth, educators, community organizers, and public officials welcome the opportunity to highlight the needs of the ever-growing Latino youth population and have already identified various issues to address through the new center. These include: 1) broadening the public discourse on race and ethnicity to include Latino youth, 2) convening Latino individuals and organizations to push the agenda and to improve Latino youth outcomes in the community, 3) educating funders as well as local and state policymakers about the needs and issues that impact the Latino community, 4) providing technical assistance, especially in the area of sustainability and evaluation, and 5) acknowledging community wisdom by advocating for increased community-based participatory research.

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.

As it moves forward in its development, the Center is committed to adopting the following ideas raised during the regional meetings:

- Acknowledge the complexity of Latino youth development and understand youth within the context of family and community.
- Advocate for intergenerational approaches in all proposed work.
- Acknowledge the importance of culture and spirituality in research and in advocating for cultural competency.

We have learned about the many organizations working in the Latino community. One of our objectives is to begin to increase their visibility and document promising approaches that are working for them. In coming together to discuss the issues, we are taking the first steps toward increasing access to information, building sustainability, and creating opportunities for stakeholders and for youth.

New Publications

NCCD Focus: "Attitudes of US Voters toward Prisoner Rehabilitation and Reentry Services" April, 2006
"Delaware Girls Initiative, Growing Great Girls- A Blueprint for Systemic Change: Creating a Gender-Responsive Continuum of Services for Girls at-risk or Involved in the Juvenile Justice System" May, 2006
NCCD Fact Sheet: "Youth Under Age 18 in the Adult Criminal Justice System" June, 2006
NCCD Focus: "Bridging Community, Research, and Action: An Emerging Center on Latino Youth Development" July, 2006
NCCD Focus: "A Rallying Cry for Change: Charting a New Direction in the State of Florida's Response to Girls in Juvenile Justice" July, 2006

New Projects

Ten City Gang Prevention Network	The California Wellness Foundation
Walter S. Johnson Central Valley Technical Assistance	Walter S. Johnson Foundation
Safe Passages Data Analysis	Safe Passages
South East Asian Juvenile Arrests Data	Asian Pacific Psychological Services
Police Protocol for Children of Arrested Parents	Zellerbach Family Foundation
Latino Media Gang Prevention	Hispanic Communications Network
Evaluation of JAIS at PACE Center for Girls	Jessie Ball duPont Fund
California Substitute Care Provider Assessment Model	
SDM Application Maintenance, New Jersey	
Structured Decision Making, Connecticut	
Structured Decision Making, Virginia	
Structured Decision Making, Los Angeles	
Structured Decision Making, Del Norte County	
Structured Decision Making, Modoc County	
Structured Decision Making, Lassen County	
SafeMeasures, Mendocino County	
SafeMeasures, Santa Barbara County	



Continuing the Struggle for Justice

NCCD

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Upcoming Events

Board Meeting—**October 19, 2006, New York City**
Centennial Celebration—**October 19-20, 2006, New York City**
CLYD Regional Meeting—**October TBD, Stockton, CA**
Seventh National SDM Conference—**October 3-4, 2006, Portsmouth, NH**

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