Welcome to the inaugural Tulsa County Juvenile Bureau quarterly newsletter. The goal of the newsletter is to educate our external stakeholders and the general public while also updating our employees between divisions within the Bureau. A big thank you for those that contributed to this first edition. We have a unique opportunity to share our knowledge, best practices, protocols and innovations with other bureaus and juvenile criminal justice professionals throughout the country by sending our digital version of this newsletter. Hopefully, we can establish a network whereby creating an exchange of dynamic information with others in our business.

The Bureau has initiated dialog with County Information Technology (IT) to create our website. Executive staff (those staff that report directly to me) have had an opportunity to submit website designs that they feel best serves the Bureau. The website will have buttons to click on that represent each Bureau division. It will also have a pull down menu for all of our policies, frequently asked questions, contact information, research and newsroom…just to name a few. A rotating slide show will be at the top of the web page where photos that depict what we do will be displayed. The goal is to refresh the photos as we have new and interesting items to post.

As mentioned to many employees during my learning journey, the Bureau will be developing some basic operation policy and procedure. Research indicates that some structure is conducive to a vibrant and visionary work environment. They also reduce liabilities and enhance safety within the confines of one’s job. We will not over bureaucratize in policy and procedure where it would limit discretion and/or become burdensome.

As of this writing, I am sure most of you are aware, possible land has been located for our new Family Justice Center Campus. We are in the process of making a financial offer and a contract. The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has approved us to make an offer. Updates will be forthcoming.

My first 90 days as an employee of the Bureau has been an educational journey where I have found that the Bureau is one of the most creative entities in Oklahoma Juvenile Justice. Employees are in this profession for all the right reasons to include improving the quality of life for those we serve. I look forward to continued serving and working with the employees at the Tulsa County Juvenile Bureau.

Justin Jones, Director
Tulsa County Juvenile Bureau

“And I am constantly asked by members of our community: what do we do with the youth brought to the attention of the Tulsa County Juvenile Bureau? The answer is simple: We care for and invest in our young people; resource families and communities to safely hold youth accountable; invest in each young person’s success; and; address the root causes of youth crime in the communities where the youth live, all in the context of their homes and neighborhoods. That’s all... I applaud the work of all JBDC employees. Together, we have and will continue to make a difference.”

Doris L. Fransein, District Judge
Juvenile Division/Tulsa County District Court
**Food For Thought**

*“The CHINS Program Initiative”*

CHINS is designed to help parents with children who have no delinquent offenses or currently have no open delinquent offenses. Participants of the CHINS program will not be able to see a Judge at any time due to the minor child not being in delinquent status. Parents and juvenile children will have no contact with a Judge at any time during the CHINS process. CHINS forms can be picked up at the front receptionist desk located at 315 S. Gilcrease Museum Rd., Tulsa, Ok 74127. Once a CHINS face sheet is filled out by the parent, a CHINS counselor has 48 hours to contact the family and set up an appointment at the Juvenile Bureau (except on weekends and/or holidays). This facet of the Juvenile Bureau is here to help parents and families. The referral services are positive alternatives to strengthen the family dynamic. We are dedicated to serving our community and inspiring one child at a time.

As the dog days of summer continue to roll by with the heat at times seeming insurmountable, it’s easy to find one simply going through the motions of their daily routine. Often times our profession can become mundane, predictable, or even a drag depending on the client or their family. Doing the same thing day to day will naturally become redundant and may cause for the effective CHINS Counselor to lack empathy, compassion, understanding and the ability to provide the best overall service possible for the client. As a vital part of the Tulsa County Juvenile Bureau, one may ask how you stay fresh mentally and fully entrenched in the services provided to the community in which we serve. DON’T WORRY. I’ll give you my secret. It’s an initiative which acronyms mean INSPIRE, CHALLENGE AND MOTIVATE.

Let’s take a closer look at this initiative and its key components. First, the Counselor has the ability to gain useful information from the client. The counselor should take the opportunity during the initial assessment to INSPIRE the client to make better choices and understand there are consequences for negative behavior. Oftentimes, we must let our clients know that they are so much better and bigger than their circumstances. Single parent homes and low income families do not mean you must resort to criminal activity. Ways to INSPIRE: Talk about personal achievements and overcoming tough situations. Use a sports figure, a community leader, actor, or other type of celebrity and explain their road to success while fighting adversity. Make a list of client’s goals. Have a genuine approach.

**CHALLENGE** the client to be the best version of themselves they can possibly be. The Intake Department homes in on the client as a student. I want to know is this client currently enrolled in school; what grade is he/she in; is there any learning disabilities; is the client complying with rules in the home and so forth. Taking time during the interview process to ask the client these questions will pay major dividends in the long run. I want to CHALLENGE the client to return to school, to take advantage of credit recovery programs. CHALLENGE them to communicate better with parents and teachers alike. The CHINS counselor uses this time to help the client create a vision for themselves. I want to help them obtain a high school diploma. Oftentimes, I will go as far as to set tutoring sessions up, assign essays and reading projects to CHALLENGE their mind and physical being. Ways to CHALLENGE: Goal setting; written essays; encouraging family to set up positive reinforcements for homework deadlines, attendance and accountability; weekly check-in phone calls with intake worker to review progress.

Continued on Page 3...
Food For Thought: “The CHINS Program Initiative”  
(continued from Page 2)

MOTIVATE the client to begin striving to reach goals and become a productive member of society. After you have INSPIRED and CHALLENGED the client, now is the time to build on the relationship that has formed and MOTIVATE the Client to believe in their potential, abilities and support of family, friends, and Juvenile Bureau. Creating a success plan with the client is a very helpful tool for the client. Encourage the client that they are capable of realizing their dreams and achieving set goals. MOTIVATE the client to begin to see their personal self-worth and value to their family. We take the time to boost self-esteem and point out positives that the client may already be doing. MOTIVATION can only occur after one has been INSPIRED and CHALLENGED to believe in oneself.

It is my hope that this friendly tidbit will give you an alternate option to use while working with the clients in which we serve. Remember it takes a strong heart to serve young people who at times seem to have no hope. But if we INSPIRE, CHALLENGE and MOTIVATE, we have the ability to change one life at a time!

Written by Todd Wilkerson
(Todd is a CHINS Counselor with the Intake Division of Court Services with the Tulsa County Juvenile Bureau.)

Court Services  
A Brief Introduction

The Court Services Division of the Tulsa County Juvenile Bureau is comprised of two primary groups, Intake and Probation. These two groups provide a continuum of services to youth and their families involved with the Juvenile Justice System in Tulsa County. Our client-centered approach to Juvenile Justice has allowed both departments to provide a high level of case management and supervision to our youth and families in our community.

The Intake Division currently serves 745 youth referred for an alleged delinquent act, and through the course of the coming fiscal year, the department will serve a total of around 1,750 youth who will account for nearly 2,294 referrals. Two times the number of males will be referred as females and ages of those referrals will average 15.8 years. The current average caseload for an Intake Counselor is 61 youth. Intake workers are the first individuals within our system to have contact with youth who have been referred for delinquency and their families. Intake makes filing decisions for misdemeanor offenses and some property offense felonies. They work closely with the District Attorney’s office to make decisions regarding the progression of cases through our system based on analysis and assessment of both the offense details and the youth’s needs. These deductions result in the deferment, filing and subsequent referral to probation if adjudicated. The information provided by the Intake Division is the catalyst for future planning and treatment of our delinquent youth.

Embedded within Intake is our Intake Clerical Staff. These individuals provide data entry and organization to a youth’s referral. These referrals typically arrive in the form of a police report and the clerical staff is responsible for entering all details of the allegation in our JOLTS (Juvenile On-Line Tracking System). Intake Clerical Staff then create a file for the youth and forwards the referral information to the Supervisors in the Intake Department. The foundation for accuracy and clarity in a youth’s case here at the bureau begins and ends with this very important piece of the Court Services family.

The Probation Department will receive about 450 referrals for probation services during the year and is currently serving 325 youth and families.

Continued on Page 4...
**Court Services: A Brief Introduction (continued from Page 3)**

The demographics remain unchanged for the transition of youth from the Intake level to the Probation level of service. The average caseload of non-specialized Probation Counselors is 24. The average caseload of a Specialized Probation counselor, such as a Dually Adjudicated Probation Counselor or a High Intensity Probation Counselor is 15. These caseloads fall within or beat the recommended ratios of Probation Counselors to youth they serve. Probation has a myriad of responsibilities in regards to the youth they serve, both in the courtroom and in the community. Utilizing past assessments, details of the adjudicated offenses and youth and family’s current situation, Probation designs a plan of treatment for the youth with the primary and encompassing goal of ending delinquent behavior from the referred youth. Once the treatment plan is adopted by the court, Probation will supervise the youth in the community, monitor progress with referred treatment providers and attend court with the youth to report to the Judge of record the progress, lack thereof and any needed changes in the status of the youth moving forward with the case. Probation prides itself on being respectful, client-centered and successful in helping change the course of the youth served.

Under the umbrella of Probation supervision, the Intensive Supervision Program (or ISP) is a program designed to be an alternative to detention while providing a high level of accountability and contact while youth are on homebound detention status or have been deemed through behavioral issues or situational threats to be in need of increased community contact. ISP workers make contact with youth at home, in school or at their place of employment if necessary. This contact occurs at all hours of the day and evening, with each youth being seen multiple times during the day. ISP provides after hours assistance and is on call to receive calls from parents or guardians regarding issues or emergencies at the home of the youth. Over the course of the coming year, ISP should receive around 230 referrals for youth with only near 15 being refused the service after evaluation or based on past failures with the program. Minus the ISP program, these youth would likely have found themselves housed in the Detention Home.

Deserving their own section entirely, each division has Secretaries. These individuals keep all of us in line and on track. They provide any service to the staff from a clerical perspective that you can think of. From preparing and proofing reports for the court, to organizing and entering notes in the JOLTS system to making sure birthdays are acknowledged or that we have copy paper and every detail of what makes and office run in between. We all rely heavily on their knowledge and assistance and understand that without their organizational skills, speed and efficiency; we would probably all be lost.

The Court Services Division of the Tulsa County Juvenile Bureau strives to provide the best plan of treatment, referrals for services and community supervision to the youth and families we serve for the purpose of helping promote positive change and a safer community for Tulsa County. Being the crux of the Juvenile Justice System, the division is comprised of 44 professionals working together to provide the best possible services and outcomes to the public. We all look forward to another great year of serving Tulsa County.

Submitted by Shonn Harrold, MHR
Assistant Director
Tulsa County Juvenile Bureau

---

**For Your Interest.....**
Juvenile Detention Home:
The “Purpose” of Teamwork

Miriam-Webster’s Dictionary defines teamwork as “the work done by people who work together as a team to do something” (2015). Certainly there are other definitions. The open sourced encyclopedia Wikipedia defines it as “work done by several associates with each doing a part but all subordinating personal prominence to the efficiency of the whole” (2015). Most in the workplace would likely consider it the blend of these focusing on the concepts of individuals working toward common goals in some concerted fashion. But is this the natural state of things? Does teamwork simply evolve on its own without help from staff or organizational leaders? Many in the workplace through hard experiences, some harder than others, know this is not the case. Good teamwork, especially across multiple departments, requires work…a lot of work. With that understanding, how does a leader help create the conditions for successful teamwork?

According to some experts, one of the best ways is to first and foremost have unity of purpose. In her Article 10 Ways to Improve Teamwork, Susan Heathfield (2015), also identifies the first step should be to agree on a mission and purpose for the organization and all its work. Having an agreed upon mission statement is a totem symbolizing staff’s recognition of the common cause to which they have committed themselves. Ideally, that common string of purpose should be woven into departmental standards, policies, procedures and practices with each department taking that mission and applying it to the interpersonal interactions that occur each day. It is in this way each department can be sure that it is measuring its actions and outcomes according to the larger mission of the organization itself.

Currently, with our new director, our agency is being asked to evaluate our purpose, our very mission. This requires that we, as staff, self-examine our values and beliefs about what we do and how we do it. If 10 different staff were asked “What is the mission of the organization?” then one might receive 10 different answers. As a staff member in the Juvenile Detention Home, we certainly struggled with this for some time. But the struggle was necessary. The asking of difficult questions was necessary. The hard work of looking at the answers to those questions, good or bad, was vital. Eventually, as a team, we came to a common view about the basic concepts we needed to circumscribe to in order to provide the kind of workplace we can be proud of. As a result, the detention home is very different than it was 10 years ago. It was a difficult process. Some staff, unwilling or unable to make the needed adjustments, moved on. But the results of the process were worth the pain of the process.

How do we achieve a common mission and purpose across an organization as large and varied as ours? We have to be willing to embrace open and honest communication between all levels. This means allowing and encouraging staff to interact with and get to know their counterparts in various parts of the organization. As our departmental functions grow more in line with the organizational mission, teamwork toward that mission becomes the norm, not the exception. It might also be necessary to do some things that might scare us a little. How many times at an all staff training or functions do we find people sitting by department as if they were given assigned seats. What would it be like if Detention Home staff went to lunch once a week or month with intake or probation staff? Having a common mission and purpose allows us to take the first steps to truly integrating the organization and move away from the compartmentalized effort we tend to find ourselves in today. Such change has to start with the senior leaders. We set the expectations and practices—both directly and indirectly for our departments. Making sure we, as a staff, take this first step together should be no different.

Submitted by Alondo D. Edwards, Superintendent
Tulsa County Juvenile Bureau/Detention Home

Works Cited
Dually Adjudicated Court

The Dually Adjudicated Court is a Specialty Docket designed for youth who are adjudicated as both Deprived and Delinquent. In partnership with the Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Division and Juvenile Probation/Office of Juvenile Affairs, a treatment plan is developed by the Dual Adjudication Treatment Team. The Team’s goal is to provide community mental health, education, placement for living and vocational opportunities, etc. within the Tulsa area for youth that are dually adjudicated. With the utilization of community providers and continual communication among the Team, the Dually Adjudicated Court seeks to decrease disrupted placement, reduce inpatient, shelter and group home care by establishing permanency and reducing the risk of recidivism in the Juvenile Justice System.

Submitted by Cathy Olberding, Program Administrator

PHOENIX RISING

This past school year the students at Phoenix Rising teamed up with the innovative non-profit group Calliope Circus and together created the only High School Circus team in the nation! The Phoenix Rising Circus team, consisting of more than 20 students, practiced more than 8 hours a week for over 12 weeks. These weeks of hard work culminated in a breathtaking student led and choreographed acrobatic performance at the conclusion of our 14-15’ graduation ceremony. This partnership proved to be transformational and created an astounding capacity for our students to take chances, face their insecurities and ultimately to feel strong and safe enough to risk being part of such a groundbreaking program. This seminal partnership absolutely took traditional mentorship to the next level as the group inspired us all and continues to do so as the Phoenix Rising Circus Team is already set up and ready to start year two of the partnership in September!

You can find a video of the students and their Circus team by searching Calliope Youth Circus promo on YouTube or google......enjoy!

Submitted by David Richardson, MSW Director of Phoenix Rising
“PURSUING STRATEGEMS TO COUNTER INTIMATE PARTY VIOLENCE”  
By Rebecca Peters

Public problems of any kind require observations by a number of individuals who broadcast to others that particular domestic items need to be addressed. Intimate party issues are generally confined to private arenas, and thus are viewed as private problems. As closely as can be agreed, many may never know what envelopes domestic occupants in the privacy of their home. The 4th Amendment of the United States Bill of Rights explicitly protects persons in their homes if no cause [or warrant] is given for interventions. Research is placing domestic violence backcloths on a microscope in efforts to prepare citizens who are concerned about the status of liberty, remaining free from hostility and fear. There is no question that the intimate partner abuse epidemic is flooding the superlative safe society realms, and therefore, threatening the strength and capabilities of a steadfast country.

Domestic situations involve law enforcement interposition because intimate party assaults or any violent acts are being alleged upon on the person or in the home. It is Oklahoma’s state mandate that the alleged offenders be separated from the victims, arrested immediately, booked, and placed in penitentiary systems (21 O.S.§644, 21 O.S.§ 644.1). These statutes cite an automatic arrest on a misdemeanor domestic assault charge to ensue without police being physically present, as it is at the victims’ request for arrest or separation of alleged in some form (personal survey, 2014). Most Oklahoma law enforcement officers will agree that discretion may be implemented if no injuries are present; however, this very discretion, being a considerable part of police officers’ jobs, is “severely limited” as a result of the Oklahoma statutes (personal survey, 2014).

Enquiry

A percentage of officers may express that some “victims” are not being fairly honest about their accusations of intimate party abuse, which creates charges that are deceptive and tend to gridlock some court processes. Additionally, there is a running potential for constricted arrangement of jail space to secure individuals who may be falsely accused. One purpose for Sherman and Berk conducting the Domestic Violence experiment (1984) began with a traditional approach for officers of the law who were not diligent in their arrest of alleged offenders because of the presence of complacency. There are some in the police force today whom sympathize to the refrain that there is nothing solved by their intervention (personal survey, 2014). Further, automatic arrests of these individuals could tentatively be eliminated from the law under certain circumstances.

Oklahoma Legislature developed reform to the criminal justice arena, House Bill 3052, which propelled the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) (okpolicy.org, 2013). This provides the latitude to moderate the number and types of those incarcerated, and in addition, spare the costs of securing the public from particular offenders. It is widely known that penitentiary systems are overstrained due to tremendous rise in population factors. The Oklahoma Policy Institute (2013) informs the public that Oklahoma is positioned as the third lowest state in the nation at implementing efforts to reducing recidivism; these are consequences of Oklahoma's tendency to incarcerate low-risk offenders for long periods of time. Subsequent to this, in 2009, the 85% of term confinement has supplemented high monetary waste, placing the costs in the realm of $200 million (Okpolicy.org, 2013).

A convicted offender of intimate party violence, as indicated by the Oklahoma state mandate of domestic abuse, can receive a punishment of up to 10 years, a $5000 penalty, and additional probation programs (oscn.net, 2014). On a similar perfunctory, the offenders may have a high propensity of becoming more violent or reoffending after release from arrest and incarceration. Giving newly released offenders a series of specified “problem-solving court” guidelines, probation monitoring and counseling services reduces the likelihood for repeat offenses (Syers & Edleson, 1992; Murphy, Musser, & Maton, 1998; Labiola, Bradley, O’Sullivan, Rempel, & Moore, 2010). Time prevailing, subsequent evaluations of post-prosecutorial outcomes should supplement this policy study.

Continued on Page 8...
“Pursuing Stratagems to Counter Intimate Party Violence” *(continued from Page 7)*

**Private Party Violence & Public Health Crisis**

To minimize the consequences of domestic violence, the frequency and stress of police arrests, as well as the susceptibility of continued contacts with the police force, understanding the origins of intimate party violence is tantamount to developing ideal prevention stratagems in exchange for arrests and in reducing the frequency of incidents or dispatches. The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigations (2010) reported a 14.2% increase in cases of intimate party violence from the year 2000 to 2009. Sixty homicides due to domestic abuse have been recorded in the year 2009 (OSBI, 2010).

This mounting matter involves the lives of children, either as unwilling bystanders or as perpetrators themselves. For instance, police will take a culpable child to a detention center for the first time misdemeanor domestic abuse allegation. Next, this automatic type of detainment is a part of a formula which invokes trauma, and incites conflict for a period of time. The circumstances leading up to the detention is an indicator of elements in the home with needs for in-depth work by police officers and social workers, and not as a criminal justice issue, but instead, an exceedingly viable public health concern. In this very archetype of treatment and prevention are the volume of substance abuse and mental health concerns. In essence, this work often requires Probation services, such as counseling, monitoring, and other interventions not only for youth, but the entire family, which endures from 3 months to however many years youth have until their 19th birthday.

Conversely, law enforcement officers have another legitimate issue. It is reported that, oftentimes, battered individuals do not relent in their decision to return to the abusers (personal survey, 2014). It may be safe to say that some officers do not believe the District Attorney’s Office will voluntarily deliver prosecution efforts upon perpetrators regardless of whether victims request dismissal of domestic abuse charges or whether witnesses and/or victims fail to cooperate (personal survey, 2014). Sufficient time has not been allotted to collect data pertaining to completed dispositions upon defendants in this regard.

Fitzgerald, et al (2013) convalesced several studies indicating that items such as economic status, namely the impoverished, elements of ethnicity, geographical locations, and low levels of achievement in education or otherwise are reported pointers responsible for the detrimental rise in the unnerving figure of domestic abuse. In the 1980’s, victims of intimate party violence stemmed primarily from unmarried, white women who had very little education and frequent involvement with law enforcement on other matters (Sherman, 1984). Currently, 40-60% of victims remain as women; more studies have unveiled the issue by which men are just as susceptible to intimate partner abuse (Hewins, DiBella, and Mawla, 2013). Education seemingly remains inaccessible to some who are underprivileged and angry. The educational service system reflects increases in dropout rates. The British Crime Survey explored the epidemiology that 29% of men and 45% women ages 16-59 will report being victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking at least once in their lives (Walby and Allen, 2004).

Research suggests juveniles are victims of domestic sexual assault 98% of the time by other juveniles (Snyder and McCurley, 2008.) There is very little question that consequences of intimate party violence lead to dysfunction, long-term emotional / psychological turmoil, and eventual fatalities. Childhelp.org (2014) cites 3 million child abuse cases pertaining to the sakes of 6 million youth in the United States, with 4.5 child-fatalities daily in 2012. American citizens as a whole are susceptible to a sizeable number of deaths at a rate of 16,800 homicides and hospital costs of $2.2 million a year as a result of intimate party violence; consequently, lost productivity and medical costs together ranges in the tens of billions of dollars annually (CDC, 2007).

Continued on Page 9...
“Pursuing Stratagems to Counter Intimate Party Violence” (continued from Page 8)

Conclusion

Consequently, Organizations such as the Center for Disease Control and Injury Prevention, as well as Center on Violence against Women possess remarkable roles in the development of prevention protocol and policy change. At the very least, Oklahoma Statute 21 O.S. § 644.1 requires those who are convicted of domestic abuse to participate in treatment goals/action steps, anger management, and therapeutic counseling with regular surveillance by court individuals. The Justice Reinvestment Initiative is funded to build “intermediate revocation facilities” in replacement of incarceration with additional drug court and probation monitoring (okpolicy.org, 2013). The website to the Oklahoma Government (www.ok.gov) will elaborate on the roles of the revocation centers, and it is overseen by an administrator employed within the Department of Corrections.

To sum up, major community players and elected officials of state legislature provide the power to address tremendous challenges such as is seen in intimate party violence. For illustration, Richmond, Virginia maintains a police force which employs social workers to be dispatched arm-in-arm with police officers to domestic abuse calls, and they are termed the Second Responders (Greenspan, et al 2005). In retrospect, there are evident indications presenting innumerable agents of change who yearn to live stronger and healthier in life. The reality of this subject matter suggests there is a visible and enriched crusade which is supporting family justice development.

Rebecca Peters is a Probation Counselor with the Tulsa County Juvenile Bureau

Article submitted by Richard Harris, Probation Supervisor

MORE INTERESTING INFORMATION....

Tulsa County Juvenile Bureau welcomes into the fold the Tulsa Area Community Intervention Center (TACIC). The center, which is located at 600 Civic Center, Ste. 110, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103, is dedicated to assisting the Bureau Mission by working with youth who have come into contact with and were arrested by law enforcement officers throughout Tulsa County. The center works with local municipalities as a reception, identification and assessment as well as referral source for arrested or detained youth. The center works with youth ages 8-17. There is a staff compliment of 14 when fully staffed. This is inclusive of 10 Youth Specialists, 3 Coordinators, 1 Administrator and 1 part-time Youth Specialist. Youth who are admitted spend an average of 4½ hours at the CIC, with a cap of 24 hours. The center strives to have officers assisted and back in the field within 15 minutes. Information is collected and stored on juvenile offenders using the appropriate sources. The center served 1325 youth in the 2015 fiscal year, down from 1453 in fiscal year 2014 and 1470 in fiscal year 2013.

The TACIC has an Advisory Board which meets quarterly to assist in the administration of the program. The TACIC Advisory Board is comprised of members from local law enforcement, judiciary, education, local government, social service agencies and business.

The Juvenile Bureau took over operation on July 1, 2015 from Youth Services of Tulsa, who was instrumental in developing and running the facility since its inception in 2010. The center partners with the City of Tulsa, State of Oklahoma’s Office of Juvenile Affairs, and local municipalities. The current Program Administrator is Cortez Tunley, formerly of LIFE Counseling and Lakeside Home with the Juvenile Bureau. Cortez can be reached at (918) 596-7428 or emailed at CortezTunley@cityoftulsa.org for more details or questions.

The Program Administrator would like to acknowledge that tenured staff, whose dedication and commitment to the program has contributed to the success of the center, will be looked to for future stability and growth. Thanks for helping with such a smooth transition to a new organization.

Submitted by Cortez Tunley
Program Administrator
On August 25, 2015, six families were honored as they graduated from the Tulsa County Family Drug Court (TCFDC) program. The ceremony was held at the First Baptist Church of Tulsa. Nine parents and their children celebrated the closing of their cases and gave personal testimonies on how the program impacted not only the parents’ lives but the lives of their children, families and friends. Afterwards one graduating mother said, “This is the only thing I have ever succeeded at and now I know I can do more.”

One of the highlights of the program was a performance by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. Patti Hargrove, Nitonjia Ibe, Tonya Montgomery and Lindsey Hannagan entertained with a music and a dance routine which had everyone laughing as well as acknowledging the truth of the message.

Dustin Bryan, Coordinator from Center for Therapeutic Interventions, inspired the group with poetry and music. Cynthia Rhodes, child welfare supervisor from Cherokee Nation, encouraged all the families to keeping reaching for bigger goals while reminding the graduates that they could continue to depend on the support of Family Drug Court. Acknowledgement of what these parents had accomplished came from Catie Holzer, Family Drug Court Coordinator, who said, “Family Drug Court is like a tough boot camp that you should be proud of finishing and I am confident you can keep succeeding.” Family Drug Court alumni member, Jamie Justice, touched graduates by sharing her testimony that after graduating from the program she has acquired a degree, a good job, a house and has maintained seven years of sobriety.

During the graduates testimonies it is not unusual to see audience members fighting back tears or family members shouting for joy. Cathy Olberding, Programs Administrator for the Juvenile Bureau stated, “You needed to provide two boxes of Kleenex, one for the podium and one for me... this was so moving!”

The Family Drug Court displays a truly community partnership with representatives who not only added but participated in the making of a beautiful ceremony. Along with graduates in attendance were family members, current participants of the TCFDC program, former graduates of the program and the TCFDC team (lead by Judge Kyle Haskins, the TCFDC team includes staff from the Tulsa County Juvenile Bureau, The Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Public Defender’s Office, District Attorney’s Office and the Center for Therapeutic Intervention) and the Cherokee Nation.

Thanks go to First Baptist Church of Tulsa for the donation of their facilities for the ceremony. Justin Jones, Tulsa County Juvenile Director, not only attended but was gracious enough to bring his camera for the creation of keepsakes scrapbooks. The Tulsa County Trust Authority sponsored refreshments. Jan McKay provided family portraits for each graduating family. Even the children of the parents contributed with a beautiful poster that was proudly displayed on the stage.

A special thanks to Judge Haskins who received numerous accolades from all the graduates. Comments ranged from “you are the kindest judge I have ever had to stand before” to “if every court worked like this court we would get the help we need.”

Tulsa County Family Drug Court began in November 1998 by the Hon. Judge Doris Fransein. It is a court-supervised, comprehensive treatment program for parents who have had their children removed and placed into DHS custody due to substance abuse issues. Family Drug Court is a voluntary program that includes extensive treatment, frequent drug testing and court appearances, a specialized parenting class and close monitoring by the Family Drug Court team. Family Drug Court has been in existence for over 16 years.

Submitted by Catherine (Catie) Holzer
Family Drug Court Coordinator
NCJFCJ Resolves to Stop Shackling of Children in Juvenile Court
August 10, 2015

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) has released its resolution on shackling of children in juvenile court.

The NCJFCJ defines shackles to include handcuffs, waist chains, ankle restraints, zip ties or other restraints that are designed to impede movement or control behavior.

"Across the country, tens of thousands of young people are needlessly shackled in juvenile and family courts," said David Shapiro, campaign manager for the Campaign Against Indiscriminate Juvenile Shackling (CAIJS) at the National Juvenile Defender Center. "The courtroom is the last place this practice should occur. Judges have a unique responsibility to ensure not only fair outcomes, but also fair processes. They control what takes place in their courtrooms. The NCJFCJ, the nation’s leading organization of juvenile and family court judges, has issued a powerful message that the practice of automatically shackling youth in our courtrooms does not comport with what it means to be fair and trauma-informed, and that such a practice will no longer be tolerated. Judges look to the NCJFCJ for guidance. On the issue of shackling in court, the NCJFCJ position is now clear and direct."

Up to 90% of justice-involved youth report exposure to some type of traumatic event.

The resolution supports the advancement of a trauma-informed and developmentally appropriate approach to juvenile justice that limits the use of shackles in court.

"I am delighted the NCJFCJ Board of Directors passed this resolution against presumptive shackling of children in court as it represents a major advance in trauma-informed justice," said Dr. Shawn Marsh, Ph.D., NCJFCJ chief program officer for juvenile law. "The potential harm associated with shackling far outweighs safety concerns in the vast majority of cases – and in the rare instances restraints might be necessary – the decision to use them should be made by the judge. This position on shackling is now policy of the NCJFCJ, and it will help immensely in efforts to achieve meaningful juvenile justice reform."

The NCJFCJ calls for judges to utilize their leadership position to convene security personnel and other justice system stakeholders to address shackling and to work together to identify ways to ensure the safety of children and other parties.

The NCJFCJ encourages judges and court systems to continually review policies and practices related to shackling children.

The NCJFCJ supports a presumptive rule or policy against shackling children; requests for exceptions should be made to the court on an individualized basis and must include a cogent rationale, including the demonstrated safety risk the child poses to him or herself or others.

The NCJFCJ believes judges should have the ultimate authority to determine whether or not a child needs to be shackled in the courtroom.

Continued on Page 12...
NCJFCJ Resolves to Stop Shackling of Children in Juvenile Court (continued from Page 11)

“Resolutions of the NCJFCJ are how approximately 1,600 family court judges unite and speak out on important issues that face our children and families that come before all kinds of family courts across our nation,” said Judge Darlene Byrne, NCJFCJ president. “I cannot think of a more fundamental right of due process and basic human dignity than for a child to be able to face a juvenile court judge without shackles unless there is a true safety concern for the child or participants in court. The presumption should not be only innocent until proven guilty but also a child should be presumed to be able to manage their behaviors in such a way in court as to not indiscriminately require shackling for all their court hearings. The decision to shackle or not shackle should be made individually by the judge and the presumption should be no shackles.”

The NCJFCJ also recently released a resolution regarding trauma-informed juvenile and family courts, urging juvenile and family courts to be trauma-informed by engaging stakeholders, including children, parents and other court consumers, to jointly develop and implement universal precautions at an environmental, practice and policy level that limit stress often being involved when working within the court system.

About the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ): Founded in 1937, the Reno, Nev.-based National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, is the nation’s oldest judicial membership organization and focused on improving the effectiveness of our nation’s juvenile and family courts. A leader in continuing education opportunities, research, and policy development in the field of juvenile and family justice, the 2,000-member organization is unique in providing practice-based resources to jurisdictions and communities nationwide.

SAVE THE DATE!
Building a Trauma-Informed Nation: Moving the Conversation into Action

Please save the date on your calendars for this seminal meeting designed to (1) expand the conversation about trauma-informed approaches and (2) create a national action agenda for trauma-informed change. RSVP if you plan to attend in person or virtually, and we will notify you when the registration website goes live.

This meeting will shine a spotlight on effective implementation of trauma-informed approaches in four major areas: education, health care, the justice system, and communities and congregations.

To expand the reach of this conversation, the keynote, plenary presentations, and panels, and dialogue time with the presenters will be webcast to “amplifier sites” across the nation with interactivity between the amplifier sites and the main event in Washington, DC. At each amplifier site, key stakeholders convene to participate in the interactive webcast and catalyze local dialogue and action. Following each topical area plenary, panel presentations, and Q&A session, in-person and virtual participants at amplifier sites will engage in strategic action planning.

See link below for enrollment:

http://www.agreeadate.com/reply.aspx?r=94836B416D C8B07A0518D6D8725F3887C00A