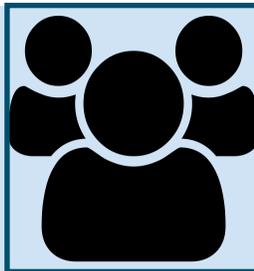


# **Juvenile Justice System Reform Act of 2017 Implementation Guide**

## **Juvenile Justice Oversight Commission**



**A Publication by the Division of Child and Family Services to assist Juvenile Justice professionals in the implementation of the new requirements approved in the Juvenile Justice System Reform Act of 2017 (Assembly Bill 472 of the 2017 Legislative Session)**

# Juvenile Justice System Reform Act of 2017 Implementation Guide

The State of Nevada applied for and received technical assistance through the Justice Center of the Council of State Governments. Receipt of the award triggered a year long process analyzing Nevada's Juvenile System and developing recommendations for change. That process included convening a team of Nevadans from all branches of government and all corners of the state together with national experts. The final recommendations were then included in one of Governor Sandoval's signature bills for the 2017 Legislative Session, Assembly Bill 472.



***This legislation represents a united effort by all three branches of government to better protect public safety and improve outcomes for youth in our juvenile justice system by making the system more cost-efficient and effective.***

**- Governor Brian Sandoval**

***Nevada is taking an important step toward juvenile justice system reform. We applaud the strong support of uniform performance measures and standard procedures for developing performance measures***

**- National Center for Juvenile Justice**

***This piece of legislation represents the very best of collaboration and passionate efforts to reform the system of juvenile justice in the State of Nevada***

**- Former Nevada Supreme Court Justice Nancy Saitta**

The bill passed both the Nevada Assembly and the Nevada Senate unanimously and was signed into law by Governor Sandoval on June 16, 2017. The bill has several components but most importantly:

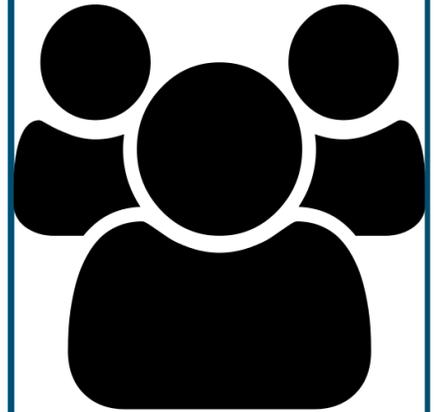
- Creates a Juvenile Justice Oversight Commission to develop standardized performance measures and data analysis points including but not limited to youth recidivism;
- Requires statewide implementation of statewide uniform risk assessments that will help guide the judiciary and juvenile justice agencies in serving youth throughout the life of their case;
- Modifies required judicial findings to ensure youth being removed from the community truly pose a risk to public safety and that availability community resources have been explored; and
- Requires a number of juvenile justice agency practice changes including but not limited to family engagement strategies, comprehensive youth case planning, objective length of stay and facility release decisions, and standardized responses to youth parole violations.
- Requires that over time state funds for juvenile justice agencies be expended on evidence based programs.

The following implementation guide is meant to assist juvenile justice agencies and practitioners to understand the law's changes and to ensure quality implementation of its aims.\*

**\*This guide is not meant to be nor should it be interpreted as legal advice. Questions about your agency's legal requirements under this legislation should be directed to your legal counsel.**

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The law establishes the Juvenile Justice Oversight Commission and the Advisory Committee to the Commission. Together in partnership with the Division of Child and Family Services and the county probation departments, the Oversight Commission helps oversee and execute the reforms included in the legislation.



## **Membership—Sec 4 and 4.5**

The membership of the Oversight Commission is established by law to be 25 members appointed by the Governor. In addition there is a 6 members Advisory Committee made up of members of the legislative and judicial branches to assist in advising the Oversight Commission in its duties.

## **Performance Measure Standards—Sec 5**

The Commission is required to establish uniform procedures for Juvenile Justice agencies to report performance measures. This includes uniform definitions and reporting mechanism to track rates of recidivism. The Oversight Commission is required to do this before July 1, 2018.

## **Selection of Validated Tools – Sec 5**

The Oversight Commission is tasked with selecting a number of statewide uniform assessment tools including:

- 1) A validated risk assessment tool; and
- 2) A validated mental health screening tool

The tools must be selected by January 1, 2018 and will be used by juvenile justice agencies and the courts to make case planning, court disposition, residential placement, and other critical decisions for juvenile justice involved youth.

## **Assistance of Experts**

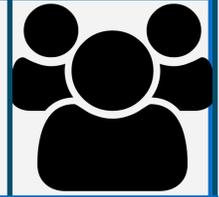
The Division of Child and Family Services is authorized to contract with experts to assist with the exploration of and selection of the validated tools as well as establishing performance measures.

## **State Advisory Group Duties**

The Oversight Commission and the Advisory Committee will act as Nevada's State Advisory Group for purposes of the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act and will execute the responsibilities of that group as required by federal law.

# Juvenile Justice System Reform Act of 2017 Implementation Guide

## Strategic Plan—Sec 6



The Oversight Commission is required to develop a 5-year strategic plan that establishes policies and procedures for Juvenile Justice agencies. The plan must include but is not limited to detailed plans for:

- 1) Uniform standards that an evidence-based practice or program must follow including model programs, staffing requirements, quality assurance protocols, and the availability of promising programs or practice-based evidence;
- 2) Strategies including goals and timelines to enhance the capacities of Juvenile Justice agencies to comply with the evidence based practice requirements of the law and the creation of partnership with and develop of treatment providers.;
- 3) Requirements for juvenile justice agencies to collect and report data on programming; and
- 4) Protocols for improvement plans and corrective action plans by juvenile justice departments or treatment providers struggling to comply with the requirements of the law.;

The Division of Child and Family Services is tasked with adopting administrative regulations that reflect the Oversight Commission's plan.

The strategic plan is due to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau on or before July 1, 2018 and

## Quality Assurance Reviews —Sec 7



The Oversight Commission is required to conduct annual quality assurance reviews for each state juvenile justice facility and each regional facility for treatment and rehabilitation of camps. Prior to conducting quality assurance reviews, the assigned Commission members will be trained on the quality assurance tools and policies. The reviews include Caliente Youth Center, Nevada Youth Training Center, Summit View Youth Center, Spring Mountain Youth Camp, and China Spring/Aurora Pines Camp.

The reviews must utilize a validated service assessment tool and must include an analysis of the facility's service delivery, review of the case management procedures, review of policies on supervision and behavior management, and a review of the procedures relating to the release of a youth.

The results of each review are shared with the governing agencies for review and if needed the development of a facility improvement plan. Each year the results of the quality assurance reviews are to be submitted to the Governor and the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

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## Use of the validated tools throughout the system



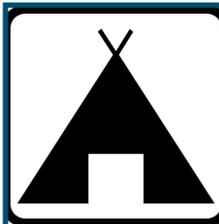
### County Probation Departments

- Pre-disposition comprehensive report
- Case planning & county camp reentry planning



### Judiciary

- Determine risk level for dispositional decision
- Determine risk level for parole revocation



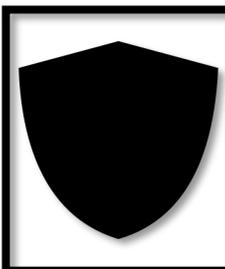
### County Camps

- Case planning
- Reentry planning



### State Operated Residential Facilities

- Facility placement determination
  - Case planning
- Reentry Plan in conjunction with Parole



### Youth Parole Bureau

- Case planning and facility reentry planning
- Case planning & county camp re-entry planning
  - Parole violation response decision

