

IPCSA Detention/IJDAI Committee

Activity Summary

Fall Conference

October 19, 2007

We held meetings August 9th and October 16th and have had great turnout at our meetings for the last couple of years.

At our August meeting, Barb Shipp of DHS was introduced as the new chairperson of the IJDAI Partners' Group. Barb also shared information with attendees in regard to the many services provided by the different divisions of DHS. She also explained how departments can access their services and pull DHS into their local collaboratives.

Committee members discussed various JDAI developments to include the Pathways Juvenile Justice Conference scheduled for October 31st through November 2nd in Springfield. The conference will bring Illinois Initiatives together to include JDAI, Barj, DMC, Redeploy Illinois and Models for Changes and will focus on how everyone involved is part of the reform movement and the interconnectivity of the initiatives and philosophies.

We are also in the process of creating a survey to solicit feedback from as many jurisdictions as possible about their views and practices relative to each of the core strategies of the JDAI initiative. This is being done in order to get a feel for the level of support for the initiative across the state.

Connie Kaiser had the privilege and pleasure to attend the national JDAI inter-site conference in Dallas, along with Barb Shipp, Judge John Payne, who is now the State JDAI Coordinator for Illinois, as well as other representatives from McLean, St. Clair, Effingham and Montgomery Counties. Connie came home motivated and encouraged and encouraged everyone to get involved and take advantage of opportunities to learn how to do this work better, to improve services for youth and families, particularly if we already believe that we are doing well. The Dallas conference was insightful and provided so much information, most of which is available on the IJDAI Helpdesk which offers 600 documents from 15 years of JDAI practice, including everything from sample job and program descriptions to policies and procedures and screening instruments. The website is www.jdaihelpdesk.org. I'm sure some of the articles that served as the basis for presentations done in Dallas will also be accessible on the helpdesk and they were some very informative articles on a range of topics such as Progress & Perils in the Juvenile Justice and Mental Health systems, effective ways to reduce delinquency referrals from school, my favorite, Family Perspective on Juvenile Justice Reform and many more.

Our new statewide JDAI Coordinator is the newly retired Judge John Payne. He is a valuable resource for all of us. He is willing to reach out to members of the judiciary and other stakeholders in our jurisdictions to help move the initiative forward.

As has always been the case, our committee has also served as an excellent forum for discussion and information sharing among the detention community. We all experience many of the same difficulties and issues in our facilities and it is helpful for us to all come together to share our experiences and problem solve together.

We will be meeting again on December 13, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in Peoria