



Gender-Specific Services for Delinquent Girls Vary Across Prevention, Detention, and Probation Programs

at a glance

Department of Juvenile Justice prevention, detention, and probation programs for delinquent girls vary in the degree to which they meet the Legislature's directive to provide gender-specific services.

Contracted prevention programs appear to meet most gender-specific criteria, but the department should revise its scoring criteria for awarding prevention grant funds to address gender specificity.

Detention facilities vary in the extent of gender-specific services provided; the department should better train detention staff how to communicate with and meet the needs of delinquent girls.

Probation services are not designed to be gender-specific. Probation officers, parents, and girls on probation assert that more mental health and substance abuse treatment services are needed in these community-based programs. Many girls in these programs have histories of abuse and mental health disorders that have contributed to their delinquency.

Scope

Chapter 2004-333, *Laws of Florida*, directed OPPAGA to analyze programs for females within the Department of Juvenile Justice. This report examines the characteristics of delinquent girls and whether prevention, detention, and probation programs are designed to meet girls' gender-specific needs.¹

Background

Historically, the juvenile justice system has been geared toward male offenders. However, as girls and boys tend to have different paths to delinquency, research indicates that delinquency programs for girls may be more effective when they meet their gender-specific needs. The 2004 Florida Legislature directed that juvenile justice programs be gender-specific to address the needs of the targeted gender groups.²

¹ We examined girls' residential programs in *Gender-Specific Services for Delinquent Girls Vary Across Programs, But Help Reduce Recidivism*, [Report No. 05-13](#), March 2005.

² Chapter 2004-333, *Laws of Florida*.

As shown in Exhibit 1, girls served by the Department of Juvenile Justice’s two major prevention programs have numerous risk factors that increase their likelihood of becoming delinquent.³ Over two-thirds of these girls have families that feel unable to control their behavior and nearly as many have delinquent peers and are failing in school. While the department does not aggregate risk factor information for girls in detention or probation programs, these girls likely have similar risk factors, as they are consistent with the risk factors of girls in residential commitment programs.⁴

**Exhibit 1
Girls in Prevention Programs Have Multiple Risk Factors**

Family Factors	Florida Network	PACE
Parents/youth make statements that parents cannot control the child's behavior	85%	66%
Documented instances of child abuse (physical, emotional, or sexual) or neglect	18%	28%
Parent(s) with mental illness ¹	NA	26%
Incarcerated parent(s) ¹	NA	25%
Mental Health Factors		
Mental health disorders	NA	37%
Previous suicidal ideation	NA	32%
Self-mutilation	NA	18%
At-Risk Behaviors		
Associated with youth involved with serious/delinquent behavior	68%	61%
Used drugs or alcohol three or more times in last 30 days	21%	24%
Ran away from home for one week or more	22%	22%
Failing one or more classes within past six months	57%	78%
Habitual or chronic truancy	30%	42%
Currently expelled from school	3%	5%

¹Additional data from the PACE Portrait of Risk, from a survey of girls served on March 18, 2005.
Source: Data from DJJ Juvenile Justice Information System, FY 2004-05.

³ The Florida Network is a statewide association of agencies that serve homeless, runaway, and troubled youth and their families. The PACE Center for Girls is a school-based day program with locations throughout the state.

⁴ *Gender-Specific Services for Delinquent Girls Vary Across Programs, But Help Reduce Recidivism*, Report No. 05-13, March 2005.

Early sexual activity is also a delinquency risk factor. The department found that 585 girls, or roughly 8% of the girls were pregnant or parenting in a one-day snapshot survey of probation, detention and diversion programs.

To assist programs in providing gender-specific services, the department has established a central office coordinator who provides information on gender-specific research to program managers and coordinates a voluntary work group of department staff and providers known as the Girls Forum. The department is also collaborating with the Department of Children and Families to pilot a trauma initiative in two detention programs and a probation supervision circuit.⁵ This initiative is a response to the prevalence of documented abuse and neglect of girls in the system. Many of these girls also may have witnessed multiple traumatic events, which can lead to post-traumatic stress and other trauma-related mental disorders that are characterized by a lack of empathy, impulsivity, anger, acting out, and resistance to treatment.

The department has been phasing in new contracts that require gender-specific programming. However, it has not yet incorporated the new gender-specific requirements into its quality assurance standards or program monitoring inspection instruments, although it is working to revise these documents.

What are gender-specific practices?

To examine gender-specific programming in Florida’s prevention, detention, and probation programs for girls, we used two approaches. First, to identify criteria for gender-specific programs, we reviewed published research and interviewed department officials and program providers. Based on this research, we identified gender-specific practices in seven key areas, as shown in Exhibit 2.

⁵ The pilot program will train officers in Palm Beach and Marion detention centers and probation officers who have all girls’ caseloads in Hillsborough County to better serve traumatized girls.

Exhibit 2**Best Practices for Gender-Specific Prevention, Detention, and Probation Programs for Girls****Mental Health**

- Addresses girls' issues such as addiction, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and trauma relating to physical or sexual abuse, neglect, and domestic violence.
- Uses effective interventions, such as behavioral, cognitive, affective/dynamic, and systems perspectives to address the needs of individual girls.

Relationships and Emotional Safety

- Promotes positive relationships, including those with family members, friends, and staff.
- Teaches communication skills, assertiveness, and appropriate expression of anger, using evidence-based approaches shown to be effective for girls.
- Provides safety from verbal harassment, bullying, teasing, stalking, racism, and sexism.
- Provides an environment in which girls feel safe to share their feelings and discuss their problems, removed from family and friends and the demands of adolescent males.

Physical Safety

- Provides physical safety, including protection from harm by self, peers, family members and staff.
- Addresses issues that threaten girls' physical safety, including domestic violence and sexual abuse.

Health and Hygiene

- Provides education about girls' physical and sexual health, including sexually transmitted diseases, contraception, exercise, and personal health care.
- Provides for girls' hygiene and grooming needs in culturally appropriate ways.

Social and Educational Programming

- Provides educational programs, events, and speakers about the experiences of women from various ethnic, racial, and socio-economic backgrounds.
- Overall environment acknowledges the contribution of females through posters, murals, books, magazines, and videos.
- Addresses sexual decision making and how to communicate personal limits.
- Provides recreational activities such as sports, art, music, and volunteer activities.
- Provides parenting education.
- Provides career and vocational information to encourage girls to set career or vocational goals and works with girls to develop plans for job training and economic self-sufficiency.

Design and Evaluation

- Includes girls in the design and evaluation of programs and services.
- Revises the program in a significant way as appropriate based on input from girls.

Staff Hiring and Training

- Questions job applicants about their interest and experience working with girls and about their knowledge of female development.
- Trains new employees on gender-specific issues such as gender differences in delinquency, adolescent female development, female issues and needs, communication and relationship skills, unique issues for girls of color, sexuality and gender identity, and the use of the evidence-based practices effective for girls.
- Provides periodic refresher training for all staff in gender-specific practices.

Source: OPPAGA analysis of national research focusing on gender-specific principles and effectiveness.

Second, to determine the extent to which programs met these criteria, we conducted site reviews at 10 prevention, detention, and probation programs. (See Appendix A.) During site visits, we observed operations and analyzed documents and data, interviewed employees and managers, and conducted girls' focus groups to assess whether programs were meeting gender-specific practices.

Addressing the gender-specific needs of girls in prevention, detention, and probation programs is challenging due to a number of factors, including the generally short length of stay and lack of custodial supervision (as most girls in these programs live in their homes, with some exceptions such as those in detention). Because of the variability in program structure, some gender-specific criteria do not apply to each program model; for example, detention centers and crisis shelters should provide for girls' hygiene in culturally appropriate ways, while probation would not be responsible for providing such services because girls remain in their homes. Where applicable, however, programs should provide gender-specific services as directed by the Legislature.

Findings

Programs generally meet gender-specific criteria; improvements can be made

The degree to which prevention, detention, and probation programs meet gender-specific criteria varies. On the whole, the structure of the two major contracted prevention programs is gender-specific; however, the department should revise the scoring criteria for its prevention grant programs, as they do not address gender specificity. The department's detention facilities vary in the extent of gender-specific services provided; the department should train detention staff how to communicate with and meet the needs of delinquent girls. Probation is not designed to be gender-specific, and stakeholders report that more mental health and substance abuse treatment services are needed.

Prevention

The department oversees a range of prevention programs intended to help girls avoid entering or going deeper into the juvenile justice system, and these programs vary in their gender specificity. Most prevention funds are allocated to contracts with the Florida Network for Youth and Family Services and PACE Center for Girls, which meet most gender-specific criteria. The department also administers state and federal grants to over 100 small prevention programs, which are not required to be gender-specific.

The Florida Network provides gender-specific services. The Florida Network is a statewide association of agencies that serve homeless, runaway, and troubled youth and their families. In Fiscal Year 2004-05, the network served 16,035 youth, including 8,291 girls. The network provides several services to improve children's behavior, help families move beyond crisis, and prevent delinquency. These services include shelters that allow youth to stay overnight during crises in the home; individual, group, and family counseling; and on-site educational support and/or transportation to school. The network also provides case management and referrals to other social service agencies.

The network's structure meets gender-specific criteria. Its services are designed to address girls' needs for mental health services, relationships, emotional safety, physical safety, health and hygiene, social and educational assistance, and empowerment. Florida Network employees are trained on girls' issues and managers solicit girls' input in making improvements. In our site visit to a network program, girls reported that the program helped them deal with personal and family issues through counseling services and that they felt safe there.

PACE Center for Girls is gender-specific. PACE is a school-based day program for girls with 19 locations throughout the state. In Fiscal Year 2004-05, PACE served 2,298 girls. Girls are referred to PACE by schools, parents, and law enforcement. After PACE conducts an initial screening to assess girls' risk factors and needed

services, it provides education, life management skills, therapeutic services, community service, and transitional services.

The structure of PACE is highly gender-specific. It is designed to address adolescent girls' intellectual, spiritual, emotional, relationship, sexual, and physical needs. PACE also works to hire employees who have experience or training in working with girls, and uses input from girls to revise and improve program operations. Because PACE generally expels girls for fighting, PACE may not be ideal for girls who have serious issues with physical aggression and are unresponsive to anger management counseling. In our site visits, girls reported that PACE taught them how to positively manage anger and more effective ways to deal with issues other than fighting.

State and federal grant programs are not required to be gender-specific. In Fiscal Year 2004-05, the department administered \$12.3 million in over 100 grants. The department does not require that grant programs be gender-specific, nor does it award points in the application review process for providing gender-specific activities. However, the department anticipates issuing requests for proposals for three gender-specific programs by February 2006. The department has not finalized the details, but is considering an after-school program that will target at-risk girls focusing on an area of critical need, such as bullying.

Detention

The department operates all of Florida's 26 secure detention facilities, which vary in the extent to which they provide gender-specific services. In Fiscal Year 2005-06, secure detention facilities served 12,429 girls. The facilities provide 24-hour care and supervision of juveniles who have been determined to pose a risk to public safety and are waiting to appear before a judge and those who are being sent to residential commitment and are waiting for beds to become available.

In addition to custodial supervision, detention centers provide on-site schooling and limited health and mental health services. Because most girls are in detention for one to two days, facility services are not designed to provide long-term treatment, and employees are not expected to address serious mental health or substance abuse issues. Facilities are required to develop mental health treatment plans for youth who remain in detention 30 days or more.

Girls who are waiting for residential beds have somewhat longer stays than those waiting to see a judge. As shown in Exhibit 3, half of the 1,011 girls waiting for a bed stay less than a week, and the vast majority stay less than a month. However, there are a small number of girls who remain in detention over a month. According to department staff, these girls are waiting for high risk or special needs beds, which are limited, as the department closed some high-risk programs last year.

Exhibit 3
Most Girls in Detention Awaiting Residential Placement Waited Less Than Two Weeks

Length of Stay	Number	Percentage
Less than 1 week	547	54.1%
1 to 2 weeks	160	15.8%
2 weeks to 1 month	255	25.2%
1 to 2 months	36	3.6%
2 to 3 months	12	1.2%
3 to 4.5 months	1	0.1%
Total	1,011	100.0%

Source: OPPAGA analysis of data from the Department of Juvenile Justice for Fiscal Year 2004-05.

Detention services vary in the extent to which they provide gender-specific services. As shown in Exhibit 4, over half of the centers reported conducting daily or weekly gender-specific training on subjects relating to girls' needs, including anger management, health and hygiene, and substance abuse. For example, Manatee Detention Center has a continuing five-day program that includes communication skills, decision making, health and hygiene, and parenting. Staff received periodic gender-

specific training at 11, or 42% of detention centers. Less than one-third of the centers offered girls’ focus groups at least monthly. According to department staff, variations among detention facilities are due to the availability of local resources.

**Exhibit 4
Gender-Specific Activities for Girls Vary by
Detention Center**

Detention Centers Providing Service (N=26)				
Activity	Daily or Weekly		Biweekly / Monthly	
	#	%	#	%
Mental health groups	17	65%	0	0%
Life skills focusing on:				
Anger management	16	62%	3	12%
Health and hygiene	16	62%	3	12%
Substance abuse	15	58%	3	12%
Relationships	15	58%	3	12%
Abuse issues	13	50%	3	12%
Self-injurious behavior	9	35%	3	12%
Vocation/career information	11	42%	2	8%
Arts and crafts	10	38%	4	15%
Mentors from community	9	35%	3	12%
Girls’ focus groups	7	27%	1	4%

Source: OPPAGA survey of DJJ detention centers.

Girls that we interviewed during our site visits to three detention centers stated that they learned how to resolve conflicts and how to appropriately respond when angry. At two detention centers, girls stated that at least some employees model good behavior, although girls at the third facility reported that staff routinely cursed at them and called them derogatory names. The department should train all detention staff how to communicate with and meet the needs of delinquent girls.

One of the centers we visited, the Miami-Dade Juvenile Regional Detention Center, houses the Girls’ Advocacy Program, which was established by local volunteers in 1999 to provide services that were not being provided by the detention center. This program provides courtroom advocacy for girls as well as classes on effective communication, health and sex education, and setting career goals and developing plans for job

training. The program also conducts group discussions designed to help girls make better decisions.⁶

Probation

Probation programs allow juveniles with less serious offenses to remain in their communities for sanctions and supervision, which costs less than residential commitment. Probation serves youth who are court-ordered to probation for minor crimes as well as some who are leaving residential commitment programs. In both cases, the juveniles must complete court-ordered sanctions such as curfew, community service hours, and restitution. Probation includes general probation supervision and day treatment programs.

Probation supervision is not designed to be gender-specific. Probation officers routinely check on youth on probation to make sure that they are meeting their court-ordered conditions. In Fiscal Year 2004-05, probation served 7,005 girls. Contact between youth and their probation officers is usually brief and infrequent. Some youth who exhibit certain high-risk factors, including first offense at age 15 or younger, poor school performance and truancy, lack of parental supervision, and substance abuse problems and gang affiliation, are given closer supervision and access to mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, and tutoring through Intensive Delinquency Diversion Services. This program served 1,250 girls in Fiscal Year 2004-05.

Probation is not currently designed to be gender-specific. Officers in some circuits have caseloads of only girls, and they report that this allows them to gain more knowledge of appropriate referrals. Probation officers we interviewed throughout the state reported that they lack services for which to refer girls. When girls are court-ordered or referred for treatment, such as for mental health or drug abuse issues, services are either scarce or are not tailored to meet girls’ needs. Parents of girls on probation also expressed similar concerns.

⁶ State funding for the program was vetoed in 2005; the Legislature has provided emergency funding to GAP for Fiscal Year 2005-06.

In Miami, probation officers have been trained to respond to concerns particular to girls who are pregnant or parents. Research shows that these girls are at high risk of medical complications as well as negative outcomes for their children, including a heightened risk of abuse or neglect. The Prevention and Early Childhood Intervention program through Florida State University recently developed and conducted a training program through the Department of Children and Families for probation officers, prosecutors, public defenders, and judges in Miami to make them aware of community resources that are available for these girls. In another program in Miami, the Young Parents Project, pregnant girls received intensive services and training to help them interact in more positive ways with their babies, which may improve girls' ability to be nurturing parents and the babies' chances of healthy development.

Day treatment meets some gender-specific criteria. Day treatment programs generally last most of the day and include school and after-school activities. These programs also provide additional services, such as anger management classes, building social skills, and substance abuse education. In Fiscal Year 2004-05, day treatment programs served 429 girls.

The structure of day treatment programs meets some girls' needs, such as mental health services, physical safety, and helping girls learn to resolve conflict. While day treatment can also provide emotional safety and gender-specific social and educational planning, programs are not necessarily designed to do so. Our focus groups of girls in day treatment programs reported that their attitudes had positively changed and they are less prone to anger and are more respectful than before entering the program.

OPPAGA supports the Florida Legislature by providing evaluative research and objective analyses to promote government accountability and the efficient and effective use of public resources. This project was conducted in accordance with applicable evaluation standards. Copies of this report in print or alternate accessible format may be obtained by telephone (850/488-0021 or 800/531-2477), by FAX (850/487-3804), in person, or by mail (OPPAGA Report Production, Claude Pepper Building, Room 312, 111 W. Madison St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-1475). Cover photo by Mark Foley.

Florida Monitor: www.oppaga.state.fl.us

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Gary R. VanLandingham, OPPAGA Director

Recommendations

Many of the department's non-residential programs appear to meet most gender-specific criteria, but this programming could be strengthened. Specifically, we recommend that the Department of Juvenile Justice

- revise scoring criteria for awarding prevention grants to require these programs to provide gender-specific services;
- train all detention staff how to communicate with and meet the needs of delinquent girls; and
- train juvenile probation officers on issues relating to pregnancy and teen parenting and refer girls to community resources to assist them with these issues.

Finally, probation officers, parents, and girls on probation noted that the availability of mental health and substance abuse treatment services is problematic in community-based programs. Our report on alternative placements for these girls will provide several options for consideration.

Agency Response

In accordance with the provisions of s. 11.51(6), *Florida Statutes*, a draft of our report was submitted to the Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Justice for review and response.

The Secretary's written response is reproduced in its entirety in Appendix B.

Appendix A

OPPAGA Visited 10 Juvenile Justice Programs

To determine the extent to which programs met gender-specific criteria, we conducted site reviews at the 10 prevention, detention, and probation programs listed below.

Name of Program	County
Prevention	
Capital City Youth Services	Leon
PACE Broward	Broward
PACE Leon	Leon
Detention	
Leon Detention Center	Leon
Miami-Dade Detention Center	Dade
Okaloosa Detention Center	Okaloosa
Probation/Day Treatment/IDDS	
Circuit 2 Probation	Leon
Circuit 18 Probation	Brevard, Seminole
Crosswinds Youth Services	Brevard
Tallahassee Marine Institute	Leon

Appendix B



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

Governor Jeb Bush

Secretary Anthony J. Schembri

December 2, 2005

Gary VanLandingham, Director
Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability
314 Claude Pepper Building
111 West Madison Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32302-1475

**RE: Non-Residential Gender-Specific Services For Delinquent Girls
DRAFT REPORT**

Dear Mr. VanLandingham:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your office's report of November 2005 on gender-specific non-residential services provided by the Department of Juvenile Justice. Generally we concur with your recommendations and provide these responses.

Recommendation 1: *Revise scoring criteria for awarding prevention grants to require these programs to provide gender-specific services.*

Federally funded prevention grants are now administered by the Department's Office of Research and Planning. The Challenge Grant Program provided \$660,000 in gender-specific prevention programs that served 582 girls in FY 2004-05. For federally funded prevention programs, the State Advisory Group (SAG) determines how grant applications are scored. The SAG reviews and approves the RFP, which outlines programming needs, the evaluation process and the scoring instrument. The SAG is currently revising the RFP and scoring system. Staff will advise them of OPPAGA's recommendations concerning gender-specific programming requirements in the scoring process for their consideration in the revision process.

The Department intends to issue a request for proposals by February 10, 2006, for three gender-specific programs targeting disproportionate minority contact issues facing at-risk girls. In addition, Prevention will revise the request for proposals for its state-funded programs to include grant availability for gender-specific programs.

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Recommendation 2: *Train all detention staff how to interact with and meet the needs of delinquent girls.*

Several activities suggested in the report could not be fully implemented in detention due to the short length of stay in detention. For instance, many of the life skills topics are curriculum based and require more than one or two sessions to be effective. Focus groups also require multiple sessions to be beneficial, limiting the feasibility of providing this type of programming. Some services, such as arts and crafts, are limited in detention due to security and safety concerns. Detention will work to identify programming appropriate for use in secure detention and implement that programming on an on-going basis.

The curriculum for our officer certification program is currently being revised and we intend to include more specific information pertaining to gender-specific services. Revisions are scheduled for completion by March 2006. In addition, the Department has initiated a Trauma-Informed Practice demonstration project, built on the early successes of other state adult and juvenile justice systems as well as numerous mental health settings around the nation. In recent years, research has convincingly demonstrated that youth, and particularly girls, involved in juvenile justice systems have high rates of physical and sexual abuse victimization as well as exposure to other forms of trauma. An abundance of research, along with the experience of other states, indicates that trauma-related mental health problems largely explain the aggressive, self-destructive behavior so commonly reported among girls in juvenile justice systems, and that appropriately addressing trauma can result in physically and emotionally safer facility environments as well as improved treatment responsiveness. Trauma-Informed Practice involves two primary components:

- 1) Training staff to understand the prevalence and impact of trauma on the mental and behavioral health of youth in their care, and to provide appropriate interventions that will *mitigate* rather than *exacerbate* the effects of trauma; and
- 2) Ensuring that mental health staff provide trauma assessment, and when indicated, evidence-based treatment for trauma-related problems.

The first major training event for this project is scheduled for December 15 and 16 in Tampa, Florida. The National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors will be providing a "Trauma-Informed Practice" train-the-trainer event, which will prepare participants to train facility staff on the nature and prevalence of trauma among delinquent youth (particularly girls) and how to interact more effectively with traumatized youth. Two detention centers, Palm Beach and Marion, will be included in the Department's formal demonstration project of this model. However, it is important to note that approximately 50 trainers will be prepared, as a result of attending this training conference, to train facility staff on trauma-informed practice. We anticipate that staff in many additional facilities beyond our two detention and three residential demonstration sites will receive training in the coming months. We have received a considerable number of inquiries regarding availability of training for facilities not participating in the demonstration project, and we are allocating resources to provide additional training.

The second phase of the project, tentatively scheduled for February of 2006, involves clinician training by Dr. Robert Trestman and Dr. Julian Ford, both of the University of Connecticut, who have implemented trauma-specific and dialectical behavioral therapy treatment in detention centers in Connecticut. They will train detention center clinicians to administer a brief trauma and stress education curriculum to youth, and will also prepare them to provide a multi-session treatment curriculum for youth who remain in detention (or residential facilities) for longer periods of time. Dr. Angela Browne of Harvard is also consulting on the project, specifically on the clinical and evaluation components.

Based on the strong empirical support for trauma-informed practice, and the real-world successes that this approach has yielded in many correctional and mental health settings where it has been implemented, we anticipate that this project has the potential to improve facility environments, enhance treatment effectiveness, reduce the need for use of force by juvenile justice staff, and generally contribute to a more gender-specific approach with girls.

Recommendation 3: *Train juvenile probation officers on issues relating to pregnancy and teen parenting and to refer girls to community resources to assist them with these issues.*

The Department agrees with OPPAGA's recommendations for gender-specific Probation services, but believes that a conclusion regarding the existence or adequacy of these programs and services cannot be drawn from the review conducted. While limited resources are available from Department-contracted programs, the Probation system was statutorily established to rely upon the community-based mental health system funded through the Department of Children and Families and continues to do so.

While court-ordered sanctions are seldom gender-specific, the Department is obligated to monitor and ensure compliance with the conditions noted in these orders. In our larger circuits, economies of scale make it possible to establish gender-specific caseloads as exist in circuits 1, 13 and 18. Gender-specific juvenile probation officers become more aware of non-Department resources available in the community to assist girls and boys with individual problems and needs. These officers also have limited access to mental health, substance abuse and sex offender counseling services to supplement their monitoring and community-based referrals. The Department agrees that additional mental health, substance abuse and gender-specific services would be beneficial and cost effective in reducing juvenile crime.

The Department is in the process of converting to the new Positive Achievement Tool or PACT risk-need assessment. Based on the nationally recognized Washington State tool, the PACT provides a wealth of individual data on youth, including gender-specific items, which are automated for easy analysis and reporting. The PACT also assists the Juvenile Probation Officer (JPO) in developing an individualized case plan to address the specific needs of the girl or boy disposed to Probation. It also assists our JPOs in prioritizing the use of valuable programs, such as our day treatment and evidence-based programs.

Our evidence-based programs are also specific to the girl or boy referred to the program. With individualized case plans and placement of therapists inside the home, Multisystemic Therapy and Functional Family Therapy assist the youth in working at the root cause of problems. These programs use cognitive behavioral therapy to address the youth's individual needs, consistent with Exhibit 2 of the November 2005, draft report.

We recently developed programs to help break the cycle of abuse present in so many of our youth's homes. Our domestic violence diversion programs seek to address domestic violence and abuse within the family and in dating relationships. Again, individualized case plans help to direct the services to the individual needs of the youth participant and seek to heal relationships, consistent with Exhibit 2 of the draft report.

The Department agrees to seek additional training for its juvenile probation officers to include gender-specific issues, including teen pregnancy and parenting

On behalf to the Department of Juvenile Justice, we look forward to continuing our work to improve our delivery of gender-specific services and appreciate your input. Should you need additional information or other assistance, please contact Acting Inspector General Steven Meredith at 921-5694.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Anthony J. Schembri,
Secretary

AJS/SM/dw

c: Steve Casey, Deputy Secretary
Steve Meredith, Acting Inspector General
Jennifer Parker, General Counsel
Darryl Olsen, Assistant Secretary, Probation
Perry S. Turner, Assistant Secretary, Detention
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