

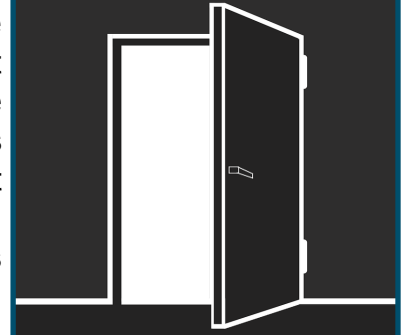
Juvenile Justice System Reform Act of 2017 Implementation Guide County Camps



**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 by 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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AB472 modifies the way regional facilities for the treatment and rehabilitation of children (Spring Mountain, Aurora Pines, China Spring) also known as County Camps work with youth. The modifications touch each phase of a youth's placement including the placement decision, length of stay, case planning, and release. In addition the law requires changes in family engagement and quality assurance.



Disposition Decisions - Sec. 15

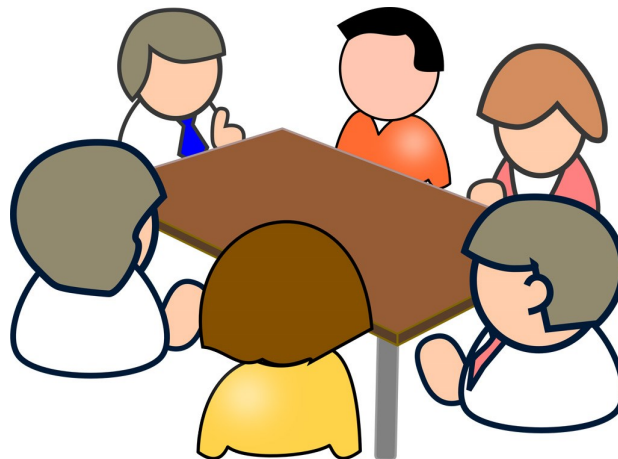
Upon the selection and adoption of the statewide uniform risk and needs assessments, the department of juvenile services in each jurisdiction will be required to prepare a report on the results of those assessments. The report must include the child's risk to reoffend, supervision recommendation, and service needs of the child. The report must be provided to all parties and the court is required to use the report to assist in its disposition determination.

Reentry Planning Meeting – Sec 16

A Reentry Planning Meeting is required by the law and must occur at least 30 days prior to the youth's scheduled release. The meeting participant list should include but is not limited to:

- 1) The youth;
- 2) Family member or guardian
- 3) Youth Parole Counselor
- 4) Superintendent; and
- 5) Treatment providers

If the facility determines participation by any of the above members is not appropriate, the facility shall document the reason for not including the participant.



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Case Plan & Reentry Plan Requirements—Sec 16



CASE PLAN: AB472 requires that youth adjudicated and under the supervision of the juvenile court receive a case plan developed by the county probation department. In the event of placement at a county camp, this case plan should follow them from residential care and back out into the community. The county must take certain factors into consideration and the plan requires certain elements.

Factors to Take into Consideration

- Results of statewide risk and needs assessments
- Trauma experienced by the youth
- Educational level of the youth
- Seriousness of the offense committed
- Youth's progress is meeting treatment goals
- Any additional relevant information provided by the family of the youth

Required Elements

- Address the risks and needs identified in the assessments
- Specify the supervision level and services that the youth needs
- Referrals to treatment providers that address the youth's risks and needs
- Be developed in consultation with the youth's family or guardian as appropriate
- Specify responsibilities of each person or agency involved
- Plan for full reentry of the child into the community
- Be reviewed at least once every three months and updated at least every six months

REENTRY PLAN: The law also requires a reentry plan for any youth in a county camp. There are four required elements of the reentry plan:

- 1) A detailed description of the education, counseling, and treatment provided by the youth;
- 2) A proposed plan for the continued education, counseling, and treatment of the youth upon release;
- 3) A proposed plan for the provision of any supervision or services necessary for the transition of the youth; and
- 4) A proposed plan for any engagement of the child's family or guardian.

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Family Engagement



Section 12 of the bill requires that each county probation department to develop and implement a family engagement plan for youth committed to its custody. The plan must include strategies for the following:

- 1) Increasing the family's contact with the youth;
- 2) Engaging family members in the case planning for the youth and in the planning meeting for the release of the youth from a facility and from court jurisdiction;
- 3) Involving family members in the child's treatment; and
- 4) Soliciting family member feedback related to improvements in services rendered to youth.

The Division should develop a statewide family engagement policy, local standard operating procedures, and a template for use in individual cases to meet this statutory requirement.

Quality Assurance



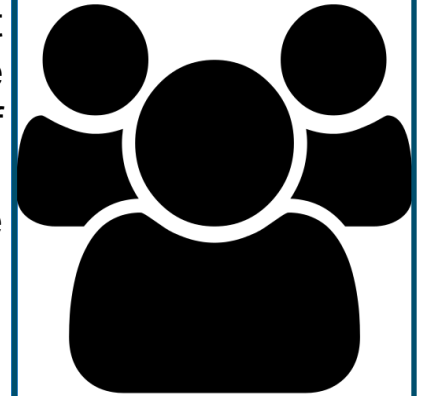
The bill creates the Juvenile Justice Oversight Commission. Section 7 of the bill requires that Commission to conduct annual quality assurance reviews of county camps. These reviews will use a validated services assessment tool and include:

- 1) An analysis of the facility's service delivery;
- 2) A review of the facility's case management procedures;
- 3) A review of the facility's policies on supervision and behavior management of youth placed in the facility; and
- 4) An analysis of the facilities procedures relating to the release of youth.

Following the completion of a quality assurance review, the facility will develop a facility improvement plan which will be submitted to the Commission for review and further distribution.

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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.

Strategic Plan—Sec 6

The Commission is required to develop a 5-year strategic plan to include but not limited to, uniform standards for evidence based programs, increasing the availability of evidence based programs in the community, data and programming requirements, and protocols for helping to implement the legislation.

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 a validated risk assessment tool; and 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.

Quality Assurance Reviews—Sec

The Oversight Commission is required to conduct annual quality assurance reviews for each state juvenile justice facility and each regional facility for the treatment and rehabilitation of youth. The commission members conducting the review will be trained on and are required to use a validated service assessment tool. Each facility will work with the commission to develop a facility improvement plan.

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.

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Use of the validated tools throughout the system



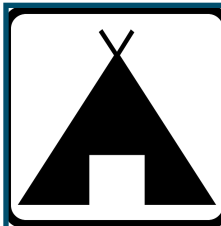
County Probation Departments

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



Judiciary

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



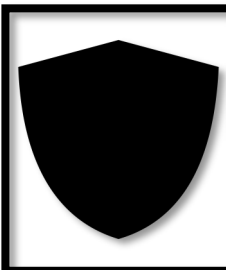
County Camps

- 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

