South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice

REPORT CARD

for 2012
As I reflect on the past 12 months in preparation for the Department of Juvenile Justice 9th Annual “Juvenile Justice Report Card,” I am encouraged by how much we have accomplished in our work to better the lives of children. So many positive changes have occurred within our juvenile justice system since I entered the business, many years ago.

At DJJ, we continue to see a decrease in the number of youth being committed, and that is a huge plus for this state’s juvenile justice system. For the first time, we have seen the front end of the system take the lead.

Because of the progress we continue to make, we have adopted the slogan, “DJJ: Where Change is Possible.” Change is possible for our staff, programs, the agency as a whole, and of course, it is possible for our juveniles.

An example of preparing our youth for the workplace can be seen in the completion of “The House That DJJ Built,” a Habitat for Humanity house built behind the fence at DJJ, lifted over the fence, and transported to a north Columbia neighborhood. The house was framed behind the fence by incarcerated youth and the finished construction was completed by youth in the community under DJJ’s supervision. We were fortunate to have community partners and volunteers to donate funds, equipment, supplies, and in some cases their expertise in construction to assist our youth with skills in the building trade.

As we watched the house being lifted over the fence on our Broad River Road Complex - lifted by donated cranes with the new homeowner watching - it reminded us all that giving back to our community is not something that should ever end, even for incarcerated youth—perhaps even especially for incarcerated youth.

We realized another first with the opening of the “Store of Hope,” a retail store and job readiness center, located on Broad River Road, which sells DJJ youth-made crafts and furniture produced as part of our job training programs. As part of these programs, DJJ youth now have opportunities to learn skills in upholstery, carpentry, welding, auto collision repair, automotive repair, small engine repair, electricity/HVAC, masonry, culinary arts, graphic arts, parenting, sewing, tile work, desktop publishing, personal finance, and integrated business applications.

The Store of Hope is the result of the youths’ efforts and training. Anyone
who doubts the talent and skills they have developed need only visit the Store of Hope to see the quality and craftsmanship evident in the wide array of products.

Additionally, DJJ youth-made products are available in the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism gift shops around the state. We are proud to have had a number of products showcased at the 2012 South Carolina State Fair, where they won numerous awards.

In my time with the agency, I have never seen more opportunity for our youths to learn job and trade skills than I see today in the new DJJ. And that will continue to be a major focus going forward. One of our next steps will be to bring more job training into the community with our Job Readiness for Teens (JRT) program, which will have training sites for youth across the state.

In this Report Card, we present to you a snapshot of the agency as it stands today, and the ways in which we have seen improvement in recent years. From the consistently declining population due largely to so many wonderful juvenile crime prevention efforts, to the decreasing probation and parole caseloads that have followed the expansion of our “Intensive Supervision” program in the community, DJJ continues to move forward.

Thanks to these and the efforts of our many partners throughout the state, I can say that juvenile crime in South Carolina is at an all-time recorded low. Our efforts of reform and progress are increasingly being recognized nationwide by other juvenile justice agencies. From the many awards that DJJ has won from the national Performance-based Standards (PbS) program to the increased interest of other juvenile justice agencies from across the country wanting to visit South Carolina to learn about our evolution as a model for their own reform efforts, our juvenile justice system continues to be a bright beacon which we can all be proud of.

Of course, there is always room for improvement. DJJ will continue to change as needed, adapting our programs to further ensure their success and effectiveness. Changing for the better is always foremost on everyone’s mind. We ask our juveniles to change for the better, and we will continue to expect it of ourselves as well.

MARGARET BARBER
Director, South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice
DJJ youth learn skills in upholstery, blueprint reading, and horticulture

DJJ’s “Store of Hope”
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 Juvenile Arbitration, 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 evaluation involves psychological, social, and educational assessments 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 that a 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.

Upon indeterminate commitment, a juvenile will be given a time range or “guideline,” determined by the state Board of Juvenile Parole (for all felonies and select misdemeanors) or DJJ’s own release authority (for most misdemeanors and all status offenses). This range is based on the severity of the juvenile’s offense and his history of previous offenses. These guidelines can run anywhere from 1-3 months up to 36-54 months. The Board and DJJ use these guidelines – along with an evaluation of the juvenile’s behavior and progress – to determine the length of incarceration.

Juveniles may remain incarcerated beyond their guideline (up to their 21st birthday). They may also be paroled prior to their minimum guideline for exceptional behavior and progress.

Juveniles may be granted conditional or unconditional releases. A conditional release might involve requiring the juvenile to complete a local aftercare program or program at a wilderness camp or group home. 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.php
CASE REFERRALS TO DJJ: In FY 2011-12, 17,180 cases were referred to DJJ, a 48% drop in the last nine years. Data collected by DJJ at the time offenders exited the juvenile justice system revealed that 68 percent of cases closed involved males and 57 percent involved African-Americans. The average age at case closure was 16 years old.

FIVE MOST FREQUENT OFFENSES ASSOCIATED WITH REFERRALS TO DJJ: The #1 charge associated with cases referred to DJJ statewide was Assault and Battery, 3rd degree. Only 8% of all cases referred to DJJ involved violent and serious offenses.

OFFENDERS DIVERTED BY JUVENILE ARBITRATION PROGRAMS: Juvenile Arbitration is a program operated in all 16 judicial circuits in South Carolina to divert first-time, non-violent juvenile offenders from the court. In the program, trained citizen volunteers work with offenders/parents, victims, and law enforcement to determine appropriate sanctions.

AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION AT DJJ: During Fiscal Year 2011-12, an average daily population of 392 juveniles was held in hardware-secure facilities at DJJ.

DJJ participates in the Performance based Standards (PbS) project of the Council of Juvenile Corrections Administrators. This year, two DJJ facilities achieved Level 4, the highest possible PbS rating, ranking them in the top six to twelve percent of participating PbS facilities in the country.
A Report Card to Our Citizens

CUSTOMER SERVICES
Customers = Victims, Offenders, and the Community

Juvenile Parole & Probation Caseloads in Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Caseload</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011 - 2012</td>
<td>3,819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 - 2011</td>
<td>4,293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009 - 2010</td>
<td>4,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 - 2009</td>
<td>4,973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 - 2008</td>
<td>5,075</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

JUVENILE PROBATION & PAROLE

CASELOADS IN COMMUNITIES: The supervision of offenders in their communities enhances community safety. DJJ’s community staff supervised 3,819 juvenile offenders both on probation or parole at the close of Fiscal Year 2011-2012. Eighty-five percent of juveniles on probation or parole, or in Juvenile Arbitration Programs did not re-offend while under supervision.

TEEN AFTER SCHOOL CENTERS (TASC):

TASCs are after-school programs that provide mentoring, tutoring, and supervised recreation in the critical after-school hours. After being eliminated in the mid-year budget cuts of 2008, 24 TASC sites were restored in fiscal year 2010. A record 1,091 students were served in 2012. DJJ’s new TASC Job Readiness For Teens (TASC-JRT) program (which also provides students with vocational training) was also created in July, 2011.

Youth Served by TASC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Youth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>1,091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>1,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>506</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Program was eliminated mid-year due to budget cuts

SCDJJ SCHOOL DISTRICT GRADUATES:

DJJ operates its own school district for incarcerated offenders, currently with high school and middle school programs accredited by the South Carolina Department of Education. For the ninth year, DJJ’s school district received the “Palmetto Gold” award. The passing rate for the General Equivalency Degree (GED) test at DJJ schools is 77%, exceeding the national passing rate of 72%. DJJ’s Birchwood School is also accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

DJJ School District Graduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Graduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011 – 2012</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 – 2011</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009 – 2010</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 – 2009</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 – 2008</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RESTITUTION: Offenders are expected to pay back victims of crime for the harm they have caused. Of 805 cases closed during FY 2011-12, when restitution was ordered, 61 percent of offenders paid in full. The total amount of restitution collected was $255,399.

WORK SERVICE: Offenders also are expected to perform work service to repay their community for the harm they caused. In 3,234 cases closed during FY 2011-12, 83,906 hours of community work service were ordered. The number of work service hours completed was 74,195, which is 88 percent of the work service ordered.

VICTIMS: Victims of juvenile crime are given the opportunity to serve as speakers on victim impact panels. These panels allow victims to tell offenders face-to-face how their crimes have impacted their lives. In FY 2011-2012, 15 victim impact panels were held. Nearly 205 juvenile offenders attended these panel presentations and were able to hear from victims of their criminal behavior.

Additionally, juveniles receive training in victim empathy. In FY 2011-2012, 43 victim impact classes were held in 16 different DJJ county offices.Nearly 333 juvenile offenders took part in these victim impact classes.
DJJ STAFF TEACH G.R.E.A.T. ANTI-GANG CURRICULUM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS: DJJ staff, certified as instructors in the evidence-based U.S. Department of Justice’s G.R.E.A.T. gang prevention curriculum, taught in 14 elementary and 9 middle schools in FY 11-12, reaching 1,038 at-risk students.

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION: During FY 2011-12, 88 percent of the 7,527 youth completing court orders or Juvenile Arbitration Program sanctions were enrolled in school, an alternative education program, or vocational training. Of the 927 youth not involved in an alternative educational or vocational program, and who were age-eligible (16 years old) to work, 16 were employed. 20 had already graduated and 157 had attained a GED.

EMPLOYABILITY TRAINING: During fiscal year 2011-12, 76 youth at DJJ’s Broad River Road Complex and 221 youth in the community received employability training.

DJJ students received training in workplace skills and in trades such as horticulture, masonry, welding, upholstery, construction, and in many other fields.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/COMMUNITY COMPETENCY: During FY 2011-12, 2,365 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 37,243 hours of services.
A Report Card to Our Citizens
COMMUNITY SAFETY — A Restorative Benchmark
(Protecting the public)

17-Year Comparison of Violent & Serious Juvenile Cases in South Carolina

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># of Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>1,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994-95</td>
<td>3,589</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VIOLENT & SERIOUS JUVENILE CASES: Nationally and in South Carolina, juvenile violent crime peaked in the mid-1990’s. Since then, violent and serious juvenile crime in South Carolina has decreased by 62% percent. The number of cases includes juveniles referred more than once during the fiscal year.

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 compares the number of offenders sentenced to DJJ custody over the past five years.

Table A
Juveniles Committed to the Custody of DJJ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>1,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>1,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>1,977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>1,953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>2,024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DETENTION: Another indicator of trends is the number of juveniles being held in DJJ’s Detention Center pending court action (seen in Table B). Juveniles detained by the family court and law enforcement agencies and determined to be high-risk offenders are held in detention centers. DJJ’s Detention Center has had a drop in the daily population from its peak in 2005-2006. This drop correlated with detention reform efforts implemented by DJJ with the assistance of the University of South Carolina’s Children’s Law Center.

Table B
Daily Population Juveniles Held in DJJ’s Detention Center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LAW-ABIDING BEHAVIOR: Recidivism is the rate at which juveniles are charged with a new offense. Of the 8,235 cases closed during FY 2011-12, 85 percent of offenders on probation or parole, or in Juvenile Arbitration Programs did not re-offend while under supervision. Offenders receiving DJJ’s intensive supervision services were 37.5% less likely to re-offend than those under standard supervision.

Recidivism Rate
Juvenile Offenders on Probation/Parole or in Arbitration Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Offenders</th>
<th>Recidivism Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8,235</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Special Thanks to DJJ’s *Performance Measurements* Partners (Arbitration Programs)

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

The Honorable J. Strom Thurmond, Jr.  
Solicitor, 2nd Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Ernest A. Finney, III  
Solicitor, 3rd Judicial Circuit

The Honorable William B. Rogers, Jr.  
Solicitor, 4th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Dan Johnson  
Solicitor, 5th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Leon Lott  
Sheriff, Richland County

The Honorable Douglas A. Barfield, Jr.  
Solicitor, 6th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Barry J. Barnette  
Solicitor, 7th Judicial Circuit

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

The Honorable Scarlett A. Wilson  
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 W. Walter Wilkins  
Solicitor, 13th Judicial Circuit

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

The Honorable J. Greg Hembree  
Solicitor, 15th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Kevin S. Brackett  
Solicitor, 16th Judicial Circuit
Helping Resources for Families and Crime Victims

Parent Support and Training
Parents Anonymous SC (800) 326-8621

Services for People with Disabilities & Special Needs
SC Department of Disabilities & Special Needs (888) 376-4636
Pro Parents (parent support/training) (800) 759-4776

Services for People with Mental Health Needs
SC Department of Mental Health (803) 898-8581
SC Continuum of Care (803) 734-4500
Federation of Families (866) 779-0402
Managed Treatment Service (803) 245-5147

Job Training & Education Services for Youth
SC Vocational Rehabilitation (800) 832-7526
Job Corps (803) 245-5101
Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School (803) 896-6480

Residential Services for Girls
Florence Crittenton Home (serves pregnant girls) (843) 722-7526
Crossroads Group Home (864) 246-0266

Alcohol/Drug Abuse Treatment/Counseling Services
SC Department of Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse Services (803) 896-5555
Palmetto Treatment Center (843) 662-9378
William J. McCord Adolescent Treatment Center (803) 534-2328

Residential Services for Children
SC Association of Children’s Homes & Family Services (803) 996-5437
Carolina Children’s Home (803) 787-2306
Connie Maxwell Children’s Home (864) 942-1400
Epworth Children’s Home (803) 256-7394

Services for Victims of Crime
SC Crime Victim’s Ombudsman (888) 238-0697
SC Victim Assistance Network (SCVAN) (888) 852-1900
SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (803) 256-2900

Information on Local Services
DHEC Care Line (800) 868-0404

For additional information regarding resource needs, or services provided by DJJ, please go to www.state.sc.us/djj.
DJJ JROTC students hold flag ceremony to honor veterans

“The House That DJJ Built” being lifted over the fence at DJJ