A REPORT CARD TO OUR CITIZENS

A year ago, we released our first "Report Card" for DJJ and the juvenile justice system. We touted it as part of "a new way of doing business," a new philosophy based upon the principles of restorative justice and agency accountability in line with Governor Sanford's goal to make all state agencies accountable to the citizens of South Carolina. With that philosophy still in mind, we are proud to present our new "2005 Juvenile Justice Report Card."

As you will see, there are several areas where our juvenile justice system continues to serve the children, crime victims, and citizens of South Carolina well. DJJ has partnered with the State Workforce Investment Board at the Department of Commerce to improve the employability of at-risk juveniles. The DJJ school district graduation rate also continues to improve, as does our service to the state's victims of juvenile crime. Diversions to our solicitors' excellent Juvenile Arbitration Programs are increasing, providing a restorative alternative for dealing with first offenders.

You also will see that there are areas for improvement. At present, our state's juvenile detention rate is on the rise. The number of juveniles being detained statewide prior to and during their court hearings is up almost 12% over last year. This is occurring as the number of cases involving violent and serious crime continues to drop. The result is overcrowding in the DJJ Detention Center and detention centers throughout the state. This points to a need for alternative forms of community-based monitoring for juveniles who simply do not belong in a detention facility.

We must also continue with improvements to reduce the numbers of juveniles incarcerated in DJJ's long-term facilities. Programs such as community prevention, intensive probation, and local mentoring could reach a significant percentage of these children long before they end up in the harsh environment of a long-term facility.

We hope you will take time to study this Report Card, to gain a better understanding of how the juvenile justice system works and performs in the state. Please join in our efforts to help make communities safer, to better satisfy victims of crime, and to better prepare juvenile offenders for productive, law-abiding lives in their communities.

Bill Byars
Director, South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice
Juveniles usually enter the juvenile justice system in South Carolina when they are taken into custody by law enforcement or when a Solicitor or a school refers them to DJJ. At this stage, personnel at a DJJ county office usually interview the juvenile. DJJ has offices in 43 of South Carolina's 46 counties. Law enforcement also may elect to send the juvenile to a South Carolina juvenile detention center, pending a hearing.

After county office or detention center personnel have interviewed a juvenile, DJJ makes recommendations to the Solicitor's office regarding the case. The Solicitor has a number of options available when deciding how to pursue a case. A Solicitor may choose to divert a juvenile to a community program (such as a drug court or juvenile arbitration program) or require the juvenile to make restitution for the offense. Solicitors also may choose to proceed with prosecution or to dismiss a case entirely.

If the Solicitor chooses to prosecute, the next stage of the process involves the family court. A family court judge determines the guilt or innocence of the juvenile and sentences those juveniles adjudicated delinquent (found guilty). Often a judge will request a DJJ evaluation of the juvenile before making a final ruling, or prior to commitment. This involves psychological, social, and educational evaluations conducted either in the community or at one of DJJ's three regional evaluation centers. The resulting comprehensive evaluation helps the judge decide how to proceed in the best interests of the juvenile, victim, and community.

A family court judge may find the juvenile is not delinquent (not guilty). After a finding of delinquency, the judge has several sentencing options. Chief among these is probation, which maintains the juvenile in the community under DJJ supervision. The judge may also commit the juvenile to DJJ custody by imposing a determinate (fixed amount of time) or indeterminate sentence. An indeterminate sentence allows the youth to be confined up to the age of 21.

Indeterminately committed juveniles are subject to the release authority of the Juvenile Parole Board. Upon commitment the juvenile receives parole guidelines that are based on the severity of the juvenile's offense and his or her history of previous offenses. These guidelines generally range from 1-3 months to 36-54 months. The Board uses these guidelines – along with an evaluation of the juvenile's behavior and progress – to determine the length of incarceration.

The Board may keep children incarcerated beyond their guideline (up to their 21st birthday). It may also parole juveniles prior to their minimum guideline for exceptional behavior and progress.

The Board may grant juveniles conditional or unconditional releases. A conditional release might involve requiring the juvenile to complete a community aftercare or residential program. A conditional release also involves a period of parole supervision. DJJ county officers supervise juveniles on parole, much as they supervise juveniles on probation.

For more detailed information visit DJJ's website at:  
www.state.sc.us/djj/process.html
A Report Card to Our Citizens

CUSTOMER SERVICES
Customers = Victims, Offenders, and the Community

JUVENILE REFERALS TO DJJ: Of the 26,213 cases referred to DJJ during Fiscal Year 2004-05, 69 percent of the total population was male, 60 percent was African-American, and the average age was 14.5 years. Sixty-five percent of the total population came from households with annual incomes less than $20,000.

FIVE MOST FREQUENT OFFENSES ASSOCIATED WITH REFERALS TO DJJ: The #1 charge associated with cases referred to DJJ statewide was disturbing schools.

No felony offenses occurred in the top five reasons for referral to DJJ. Truancy has dropped out of the five most frequent offenses for the first time in many years.

OFFENDERS DIVERTED BY JUVENILE ARBITRATION PROGRAMS: Juvenile Arbitration is a program operated by circuit solicitors to divert juvenile offenders from the court. In the program, trained citizen volunteers work with offenders/parents, victims, and law enforcement to determine appropriate sanctions.

NOTIFICATION TO VICTIMS: DJJ strives to serve crime victims. Upon request, victims of juvenile crime are notified regarding the status of the offender(s) related to their individual cases through the Internet Victim Information System (IVIS) provided by DJJ. In Fiscal Year 2004-05, DJJ notified 13,480 victims regarding their case status. This is a 23 percent increase in notifications as compared to the previous year.
JUVENILE PROBATION & PAROLE CASELOADS IN COMMUNITIES: The supervision of offenders in their communities enhances community safety. DJJ’s community staff supervised 5,264 juvenile offenders both on probation or parole at the close of Fiscal Year 2004-05.

DAILY POPULATION AT DJJ: At the close of Fiscal Year 2004-05, a daily population of 792 juveniles was held in hardware-secure facilities at DJJ. A daily population of 562 juveniles was located in staff-secure placements in the community such as group homes or community residence placements. Ninety-one juveniles were placed in staff-secure Marine Programs. Thirty juveniles were placed in mental health facilities.

SCDJJ SCHOOL DISTRICT GRADUATION RATE: DJJ runs its own school district for incarcerated offenders, currently with high school and middle school programs accredited by the South Carolina Department of Education. DJJ’s Birchwood School is also accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Satellite community schools are also operated around the state. This year, 13 students earned their high school diplomas prior to their release. One hundred fifty-four graduated early, at the age of 16, with General Equivalency Diploma (GED) certificates. The SCDJJ school district also received the 2005 Palmetto Gold Award.
A Report Card to Our Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY – A Restorative Benchmark
(Repairing the harm to victims and community)

Restitution to Victims

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of Cases:</th>
<th>701</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount Ordered:</td>
<td>$357,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount Paid:</td>
<td>$223,415</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RESTITUTION:** Offenders should be expected to pay back for the harm they have caused. Of 6,140 cases closed by DJJ and Solicitors’ Arbitration Programs (early intervention) during FY 2004-05 where restitution was ordered, 80 percent of offenders paid in full. The total amount of restitution collected was $223,415.

Restorative Community Work Service Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of Cases:</th>
<th>2,650</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours Ordered:</td>
<td>77,817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours Worked:</td>
<td>67,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ Value:</td>
<td>$348,449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(calculated at minimum wage)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WORK SERVICE:** Offenders also are expected to perform work service to repay the community for the harm suffered by the community. In 6,140 cases closed by DJJ and Solicitors’ Arbitration Programs (early intervention) during FY 2004-05, 77,817 hours of community work service were ordered. The number of work service hours completed was 67,660, which is 87 percent of the work service ordered.

Victim Satisfaction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How would you rate your overall experience with the system? (Rated 1 to 5 with 1 being “most negative” and 5 being “most positive.”)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rated “5”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rated “4”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rated “3”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rated “2”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rated “1”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MEASURING SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY:**

The justice system has a responsibility to serve crime victims. In April 2004 and again in April 2005, crime victims across South Carolina were surveyed to determine their level of satisfaction with the juvenile justice system. Victims were asked to rate their overall experience with the juvenile justice system. The average satisfaction rating by victims (on a scale of 1 – most negative to 5 – most positive) improved from 3.96 to 4.34 over the one-year period.
A Report Card to Our Citizens

COMPETENCY – A Restorative Benchmark
(Offenders developing skills needed
to live crime free)

RESISTANCE TO DRUG & ALCOHOL USE:
In 6,190 cases closed by DJJ and Solicitors’ Arbitration Programs (early intervention) during FY 2004-05, 15 percent of youth were tested while under supervision in the community. Of those youth tested, a negative result occurred in 63 percent of cases. Marijuana was detected in over 92 percent of cases with a positive result.

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION: Eighty-seven percent of the 6,190 youth completing court orders or Solicitors’ Arbitration Program sanctions during FY 2004-05 were enrolled in school, an alternative education program, or vocational training. Of the 810 youth not involved in an alternative educational or vocational program, and who were age-eligible (16 years old) to work, 29 were employed.

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (JEEP): Through a collaborative effort involving DJJ and the State Workforce Investment Board at the Department of Commerce, JEEP was introduced in FY 2004-05 to improve the employability of at-risk youth. Youth ages 14-18 received job readiness training and paid on-the-job work experience at four pilot sites.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/COMMUNITY COMPETENCY: During Fiscal Year 2004-05, 1,867 volunteers stepped forward to assist DJJ and the Solicitors’ Arbitration Programs as mentors, arbitrators, tutors, auxiliary probation officers, in other capacities in the community, and in DJJ facilities. Citizen volunteers helped to make our communities safer by contributing approximately 108,622 hours of services.
VIOLENT & SERIOUS JUVENILE CASES:
Over the 11-year period (1994 – 2005) violent and serious juvenile cases in South Carolina decreased 30 percent. The number of cases includes juveniles charged in more than one case.

TRENDS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE:
One indicator of trends in South Carolina’s juvenile justice system is the number of offenders committed into the custody of DJJ. Table A shows a comparison of the number of offenders sentenced into the custody of DJJ over the past five years.

Another indicator of trends is the number of juveniles being held in detention centers pending court action. Juveniles detained by the family court and law enforcement agencies and determined to be high-risk offenders are held in detention centers. Detention admissions statewide have increased 19 percent over the past 5 years, with a 12 percent increase last year alone. DJJ’s own Detention Center, which is overcrowded, had 2,900 juveniles in detention during FY 2004-05. Table B shows a comparison of the number of juveniles held in detention centers statewide over the past five years.

LAW-ABIDING BEHAVIOR:
Recidivism is the rate at which juveniles re-offend (commit new crimes). Data evaluated from Fiscal Year 1999-00 indicates that by 24 months following release (parole) into the community following incarceration, 68.1 percent of juveniles re-offended.

### Table A
Juveniles Committed to the Custody of DJJ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>1,867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
<td>1,977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-03</td>
<td>2,109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td>1,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-01</td>
<td>1,922</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table B
Juveniles Held in Detention Centers Statewide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>5,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
<td>4,709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-03</td>
<td>4,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td>4,493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-01</td>
<td>4,488</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Recidivism Rate for Juvenile Offenders Following Incarceration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tracking Period</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 Months</td>
<td>68.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Special Thanks to DJJ's Performance Measurements Partners

The Honorable David M. Pascoe
Solicitor, 1st Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Barbara R. Morgan
Solicitor, 2nd Judicial Circuit

The Honorable C. Kelly Jackson
Solicitor, 3rd Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Jay E. Hodge, Jr.
Solicitor, 4th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable John R. Justice
Solicitor, 6th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Harold W. Gowdy, III
Solicitor, 7th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Jerry W. Peace
Solicitor, 8th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Ralph E. Hoisington
Solicitor, 9th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Chrissy T. Adams
Solicitor, 10th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Donald V. Myers
Solicitor, 11th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable E. L. Clements, III
Solicitor, 12th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Robert M. Ariail
Solicitor, 13th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Isaac M. Stone, III
Solicitor, 14th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Thomas E. Pope
Solicitor, 16th Judicial Circuit

State Workforce Investment Board

Department of Commerce

Doug Thomas, Research Associate
National Center for Juvenile Justice
**DJJ’s Mission**

The Governor’s mission is to raise personal incomes of South Carolinians by creating a better environment for economic growth, delivering government services more openly and efficiently, improving quality of life, and improving our state’s education.

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice supports the Governor’s mission by protecting the public and reclaiming juveniles through prevention, community programs, education and rehabilitative services in the least restrictive environment.

For more information contact:
The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice
Office of Community Justice
(803) 896-9766
www.state.sc.us/djj

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