FROM THE DIRECTOR

JUSTIN JONES

As we continue to close out 2016 and have begun the New Year, a continuation of projects and the initiation of new ones will make for an exciting and challenging 2017. Our recidivism study has been completed and can be downloaded from our website as well as our FY 2016 Annual Report. Also, all major update and events are posted on our Facebook page. All connected with juvenile justice in Tulsa County are doing a tremendous job as indicated by this comprehensive study. We will continue to examine all of our operations for the implantation of evidence based best practices and refining protocols that best meet our mission. One of our next projects is to do time studies on key components of our operations. Accolades go out again to our Detention Superintendent, Alondo Edwards and all his staff, for being the only PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) Certified detention facility in the state. This was a challenging endeavor as the Juvenile PREA Standards require extensive compliance documentation. The Phoenix Rising Alternative School Foundation held its inaugural introduction, fundraising and potential board members event. It was well attended and successful in that the Foundation will this spring, have a board of directors with responsibility for advancing the Foundation’s mission.
Way to go **Ladonna Chase** on reaching her 26th Anniversary with the Bureau. What an accomplishment! Thank you for your dedication over the years!

Congratulations to **Karen Totten** on celebrating 20 years with the Bureau. Karen has been a great asset to the team! Thank you!

**Brent McQuarters** is celebrating 22 years with the Bureau. His commitment to the youth has always been the most important part of his job. Thank you for being such an advocate and hard worker.

**Barry Gordon** is celebrating 18 years of service with the Bureau. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

**Wanda Simpson** is celebrating 18 years with the Bureau. Wanda has been a Probation Unit Coordinator since 2013 and provides excellent support and guidance to her team.

**Scott Hoskison** celebrates 14 years with the Bureau this year. Scott recently joined the Probation department and we’re appreciative of his dedication to the youth.
Way to go Barbara Spencer on celebrating 11 years with the Bureau. Thank you for your dedication to the youth.

Congratulations to Kharla Jones on 11 years of making a difference in the lives of youth at the Juvenile Bureau especially the Hispanic youth and families she serves.

Congratulations are in order for Clifford Criddle. He was recently promoted from Counselor to LEAD Detention Counselor.

Big Congrats to Frances Burns who was promoted from Admissions Counselor to LEAD Main Control Room Operator.

We want to wish Dwayne (Hamp) Hamilton the best of luck in his retirement. After over 30 years with the Detention Home, he is retiring. Hamp is truly going to be missed. He was an example to both staff and residents alike and we certainly appreciate his many years of faithful service.

Staff Spotlight

We'd like to spotlight an outstanding employee in our Intake Department. Kim has been with Intake since January, 2014 and is an asset to the team, always going above and beyond to help her clients. She continually shows compassion to her clients as well as efficiently handling her caseload. Kim is willing to help out when asked and always has a smile on her face. She sets the standard high on the quality of work in Intake. We hope that her work ethic is emulated by all. Thank you for being you, Kim!
The 2016 United Way Campaign for the Juvenile Bureau has come to an end. I want to thank everyone for their support and participation in our many fundraisers. Early in 2016 the United Way Campaign Committee set an ambitious goal of raising $7500 and the team did it with $7,512.55 raised.

Nicole Penney, Doug Currington and Kevin Pykiet are all worthy of special praise for their efforts in support of our United Way campaign.

-Alondo Edwards

A heart for people is an unwritten requirement for most positions in the Juvenile Bureau. Many of us do our jobs not for the money, but for the ability to affect the community. Occasionally though, we get to see such a caring heart directed not just at the kids and families we serve, but at one another. It is the coolest thing.

During the month of December, we finished our United Way Campaign with a raffle of gift baskets. All the right rules were followed as expected; however, something unexpected happened. A Detention employee who works in the facility kitchen was hoping for one of the gift baskets entitled “All You Need to Get Gaming”. It included a 32’ flat screen TV, a Refurbished XBOX 360, an Electronic gaming Chair, and all the Mountain Dew one might care to drink. The employee did not want it for herself, but for her grandkids. When she didn't win, you could see the disappointment. That said, one could not help but notice how her heart exploded with appreciation when the person who did win it quietly donated the basket to the Detention employee. Yes, the grandkids would certainly have a wonderful Christmas, but that employee will never forget the caring heart of the Juvenile Bureau employee who shared her prize and showed what it means to have a caring heart.

Kudos Rosemary Brown, even though you do not work in Detention, you are our Honorary Employee of the Month!
Detention

In January of 2016, the facility set about the task of determining if seeking Prison Rape Elimination Act Certification would be beneficial. A review of our contract with the Oklahoma State Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) indicated that we should seek certification “if applicable”. A series of meetings were then held by Detention Home administrators and key staff to explore the issue.

After reviewing the requirements, we found that our current facility policies met or exceeded PREA requirements in many areas. No other short-term juvenile detention facility had completed PREA certification in the state of Oklahoma. With this in mind, the decision was made to rely on the National Institute of Corrections PREA Resource Center and OJA for support as we moved forward.

Leadership from the facility’s administrative staff, like the newly appointed PREA Compliance Manager, Brent McQuarters, was a major turning point in our compliance efforts. In June 2016, we declared our facility intent to be PREA compliant and set a goal of September 30, 2016. Effort was placed on training staff and residents. Throughout the process it was clear that the staff and residents feedback was a crucial piece of our success.

The facility and staff have embraced PREA compliance and do not see completion of an audit as the end. It is in fact a new beginning as we remember what has made us a safe and secure place for juveniles also makes us leaders in our state once again. This work culminated in a PREA compliance audit conducted by PREA America, a private contractor certified by the U.S. Department of Justice to conduct PREA audits. The compliance audit was conducted on 10/26/16. We received formal verification on 11/21/16 that Tulsa County Juvenile Detention Home was found to be in full compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act requirements and practices. It is with great pride we acknowledge this milestone and congratulate staff and kids on a job well done.
Youth contacts are at 461 as of November 30, 2016. 49% of those served were processed and transferred to the Juvenile Bureau Detention Center due to elevated charges or heightened security risks. Our overall female contact is down compared to FY-2016, as we show 101 (22%) female contacts vs. 360 (78%) male contacts. In previous years that number has consistently ranged in the 30th percentile. African American contacts are showing a slight decline as well, with numbers reflecting 40.7%, a number which is regularly represented between 44% - 49%. Other minority groups have shown growth in contact, with Hispanic youth showing the largest contact outside of African Americans at 70 (15.2%). Caucasian youth numbers remain consistent with 164 (35.6%). African American contact continues to be disproportionate to city/county population totals. Tulsa Police Department (TPD) remains the primary utilizers of the Center, though we have seen a change in the division contact, as Mingo Valley Division now leads in utilization at 36.7%. This is a position usually lead by the Gilcrease Division. This may account for the change in minority contact percentages, as populations differ between the two divisions. At this time it is not clear whether this is due to policing strategy changes, changes in delinquency patterns, or continued population growth in the Mingo Valley area. These pattern changes are topics regularly explored within the Disproportionate Minority Contact/Confinement's committee meetings. Led by the Director of Oklahoma Family Empowerment Center (OFEC), Michael Singleton and OJA Programs Manager, Laura Broyles, the groups cause is to identify patterns, systemic policy and procedures, and core beliefs/biases which potentially lead to higher rates of minority confinement. Recently the group has discussed system wide intake procedures to learn and discern if processes are objective or subjective based on tools of assessment and assessment personnel. Participants in group discussion have included members of OJA, Youth Services of Tulsa (YST), Family Center for Juvenile Justice (Bureau), Thunderbird Youth Academy as well as community leaders. It is clear there is more work to be done, plans include comparative studies, continued use of review tools such as the Relative Rate Index (RRI), Bureau sanctioned studies and reports such as “Recidivism Study Report” and “Review of Tulsa County Intake: Juvenile Bureau and
Community Intervention Center”. In recent discussions we have noted that while there still is some disproportionate confinement, overall rates have shown some decrease. Reading between the proverbial lines, it’s apparent that systemic efforts and challenges to the process seem to be working. Can more be done? That’s the question, as TACIC too, is rethinking and discussing better ways to assist in our diversionary mission.

-Cortez Tunley, TACIC

**Employee Recognition**

TACIC staff and administration are pleased to present **Lisbet Ramos-Williams** as the next recipient of the TACIC Employee of the Quarter. Lisbet is approaching 2 years of service with the Center and in addition to being bilingual has also displayed performance which falls in line with core TACIC values. Lisbet has shown prowess in communicating with clients to address areas of personal concern. Lisbet continues to grow in her presentation as a professional employee, as she becomes more knowledgeable of her duties and the Juvenile Courts system. Lisbet is in her 3rd year of studies in psychology and wishes to continue her professional growth within the County. Way to go Lis!
Holiday Family Night Celebration

On December 12, 2016 Phoenix Rising hosted its first family dinner night in our new building. Community Partners in attendance included Legal Aid, Tristesse Grief Center and Gateway. We had over 65 people that attended!

The night began with free haircuts provided by Barber Sports Lounge out of Owasso. The amazing three men provided not only haircuts to over 10 youth, but advice and motivation. All of the food was generously donated and prepared by Justin Benner and his family, with help from the Phoenix Rising staff. Many other staff and students pitched in to help decorate, serve food, and clean up. After dinner everyone played bingo, which the students and families loved. Prizes included blankets, food gift cards, and warm clothes.

Preparations for the event began in November and the hard work of staff, students, and volunteers came together beautifully. A very special recognition goes to Gail Dawson-Turner for her coordination of the event. All that attended loved it and the students were in the joyful spirit for the holidays.
School Updates

• The Bureau and Tristesse Grief Center officially signed a memorandum of understanding to partner for services within the school. In December, students worked with Johanna at the Grief Center on issues related to holiday emotions surrounding student losses. Students continue to struggle with the recent loss of a classmate and this partnership will provide the much needed support.

• Another goal at Phoenix Rising is for staff to assist students in securing employment. A significant barrier to finding work outside of school has been obtaining a food handlers permit. Through the help of staff, we were able to assist six students in receiving their food handlers permit. Four of those students are now working in food services.
If you ask most Tulsans what they know about human trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of children, they might mention how prevalent this is in Los Angeles or Chicago. Most Tulsans will not realize the breadth of the problem in Tulsa and Oklahoma in general. The Polaris Project estimates sex trafficking victimizes more than 200,000 children in the United States annually. An additional 244,000 - 360,000 children in the United States are at risk each year of being trafficked and sexually exploited (Bryan 2014). Sadly, most children first fall victim to commercial sexual exploitation between ages 12 and 14. Victims are becoming increasingly younger as exploiters fear contracting HIV from victims.

Child sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSE) is a crime where a youth aged 18 years or younger is recruited, solicited, and exploited to engage in the exchange of sexual acts in return for money, basic needs or other material items. While coercion and threats of force or force may be used, if the victim is a minor, the sex act is automatically sex trafficking. Sexual acts may include direct contact, pornography, stripping or other sexualized behaviors performed for the gratification of others (Adams, 2010). Children who are recruited are generally vulnerable children: children with backgrounds of sexual abuse, physical abuse and histories of neglect, those with mental health issues or substance use disorders, children in impoverished areas, those with dysfunctional families, youth who have a history with either the child welfare or juvenile justice system, homeless youth and runaway youth. Children who have been marginalized by their peer groups and have few, if any, friends are often lured away. These children come from all ethnic and racial groups; 95% of the victims are female but the number of male victims is steadily rising.

Society too, plays a role in increasing youths’ vulnerability to CSE. The glorification of the pimp culture, objectification of women and girls, gender bias, and widespread use of the Internet and social media increase the risk of a youth becoming involved in CSE. Sex traffickers may present themselves as the “knight in shining armor” who will take the child away from all of those who misunderstand her or him (the “Romeo pimp”). The trafficker may promise a life of travel and freedom from parental rules, the structure of school and the need for belonging. The trafficker tells the child she or he is beautiful, perfect or “my lady or man” and feigns romantic interest. The trafficker may introduce the child to illicit substances and addiction in order to maintain control. The trafficker may use physical violence, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and dependency to force the victim into continued cooperation (the “Gorilla pimp”). Disturbingly, some CSE cases begin
in the family when a family member trades or sells a child for drugs or money. In other cases, youth are involved in commercial exploitation so that basic needs are met; this is called “survival sex.”

The degree of traumatization experienced by the sexually exploited victim is exponential. Victims suffer from PTSD (estimated to be 68%-77%), anxiety, depression, anger issues, substance-related disorders, dissociative disorders, STDs and STIs, physical abuse, and emotional and psychological trauma from engaging in unwanted sex. In some situations, victims are arrested for prostitution and held until he or she is identified as a minor who is being trafficked.

Juvenile justice workers come into contact with trafficking victims in a variety of ways. A youth may be picked up for soliciting when a “john” is arrested; the youth is not charged but sent to a youth shelter. A youth may be arrested for shoplifting, possession of a controlled substance, or any number of offenses. This youth is taken to the local community intervention center or juvenile detention center. Perhaps the youth is taken to a medical facility or a psychiatric facility. Each time a law enforcement officer, medical staff member or juvenile justice staff has contact with a youth is an opportunity to screen for trafficking victimization. Unfortunately, victims do not always report their abuse. They may be told their family will be hurt if they tell anyone, they may be told they will be hurt. Victims may also feel ashamed and responsible for what has happened to them. Victims may have become addicted to a substance supplied by the trafficker and are afraid to be without their drug of choice. In spite of this, there are questions that can be asked and observations that can be made to assist in screening for victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

Through the work of Paula Royce, Female Program Coordinator and Richard Harris, Security and Safety Administrator of the Tulsa County Family Center for Juvenile Justice, law enforcement staff, medical staff, the staff of 11 community behavioral health agencies, hospital security staff, tribal staff and juvenile justice staff in central Oklahoma have participated in an in-service regarding the CSE laws and the identification of CSE victims. Over 300 professionals have learned what to look for, what questions to ask and what questions not to ask to screen for human trafficking victims. Professionals are then directed to follow their own protocol regarding a victim of a crime. Professionals are not encouraged to ask numerous questions or (unless it is their actual job) attempt to investigate. The feedback has been tremendous regarding these presentations. Most in-service participants are not fully aware of the large numbers of children trafficked. Participants have shared that they are grateful to have information regarding what to look for and what to ask. Agencies have asked for Paula and Richard to return to train staff not able to attend the first training. For many of the participants, this training has opened their eyes to the need for additional training for themselves and their staff on this very important topic. Paula and Richard have done a great job in “Improving our community through prevention, diversion, intervention and empowerment with the youth and families we serve.”

To learn more about CSE, please visit https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking
Family Drug Court Graduation

On December 13th, Family Drug Court celebrated 10 graduated!

In keeping with the holiday season, the DHS workers surprised everyone with a poem entitled "The Night Before Graduation."

Each graduate worked hard throughout their time in the program to maintain sobriety and find a better way of life for their children. We are looking forward to what the future holds for each of the graduates.

Phoenix Rising Alternative School Foundation Updates

- In November, the Foundation held its first Vision Event to introduce potential board members and donors to the Foundation and its mission. This event was held at McNellie's Downtown. Guests enjoyed appetizers and heard from a Phoenix Rising parent about the difference the school has made in her son's life.

- The Foundation is in the process of securing the inaugural board members. So far, Board members range from attorneys to elected officials. We are looking forward to a successful 2017!

- Circle Cinema has chosen the Foundation as a partner for the upcoming screening of "Bad Kids." This documentary follows students in an impoverished Mojave Desert community. Much like Phoenix Rising, the students attend an alternative school for at-risk youth with little hope of graduating from a traditional high school. This screening will be held on February 28th at 6:30p.m. If you would like more information or to attend, please contact Hayley Garrison at hgarrison@tulsacounty.org. Attendance is free.

Welcome to the Trust

Judge Sparkman swearing in our newest member of the Trust, Oliver Wallace from Tulsa Public School.
How does our discriminatory criminal justice system affect children?

Black children are six times as likely as white children to have a parent who's been incarcerated—and that hurts them in school.

Share of children with a parent who has been incarcerated:

![Bar chart showing the share of children with incarcerated parents by race.]

To narrow the achievement gap, we should fix our criminal justice system. > go.epi.org/incarceration

Source: Adapted from Lelia Magy and Richard Rothstein, Mass Incarceration and Children's Outcomes: Criminal Justice Policy Is Education Policy (Economic Policy Institute, 2018)

Economic Policy Institute


The Long Term Costs of Fining Juvenile Offenders

New research has found that the vast majority of states impose some kind of fines on juvenile offenders.


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