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Assessment of the Effectiveness of the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice's Intensive
Supervision Model (IAE-Model)



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STATE DOCUMENTS

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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."

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), a state agency, is responsible for providing rehabilitation and custodial care for the state's juveniles who are on probation, incarcerated, or on parole for a criminal or status offense. DJJ is organized within four divisions and two support offices. The divisions are: Division of Community Services; Division of Rehabilitative Services; Division of Education Services; and Division of Administrative Services.

Problem Statement

The South Carolina Code of Laws, 20-7-8315 (A), establishes DJJ's responsibility to provide aftercare services.

The Intensive Supervision Initiative (ISI) is designed to promote a safe community and to make certain that the juvenile's reentry back into the community from DJJ's maximum and moderate care facilities is successful.

The ISI is based on the nationally recognized and supported Intensive Aftercare Program model (IAP) that utilizes evidenced-based practices proven to assist in the reduction of recidivism, improve family functioning and ensure community safety.

Prior to the Intensive Supervision Initiative (September 2006), juveniles that were paroled from the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice were re-offending, (committing new offenses) and violating their parole at an alarming rate. Data suggest that a high number of the juveniles that came back to the institutions were there on technical violations. Some of the violations included positive drug screens, curfew violations, not attending counseling sessions with Mental Health and /or Alcohol and Drug Commission and failure to cooperate with other service providers. The purpose of this project is to determine if the Intensive Supervision Initiative

reduced the number of technical violations which ultimately reduces re-commitment.

It is not the intent of the ISI for revocations and new offenses to increase. Hopefully it will be an extension of services they received while they were incarcerated. ISI is another way to infuse Balanced & Restorative Justice (BARJ) practices such as restitution programs for victims, community services projects and conflict resolution.

To ignore the safety and well-being of our communities would be a disservice to the citizens of our state. Balancing service brokerage, supervision and surveillance is essential as we restore our youth. If we want to reclaim our youth, understanding and implementing the principles of the IAP Model, BARJ, Community & Victim Restoration, and Family Strengthening & Reunification should be our top priorities.

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice studied the population of incarcerated youth and determined that about one half of the juveniles that were in the institution were there on technical violations. The department initiated a Re-Entry Program which proved to be successful. The re-entry program reduced the number of returning to the institutions for technical violations. Further studies indicated that the population we serve could best be served if they were monitored more closely after their release from the

institution. The department studied the Intensive Aftercare Program Model (IPA) and felt that this model would best serve our clients. It is understood that the more we paid attention to the parolees the more we would likely find them doing wrong and violating their conditional release (parole conditions). However, working with an offender very early during their commitment would benefit the juvenile, case manager and the family. The juvenile, parent(s) or guardians and service providers would have the opportunity to build a rapport with the case manager/ISO. This will make the transition into the community, whenever appropriate, efficient and effective.

Every year approximately 600-700 juveniles are released from confinement at the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice. Prior to the ISO initiative (September 2006), juveniles that were released from DJJ were supervised by a probation/parole officer. In most DJJ County Offices in South Carolina, probation staff members often maintained parole cases on their caseloads. Thus, case managers supervised probationers and parolees which made it very difficult to provide intensive services to parolees. In the larger counties, you will find that most probation/parole officers have well over 90 cases on their caseloads.

Goals and Objectives of the ISO Program

- 1) To work cross-divisionally to develop an effective transitional plan that includes aftercare services that begins at the juvenile's commitment to DJJ and continues through the juvenile's re-entry and successful adjustment in the community.
- 2) Prepare juveniles for successful reintegration into the community through the provision of best-practice social skills, life skills and educational and vocational interventions.
- 3) Promote family strengthening and empowerment by fully engaging juveniles and their families in the intensive supervision planning process and ensure both juveniles and their families clearly understand the conditions and responsibilities they must fulfill upon the juveniles return to the community.
- 4) Promote the use of utilizing BARJ principles to address direct victimization through the use of Victims Panels or Victim Offender Dialogue.
- 5) Create a support system for each juveniles and his/her family prior to the juveniles release to provide the primary support and services needed through brokering community resources and services.
- 6) Develop the necessary collaborative partnerships and memoranda of agreements with public and private agencies, organizations, and

services providers in communities to ensure that needed services are offered to each juvenile and their family.

- 7) Develop or enhance a IS Community Planning and Review Team to assist in the development and monitoring of the juveniles service plan, ensure required services, support, and supervision are in place prior to the juvenile's release.
- 8) Collect data for the purpose of assessing progress, success and further analysis.

Data Collection

Customer/Client Identification

The Intensive Supervision Officers are responsible for maintaining a very comprehensive database. The agency developed this unique database for the Intensive Supervision Initiative. The Office of Policy and Planning's Research and Statistics staff were utilized to collect the first year data necessary to measure the initiative's performance. The ISO's database contains the necessary information required to measure performance for this initiative. This database contains information regarding clients, pre/post-release progress reports, outcomes measures, location, number of contacts and status. Intensive Supervision Officers throughout the state are

responsible for updating their database monthly and submitting it to the Office of Policy and Planning. Intensive Supervision Officers are also responsible for the integrity of the database. The department's Intensive Supervision Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that all required data is entered into the database within the timed guidelines and that the information is correct. The department's data collection specialist compiles this information for review and monitoring.

The Rehabilitation Services Division is responsible for completing Performance-based Standards Exit surveys for all juveniles two weeks or less prior to their release.

Data was collected on all juveniles that were committed/ incarcerated at the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice. When committed, and while in the transitional units, juvenile are assessed and staffed by a team of individuals whom determine which facility meets the needs of the juvenile. After being assigned to a facility, the juvenile is given guidelines as to the length of time he/she has to spend at the Department of Juvenile Justice. For example, his/her sentence...i.e. 3-6 months, 6-12 months, 12-18 months, and 18- 24 months, 24-36 months and 36-54 months. Juveniles are assigned to one of the three campuses on Broad River Road Complex. The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice long-term institutions are; John G.

Richards, Willow Lane and Birchwood Campuses. The juvenile is then assigned a social worker. The Intensive Supervision Initiative requires the Intensive Supervision Officer to begin working with juveniles very early in their commitment status. This allows the staff and juvenile time to prepare the juvenile for his/her return to their respective communities.

Data Analysis

The Intensive Supervision State Coordinator with assistance from the Research and Statistical staff are responsible for collecting and analyzing the data. The Intensive Supervision Coordinator provided updates monthly to ISO and supervisors and an annual report is submitted to the agency's Director.

The following data was collected and analyzed using the ISO's (statewide) database.

A total of 672 juveniles were served in the first year of the Intensive Supervision Initiative (ISI). The most Frequent Offenses:

Probation Violation (Felony Probation Offenses):	127
Aggravated Assault	102
Burglary (1 st and 2 nd or 3 rd Degree)	79
Weapons Offense	45

Robbery (armed and strong Armed)	35
Grand Larceny	29
Sexual Assault	18
Number of Juvenile Offenders Supervised in Community	396
Number of Case Closures	215

First Year Recidivism of 396 Juveniles Supervised in Community

Charged with a New Criminal Offense:	63 (15.9%)
Parole Revoked	9 (2.3%)

Outcomes of New Criminal Charges as of 1/08/07:

Adjudicated and Community Supervision Continued	8
Adjudicated and Recommitted	10
Convicted/sentence in General Session Court	8
Juvenile Charges Dismissed	2
Juvenile Charges Diverted	1
General Session Charges Dismissed	2
General Session Charges Diverted	2
Juvenile Charges Pending	7
General Session Charges Pending	23

Prior to the Intensive Supervision Initiative, 46 % of the juveniles that were released from DJJ institutions committed new offenses within a 12 month

period and the total of juveniles that committed new offenses over a 24 month period, increased to 68%.

Implementation Plan

Intensive Supervision Officers should continue to keep an accurate record

The Intensive Supervision Initiative should continue to be re-evaluated annually to ensure that all aspects of the initiative are deflating the number of technical violation for parolees.

Potential obstacles will be the funding for additional ISO. As new staff members are added to offices, the need for additional office space arises.

Additional resources are needed such as new state vehicles, laptop computers, cell phones, desk and supplies.

Other obstacles include changes in policies and procedures. Each county's resources are different. Some of the poorer counties lack resources/services which causes clients to have to travel to a neighboring county to receive services. (I.e....Sex Offender Treatment). This is sometimes a burden to the parents/guardians. Also most of the parents are employed and can not afford to miss time from their jobs. The community stakeholders are all of the child service agencies in the community. Most of the agencies have

representatives that attend the Community Planning Review and Treatment Team.

The data proves that the ISI was successful in its first year of existence at SCDJJ.

Summary and Recommendations

The ISI prepares juveniles while incarcerated for re-entry into their communities in which they will return. It also establishes the necessary arrangements and linkages between the institution and the community to ensure that the supervision and services a juvenile will need are in place prior to their release. The initiative also ensures that juveniles receive the prescribed supervision and services once they return to the community. The program initially started in 23 counties in South Carolina. The data collected in the first year suggest that the program has made a positive impact on the targeted population with fewer reported violations and revocations. While involved with the ISI, more juveniles have obtained their GED's, maintained jobs longer, and entered into higher educational programs.

Based on the results of the first year data, it is recommended that the Intensive Supervision Initiative continues and builds on positives and

problem solve the areas that are in need of improvement. We have very little control when it comes to the difficult family situations and living arrangements, negative peers groups and friends (gangs), mental, behavioral and physical health issues, substance abuse, educational insufficiency and poor performance at school, lack of vocational training & employment opportunities, lack of positive leisure time activities and recreational facilities. But when the above issues are addressed (once identified), ISO can assist the families with referrals to counseling services, One-Stop Centers for employment (parents), literacy programs for parents and juveniles and extra curricular activities (intramural sports).

ISI Database.mdb

References:

South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice Web Site –

www.state.sc.us/djj

South Carolina Children's Code Section 20-7-8315(A)

South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice Intensive Supervision

Initiative Training/Procedure Guide