

Youth Services Office of Juvenile Justice

Strategic Planning Process Documentation:

The Office of Juvenile Justice has been undergoing the process of reform outlined in landmark legislation, Act 1225, passed in 2003. Since that time, the Office of Juvenile Justice was worked diligently with stakeholders, national experts, staff, and youth to build a system that is both efficient and effective. In 2009, the legislature mandated that the Office of Juvenile Justice create a strategic plan to be submitted by December 2009. This plan is attached. The 2009 plan is aligned with this formal agency strategic plan. The content of the 2009 plan informed the development of this formal agency strategic plan and explains in detail the information required for process documentation.

R.S. 15:902.4(B)

B.(1) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of juvenile justice shall develop a comprehensive plan for transitioning of these youth and conversion of the facility based upon the health, safety, and best interest of each child and the protection and public safety of society. The comprehensive plan shall include strategies and activities to incorporate the following:

- (a) Use of standardized and validated assessment of youth risk need factors.
- (b) Use of treatment interventions that target known predictors of crime and recidivism to prepare youth offenders for success in the community.
- (c) Use of evidence-based programs.
- (d) Staff development.
- (e) Family involvement.
- (f) Continuous quality improvement and evaluation of programs.
- (g) Staff-to-youth ratio in secure facilities with plans to achieve a staffing structure consistent with positive behavior treatment models.
- (h) Statistics of percentage of youth involved in fights in secure facilities with improvement plans.
- (i) A time line that highlights the benchmarks to successful implementation of the plan. The plan shall be submitted to the Juvenile Justice Implementation Commission no later than December 30, 2009.

This plan was created with the assistance of District Attorneys, Juvenile Judges, community providers, parents, youth, staff, and other stakeholders via meetings and forums. General reform planning was discussed as well as indicator usefulness and measurability. Several meetings were held with Executive Staff, Facility Directors, and Regional Managers to discuss appropriateness and feasibility of objectives and indicators.