



Utah Commission  
on Criminal and  
Juvenile Justice

# 2011

# ANNUAL REPORT

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The Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice coordinates criminal and juvenile justice policy among the various branches and levels of government. Commission policy is developed and honed by leveraging the expertise of judges, administrators, legislators and citizen representatives to ensure that all voices are heard and the best policies are implemented. In addition, the Commission conducts on-going research and seeks to implement justice programming using evidence-based practices. Where possible the Commission funds these initiatives using grant resources.

## CCJJ Update

### Grant Overview

In FY 2011, CCJJ distributed \$10,338,240 in 212 grants to state, local and non-profit agencies for critical adult and juvenile justice initiatives.

### Judicial Nominating Commission

During the 2010 General Session CCJJ was given the responsibility to manage nine judicial nominating commissions throughout the state. When a judicial vacancy exists, the appropriate nominating commission receives applications from individuals interested in

serving as a judge, interviews selected applicants and certifies a list of nominees to the Governor who then appoints a judge from the list of nominees. Judicial appointees are subject to Senate confirmation. Over the past fiscal year, it is estimated that this Commission has examined approximately 162 applications to fill seven judicial vacancies.

### Jail Reimbursement

In 2009, CCJJ was assigned responsibility for management of the state's Jail Reimbursement Program. The jail reimbursement program seeks to financially compensate counties for housing inmates sentenced to jail as a condition of felony probation. In fiscal year 2011 the Commission verified 376,379 bed days. The total amount dispersed in FY11 by the Division of Finance was \$6,000,000.

### Mentally Ill Offender Initiative

The Mental Health Initiative continues to work on expanding mental health courts throughout the state and to increase the number of law enforcement officers trained in mental health related crisis intervention.

### Domestic and Sexual Violence

The Office on Domestic and Sexual Violence works on issues that deal with family violence, rape and sexual assault and dating violence. Responsibilities include encouraging policies that increase public awareness;

strengthening the laws in order to reduce domestic and sexual violence; and directing and supporting agencies and organizations that work to end domestic violence, rape and sexual assault in our local communities. The office is working with the Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault and the Utah Department of Health on a second sexual violence summit and continues to support the work of the Utah Sexual Violence Council.

### Extraditions

CCJJ is the designated state agency responsible for coordinating out-of-state fugitive extraditions for state and local law enforcement agencies. During FY 2011, CCJJ coordinated 306 extraditions at a cost of \$372,367.

In addition to the number of extraditions increasing by nearly five percent, the cost per extradition has also increased by three percent during fiscal year 2011.

## Gang Taskforce - Overview

### Overview:

The Utah Gang Task Force was established in December of 2008 by Governor Jon M. Huntsman, and was made up of officials and representatives from various state, county, and local governments and organizations. The group was organized to discuss the state's gang problem and make recommendations regarding the best ways to address those problems, including recommendations on current and future policy and legislation. A summary and complete report can be found at [gangfree.utah.gov](http://gangfree.utah.gov).

## Gang Taskforce – Mission Statement

The group formulated the following mission statement to ensure its success.

The Utah Gang Task Force will partner with local communities to support and establish a comprehensive, sustainable approach to prevent and reduce gang violence and gang related crime.

In order to accomplish this, the Task Force will:

- Assess the gang problem in Utah and the resources available to address it.
- Compile and disseminate updated information.
- Identify best practices for state and local responses to gang issues.
- Identify funding and other resources available to state and local governments.
- Recommend statewide policies and legislative changes.

## Gang Taskforce – Statewide Assessment

In an effort to better understand the gang problem in Utah, the taskforce undertook an assessment of the current environment. Sources examined included:

- Large operational databases including those from the Department of Corrections and the State's Criminal History File.
- Youth self-reports of gang affiliation from statewide surveys of students in middle schools and high schools and data from the Student Health and Risk Prevention (SHARP) survey.
- Surveys of professionals working in schools, community supervision, correctional facilities, law enforcement, courts, and community organizations, as well as the general public.

Below are some findings:

- Region analysis indicated the greatest gang activity in Weber, Salt Lake and Tooele Counties. These areas of the state should be the focus of on-going efforts at prevention, intervention and suppression.
- The evidence is fairly clear from multiple sources that gangs and gang-affiliated individuals in Utah are engaging a significant amount of violent and disruptive activities in our neighborhoods, schools, and prisons, as well as drug-related offenses and property crimes. The most common activities cited include assaults, threats and intimidation (and bullying in schools), disorderly conduct of varying degrees, graffiti and vandalism, burglaries, and drug possession and distribution.
- 4-5% of youth in middle and high schools across the state (grades 6-12) report having some current or prior involvement in a gang over the past 10 years. Self-reported involvement appears to peak in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Better data collection methods and tools are needed to enhance our understanding of the problem.

## Gang Taskforce – Recommendations

The group agreed on eleven "best practice" recommendations:

- Implement multi-level comprehensive gang control efforts with goals & strategies
- Use data-driven assessment to identify target population
- Use programs found to be effective with non-gang members
- Use "hot spot" policing in collaboration with community organizations
- Use improved street lighting with active close circuit TV
- Use long-term incarceration for extremely high risk violent offenders
- Evaluate all gang control efforts
- Be proactive with media to raise awareness & educate public regarding gang issues
- Develop gang-specific screening and assessments
- Develop gang-specific programs
- Develop a systems-level process & outcome evaluation tool

## Utah – Justice Assistance Grant

In FY2011 the U.S. Department of Justice awarded Utah \$2,096,024 in formula grant funding from the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program. The Utah JAG formula grant program is administered by CCJJ and allocated to units of state and local government along with private non-profit and faith-based organizations throughout the state. JAG grant awards are limited to criminal justice agencies and criminal justice service providers.

FY 2011 JAG formula funding was allocated to various criminal justice purpose areas including: Law Enforcement Programs, Prevention/Education Programs, Corrections and Community Corrections Programs, Drug Treatment and Enforcement Programs, Planning -Evaluation - Technology Improvement Programs. In FY 2011 CCJJ awarded \$434,549 in JAG grant funding to Utah's multi-jurisdictional drug task forces and \$250,000 to a prescription drug abuse awareness campaign.

## Utah State Task Force Grant

The Utah Legislature passed H.B. 91 in 2007 creating the Law Enforcement Operations Account (LEOA). CCJJ is required to grant funds from the LEOA under the State Task Force Grant program (STFG). Grants are awarded to criminal justice service providers in order to address illicit drug use and other crime issues. The first priority of the STFG grant program is to provide operational support for Utah's established multi-jurisdictional drug and crime task force units. CCJJ will allocate up to \$2.5 million annually (depending on available resources) to the task forces in order to meet this priority. STFG funding may also be used to

enhance drug abuse prevention projects. In FY2011 CCJJ awarded \$1,504,198 in STFG grant funding to Utah's multi-jurisdictional drug task force projects.

## JAG and STFG Results

FY2011 JAG and STFG grants (along with funding from the State Asset Forfeiture Grant program) were used to assist 17 multi-jurisdictional drug and crime task force projects serving 26 of Utah's 29 counties. Last year, Utah's task force projects produced the following results: *2,402 arrests (-6.2% under the 5yr. average); the removal of 11 kilograms (kg) of cocaine (-46.5% under the 5yr. average); 52kg. of meth. (+14.9% over the 5yr. average); 10,754 units of prescription medication (+1.3% over the 5yr. average); 10kg. of heroin (+59.3% over the 5yr. average) (and 821kg. of marijuana (+16.1% over the 5yr. average). The task forces seized \$1.1 million in criminal assets (-33.1% under the 5yr. average) and made 478 public drug education presentations.*

## Utah Sexual Exploitation of Children Prevention Grant

In 2006, the Utah Legislature approved House Bill 170 - *Prosecution and Prevention of Child Pornography Offenses Amendments*. H.B. 170 established a one-time, \$1 million grant program to be administered by CCJJ. H.B.170 directs CCJJ to, "allocate and administer grants...for approved education programs to help prevent the sexual exploitation of children."

In FY2011 CCJJ maintained support for one internet safety project that had received SECP grant funding of \$338,800 in the prior fiscal year. The recipient

agency, Utah Education Network (UEN), used SECP funding to develop a comprehensive internet safety program and website known as NetSafeUtah - [www.netsafeutah.org](http://www.netsafeutah.org)

In FY2011 UEN achieved the following results using SECP grant funding: Provided direct NetSafe training to 15,430 K-12 students, teachers and parents (76,030 since the start of the project in 2006); the UEN designed and launched a comprehensive website NetSafeUtah.org; SECP funding is paying for two regional Outreach Coordinators to provide Utah kids direct NetSafe training services. UEN is a partner with: The Utah Office of Education, Public Broadcasting (UEN - TV), The Utah AG's ICAC Unit, U of U College of Education, Salt Lake Interfaith Round Table, Utah Head Start Centers and Utah Public Libraries. UEN will make the NetSafe Utah program available to other states next year.

## Utah State Asset Forfeiture Grant (SAFG)

In 2004 the Utah Legislature passed Senate Bill 175 making federal and state asset forfeiture funding available for use in criminal justice service projects. CCJJ developed the State Asset Forfeiture Grant (SAFG) program as a means of evaluating and distributing state forfeiture funds. SAFG grants are awarded to governmental agencies that provide criminal justice services. In FY 2011, CCJJ awarded 27 SAFG Grants for a total of \$914,377 (\$317,000 to drug court programming, \$199,021 to drug task force programming and \$398,355 awarded to twenty-four state and local law enforcement agencies through a formula award process. State forfeitures

collected in the Criminal Forfeiture Restricted Account (CFRA) continue to grow each year. In FY2011 CFRA funding increased by 30.4% compared to FY2010

### Law Enforcement Support Account

The 2010 Legislature passed SB217 which required that CCJJ administer an account used for increased law enforcement in municipalities with halfway houses run by the Utah Department of Corrections. The total allocation for FY 2012 is \$619,000.

### Dating Violence Survey/Update

A survey was conducted of college students across the state, providing estimates of the prevalence rates of various types of intimate partner violence in young adults (18-29) in Utah.

- 20.8% of young adults in Utah report perpetrating at least one act of physical aggression against an intimate partner in the previous year (14.7% minor acts only, 6.2% includes severe act(s)), and 25.5% report being the victim of at least one act of physical aggression (17.8% minor only, 7.7% severe). In many cases, the physical aggression is mutual, where both partners commit aggressive acts.
- 72.1% report perpetrating at least one act of psychological/emotional aggression (54.8% minor only, 17.3% severe), and 71.1% report being victimized by at least one act of psychological/emotional aggression (50.4% minor only, 20.7% severe) in the context of an intimate relationship.

- 14.9% report perpetrating at least one act of sexual coercion against an intimate partner (13.8% minor only, 1.1% severe), and 22.7% report being the victim of sexual coercion (19.4% minor only, 3.3% severe).

- Of those surveyed, injuries were reported by 5.1%, while 2.0% reported inflicting injuries.

A full copy of the report is available at [www.justice.utah.gov](http://www.justice.utah.gov)

### Technology Priorities

#### Protective Orders:

In 2011 work began on a Protective Order System that permits those requesting a protective order to be notified at time of service. Registrants can use either a web interface with notification by either email or text message or, notification will be available by registering and receiving notification by the use of an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) phone system. This system can give notification via phone text message, email message or phone call.

#### Warrants:

The Statewide Warrant system has also seen major changes this year. For example, the state has totally revamped the collection and dissemination of transportation information. This was done under the direction of a special working group that included participation from law enforcement, courts and CCJJ. Using these tools, law enforcement will better understand who must be transported back to the court of origin for processing.

In addition, members of the public can check for warrants online – free of charge. This service can be accessed from [www.publicsafety.utah.gov](http://www.publicsafety.utah.gov).

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