

OCTOBER 2014

COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS JUSTICE CENTER PILOT PROJECT

REDUCING RECIDIVISM AND IMPROVING OTHER KEY OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center is a national nonprofit organization that serves policymakers at the local, state and federal levels from all branches of government. Utah was selected as one of five states to test the implementation of their “Core Principles for Reducing Recidivism and Improving Other Outcomes for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System“:

- Principle 1: Base supervision, service, and resource-allocation decisions on the results of validated risk and needs assessment.
- Principle 2: Adopt and effectively implement programs and services demonstrated to reduce recidivism and improve other youth outcomes, and use data to evaluate the results and direct system improvements.
- Principle 3: Employ a coordinated approach across service systems to address youth’s needs.
- Principle 4: Tailor system policies, programs, and supervision to reflect the distinct developmental needs of adolescents.

The Division of Juvenile Justice Services (JJS) is the lead agency for this one-year pilot project that started in August 2014. Phase 1 of the pilot was completed in October where CSG Justice Center staff conducted 30 focus groups with key stakeholders in the Utah juvenile justice system. Following are the next phases of the pilot:

- Phase 2 (November-December 2014): Assessment of the focus groups and data
- Phase 3 (January-March 2015): Initial report and presentations
- Phase 4 (February-March 2015): Create steering committee to implement recommendations
- Phase 5 (April 2015): Develop action plan
- Phase 6 (April-July 2015): Implement action plan
- Phase 7 (August-September 2015): Review “Lessons Learned”, create plan to sustain collaboration and recommendations

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This CSG Pilot Project is another great partnership between JJS and national organizations focused on improving services to youth and families in the juvenile justice system. JJS embraces this continual improvement process, which supports our new mission statement:

**“To be a leader in the field of juvenile justice by changing young lives,
supporting families and keeping communities safe.”**