



PbS E-Newsletter

CJCA and PbS Turn 15 !



www.pbstandards.org

The Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA) is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year and already it has become a great opportunity to reflect on what has happened since 1994 in juvenile justice. Most of it has been very positive for young offenders and the agency staff and leaders dedicated to helping them turn around delinquent lives.

For example, 1994 was when the youths were labeled “super predators” and a violent juvenile crime wave was predicted, but never appeared. Legislatures across the country quickly reacted with laws effectively dismantling the juvenile system, sending more youths to adult courts and prisons – which, we now know has not worked. Many state juvenile systems were small parts of adult corrections, inheriting adult corrections policies, practices and facilities and subsequently, have been the focus of litigation and investigation for failing to provide safe environments and appropriate services that recognize the different needs and strengths of youths.

CJCA’s Performance-based Standards (PbS) program started only months after CJCA incorporated. PbS was launched as a direct result of the Conditions of Confinement Study documenting poor conditions and inadequate services in youth facilities. We now know that along with the sea change in juvenile justice attitudes and practices over the past 15 years, PbS data shows facilities, staff and agency leaders know what works best for young offenders.

PbS has come a long way

When PbS began, there were no performance standards or measures to use as a starting point. The group of 40 practitioners and experts started with blank paper and drafted the goals, standards and outcome measures. We worked to ensure the standards were written to be the highest for facility operations. Work groups and field input added the policies and practices that evidence or experience shows will lead to good outcomes. That work has grown into the comprehensive blueprint for operations we call the PbS standards.

PbS started with pencils and paper. We would go on site with paper forms and collect the data to take back to the office. During early website days, we had to print out and mail all the outcome reports. Now it’s a click of the mouse. Technology has been and continues to be a wonderful tool for PbS’ national network.

PbS has been shown on PBS, a far-reaching goal we set years ago that was realized when PbS was named a winner of the 2004 Innovations in American Government Award and resulting a film on public television.

Please know as we reflect on PbS, you the participants are foremost on our minds. PbS has always been a field-driven program and we know that has been the heart of its success. Please share our sense of accomplishment for all that’s been done to build PbS and know how much we appreciate your work and support for PbS.

Thanks and best wishes for great successes in 2009!

Ned Loughran, Director and
Kim Godfrey, Deputy Director



2008 State Coordinators Training Attendees

Next month's PbS E-newsletter will feature the Nome Youth Facility in Alaska and its successful Facility Improvement Plan to address escapes.

News and articles are always welcome!



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