



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

REGIONAL FORUMS REPORT

2012-2014

GEORGIA CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL
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FOREWORD

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is statutorily charged with convening stakeholders statewide to assist in the development, prioritization, and publication of state and local policy agenda for the criminal justice system. One of CJCC's many goals is to continuously work with practitioners in the field to obtain their perspective of the state's criminal justice system to better inform practice and policy. To this end, CJCC has hosted twelve Regional Criminal Justice Forums throughout the State of Georgia because we believe that a successful reciprocal and collaborative relationship among policy makers, public servants, and practitioners is the foundation of ensuring effective policy. Each forum was essential to determining the priorities in each region, understanding the challenges the criminal justice system currently faces, and identifying cost-saving, innovative, and effective practices and programs.

This report presents the culmination of two years of work undertaken by CJCC in our exploration into vexing criminal justice issues forum participants experienced, with an emphasis on programs these practitioners have identified as beneficial to the communities they serve. Our intent is to share the information obtained with practitioners throughout the State and with policymakers working to make strides in the field. We are actively building upon the Office of the Governor's priorities and work in criminal justice reform.

From forum to forum, there were many recurring themes within the realm of criminal justice policy and victims' services programs. In reviewing all of the regional forum summaries, we have recognized the following items as the most persistent themes:

- The need for more robust reentry services within all regions of the State;
- Concerns about properly treating the underlying mental health needs of offenders to reduce the likelihood that they will recidivate;
- The need for additional cross-training among law enforcement professionals and non-profit, social service providers of all kinds;
- The need for statewide coordination and the standardization of practices;
- Concerns regarding funding priorities, training, and the ability of agencies to fulfill their mission;
- Concerns about the fair distribution of funding to adequately support programs and services in both rural and urban areas;
- The need for more funding of both intervention *and* prevention efforts; and
- Concerns about defining the role of the criminal justice system in social services.

As you read through the report, please do not hesitate to reach out the CJCC Grants and Policy Division staff with suggestions and input. We are still working on the next steps for the Forum Report, and we would be very excited to hear suggestions and ideas.

Director
Jacqueline Bunn

REGIONAL FORUM BACKGROUND

In accordance with Georgia Code (O.C.G.A. § 35-6A-7 (2010)), the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) has a responsibility as the state administering agency of Georgia:

“To convene periodically state-wide criminal justice conferences involving key executives in the Criminal justice system of this state and elected officials for the purpose of developing, prioritizing, and publicizing a policy agenda for the criminal justice system of this state.”

In this manner and to the benefit of the State of Georgia, the Office of the Governor, the Office of Planning and Budget, and the state’s local agencies, CJCC has completed twelve regional forums throughout the state. This forum report represents a culmination of a two-year endeavor that aligns with our efforts to:

- Identify and report the unique needs of the criminal justice system both regionally and statewide;
- Encourage consideration and implementation of alternative and/or innovative practices to address criminal justice services needs;
- Encourage open and productive communication, cooperation, and coordination among local partners in the interest of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the criminal justice system;
- Encourage the active pursuit of diverse funding opportunities to ensure sustainability; and
- Ensure that as a policy advisor, CJCC is well-informed of the conditions, challenges, and strengths of the state’s local partners and regional communities.

The Criminal Justice Regional Forums were held in each judicial district with invitations to all agencies whose work touches the criminal justice system. These organizations and agency representatives included, but is not limited to:

- Statewide criminal justice agencies and their local representatives
- Georgia State Senate and House of Representatives members
- Law enforcement professionals, from Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police, to patrol officers and administrative staff
- Court administrators and professionals, from Judges and Court coordinators, to front desk staff
- Department of Family and Children Services, statewide and local representatives
- Corrections administrators
- Probation and parole administrators
- Treatment services administrators
- Preventive service providers
- Victims’ services providers

The following chart details the Regional Criminal Justice Forums held in each judicial district.

Judicial District	Location	Date
First	Brunswick Savannah	May 16, 2012 May 17, 2012
Second	Albany	December 3, 2013
Third	Macon	April 27, 2012
Fourth and Fifth	Atlanta	April 2-3, 2013
Sixth	Newnan	October 23, 2013
Seventh	Calhoun	November 5, 2012
Eighth	Dublin Milledgeville	May 15, 2012 October 30, 2013
Ninth	Gainesville	September 20, 2012
Tenth	Athens Augusta	February 23, 2012 March 22, 2012

Each Regional Forum followed a consistent format to ensure the same questions were asked of each region and to make the task of distilling information and writing a detailed, high-level summary feasible. The agenda for each Regional Forum was as follows:

- I. Welcome
- II. Agency Overview
- III. Purpose and the Day's Goals
- IV. Identifying Regional Priorities Section—with CJCC staff as moderators and transcribers
- V. Break
- VI. Small Group Discussion—with CJCC staff as moderators and transcribers
- VII. Feedback Session from the small group discussions
- VIII. "What's Working"
- IX. Questions
- X. Adjournment

Participants were seated in small, multi-disciplinary groups and provided with color-coded stickers. After covering item IV on the agenda, CJCC asked members from each of these small groups to select, from among the regional priorities identified in the large group discussion under item IV, their top three priority issues. CJCC staff and moderators counted the color stickers for their respective tables and compiled a list of their table's top three issues. Under item VI, the small groups discussed challenges and solutions related to their top three issues.

CJCC staff used the discussion from these smaller groups to arrive at the major themes and concerns for each region. The following pages synthesize the major themes discussed in these small groups that recurred in some iteration across all twelve forums. In the appendix, we provide the detailed thematic summaries for each region.

THEMES IDENTIFIED

After each Regional Forum, CJCC staff worked assiduously to produce a summary of the day's events and capture the substance of the dialogue for each district. While each region had its own specific concerns about criminal justice policy and victims' services programs, many of these issues were borne out of systemic inconsistencies that touched multiple regions and a multitude of organizations. As such, many of the individual issues can be collated under certain themes that were threaded through many of our conversations and breakout sessions.

Coordination, Communication, and Collaboration

Throughout all twelve forums, statewide coordination and the standardization of practices was a constant topic of discussion. From the intake of criminals, to domestic violence and sexual assault response, from comprehensive resource lists for community-based health services, to coordinated agency efforts, forum participants ran the gamut in emphasizing the need for coordination at state and regional levels. Within each of the subsequent forum summaries, collaboration and coordination are highlighted within their regional context; however, it bears emphasizing that coordination at the local, regional, and statewide levels is a necessary component for effectively and efficiently addressing complex criminal justice issues. CJCC staff was struck by how often participants were informed of resources in their community about which they were previously unaware. Whether these were social service programs, existing partnerships or collaborations, or innovative practices that other agencies were using, participants seemed to leave the forums with more information about available local resources. Such spontaneous networking and awareness highlights the need to not only foster local partnerships to address criminal justice problems, but also to better communicate resources available via state agencies or through contracted providers to local communities.

The tension between funding intervention and prevention programs

There was significant discussion around the constant funding for intervention efforts for crime, domestic violence, and mental health and substance abuse issues. While intervention during crises is essential, most of these efforts are seen as stop-gaps, at most. As such, Georgians are seeing intervention efforts crowd out and suffocate prevention initiatives that may not only obviate the need for current costly interventions, but ultimately may have a greater impact on social ills that contribute to crime. Ideas such as public health campaigns and life and social skills classes are unfunded and de-prioritized in favor of reactive criminal services and interventions. Many forum participants remarked that the education non-profits, charter school leaders, and teachers are essential partners in the criminal justice system. While the education of Georgia's children should focus primarily on academics, many individuals believe that prevention programs aimed at domestic violence, drug and gang involvement, and cybercrimes should dovetail into existing curricula or the current education system. Finally, participants often expressed dismay about the lack of programming meant to work with family units to interrupt the cycle of violence, poverty, and incarceration that perpetuates criminal activity.

Auxiliary Services and Capacity Concerns

The State of Georgia has launched several large initiatives for grant programs such as accountability courts and juvenile alternative to incarceration interventions. While these programs are incredibly important and demonstrate a deep commitment on the State's part, forum attendees expressed concern about funding priorities and their ability to operate programs at capacity. Throughout the State, criminal justice practitioners are concerned that funding these larger programs without ancillary support programs will not

produce meaningful results. For example, accountability court professionals have lamented the dearth of transportation and housing options for their court participants. In short, if a court participant cannot get to their court-mandated program or have sustainable, affordable housing, they will not benefit from the increased funds funneled into these organizations. Moreover, many other criminal justice practitioners are concerned with the capacity—physical and technical—of their organizations to fulfill their mission. There is a clear need for more training in all aspects of the criminal justice system at various levels to ensure that practitioners are receiving the totality of the picture, in order to see how they might fit into a statewide strategic plan.

Broader Discussion of the Criminal Justice System in responding to larger social problems

Many forum participants expressed concern regarding the ways in which the criminal justice system in the state is overburdened with responsibilities and activities that are not directly within its purview. Indeed, the criminal justice system acts in a *de facto* social services role; however, some participants believe the system as created is not necessarily equipped to provide these types of services. For example, across the state there has been an overwhelming need for accountability courts. Accountability courts use a rehabilitative approach for low-risk, non-violent offenders who suffer from substance abuse or a co-occurring disorder (e.g., mental health and substance abuse). They rely less on a punitive approach for offenders, and instead redirect offenders through effective programs aimed at addressing their issues with substance dependency, including all of the accompanying emotional, mental, and physical ills. In addition to supportive services, some have stated a need for offender housing and employment opportunities to ensure successful reentry into the community. While the bend toward more rehabilitative services is certainly laudable, many forum participants question the extent to which the justice system is able to or should shift into this role.

Need for resources to address mental illness for offenders and the professionals who serve them

Adequate attention to the mental health needs of offenders and criminal justice professionals were brought up in all twelve forums. Many are concerned that if the underlying mental health needs of offenders are not treated then the likelihood they will recidivate is exponentially increased. Several attendees lamented that mental health assessments are not being implemented with fidelity at intake, while in custody, or upon reentering their community. Moreover, we received feedback from many of the participants that law enforcement agents were unaware of the services community health professionals can offer offenders, and thus, connecting offenders—current and those reentering communities—with local services is proving difficult. This dynamic speaks directly to the need for coordination and collaboration, but also highlights the need for a discussion around mental health as it relates to the criminal justice system..

With respect to the mental health needs that criminal justice professionals experience, court-affiliated attendees highlighted the need for mental health services for direct services workers. The work that many individuals do within this system is very taxing. As such, direct care providers should also be cognizant of their own mental health needs, while agencies must be mindful of the potential for burnout among their professional staff. Burnout, vicarious trauma, and fatigue contribute to turnover among treatment staff working with both offenders and victims.

Balancing funding needs for urban and rural areas

While funding is a perennial issue for all agencies across service sectors, many districts discussed the stark difference in funding for rural programs compared with those for more urban areas. Indeed, the “Two Georgias” dichotomy was referenced at various forums. Attendees voiced particular concern over funding decisions made in response to service volume or population size.

Many participants stated the importance of giving consideration to agencies in rural or suburban areas that are in desperate need of funding to adequately staff their programs and services, even though they may serve a lesser volume of victims or offenders than their urban counterparts. Participants strongly felt that in funding decisions and grant opportunities due deference must be given to rural populations that may not have access to any or to very limited services.

Additionally, these discussions also touched upon the types of programs that were receiving funding. Law enforcement from a number of Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Forces (MJDTFs) voiced their concerns over the limited amounts of funding they have been receiving over the past few years. From their perspective, reducing drug crime is essential to larger decreases in crime across the State. Many officers emphasized that MJDTFs are the only, and/or most robust, form of drug enforcement in rural areas.

Cross-training among criminal justice professionals and social service providers

Many law enforcement professionals and victim service agency staff members stressed the importance of cross training within their work. Participants sharply understand that their work does not exist in a vacuum; each agency's scope and mission often touches that of another agency. As such, there is a heightened need to have a professional who is well-versed on the various aspects of the criminal justice system. Moreover, many law enforcement professionals argued that these cross-training efforts can make officers more sensitive to victims and their situations, allowing for improved outcomes.

Reentry Services

Many forum participants echoed the concerns that the Georgia Council of Criminal Justice Reform issued in their initial report regarding the persistent need for reentry services in Georgia. Several forums were held prior to and during the significant work of the Council.

As such, much of the Criminal Justice Reform Council's initiative may have already begun to address specific concerns surrounding reentry services by the publishing date of this report. However, our forum report would be incomplete without addressing this issue. Many participants stated a need to see more robust reentry services within their region. Indeed, many argued that reentry services should begin while the offender is still in custody.

Limited English Proficient Training and Technical Assistance

The demographics of the State of Georgia are rapidly changing, as the Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islander communities expand across the rural and urban areas of the State. The proportion of Georgia's population that identifies as Hispanic or Latino has increased by 66% since the 2000 Census. The proportion identifying as Asian has increased by 57%.¹ Additionally, the proportion of Georgia's population that speaks a language other than English at home has increased by almost one third in that same time period. Of those speaking a language other than English, almost 6% report speaking English less than "very well" – an 18% increase over the 2000 census.²

With this shift in demographics, linguistic and cultural diversity training has become paramount to effectively serve Georgians. Across many of the forums from law enforcement professionals to victims' advocates, there was a vocal chorus around the topics of cultural sensitivity, linguistic barriers, and access to services. Indeed, many victims' services professionals are seeking to ensure that cultural and linguistic differences are not impediments to services. Law enforcement agencies are also starting to examine how agency practices can provide culturally appropriate services to these communities. However, to earnestly begin this process, many organizations voiced a need for more funding for interpreters and cultural competency training, as well as a State dialogue to begin around these important issues.

Sexual Assault and Underreporting

Participants across many of the forums expressed significant concerns around the handling of sexual assault, child abuse, and rape crimes. From the perspectives of both law enforcement agencies and victims' services organizations, these highly sensitive and traumatic crimes are underreported. Sexual assault remains a persistent social ill in Georgia. According to 10 years of UCR data, sexual assault rates in both rural and non-rural areas have increased, on average. Law enforcement consistently receives close to or upwards of 2,000 reports of forcible rape per year.³ These UCR data pale in comparison to the number of victims CJCC VOCA-funded victim services providers reported serving between 2002 and 2012. While law enforcement reported 19,073 forcible rapes during that time period, CJCC-funded providers served 31,608 victims. This disparity is partly due to the hitherto very narrow UCR definition of "forcible rape," but the gap in service load between these two reports is notable.⁴ CJCC-funded victim service providers saw almost 1.5 times as many sexual assault victims as reported to law enforcement.

Moreover, if they are reported, many professionals considered themselves and their agencies ill-equipped to immediately and appropriately respond to both the victims' and their families' needs. The issues underscored here align with many of the aforementioned themes; however, there was a consistent need for specific positions: Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs). Advocacy organizations and law enforcement agencies alike discussed the need for more qualified and dedicated SANEs in all regions across the State. Additionally, at all levels of service provision, forum participants also remarked on the increasing instances of physical and financial elder abuse. Participants vocalized a strong need for more protection and oversight for this increasingly vulnerable population.

Forensic Interviews and Child Sexual Abuse

During the regional forums, CJCC staff listened to many participants from child advocacy centers discuss the use of forensic interviews as a tool to help investigators gather information in a sensitive, empathetic manner. Many victims' services advocates expressed frustration that forensic interviews were underused and that current investigators lacked the training to successfully conduct this process. Agencies also lamented a lack of funding to provide these services. Victims' services advocates strongly encouraged the use of these interview techniques to provide trauma-informed care and ensure that recapitulating events do not cause undue emotional or mental duress on the victim. Moreover, these professionals encouraged law enforcement to begin prioritizing this training as a means to better serve Georgians.

¹U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey, ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates.; and U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1, Matrices P1, P3, P4, P8, P9, P12, P13, P17, P18, P19, P20, P23, P27, P28, P33, PCT5, PCT8, PCT11, PCT15, H1, H3, H4, H5, H11, and H12.

²U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey, Selected Characteristics of the Native and Foreign-Born Populations; and U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3, Matrices P18, P19, P21, P22, P24, P36, P37, P39, P42, PCT8, PCT16, PCT17, and PCT19.

³Georgia Bureau of Investigations, Uniform Crime Reports Database.

⁴Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, 2002-2012 Victim Services Statistical Reports.

WHAT'S WORKING

Captured in each individual forum summary are the agencies, organizations, and local initiatives and programs that forum participants chose to emphasize as effective and/or cost-saving in their region. We understand that this is not a comprehensive list of effective programs in each region; these represent the select programs that were highlighted at our forums.

Accountability Courts

Many of the forum participants were judges and staff who work or preside over an accountability court for their region. Accountability courts must strictly adhere to evidence-based practices, but vary widely in scope: from Felony Drug Courts and Veterans Courts, to Mental Health Courts and DUI Courts. During the forums, these programs were touted as innovative and having a large impact throughout the state.

Accountability courts are also predicated on collaboration and cross-agency coordination. Courts must have a leadership team comprised of treatment providers, court staff, judges, and others to staff cases. This collaboration allows courts to address the variety of offender needs. Accountability courts represent a coordinated community and criminal justice response to a host of local issues and crimes that tend to be committed by repeat offenders with long histories of involvement in the criminal justice system.

Cross-Agency and Non-Profit Partnerships

Several agencies across various regions have forged successful partnerships with other criminal justice related agencies within their region. As seen in some of the regional reports, many accountability courts have been able to cement robust partnerships with community service providers for various offenders in their municipality. Furthermore, some law enforcement agencies have successfully partnered with non-profits and victims' advocacy organizations to

provide fuller and more effective services for domestic violence, sexual assault, or child sexual abuse victims. Additionally, some agencies have been able to partner with faith-based organizations to further enhance rehabilitative therapy that occurs within prisons, jails, or court-mandated programs.

Innovative and creative programming among victims' services agencies and domestic violence shelters

Many forum participants were from stable non-profit organizations and domestic violence shelters. These participants highlighted the work their tireless advocates do on behalf of victims throughout Georgia. Several organizations were adopting new practices and protocols related to trauma-informed care, responding to underserved or culturally-specific communities, or responding to emerging issues to better assist recovering victims. Moreover, many of them are also forward thinking in their programs and funding priorities. For example, a few non-profits and domestic violence shelters mentioned the need for more limited English proficient services and were actively seeking funds to supplement their operations. This type of progressive, forward-thinking strategizing is essential in the non-profit sector.

Juvenile Justice Programs

With the recent revamping of the juvenile code in the State, participants have expressed concerns over mandates within the new legislation (e.g. Children In Need of Services [CHINS]). While juvenile reform is an ongoing process, the state has made significant strides - appropriating funds for local, evidence-based juvenile justice programs. During the last few forums, courts began implementing juvenile justice incentive programs as a way to reduce the number of short-term and long-term commitments to juvenile detention centers. While the programs at the time of our forums

were either nonexistent or nascent, the regions that had already started the implementation process were already seeing results and excited to share them.

Criminal Justice-Related Substance Abuse Programs

Many districts, while not having a formal jail-based or residential-based programs, do provide substance abuse treatment programs for offenders. Substance

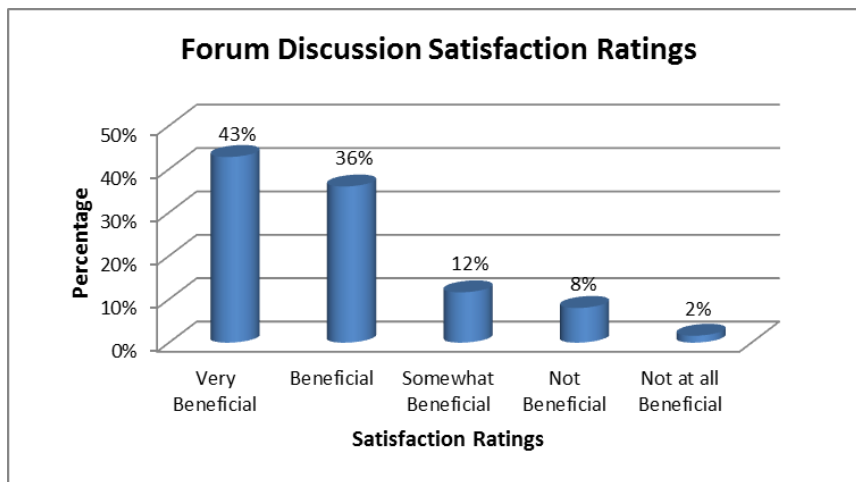
abuse issues are often at the root of criminogenic behavior and thinking is now widely known and accepted within criminal justice research and among practitioners. With this in mind, many communities have begun to create affordable and effective substance abuse programs as a means to mitigate recidivism. Across the State many criminal justice professionals are seeing a marked impact in their substance abuse programs and their offender populations.

Forum Attendee Satisfaction with the Criminal Justice Forums

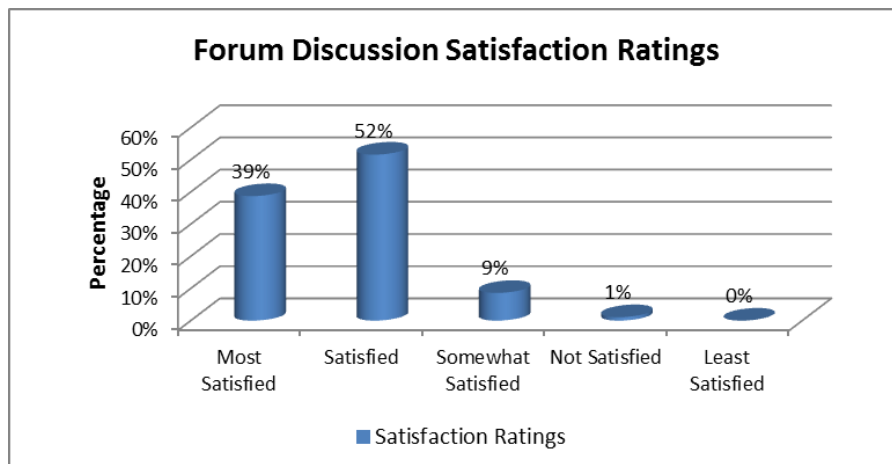
In total, 344 forum attendees responded to our exit survey. For the last three forums (2nd, 6th and 8th judicial districts), the exit survey questions were slightly modified and, thus, the results are reported separately.

Attendee Rating of the Forum Discussion

Nearly 80% of the 250 respondents who attended the regional forum in 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 9th and 10th judicial districts, reported the forum to be beneficial or very beneficial.



Whereas, 90.3% of the 94 respondents who attended the regional forums in the 2nd, 6th, and 8th judicial districts reported being satisfied or mostly satisfied with the forum.



Information relevance to participant agencies

63% of the 344 respondent attendees found the information provided in the forum to be very relevant to their agency, 36% found the information to be somewhat relevant, and only 1% of respondents found the information provided at the forum not very relevant.

Topics covered in the forum

83% of respondents from all 12 forums reported that the forum adequately covered topics they wanted addressed. 17% reported that forum failed to cover specific topics they would have preferred to be addressed. Examples of those topics included funding distribution and sources, sexual assault, domestic violence, accountability courts and communication with CJCC and other agencies.

Familiarity with the CJCC

The forums seemed to have raised CJCC's profile throughout the state – at least somewhat. While 76% of the 250 respondents who attended the regional forum in 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 9th and 10th judicial districts, reported being somewhat to very familiar with CJCC prior to attending the forum, 24% reported not being very familiar or not familiar at all with CJCC.

Future Attendance

96% of respondents from all 12 forums reported they would attend another forum hosted by the CJCC. Respondents were further asked how frequently CJCC should host these forums. 41% of respondents from all 12 forums feel that CJCC should hold forums semi-annually, followed by 31% who feel forums should be held annually and 28% who feel they should be held quarterly.



APPENDIX A

First Judicial District Summary
Brunswick & Savannah, Georgia | May 2012

1st JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY REPORT *Brunswick*

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is statutorily charged with the responsibility of convening stakeholders statewide to assist in the development, prioritization and publication of state and local policy agenda for the criminal justice system. To this end, on May 16, 2012, CJCC hosted its second Regional Criminal Justice Forum for part of the First Judicial District in Brunswick, Georgia. Local participants at the forum represented the following agencies:

- Brantley County Clerk's Office
- Brantley County Superior Court
- Brunswick Superior Court
- Burke County State Court
- Burke County Juvenile Court
- Camden County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- Gateway Behavioral Health Services
- Glynn County Police Department
- Hoboken Police Department
- United States Probation/ United States District Court
- Waycross District Attorney's Office
- Ware Board of Education
- Ware County Clerk's Office
- Waycross Police Department
- Wayne County Protective Agency

Victims' Services Organizations:

- CASA Glynn, Inc.
- Glynn Community Crisis Center/Amity House
- Rape Crisis and Sexual Assault Services
- Safe Harbor Children's Center
- Satilla Advocacy Services

In addition, the following state agencies were represented:

- Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)
- Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
- Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI)
- Georgia Public Defender Standards Council (GPDSC)
- State Board of Pardons and Paroles (SBPP)

CJCC staff, along with the guidance and assistance of Kay Chopard Cohen, Deputy Director of the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA), facilitated the forum and recorded this event. Attendees provided expertise and practitioner perspective to the forum to establish a dialogue of ideas and identification of issues affecting the region.

IDENTIFYING REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Forum participants identified the region's top priorities and in group discussions further detailed the challenges and barriers that inhibit resolutions. After exchanging issue perspectives, participants were encouraged to offer possible solutions for each priority identified. The following table provides a summary of the issues and potential solutions.

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of transportation for victims to/from treatment • Lack of funding for legal representation to obtain temporary protection orders (TPOs) • Law enforcement lacks sufficient domestic violence training • Victims cannot be mandated to participate in counseling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase transportation options and accessibility • Provide legal representation for victims • Encourage law enforcement to participate in domestic violence training above and beyond the mandated coursework • Find ways to ensure counseling is seen as a viable and vital option
DRUGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brunswick's proximity to Interstate 95 makes it a "hub" for drug trafficking • Counties primarily responsible for the cleanup of methamphetamine labs • Spice use is higher than ever • Juveniles abuse and sell drugs in school • School-aged children use phones to text each other warnings of law enforcement's presence in school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote awareness, prevention and education • Methamphetamine labs should be the responsibility of the state • Utilize field-testers to conduct on-site drug tests • Explore options to more effectively raid school grounds given reasonable suspicion • Obtain the technology necessary to jam the phone system when law enforcement arrives on campus to conduct searches • Increase availability of and access to youth programs (e.g., Boys and Girls Clubs, youth centers, etc.)

¹Each participant used the three stickers provided by CJCC staff to identify their top three priorities. Items with the most stickers were then selected for detailed discussion.

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
MENTAL ILLNESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of local resources for mental health treatment • Local communities are expected to address mental health needs, but provided no funding • Nonviolent offenders with untreated or undertreated mental health issues are crowding jails • Lack of transportation to/from mental health treatment in rural areas • Housing for mentally ill is limited • Due to cuts in personnel, the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) is less capable of responding to mentally ill and homeless issues • Law enforcement spends a significant amount of time responding to calls of which mental illness is the primary concern • With few options, mentally ill persons commit crimes in order to receive shelter/treatment • Law enforcement responds to on average 400 calls a year for suicide attempts, but have limited authority and available resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase availability of and access to local mental health services • Require all law enforcement agents to participate in advanced trainings on how to properly identify and address situations involving persons with mental illness (National Association of Mental Illness) • Reestablish long-term mental health facilities • Provide transportation for treatment, especially in rural areas • Support effective programs and initiatives that work (e.g., Gateway Behavioral Health Services, St. Simon's by the Sea) • Establish halfway houses for nonviolent mentally ill offenders • Revise legislation to provide law enforcement with more latitude in assisting persons who need assistance prior to the physical act of a suicide attempt
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescription drug abuse is rampant, affecting every demographic in the region • No existing prescription drug monitoring program • Clinics are not regulated • Physicians prescribe medications to addicted patients • It is difficult to prosecute prescription drug cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise legislation for more stringent prescription drug monitoring • Increase regulation on physicians and pharmacies • Establish statewide clearinghouse for narcotics • Establish centralized site for distribution and monitoring
REENTRY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources available to the ex-offender population are limited • Although some policies are well-intended, they exclude a subset (e.g., homeless, ex-offenders, substance abusers) of the population in need of services (e.g., no drug convictions, felonies, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support for reentry programs and reentry coalition initiatives • Ensure that each subset of the offender population has the resources available to properly address their circumstances

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
<p>SEXUAL ASSAULT, RAPE, CHILD ABUSE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to attain and retain local services in rural areas • Victims are unable to access services due to lack of transportation • Strict regulations limit coordination efforts among agencies to work toward common goals • New, more stringent rules/regulations for DFCS restrict their capabilities to assist and coordinate with other agencies • Law enforcement lacks the amount of training necessary to respond to sexual assault, rape and child abuse crimes • Only law enforcement can take a child for neglect or abuse, not DFCS • Caseworkers are overloaded • Long wait times for case updates and resolutions • Some centers do not have executive directors to seek funding and recruit SANE nurses • Restrictions on funding streams and grant programs inhibit innovative and effective practice (e.g., federal funds cannot be used for preventive programs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and support local agency collaborations • Establish central location for organizations to share resources • Provide transportation for families in rural areas to access services • Reconstitute and fund rape crisis center • Increase the number of SANE nurses • Require additional training of law enforcement to improve responses to sexual assault, rape and child abuse crimes • Support prevention programs for education and awareness to stop the cycle • Provide additional services to address domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse (e.g., Camden House) • Increase DFCS personnel

RECURRING THEMES

After review of forum dialogues, CJCC discovered recurring themes among the issues within the region. Themes included:

1. Participants discussed untreated mental illness and the homeless population at length. At issue was the lack of local resources for the homeless, of which mental illness is a primary concern. The district has a sizeable homeless population which occupies the courthouse property and other public areas. Regionally, the options for treatment and shelter are few. As such, there have been many instances where deliberate acts of criminal activity have been committed in attempts to secure temporary shelter and food. The continual use of jails as a shelter has overburdened the local jails and resulted in an inefficient use of law enforcement resources.
2. Participants also noted that conditions, such as depression and anxiety, are mental health issues that may go untreated or under-treated and are often associated with substance abuse. These conditions tend to be minimized, but have a significant effect on the homeless and incarcerated populations. Available and accessible resources to properly identify and treat mental illness, and work towards the successful reentry of mentally ill persons is key.
3. Participants at the Brunswick forum expressed significant concerns about the handling of sexual assault, child abuse and rape crimes. It was stated during the forum that these highly sensitive crimes are underreported. When reported, victims are not provided access to the resources necessary to immediately and appropriately respond to their needs. The capacity to appropriately respond to

these cases has been drastically affected by state and local agency cuts in funding, personnel and other resources. Participants suggested advanced training for law enforcement, an expansion of DFCS resources and an increase in SANE nurses would better serve the needs of the victim.

As in all the forums, collaborative efforts were discussed at length and was the basis of almost every issue. Through successful collaborations, participants believe that many, if not all, of the issues mentioned can be resolved. Currently, knowledge of available programs is gained from "word of mouth." Several forum participants were completely unaware of

programs that existed in the region until they were mentioned in the forum discussion. Brunswick participants suggested the development of a centrally located list of all of the local programs available for everything from substance abuse and mental illness to preventive and awareness programs. Participants also suggested that judges, in particular, receive comprehensive information on program availability and that relationships are built to ensure a maximization of those resources.

WHAT'S WORKING

At the end of the forum, participants provided further insight by identifying the following cost-saving, innovative practices:

- **Child Advocacy Centers** - Child advocacy centers are agencies that advocate on behalf of children alleged to have been abused. They provide and/or coordinate services that may include, but are not limited to: forensic interviews, medical examinations, mental health and related support services, court advocacy, and consultation.
- **Day Reporting Centers** - Day Reporting Centers (DRC) are intensive, on-site, community corrections programs that brings groups of parolees together in an effort to reduce offender re-arrest, assist offenders in successful reentry, and increase public safety. DRCs provide the needed services, skill-based learning opportunities, educational and vocational training and intensive community supervision that holds offenders accountable during the day.
- **Drug Courts** - Drug courts are specialized, problem-solving court-based programs that target criminal offenders who have alcohol and other drug addiction and dependency problems. They work to combine treatment with incentives and sanctions, mandatory and random drug testing, and aftercare as a way to improve both public health and public safety. They provide an innovative mechanism for promoting collaboration among the judiciary, prosecutors, community corrections agencies, drug treatment providers and other community support groups.
- **Gateway Behavioral Health Services** - Gateway BHS is Coastal Georgia's largest, most comprehensive team of professionals caring for those who are developmentally disabled, mentally ill, or suffering with an addictive disease. Gateway BHS works collaboratively with individuals, families, public and private agencies, faith-based groups and other community organizations to provide services that promote self-sufficiency, optimal quality of life, and wellness for affected individuals.
- **Heather House** - Heather House is a non-profit, long-term residential recovery program for women located in Georgia's Golden Isles that helps women become self supporting, productive members of society by providing a safe, drug and alcohol free environment as a home for women struggling with addiction.
- **Open Doors Mental Health Facilities** - "Open Doors" is a two-year, 34-county-wide pilot project that assists the region's most chronic recidivists in finding a safe place to reside outside of jails or mental health facilities with the goal of identifying the most seriously ill recidivists and finding treatment programs and aftercare for them.
- **United Way's 2-1-1 Program** - United Way's 2-1-1 program is a free, confidential connection for anyone searching for available community resources, programs, and services. It tracks and analyzes needs and gaps in services as well as reports to policy makers in order to ensure the most efficient and effective use of community resources are being utilized.

The issues, challenges and possible solutions identified are a result of CJCC staff discussions with the state and local agency representatives who voluntarily participated in the Brunswick forum. CJCC staff acknowledges that the information obtained is not a complete list of all of the criminal justice issues in the region, only a representation of the region's priorities.

1st JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY REPORT *Savannah*

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is statutorily charged with the responsibility of convening stakeholders statewide to assist in the development, prioritization and publication of state and local policy agenda for the criminal justice system. To this end, on May 17, 2012, CJCC hosted its second Regional Criminal Justice Forum for part of the First Judicial District in Savannah, Georgia. Local participants at the forum represented the following agencies:

- Armstrong Police Department
- Atlantic Area Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- Bulloch County Correctional Institute
- Chatham County District Attorney's Office
- Chatham County Juvenile Court
- Chatham County Sheriff's Office
- Chatham County Superior Court
- Coastal Advisory Council
- First District Court Administration
- Garden City Police Department
- Glynn/McIntosh Department of Family and Children's Services
- Greenbriar Children's Center
- Savannah-Chatham Public School Police
- Savannah CASA
- State Court of Chatham County
- The Counseling Center of Union Mission
- Tybee Island Police Department

Victims' Services Organizations:

- Victim Witness Assistance
- Rape Crisis and Sexual Assault Services
- Safe Shelter
- Safe Haven

In addition, the following state agencies were represented:

- Administrative Office of the Courts of Georgia (AOC)
- Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
- Georgia Public Defender Standards Council (GPDSC)
- State Board of Pardons and Paroles (SBPP)

CJCC staff, along with the guidance and assistance of Kay Chopard Cohen, Deputy Director of the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA), facilitated the forum and recorded this event. Attendees provided expertise and practitioner perspective to the forum to establish a dialogue of ideas and identification of issues affecting the Savannah region.

IDENTIFYING REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Forum participants identified the region's top priorities¹ and in group discussions further detailed the challenges and barriers that inhibit resolutions. After exchanging issue perspectives, participants were encouraged to offer possible solutions for each priority identified. The following table provides a summary of the issues and potential solutions.

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courts are expensive to operate • Drug courts in the area are small • Courts should address family issues and not just those of the offender • There is a need for DUI Courts • There is a need for more substance abuse treatment counselors • Chronic repeat offenders require intense support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve cooperation and coordination among community agencies • Expand the drug courts in the surrounding areas • Ensure that all supporting programs are evidence-based
CELL PHONE INTERDICTIONS IN PRISONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell phones are constantly smuggled into the prisons by any means (e.g., dead cat, footballs, body cavities) • Cell phones in prison are a lucrative business • Inmates use cell phones to set up “hits” • Federal government prohibits the ability to block cell phone usage in institutions • Due to the extent of cell phone smuggling and usage, it would be extremely time-consuming and expensive to prosecute every cell phone smuggling case • Extension of sentence as a penalty costs the taxpayers more money • Juvenile system experiences the same problem with cell phones as adult correctional facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and implement alternatives to sentencing for cell phone smuggling and usage • Encourage the passing of legislation necessary to block cell phone usage • Create a public relations campaign to make citizens more aware of cell phone smuggling and usage problems in prisons • Make cell phone smuggling and usage in prisons a priority for local officials • Create a system that shows offenders that there is a better way of life

¹Each participant used the three stickers provided by CJCC staff to identify their top three priorities. Items with the most stickers were then selected for detailed discussion.

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
CHILD ABUSE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because there is no facility to conduct forensic examinations locally, they have to be sent out which is not cost efficient • Very few of the cases result in successful prosecution • Law enforcement does not have the training/expertise to respond to sensitive cases such as these 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide specialized training for judges and law enforcement officers so they can become well-versed in responding to these sensitive cases • Establish a local facility and provide personnel to conduct forensic examinations locally • Increase support of local shelters
GANGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juveniles in detention centers bring gang culture back to the communities after they are released • Juveniles who commit crimes are often at-risk youth • Elementary schools are constantly being vandalized by gangs • Communities do not want to admit the existence of gangs in their area • There is often a lack of parental involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create alternative settings for at-risk youth so that juveniles can engage in more positive activities • Increase the number of preventive programs • Establish a process so that juveniles can be referred to the appropriate program • Provide an opportunity for ex-gang members who have turned to a positive lifestyle to work with the District Attorneys and Public Defenders • Agencies should work to take a more collaborative approach to resolving gang issues together
HOMELESSNESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness is on the rise • There are minimal homeless shelters with beds in rural areas • Transportation is limited • Salvation Army only has 20 beds and none are available for children • Salvation Army is in danger of losing shelter accommodations • Local communities may not be supportive of having shelters in their area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a system of care around the homeless population • Partner with faith-based organizations to target homelessness as an issue of priority • Educate communities on the social and economic benefits of rehabilitation homes and shelters • Provide public transportation to and from community shelters • Establish rooming houses and transitional centers
JUVENILES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent court systems do not have access to juvenile history • The Department of Juvenile Justice’s database is limited • Parents rely on courts to “fix” their children’s delinquency issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a “Memorandum of Understanding” to allow agencies to obtain access to a juvenile’s criminal history and family issues so that they may be better equipped to adequately address the necessary issues

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
JUVENILES AND MENTAL HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In some cases, foster children are not properly medicated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel should be adequately trained to be able to properly identify whether a juvenile has mental health issues • Provide more CIT trainings
MENTAL HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to funding cuts, there is limited availability and accessibility to needed mental health services • There is an ever-present need for mental health shelters • The number of mental health shelters are dwindling • Some of those with mental health issues do not have insurance and therefore may resort to self-medicating which can be very dangerous • The services in rural areas are very limited or nonexistent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local communities must express their need for mental health facilities • Establishing a mental health court would aid in providing access to those in need of services
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some physicians are prescribing drugs illegally • Females are using and abusing prescription drugs at a higher rate • Drugs are sometimes stolen from the elderly and sold illegally • Juveniles may take a mixture of drugs and sell the rest (a/k/a “skittles”) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve the faith-based community • Churches could provide intervention programs to aid in the illegal prescription drug problem
SUBSTANCE ABUSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance abuse is pervasive in criminal activity • Addiction rates are staggering • Prescription drug use has increased drastically • Children are medicated early in their lives • Offenders return to prison primarily because of substance abuse-related issues • There is a need for more residential treatment beds in rural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of intervention and prevention programs • Improve extracurricular activities to keep inmates occupied • Increase inmates’ ability to obtain employment after release (more transitional post-release programs) • Increase access to treatment in prisons • Encourage family intervention • Establish a Department of Juvenile Justice substance abuse center • Increase the number of providers in the local communities • Establish long-term prevention programs

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
SUBSTANCE ABUSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of sufficient program solutions/alternatives • Probation may not work sufficiently for juveniles if their family is unstable thereby putting them at a higher risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) beds • Establish Family Treatment Courts • Establish local ordinances to govern all substance abuse clinics • Educate communities on substance abuse issues—specifically prescription drug abuse
SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINERS (SANE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an overall lack of nurses taking the qualifying exam to become a sexual assault nurse examiner • SANE nurses have 40 hours of classroom training and 40 hours of practical training providing them the knowledge of how to collect evidence; they also serve a 3 year commitment and makes a huge difference in prosecution. Still, there is a lack of recruitment for SANE nurses and retention for the caseloads • There is a general lack of SANE pediatric nurses for youth under the age of thirteen. • There is a lack of funding for SANE programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the number of pediatric SANE nurses is crucial • Creating more support and publicity statewide about the important role that SANE nurses play and the immense need for them is also crucial.

RECURRING THEMES

After review of forum dialogues, CJCC discovered recurring themes among the issues within the region. Themes included:

1. Undoubtedly, the most recurring theme of the forum was the overall lack of training of law enforcement and social service workers in handling sensitive cases such as child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, juveniles with mental health issues, and offenders with substance abuse issues. The capacity to appropriately respond to these cases has been drastically affected by state and local agency cuts in funding—specifically training. Therefore, forum participants suggested advanced training for law

enforcement within these specific problem areas along with an increase in certified SANE nurses as a way to better serve the needs of the victims.

2. Participants also indicated a need for more programs focusing on shelter and support services in multiple problem areas throughout the Savannah area. Spoken of the most were programs aimed at homelessness, gangs, mental health, substance abuse, and juvenile delinquency. Specifically, one of the main themes was the need for far more support and treatment options with regard to mentally ill offenders. Participants discussed untreated mental illness and the growing homeless population at length. At issue was the lack of

local resources for the homeless, of which mental illness is a primary concern. Consequently, participants identified the lack of mental health courts, shelters, and services to treat mentally ill offenders as highly problematic.

3. Substance abuse issues were a top priority identified among Savannah forum participants. Here, concern was expressed for both adult and juvenile offenders.

Specifically, the lack of intervention and prevention programs for substance abusers was discussed at length, pointing out the lack of sufficient solutions as being highly problematic. While providing funding to increase the number of Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) beds was the primary solution, participants also acknowledged the value of increasing education efforts to communities on substance abuse issues.

4. Continuing from the previous theme, another overarching focus of the forum was the need to increase communication and education efforts to the public so that they may be more aware of the issues at hand regarding substance abuse, smuggling of cell phones into prisons, the importance of SANE nurses, and the increasing rates of homelessness. Participants

agreed that while funding of shelter personnel and services should remain the primary solution, they also acknowledged the value of communication and awareness. In addition, there is a need for more collaboration and sharing of resources among agencies regarding nearly every issue was presented as the basis for many of the proposed solutions. This was especially true for accountability courts, gang problems, juvenile delinquency, mental health, child abuse, domestic violence, and sexual assault victims, and SANE nursing facilities.

5. Further, a lack of facilities was another major theme of the day specifically within the topics of sexual abuse forensic examinations, homeless shelters, mental health shelters, and substance abuse treatment shelters.

6. The final theme of the day was the lack of post-release assistance which may lead to further gang involvement, higher rates of homelessness, and higher rates of substance abuse.

WHAT'S WORKING

At the end of the forum, participants provided further insight by identifying the following effective and/or cost-saving, innovative practices:

- **Drug and DUI Courts:** Drug and DUI courts are specialized, problem-solving court-based programs that target criminal offenders who have alcohol and other drug addiction and dependency problems. They work to combine treatment with incentives and sanctions, mandatory and random drug testing, and aftercare as a way to improve both public health and public safety. Drug and DUI courts provide an innovative mechanism for promoting collaboration among the judiciary, prosecutors, community corrections agencies, drug treatment providers, and other community support groups³

- **Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.):** “G.R.E.A.T.” is an evidence-based and effective gang and violence prevention program built around school-based, law enforcement officer-instructed classroom curricula. The Program is intended as a preventive measure against delinquency, youth violence, and gang membership for children approaching the prime ages for introduction into gangs and delinquent behavior. It focuses on providing life skills to students as a way of helping them avoid using delinquent behavior and violence to solve problems.⁴

- **Gateway Behavioral Health Services:** Gateway BHS is one of Georgia’s most comprehensive team of professionals caring for those who are developmentally disabled, mentally ill, or suffering with an addictive disease by working collaboratively with individuals, families, public and private agencies, faith-based groups and other community organizations. Gateway BHS promotes self-sufficiency, optimal quality of life, and wellness.⁵
- **Juveniles Reentry Initiative:** The Juvenile Reentry Initiative, (under the Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Initiative), is a nationwide effort to develop innovative, effective, and culturally competent youth reentry strategies to assist juvenile offenders’ transition from detention back into the community through a variety of services such as mentoring, literacy classes, job training, education programs, substance abuse, rehabilitation and mental health programs. It provides target services to juvenile offenders to aid them with community reintegration as another step toward the goal of reducing the nationwide recidivism rate.⁶
- **Safe Harbor:** Safe Harbor is a safe and secure emergency shelter in Brunswick, GA serving abused, neglected, homeless, and runaway children by providing short term services and shelter to at-risk youth.⁷
- **Satilla Health Services:** Satilla Medical Services provides nursing, primary care, specialty care, and home health care at the Satilla Regional Medical Center in Waycross, GA. Satilla has recently joined forces with the Mayo Clinic in an effort to bring

the best health care possible to the people in the surrounding communities. Together, they expand the availability of health care resources locally, and ensure the continuing presence of excellent, community health care for the future. ⁸

- **Savannah River Challenge:** Savannah River Challenge is a wilderness camp operated by Florida-based Associated Marine Institutes as a public school located in Sylvania, GA. It's one of 21 middle schools in the Department of Juvenile Justice.⁹
- **Street Outreach – Homelessness:** The Street Outreach Program enables organizations around the country to help young people get off the streets. To that end, the program promotes efforts by its grantees to build relationships between street outreach workers and runaway, homeless and street youth. Grantees also provide support services that aim to move youth into stable housing and prepare them for independence. The program’s ultimate goal is to prevent the sexual abuse or exploitation of young people living on the streets or in unstable housing.¹⁰

The issues, challenges and possible solutions identified are a result of CJCC’s staff discussions with the state and local agency representatives who voluntarily participated in the Savannah forum. CJCC staff acknowledges that the information obtained is not a complete list of all of the criminal justice issues in the region, only a representation of the region’s priorities.

³Program description as defined by the National Institute of Justice & The White House

⁴Program description as defined by GREAT.org

⁵Program description as defined by GatewayBHS.org

⁶Program description as defined by the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs

⁷Program description as defined by Safe Harbor Shelter.org

⁸Program description as defined by Mayo Clinic.org

⁹Program description as defined by Redfin

¹⁰Program as defined by US Department of Health & Human Services: Administration for Children and Families



APPENDIX B

Second Judicial District Summary
Albany, Georgia | December 2013

2nd JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY REPORT *Albany*

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is statutorily charged with the responsibility of convening stakeholders statewide to assist in the development, prioritization and publication of state and local policy agenda for the criminal justice system. To this end, on December 3, 2013, CJCC hosted its Regional Criminal Justice Forum for the Second Judicial District in Albany, GA. Local participants at the forum represented the following agencies:

- Albany Parole Office
- Albany Police Department
- Albany State University Police Department
- Brooks/Lowndes County DFCS
- Colquitt Police Department
- Dawson Police Department
- District Attorney's Office, Pataula Judicial Circuit
- District Attorney's Office, Southern Judicial Circuit
- Donalsonville Police Department
- Dougherty Circuit Public Defender's Office
- Dougherty County DFCS
- Dougherty County District Attorney's Office
- Dougherty County School System Police Department
- Dougherty County Superior Court
- Middle Flint Behavioral HealthCare
- Miller County Sheriff's Office
- Pataula Drug Task Force
- Pataula Judicial Circuit
- Randolph County DFCS
- Seminole County DFCS
- Southwest Georgia Regional Airport
- Thomasville Police Department

Victim Services Agencies:

- Alapaha Circuit District Attorney's Victim Assistance Program
- Battered Women's Shelter, Inc.
- Children's Advocacy Center of Lowndes County, Inc.
- Dougherty County District Attorney's VWAP
- Halcyon Home for Battered Women, Inc.
- Liberty House of Albany
- Lily Pad Center
- Open Arms, Inc.
- Southwestern Judicial Circuit Family Violence Council
- SOWEGA CASA
- Tifton Judicial Circuit Shelter, Inc

In addition, the following state agencies were represented:

- Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)
- Georgia State Representatives

CJCC staff facilitated the forum and recorded this event. Attendees provided expertise and practitioner perspective to the forum to establish a dialogue of ideas and identification of issues affecting the Second Judicial Circuit.

IDENTIFYING REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Forum participants identified the region's top priorities and in group discussions further detailed the challenges and barriers that inhibit resolutions. After exchanging issue perspectives, participants were encouraged to offer possible solutions for each priority identified. The following table provides a summary of the issues and potential solutions.

<i>Regional Priorities</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities</i>
REENTRY SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentencing with no eye towards eventual reentry into the community • Lack of services for finding jobs based on skill set—aggravated by limited opportunities to garner new skill sets while in prison • Few effective mentoring and monitoring services once reentry begins • Lack of coordination among jails and prisons with community-based services • Lack of private partners also engaged in reentry work • Lack of transitional or affordable housing for ex-offenders—particularly difficult for sex offenders • Lack of reentry services aimed at juvenile offenders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased funding for in-jail vocational programs • More coordination and communication with community partners, such as DBHDD and non-profits in the area • Create a network of ex-offenders that would make for good mentors to liaise with offenders upon exiting prison • Create more avenues for transitional and affordable housing in the Second Judicial District • Offer more rehabilitative programs for juvenile offenders and their families
SUPPORT AND RESOURCES FOR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few treatment centers or facilities for mentally ill individuals—not connecting with jails and prisons • Funding is limited for long-term treatment of victims with mental health issues—offenders can rarely afford long-term care and are more likely to offend • Jails are providing costly mental health services and are often inconsistent in training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate more with community partners and coordinate with stakeholders to address underlying mental health issues and untreated prior trauma • Seek more funding opportunities for jail-based programs that treat mental health issues • Coordinate with regional mental health providers to develop post release treatment programs for when a prisoner is released

<i>Regional Priorities</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities</i>
<p>SUPPORT AND RESOURCES FOR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social stigma around mental health issues that deter individuals from seeking help • Increased need in training first responders in identifying mental illness • No system for psychologically assessing incarcerated individuals and identifying treatment paths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create more public health campaigns that aim to educate communities about the importance of mental health • Develop training seminars and curricula for first responders that help them identify psychotic breaks and emotional issues • Further coordination with prisons and community mental health services to allow for psychological assessments upon entry
<p>DECREASED FUNDING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS AND DRUG TASK FORCES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding has remained stagnant for law enforcement agencies despite an increase in victims • Multijurisdictional drug task force agencies' funding has been cut. As a result, many are understaffed • Need for updated police vehicles • Second Judicial District services the largest amount of area in Georgia and includes some of Georgia's poorest counties • Need funding for high-tech equipment to keep up with the changing pace of the drug market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritizing efforts in finding funding for law enforcement programs to ensure public safety and quality services • Increased technology funding for law enforcement agencies and drug task forces • Reprioritize funding decisions that take into account rural and poor areas to ensure adequate services
<p>CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND K-12 PARTNERSHIPS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few working partnerships among law enforcement agencies and K-12 schools • Need for more drug and gang related education to combat gang recruitment efforts • Increased need for coordination between the school system and local Child Advocacy Centers (CACs). • Increased need for teacher and staff training on bullying, cyber-stalking, sexting, and other technology related issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize evidence-based curricula materials for drug and gang education in schools • Training from FBI or GBI technology specialists to help teachers, staff, and law enforcement stay abreast with current technology trends • More marketing material on the laws surrounding cyber bullying and cyber information • Youth summits to allow stakeholders an opportunity to listen to what children have to say on important issues

<i>Regional Priorities</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities</i>
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND K-12 PARTNERSHIPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more training and education on domestic violence and the law surrounding behavior • Need for more recreational and educational after school programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More PSAs on criminal justice issues affecting youth to increase awareness • Create programs that are targeted toward “generational problems” and systemic family issues
SUPPORT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for increased funding for domestic violence shelters and programs • Need for translation services for Limited English Proficiency individuals • Victim services programs need to create a mental health component to better serve their populations • Need more funding for SANE nurses and the provision of 24/7 services • Need policies aimed at addressing the disconcerting number of elder abuse instances • Need more targeted training for dealing with juvenile and child victims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a dialogue around funding for victims services and victims supports to redirect funding • Offer victims services professionals the opportunity to expand their linguistic and cultural competence by taking classes or attending trainings • Create an Elder Abuse Center—modeled after CASAs—to monitor at-risk elders in the Second Judicial District • Increase the use of forensic interviews as a method of helping children cope and gather pertinent information
SUPPORT FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services are not publicized enough; residents are not aware of the availability of service providers and other relevant resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More coordinating on the judicial circuit level to create a pamphlet or some type of clearinghouse to provide a list of services available and the location

RECURRING THEMES

After review of forum dialogues, CJCC discovered recurring themes among the issues within the region. Themes included:

1. Participants indicated that interagency coordination and cooperation must occur on the judicial circuit level. Participants noted that the sharing of resources and information will allow service providers to better target their time and energies in swiftly assisting residents.
2. Participants from the Second District expressed views and opinions about the short-

sightedness of the criminal justice system. Many participants felt that the state should be creating policies aimed at reducing the overall prison population, as the criminal justice system is simply overburdened and strained. Creating pathways that allow criminals to receive rehabilitative treatment instead of placement within a jail or prison would be more beneficial.

3. There is an overall sentiment that law enforcement personnel and victims services professionals need increased trainings in

victimology and trauma-based care. Building educational components such as these into trainings and seminars will allow criminal justice professionals to better serve their areas.

4. Threaded through much of the conversation at this forum was the need for more partnering and coordination with the K-12 education system. Teachers and curricula materials are not created to discuss issues like drugs, gangs, and bullying. It will take a comprehensive approach to move this knowledge into schools.

As such, law enforcement agencies need to make more of an effort in liaising with schools, and schools must be receptive to these types of educational opportunities.

5. Mental health was also a recurring topic of discussion. Many participants felt the need for mental health services and the occurrence of crime in their area are inexorably intertwined. As such, there must be more partnering and coordination among community-based mental health services and the criminal justice system.

WHAT'S WORKING

At the end of the forum, participants provided further insight by identifying the following effective and/or cost-saving, innovative practices:

- **Lighthouse Child Advocacy Center** - Lighthouse CAC recently opened in the Southwestern Judicial Circuit. Lighthouse CAC provides investigation and support services for children in the region who are suspected victims of child abuse. They also specialize in forensic interviews for children. Lighthouse CAC encourages a multi-disciplinary team approach to the cases including law enforcement, child protective services, prosecutors, medical and mental health professionals, victims' assistance staff and child advocates.

- **Center for African American Males (CAAM)** - CAAM is a program at Albany State University that enables students to discover their authentic identities by assisting them to achieve their full potential as scholars and assume leadership roles in their community upon graduation. There is also a focus on creating a network of mentors to aid younger African American males in the community.

The issues, challenges and possible solutions identified are a result of CJCC's staff discussions with the state and local agency representatives who voluntarily participated in the Eighth District forum. CJCC staff acknowledges that the information obtained is not a complete list of all of the criminal justice issues in the region, only a representation of the region's priorities.



APPENDIX C

Third Judicial District Summary
Macon, Georgia | April 2012

3rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY REPORT Macon

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is statutorily charged with the responsibility of convening stakeholders statewide to assist in the development, prioritization and publication of state and local policy agenda for the criminal justice system. To this end, on Friday, April 27, 2012, CJCC hosted its second Regional Criminal Justice Forum for part of the Third Judicial District in Macon, GA. Local participants at the forum represented the following agencies:

- Albany Parole Office
- Albany Police Department
- Albany State University Police Department
- Brooks/Lowndes County DFCS
- Colquitt Police Department
- Dawson Police Department
- District Attorney's Office, Pataula Judicial Circuit
- District Attorney's Office, Southern Judicial Circuit
- Donalsonville Police Department
- Dougherty Circuit Public Defender's Office
- Dougherty County DFCS
- Dougherty County District Attorney's Office
- Dougherty County School System Police Department
- Dougherty County Superior Court
- Middle Flint Behavioral HealthCare
- Miller County Sheriff's Office
- Pataula Drug Task Force
- Pataula Judicial Circuit
- Randolph County DFCS
- Seminole County DFCS
- Southwest Georgia Regional Airport
- Thomasville Police Department

Victim Services Organizations and Treatment Centers

- Central Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- Crisis Line and Safe House
- Rainbow House Children's Resource Center
- River Edge Behavioral Health Center

In addition, the following state agencies were represented:

- Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG)
- Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
- Georgia Sheriffs' Association
- State Board of Pardons and Paroles (SBPP)
- State House of Representatives

CJCC staff, along with the guidance and assistance of Lisa Nine Accordini, Staff Associate of the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA), facilitated the forum and recorded this event. Attendees provided expertise and practitioner perspectives to the forum to exchange ideas and identify issues affecting the region.

IDENTIFYING REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Forum participants identified the region's top priorities and in group discussions further detailed the challenges and barriers that inhibit resolutions. After exchanging issue perspectives, participants were encouraged to offer possible solutions for each priority identified. The following table provides a summary of the issues and potential solutions.

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more focus on juvenile drug courts • Insufficient funds available for both court start-up and sustainability • Clients return to their home base often with no support system and no place to live 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize funds to support juvenile drug courts • Assign probation officers to each accountability court program • Improve collaborative efforts between accountability courts and the Department of Corrections • Provide funds for local area support
COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of communication between district attorney's office and victim service providers • Resources are utilized exclusively by certain agencies • Lack of collaborative efforts results in an increase in staff workloads and diminished information sharing • Delay in service delivery to victims due, in part, to an inability of agencies to share information, resources • Laws restrict information sharing and, thus, progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve communication amongst stakeholders • Streamline processes to ensure timely and appropriate response to the client • Research alternatives that will enable agencies to coordinate client needs and treatment without jeopardizing confidentiality and safety
CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation places additional burden on support services (e.g., housing, mental health and substance abuse) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize funding to enhance available support services, ensuring a comprehensive plan
MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overcrowding in jails largely attributable to a lack of available mental health services • Existing programs do not have the resources available to meet demand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund programs that work (e.g., Assertive Community Treatment) • Mandate alternative treatment outside of the hospital • Training for law enforcement to respond to mentally ill offenders • Establish a “one stop shop” to include probation, the sheriff's office, the Department of Juvenile Justice and mental health treatment providers

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
<p align="center">SPECIALIZED TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialized training (e.g., mental health, domestic violence, child abuse, media communications, and active shooter situations) is either unavailable or inaccessible for the majority of local law enforcement agencies • Existing training is outdated and “one step behind” best practices implemented in other states • Instructors for statewide training are used exclusively for particular training sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide funding to support law enforcement training at the local level • Research innovative, state-of-the-art trainings provided nationwide and offer trainings to Georgia’s law enforcement agencies • Allow local law enforcement agencies to utilize state facilities for training purposes
<p align="center">TREATMENT FOR ADULT AND JUVENILE OFFENDERS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of conflict resolution skills taught in schools and homes • Lack of parental involvement for children • Treatment for mental health and substance abuse is very expensive • Transportation to/from treatment is problematic in rural areas • Available treatment services are not affordable (e.g., victims cannot afford the upfront costs to receive treatment) • Lack of treatment results in increased recidivism rates, jail overcrowding and increased inmate on inmate crime • Law enforcement is not equipped to handle mentally ill offenders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more accessible treatment in rural counties • Research ways to utilize technology to make treatment more accessible (e.g., counseling via Skype) • Coordinate treatment amongst facilities to maximize resources and provide individualized care • Involve parents/guardians in the treatment process • Offer specialized training to law enforcement • Encourage membership with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) • Reopen state mental health facility • Establish a Local Interagency Planning Team • Provide funds to expand the availability of treatment services and skilled staff
<p align="center">LEGAL ASSISTANCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for more civil legal services • Budget cuts limit the types of cases that can be worked • Staff attorneys are no longer available to handle cases • Indigents do not have the funds to pay for services needed • Lack of law enforcement access to temporary protection order (TPOs) registry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop partnerships at the local level to make legal services available

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
SEX OFFENDER HOUSING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited facilities /shelter Law makes it difficult to place offenders (e.g., proximity to schools, libraries, churches, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a housing complex/area specifically for sex offenders Assign a social service provider to facilitate reentry

RECURRING THEMES

After review of forum dialogues, CJCC discovered recurring themes among the issues within the region. Themes included:

1. Mental health was discussed at length. Participants described the lack of treatment options available for mentally ill offenders as highly problematic. As seen above, mental health issues were not only identified as a priority, but were also related to other identified priorities. Participants largely attributed the inability to properly assess mentally ill offenders and provide them with long-term, effective treatment to the closing of mental health facilities. Participants also emphasized in this forum that training should be provided to all facets of the justice system to effectively deal with this subset of the community and that treatment in a long-term facility should be a viable option.
2. The availability of support services and treatment for offenders was integral to forum discussions. Participants stated that more treatment options are needed, particularly with regard to substance abuse, mental health and

for sex offenders. Also, services for victims, including legal and housing assistance, are very limited. Existing services often have long waitlists which can deter and/or delay treatment. While funding of treatment facilities and services was the primary solution, effective collaboration and sharing of resources was duly noted.

3. Collaborative efforts at both the state and local level of government are of great significance to establishing effective and sustainable improvements to the criminal justice system. Collaborations in some form (e.g., partnerships, information-sharing, sharing of facilities, etc.) were offered as solutions to the lack of legal assistance services, the need for specialized law enforcement training, the need for enhanced support services for accountability courts and the lack of treatment options for offenders. Regional planning was also an identified priority.

WHAT'S WORKING

At the end of the forum, participants provided further insight by identifying the following effective and/or cost-saving, innovative practices:

- **Day Reporting Centers (DRCs)**
- **Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT)**
- **Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program (RSAT)**
- **School-Based Probation Officer Program**

- **Sex Offender Training for Juvenile Officers**
- **Drug Courts**

The issues, challenges and possible solutions identified are a result of CJCC's staff discussions with the state and local agency representatives who voluntarily participated in the Macon forum. CJCC staff acknowledges that the information obtained is not a complete list of all of the criminal justice issues in the region, only a representation of the region's priorities.



APPENDIX D

Fourth and Fifth Judicial Districts Summary
Atlanta, Georgia | April 2013

4th & 5th JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY REPORT *Atlanta*

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is statutorily charged with the responsibility of convening stakeholders statewide to assist in the development, prioritization and publication of state and local policy agenda for the criminal justice system. To this end, on April 2-3, 2013, CJCC hosted two Regional Criminal Justice Forums for the Metro-Atlanta area in Atlanta, GA.

- Atlanta City Council
- Atlanta Community Court
- Atlanta Police Department
- Baldwin County Office of the Solicitor General
- Cherokee Judicial Circuit
- City of Atlanta Municipal Court Public Defender's Office
- City of Atlanta Solicitor's Office
- City of Stone Mountain Municipal Court
- Dekalb County Diversion Treatment Court
- Dekalb County Division of Family and Children Services
- Dekalb County Juvenile Court
- Dekalb County Pre-Trial Services
- Dekalb County Sherriff's Office
- Dekalb County Solicitor General's Office
- Dekalb County State Court Probation
- Douglas County Juvenile Programs Administration
- Fulton County Board of Commissioners
- Fulton County Government
- Fulton County Juvenile Drug Court
- Fulton County Office of the County Attorney
- Fulton County Police Department
- Gwinnett County District Attorney's Office
- Gwinnett County Solicitor's Office
- Lithonia Police Department
- Magistrate Court of Rockdale County
- Marietta Police Department
- Municipal Court of Atlanta
- Rockdale County DUI Court
- Rockdale County Juvenile Court
- State Court of Fulton County
- Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office
- Superior Court of Fulton County

Non-Profit/Victim Assistance Agencies

- Atlanta Victim Assistance
- Center for Pan Asian Community Services
- CHRIS Kids
- Crime Victims Advocacy Council
- Georgia Center for Child Advocacy
- Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault
- Hearts to Nourish Hope
- Jewish Family and Career Services
- Northwest Georgia YWCA
- SafePath Children's Advocacy Center
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation
- The Restorative Justice Center
- Visions Unlimited
- YouthSpark

In addition, the following state agencies were represented:

- Administrative Office of the Courts
- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
- Georgia Bureau of Investigation
- Georgia Department of Corrections
- Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice
- Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency
- Georgia Public Defender Standards Council
- Governor's Office for Children and Families
- Office of Planning and Budget
- State Board of Pardons and Paroles

Other forum participants included representatives from:

- Georgia House of Representatives
- GolinHarris
- University of Georgia Carl Vinson Institute of Government
- Morehouse School of Medicine
- Sentinel Offender Services
- The United States Attorney’s Office of the Northern District of Georgia

CJCC staff and representatives from the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) facilitated the forum and recorded this event. Attendees provided expertise and practitioner perspective to the forum to establish a dialogue of ideas and identification of issues affecting the Metro-Atlanta area.

IDENTIFYING REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Forum participants identified the region’s top priorities and in group discussions further detailed the challenges and barriers that inhibit resolutions. After exchanging issue perspectives, participants were encouraged to offer possible solutions for each priority identified. The following table provides a summary of the issues and potential solutions.

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
COLLABORATION AND TRANS-AGENCY COMMUNICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of statewide service structure, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity issues • Cultural challenges • Bureaucratic barriers that delay service provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a comprehensive statewide strategy • Increased partnership with academics that can provide insight and expertise
FORENSIC INTERVIEWS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caseload capacity—not enough staff to process data within a timely manner • Funding issues, resulting in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inefficient processing of evidence • High costs that foreclose the possibility of collaboration with other labs and outside consultants • Law enforcement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for cultural sensitivity training • Varying levels of understanding crime-specific types of processing • Need for updated interview techniques and best practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More robust CJCC involvement • Increase in part-time prosecutors and other resources • Concrete multi-agency collaboration • Reliable and consistent information sharing • Wide use of consent waivers • Increase in forums to augment information sharing • Leverage technology to aid in multi-agency partnership discussions, especially in rural areas

<i>Regional Priorities</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities</i>
BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No statewide strategy or vision, resulting in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cross-agency plans or programs • Few collaborations between State and local governments • Few partnerships at the local level to address mental health • Lack of affordable treatment options • Dearth of youth education and tutorial programs • No employment programs or training for offenders with mental health issues • No public health campaign that raises awareness of mental health issues and treatments available • Lack of consistent and reliable care • Few accessible mental health facilities • No coordination among mental health facilitators and the court system • No focus on substance abuse issues and mental health—lack of an intersectional approach • An enduring social stigma associated with mental health and its treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web-based coordination with more mental health training for law enforcement • More staffers dedicated to behavioral health issues • Funding explicitly earmarked for behavioral health issues • Accountability courts for juveniles • Training for evidence-based practices • Creation of uniform performance measures to identify gaps in services • Support for fidelity to current state policies
LEGAL RESOURCES FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of larger state or county policies being implemented to break the cycle of violence • Lack of funding for legal resources, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of support for victims whose income is not low enough to receive aid, but still unable to afford an attorney 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide transportation services for victims of domestic violence • Work with policymakers in a more targeted manner around issues of domestic violence • Collaboration with other agencies to leverage resources • More housing for victims and families of domestic violence

<i>Regional Priorities</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities</i>
<p style="text-align: center;">LEGAL RESOURCES FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few legal resources for immigrants • Lack of funding for victims services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No alternative housing for victims if there are no shelters available • No transportation infrastructure for victims to get to shelters and doctor’s appointments • No counseling services for children of domestic violence • Lack of job training or re-employment programs for victims • Open need for Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) for children exposed to family violence • No funding for hotels if no shelters are available in county • Few “follow up” resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers and shelters often do not continue to check on victims after they leave their care • No comprehensive plans developed to aid the victim 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure housing for victims and families of different sexual orientations and gender identities • Community awareness in rural areas • Connect immigrant victims with visas and advocates • Provide court-appointed attorneys for civil cases • Attorney and judge training for dealing with victims of domestic violence • Provide a legal clinic for a better understanding of domestic violence • Create family violence intervention programs that are accessible to those most at-risk
<p style="text-align: center;">YOUTH PROGRAMS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty in assigning children to the “right” program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few evidence-based programs widely available • Lack of culturally diverse programs • Lack of programs in rural areas • Issues of attendance and preparation once children begin youth programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in early education programs • Incorporate faith-based programs • Make services accessible • Empower the family parenting skills classes, for example • Early identification of developmental issues • Encourage the city council to begin economic development and augment commerce related to youth

<i>Regional Priorities</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities</i>
YOUTH PROGRAMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation issues for many children • Difficult legal issues for children and families: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No legal authority to intervene in family • Lack of stable households - contributing to children truancy and a lack of supervision • Parental drug abuse, domestic violence, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backwards planning of transition plans (think exit at entry) • Family counseling • More attentive case management • Collaborate with school and after school programs • Create age appropriate responses • Identification/screening mechanism to determine relevant issues to the child • Comprehensive list and reports of best practices • Standardized risk assessments • Effective community supervision • Swift, immediate, level appropriate action at lower levels • School policies/alternatives to court that requires children to still attend school • Early identification and assessment of mental health issues • Breakdown stereotypes and negativity in the media • Work to combat poverty and lack of jobs • Transitional plan before returning to the community • Employment opportunities (education businesses, public private partnership)
ADULT OFFENDER RE-ENTRY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing—lack of secure housing, safe neighborhoods, issues with proximity for sex offenders • Employment—difficulty finding long term, stable jobs • Lack of comprehensive transitional services • Offenders are often delinquent on child support payments and unable to pay • Probation management due to large caseloads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocational training • Public/private partnerships to connect offenders to community resources • Educating family (family and transitional orientation during and after incarceration) • Transit tokens as reward • Limited driver’s licenses for drug court participants

<i>Regional Priorities</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities</i>
MENTAL HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of affordable treatment options • Lack of community service collaboration – probation, medical institution, financial support and work programs • Lack of statewide program to address mental health concerns • Agency limitations such as jurisdictional boundaries • Re-entry is not formally defined • State and local government operate with a split system (no collaboration between systems) • Lack of new program initiatives for youth education/tutorial programs, youth employment programs, and employment programs for offenders • Confidentiality laws (HIPPA) may inhibit coordination efforts of agencies • Social stigma associated with mental health and its treatment • Lack of awareness on mental health issues and methods of treatment • Lack of early detection • Lack of consistent and reliable care (overwhelming lapse of time) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive system of care approach • Cross training of medical professionals and social workers to identify the signs of mental illness • Coordinating council to convene for discussion of mental health issues • Legislative changes that speak directly to mental health issues • Research other states to identify model programs
ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of sentence reduction initiatives • Need formalized steps that try to avoid litigation and the court system • Re-incarceration due to technical violations • Lack of ongoing support (follow-up, transitional services) • Need stabilization programs for individuals that may come in contact with the criminal justice system • Need for job training • Not enough community-based organizations for judges to consider 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More assessments and evaluations that holistically treat the offender • More pretrial evaluations to find alternate routes of recourse than the courts • Diversion programs as a viable alternative • State level coordination for the creation of alternatives to incarceration • Assessment of community resources (non-profits) • Court-based probations • Review by policymakers of current age cutoffs • Partnerships with employers and workforce development

<i>Regional Priorities</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities</i>
ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More restorative work necessary (volunteers give sanctions), boards take away criminal record (dismissed) • Lack of gender-specific services for females • Long wait for services provided through Department of Corrections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teen court for minor offenders and community courts • Volunteer retention (awards/ recognition, training initial/ quarterly) • Sharing information and best practices at forums or local events • Advertising services that are offered
ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment for services for mental health and drug courts • Challenge with finding mentors • Lack of housing • Need qualified personnel to administer programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evening activity centers (volunteers) • Public recognition (graduations) • Education for community (festivals and fairs)

RECURRING THEMES

After review of forum dialogues, CJCC discovered recurring themes among the issues within the region. Themes included:

1. Metro-Atlanta forum participants indicated a need for legislative action with regard to prescription drug control. As such, participants identified the lack of prescription drug monitoring and the pervasive problem of pain clinics as primary challenges in need of legislative reform.
2. The availability of services for family and/or children was also of great concern. The overall lack of funding for the entire family was stated by many to be problematic. While funding of family drug courts was suggested as the primary solution, participants acknowledged the importance of the role that the school official's play as an alternative.
3. Lack of programs for mentally ill offenders was discussed in depth. Similarly to other judicial districts, participants identified mental health courts to treat mentally ill offenders as a solution to institutionalizing such offenders.
4. There was significant discussion around the need for more interagency coordination and effective lines of communication. Many participants felt agencies exist within individual silos and there is no effort to allow for dependent agencies to coordinate services.
5. Many participants had concerns around reentry for juvenile offenders. There is a significant lack of programs in the State aimed at easing juveniles back into society, i.e. transitional programs, diversionary programs, employment programs. As such, participants felt that more attention and funds should be funneled toward creating more robust programs that aid juvenile offenders.
6. There was much discussion around the topic of human trafficking. Many participants felt there was not enough being done by the state to educate the public about the gravity of this issue. Many participants articulated the lack of a coordinated response to suspected traffickers and how to treat the victims.

WHAT'S WORKING

At the end of the forum, participants provided further insight by identifying the following effective and/or cost-saving, innovative practices:

- **Accountability Courts** - While the accountability courts are effective, the lack of transition from court proved problematic. Participants recommended that Accountability Courts implement a Drug Court Probationer to assist in this process.
- **Holistic Probation**
- **Family Drug Courts**
- **Local Interagency Planning Team (LIPT)**

The issues, challenges and possible solutions identified are a result of CJCC's staff discussions with the state and local agency representatives who voluntarily participated in the Atlanta forum. CJCC staff acknowledges that the information obtained is not a complete list of all of the criminal justice issues in the region, only a representation of the region's priorities.



APPENDIX E

Sixth Judicial District Summary
Newnan, Georgia | October 2013

6th JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY REPORT *Newnan*

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is statutorily charged with the responsibility of convening stakeholders statewide to assist in the development, prioritization and publication of state and local policy agenda for the criminal justice system. To this end, on October 23, 2013, CJCC hosted its Regional Criminal Justice Forum for the Sixth Judicial District in Newnan, GA. Local participants at the forum represented the following agencies:

- 6th Judicial Administrative District
- Carroll County Superior and State Court
- Clayton Judicial Circuit
- Clayton County District Attorney's Office
- Clayton County Superior & State Court Administration
- Clayton County Juvenile Court
- Coweta County DFCS
- Coweta County DUI Court
- Coweta County Adult Probation
- Coweta County Public Defender's Office
- Coweta County Sheriff's Office
- Coweta County State Court Probation / County and Municipal Probation Advisory Council
- Coweta Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office
- Department of Family and Children Services, Region 13 (Clayton, Henry, Rockdale Counties)
- Fayette County DFCS
- Fayette County Juvenile Court
- Flint Circuit Police Department
- Flint Judicial Circuit
- Griffin Judicial Circuit
- Henry County Parental Accountability Court
- Henry County Drug Court
- Henry County Police Department
- Lamar County DFCS
- Lamar County Sheriff's Office
- Monroe County DFCS
- Paulding County District Attorney's Office
- Spalding County DFCS
- Troup County Drug Court

Victim Assistance Agencies

- Ahimsa House
- Carroll County Emergency Shelter
- Center for Pan Asian Community Services
- Christian League for Battered Women
- Clayton County Association Against Family Violence
- Coweta CASA
- Crisis Line & Safe House
- Fayette County Council on Domestic Violence

In addition, the following state agencies were represented:

- Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
- Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS)
- Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC)
- Georgia Public Defender Standards Council (GPDSC)
- Georgia State Senate

CJCC staff facilitated the forum and recorded this event. Attendees provided expertise and practitioner perspective to the forum to establish a dialogue of ideas and identification of issues affecting the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

IDENTIFYING REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Forum participants identified the region's top priorities and in group discussions further detailed the challenges and barriers that inhibit resolutions. After exchanging issue perspectives, participants were encouraged to offer possible solutions for each priority identified. The following table provides a summary of the issues and potential solutions.

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
<p>ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of funding for treatment and transportation • Large areas of the state where public transit doesn't exist at all, thus inhibiting offenders' ability to comply with orders or disqualifying them from participation • Pending felony charges are a barrier to section 8 & private landlords • Racial disparities exacerbate access to resources to comply with orders • Existing court principles are vague • No standard or funding for program evaluation; courts are not sure what is working and what is inefficient • Time lag in getting people to court without standards and procedures for fast-track options • Dependent on grants results in inconsistent funding and leads to high turnover for key personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a state model for courts with an integrated case management system, standards for performance, and evaluations or assessments, and provide the accountability courts with the funding to implement a statewide model • Provide standardized training for court administrators • Continue and strengthen collaboration efforts between accountability courts across the state • Develop community partnerships, especially on the county level, for jobs and transportation so that defendants can comply with judges' orders (For example, DBHDD/Medicaid provides transportation for an eligible portion of population) • Start a non-profit to support accountability courts • Share grant personnel within the accountability courts • Encourage coordination of efforts through information-sharing, creating of protocols and standards, and through interagency MOUs
<p>DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILIES AND "CRIMINAL LEGACIES"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of accountability for families and for parents who don't actively parent their children • "Inappropriate" sexual behavior, mental health problems and substance abuse are rampant as well as under-education within families • Lack of community support, and little to no resources for single parent households • Parents are often unaware of the resources available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase funding for support systems and programs such as educational resources and classes on parenting and for DFCS • Develop resources for appropriate, well-compensated and qualified family service workers

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
<p>DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILIES AND "CRIMINAL LEGACIES"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No interventions for children whose parents have substance abuse issues until law enforcement gets involved • Criminality becomes a learned behavior, especially when trauma is not addressed • Social services staff are neither properly trained nor paid enough for the work they perform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require genetic testing at birth and both parents' names on birth certificates to hold parents accountable • Build collaborative partnerships to strengthen wrap-around services (For example, AARP volunteers can serve as parenting mentors; Monroe County sheriff's office has free counseling for DV victims although victim participation is an issue)
<p>CHILDREN IN NEED OF SERVICE (CHINS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stark income disparities within counties means families and communities have very different abilities to provide resources and services • The CHINS program is statutorily required to start 1/1/14 but there is no funding to implement it, no physical space to run it, and no secure temporary housing for children in the program • Concern that CHINS will cost counties more in the long term • Agencies have to be reactive and are inhibited from being proactive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Local Interagency Planning Teams and Coordinated Community Response protocols • Center for Pan-Asian Community Services runs programs to tutor children after school, a concept that could be modeled in the sixth district • Secure temporary housing for program participants • Incorporate parental accountability and involvement into drug court case plan may prevent some children from needing to enter CHINS
<p>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little to no accountability for fathers who batter and no follow-up from the courts • Lack of funding for child victim services and programs; need for more trained and skilled service providers including therapists and law enforcement • Need to create support and collaboration among different agencies and service providers; communities over-rely on DFCS • Confidentiality problems arise when serving families who experience domestic violence, especially in small and rural communities • Victims fear reporting domestic violence to law enforcement or victim service agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and fund collaborative partnerships and written protocols for domestic violence cases; provide them with models, standards and resources • Provide funding specifically for therapists to address trauma, abuse and grief. • Implement therapeutic models that work such as COPE (developmental training and testing) for child victims. • Increase the number of counselors working with child victims and those providing functional family therapy • Expand the definition of domestic violence in the O.C.G.A. • Enhance law enforcement training and increase their cultural and linguistic capacity to work cases involving people who are limited English proficient (LEP) • Add and fund probation and parole officers to hold offenders accountable

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
ROLE OF COURTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities role has shifted away from holding its members accountable • Courts are increasingly faced with addressing social and individual-level issues in offenders as well as their punitive role • Expanded court role is more costly and is a difficult paradigm shift for which courts are not fully equipped • Courts are also shifting in this direction because personnel recognize that prisons are costly and overcrowded, and addressing root-level issues may be more effective in reducing costs and preventing recidivism • Underlying causes of criminal behavior are difficult for courts to assess, and there are political pressures to maintain the status quo of courts as punitive entities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate more with community partners and coordinate with stakeholders to address the underlying issues offenders face such as poverty, mental health issues and untreated prior trauma
SUPPORT AND RESOURCES FOR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding is limited for long-term treatment of victims with mental health issues • Parole officers are overloaded with cases involving mental health problems • Jails are saddled with providing costly mental health services • Offenders can rarely afford long-term care or medication they receive in jail and frequently re-offend • There are limited services available for male offenders with mental health issues • Hospitals are reluctant to admit and treat violent offenders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term stabilization centers can evaluate and assess needs for treatment • Law enforcement needs training and the ability to have the discretion to assess if victims with mental health issues are threats to public safety • Create a database of statewide mental health facilities for referrals
SEXUALLY EXPLOITED MALE OFFENDERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Untreated victims often become offenders and repeat the cycle of sexual violence • There is a marked paucity of services for sexually exploited males, especially for those who become offenders • Sexually exploited males do not often seek help due to social stigma • Parole case loads are large and growing due to limited options other than supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place victims in their own homes and bring the treatment to them to alleviate burden on overcrowded and inappropriate facilities • Train court personnel and judges to account for treatment beyond the offense

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
SUPPORT FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services are not publicized enough; both residents and service agencies are not aware of available resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solicit support from the Governor and launch a statewide campaign to publicize resources available Develop a statewide database and designate an agency to maintain and update

RECURRING THEMES

After review of forum dialogues, CJCC discovered recurring themes among the issues within the region. Themes included:

- Participants from the Sixth District indicated a need for statewide standards, funding and evaluation, particularly for Accountability Courts and CHINS programs. Participants indicated that statewide coordination and standardization greatly helps in enhancing collaboration and sharing of information and resources. Participants also expressed a desire for statewide databases of resources, macro-level expertise, academic insight and evidence-based practices.
- An overarching issue was the need for interagency cooperation to share scarce resources and avoid duplication of services. Participants indicated that cooperation and coordination efforts may produce more efficient utilization of resources and create possibilities for collaborative funding. Interagency cooperation also enhances agencies' ability to meet the comprehensive needs of their communities.
- The participants indicated that strengthening and supporting families would help prevent crime and support healing from victimization. Attendees frequently witness "criminal legacies" of generational offenders due to untreated trauma and learned criminal behavior within the family. Many participants echoed concerns over a pervasive lack of funding for services, not just for victims but for basic needs such as child care. While increased funding for courts, DFCS and transportation were popular solutions, participants also acknowledged the importance of the role of parental accountability in ensuring the safety and well-being of families.
- Many participants expressed concern that the criminal justice system is increasingly burdened by a large volume of offenders and victims whose base level needs are not being met, thus making it very difficult for the criminal justice system to address the very problems they are charged with solving. Courts in particular are experiencing "mission creep" with respect to their role as a punitive agency. A frequently cited problem was the lack of access to public transportation and mental health services, which means that agency staff spend time seeking resources to fulfill offenders' basic needs before they can hold them accountable. They are also more likely to re-offend without access to such services.
- The forum participants indicated that recidivism and repeat offenders are costly for the state and counties. Without standards or funding for evaluation, agencies are not sure what efforts are most efficient and cost-effective. Participants would like evaluations, evidence-based practices and the tools and resources to implement them, and the ears of policy makers in the legislature to help strengthen the criminal justice system and ensure smart resource allocation.

WHAT'S WORKING

At the end of the forum, participants provided further insight by identifying the following effective and/or cost-saving, innovative practices:

- Henry County's criminal justice agencies have fostered a culture conducive to communication, resource-sharing, innovation and productive conflict. This creative culture has alleviated some of the burden the agencies shoulder with respect to reduced capacity and meeting their county's substantial needs.
- Henry County also leveraged a cost-benefit analysis study to implement a low-cost public transit system. The system is 90% federally-funded and 10% locally-funded, but it needed the local level support to meet the county's needs. In the future, the county hopes to add a mental health court to reduce the burden on jails, and participation would not be possible without the transit system in place. Representatives cautioned that properly conducted research and statistics to support such a program are resource and time-intensive on the front end, and that it is simpler to do in a single-county judicial circuit.
- Coweta County's criminal justice agencies and victim services providers have forged productive collaborations through Multi-disciplinary Task Forces (MDTs) and strong relationships with the school system. Through these partnerships, agencies enhanced collaboration and information-sharing to effectively meet the needs of families and children in the criminal justice system.

The issues, challenges and possible solutions identified are a result of CJCC's staff discussions with the state and local agency representatives who voluntarily participated in the Sixth District forum. CJCC staff acknowledges that the information obtained is not a complete list of all of the criminal justice issues in the region, only a representation of the region's priorities.



APPENDIX F

Seventh Judicial District Summary
Calhoun, Georgia | September 2012

7th JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY REPORT *Calhoun*

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is statutorily charged with the responsibility of convening stakeholders statewide to assist in the development, prioritization and publication of state and local policy agenda for the criminal justice system. To this end, on September 20, 2012, CJCC hosted its first Regional Criminal Justice Forum for part of the Seventh Judicial District in Calhoun, GA. Local participants at the forum represented the following agencies:

- Cherokee County DFCS
- Cherokee County District Attorney's Office
- Cherokee County Solicitor General
- Douglas County DFCS
- Douglas County Juvenile Court
- Douglas County Sherriff's Office
- Douglas County Superior Court
- Floyd County Juvenile Court
- Floyd County Sherriff's Office
- Floyd County Superior Court
- Georgia House of Representatives
- Gordon County District Attorney's Office
- Hiram Police Department
- Lookout Mountain District Attorney's Office
- Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit Drug Task Force
- Rockmart Police Department
- Seventh Judicial Administrative District
- Whitfield County Juvenile Court

Victim Services Organizations

- Conasauga District Attorney Victim Witness Assistance Program
- Northwest Georgia Sexual Assault Center

In addition, the following state agencies were represented:

- Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)

CJCC staff facilitated the forum and recorded this event. Attendees provided expertise and practitioner perspective to the forum to establish a dialogue of ideas and identification of issues affecting the Seventh Judicial Circuit.

IDENTIFYING REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Forum participants identified the region's top priorities and in group discussions further detailed the challenges and barriers that inhibit resolutions. After exchanging issue perspectives, participants were encouraged to offer possible solutions for each priority identified. The following table provides a summary of the issues and potential solutions.

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
<p>PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to identify abuse of prescription drugs • Lack of monitoring by medical professionals • Pain management clinics fill out of state prescriptions • Increased prescription-related deaths • Prescription-related crime is on the rise (e.g., pharmacy break-ins) • There is currently no clean-up program in the state • Contractors abuse the system by charging a huge mark-up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement training programs to dismantle labs • Seek funding opportunities for chemical contamination (meth clean up) • Create prescription monitoring program using a policy diffusion based on Tennessee’s program • Increase coordination with courts • Develop a statewide database
<p>SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF DRUG/CHILD ABUSE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of funding for the entire family vs. just the victim • Children involved in domestic violence or drug abuse have no programs available Deficiency in family drug courts • Very little, if any, monitoring of families when the child is placed back into the family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of family drug courts • Encourage the school system to become more involved • Encourage and support truancy intervention • Create parenting plans to train the family • Provide appropriate family assessments before returning the child to the family unit
<p>MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS BEING JAILED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law enforcement dilemma of handling repeat mentally ill offenders that are placed in jail as opposed to alternative treatment • Lack of programs and/or changing guidelines allow mentally ill offenders to go free which results in an additional encounter with law enforcement and possible arrest. • Lack of transitional programs such as RSAT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create mental health courts with an increase in monitoring post graduation • Provide day treatment to monitor medications • Train families for success after the offender’s successful completion of drug court • Mental health assessment for low income families who cannot get Medicaid or are without insurance

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
EXPANSION OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all offenders can be placed in jail • Sense of entitlement among youth • Lack of sustainability plans for success 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create sentencing structure to provide alternative sentencing • Increase monitoring of offenders within accountability courts • Supplement to Superior Court Judge instead of creating an entirely new court

RECURRING THEMES

After review of forum dialogues, CJCC discovered recurring themes among the issues within the region. Themes included:

1. Participants from the Seventh District indicated a need for legislative action with regard to prescription drug control. As such, participants identified the lack of prescription drug monitoring and the pervasive problem of pain clinics as primary challenges in need of legislative reform.
2. The availability of services for family and/or children was also of great concern. The overall lack of funding for the entire family was stated by many to be problematic. While funding of family drug courts was suggested as the primary solution, participants acknowledged the importance of the role that the school official's play as an alternative.
3. Lack of programs for mentally ill offenders was discussed in depth. Similarly to other judicial districts, participants identified mental health courts to treat mentally ill offenders as a solution to institutionalizing such offenders.

WHAT'S WORKING

At the end of the forum, participants provided further insight by identifying the following effective and/or cost-saving, innovative practices:

- **Accountability Courts** - While the accountability courts are effective, the lack of transition from court proved problematic for the Seventh District. It was recommended that Accountability Courts implement a Drug Court Probationer to assist in this process.
- **Holistic Probation**
- **Family Drug Courts**
- **Local Interagency Planning Team (LIPT)**

The issues, challenges and possible solutions identified are a result of CJCC's staff discussions with the state and local agency representatives who voluntarily participated in the Calhoun forum. CJCC staff acknowledges that the information obtained is not a complete list of all of the criminal justice issues in the region, but a representation of the region's priorities.



APPENDIX G

Eighth Judicial District Summary
Dublin and Milledgeville, Georgia | May 2012

8th JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY REPORT *Dublin*

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is statutorily charged with the responsibility of convening stakeholders statewide to assist in the development, prioritization and publication of state and local policy agenda for the criminal justice system. To this end, on May 15, 2012, CJCC hosted its second Regional Criminal Justice Forum for part of the Eighth Judicial District in Dublin, GA. Local participants at the forum represented the following agencies:

- Baldwin State Prison
- Community Service Board of Middle Georgia
- Crisp County Sheriff's Office
- Dooly County Magistrate Court
- Dodge County Board of Commissioners
- Dodge County Sheriff's Office
- Dublin County District Attorney Office
- Dublin Police Department
- Dublin Superior Court
- Jefferson County Police Department
- Laurens County Clerk of Courts
- Laurens County Magistrate Court
- Montgomery Department of Family and Children Services
- Oconee District Attorney Office
- Telfair County Magistrate Court
- Treutlen County Schools
- Treutlen Department of Family and Children Services
- Wheeler Correctional Facility

Victim Services Organizations

- The Refuge Domestic Violence
- Stepping Stone Advocacy

In addition, the following state agencies were represented:

- Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS)
- Georgia Department of Corrections (GDOC)
- Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
- Georgia Public Defender Standards Council (GPDSC)
- State Board of Pardons and Paroles (SBPP)

CJCC staff, along with the guidance and assistance of Kay Chopard Cohen, Deputy Director of the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA), facilitated the forum and recorded this event. Attendees provided expertise and practitioner perspective to the forum to establish a dialogue of ideas and identification of issues affecting the Dublin region.

IDENTIFYING REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Forum participants identified the region's top priorities and in group discussions further detailed the challenges and barriers that inhibit resolutions. After exchanging issue perspectives, participants were encouraged to offer possible solutions for each priority identified. The following table provides a summary of the issues and potential solutions.

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
JUVENILE CRIME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of parental guidance has attributed to a rise in juvenile crime • Lack of transportation for juveniles to receive the appropriate treatment • Available treatment is not sufficient • Detention centers are used as safe havens by some juvenile offenders • There is nowhere to send juvenile sex offenders for treatment, rehabilitation • Juveniles often become hardened criminals in detention centers • Growing problem of gangs joined by juveniles for protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage family involvement in treatment process • Support Youth Detention Centers Intelligence Task Force to address issues and cell phones • Employ specialized sex offender counselors • Install cameras in school buses • Educate parents about issues concerning juveniles, preventive measures, how to identify whether their child is at-risk and how to address any perceived or pervasive issues
LAW ENFORCEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of in-service training to officers • Need for more law enforcement officers • Local law enforcement does not have the manpower and adequate equipment to handle drug enforcement in the counties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide in-service training to officers • Send officers to classes for train-the-trainer • Have trainers travel to local site to conduct training • Encourage law enforcement to take advantage of local programs (e.g., domestic violence shelters, crime victims assistance can provide cross-training) • Have all trainings POST-approved to encourage law enforcement participation
MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in mentally ill offenders • Local law enforcement spends a lot of time transporting adults to/from hospitals for mental health evaluations or addiction problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a long-term option for treatment • Support existing agencies providing mental health services with funding to obtain additional, certified personnel and expand their capacity

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health facilities may choose not to accept adults and juveniles transported by law enforcement, despite a phone assessment and prior arrangements • Lack of treatment facilities for juveniles and adult offenders diagnosed with a less than severe diagnosis are often returned to community without treatment • Few alternatives for mental health treatment given Central State's closing • Long wait list for offenders suffering from co-occurring issues • Prisons do not have the capabilities to provide adequate treatment (e.g, not administer necessary medications, lack of personnel and resources) • Offenders released on probation often do not take medication and have limited supervision • Lack of local resources including, residences and qualified counselors • Upon release from prison, offenders do not receive referral services, but instead are on probation with no medication and little to no supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support for the successful reentry of parolees diagnosed with mental illness • Involve the Department of Human Resources • Provide mental health services in prison • Ensure all facilities have qualified staffing sufficient to address the demands of the community it serves • Fund mental health treatment versus RSAT • Employ specialized probationers for mental health and sex offenders • Support pilot programs and programs that work
MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No local services available • There is a 2-hour drive to nearest treatment facility • Available treatment is limited, but highly demanded • Treatment providers may refuse to accept people or decide to release them before they receive adequate services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No solutions presented by the audience.</i>
PRISONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prisoners illegally obtain on average 30-34 cell phones regularly • Cell phone offense charges are not filed unless related to larger charges • Personnel resources are insufficient to handle warrants/hone charges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put the burden of prosecution for cell phones on the broader criminal justice system • Pass legislation to legalize, possibly mandate, cell phone jamming around prisons and detention centers
PROGRAMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court fines intended to help fund training and programs are routed to Atlanta's general fund instead of the local, rural programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandate some accountability of 5% funding

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
EXPANSION OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all offenders can be placed in jail • Sense of entitlement among youth • Lack of sustainability plans for success 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create sentencing structure to provide alternative sentencing • Increase monitoring of offenders within accountability courts • Supplement to Superior Court Judge instead of creating an entirely new court

RECURRING THEMES

After review of forum dialogues, CJCC discovered recurring themes among the issues within the region. Themes included:

1. Mental health was a top priority identified among Dublin forum participants. In this forum, concern was equally expressed for adult and juvenile offenders. The discussion covered every aspect of mental health offenses including law enforcement's response to a call that involves a mentally ill person, properly diagnosing an offender and ensuring ex-offenders receive long-term care. Concerns surrounding law enforcement were centered around the amount of time it takes for law enforcement to contact a mental health facility to determine if the offender is eligible to be admitted. Even after receiving a pre-approval that an offender will be accepted, the responding officer may transport the offender to the facility only to find that the pre-approval was not accurate and the offender will not be eligible for treatment. The transporting officer will then need to return the offender to the local jail. Even if the offender is accepted, the time it takes to transport the offender to the facility, particularly in rural areas is time-consuming, especially given already limited personnel and resources.
2. One of the main overarching themes of the forum was the need for better treatment for juveniles, the mentally ill, and individuals with substance abuse issues. Participants indicated concern that the treatment currently available is not sufficient. Participants are specifically displeased with the quality of treatment provided to mentally ill offenders. Since the closing of state mental health facilities, local treatment facilities have become overwhelmed, and therefore jails have become temporary havens to house them without the necessary resources to aid them.
3. Another focus of the forum was how under-equipped and under-trained law enforcement and service providers currently are in handling the mentally ill and individuals with substance abuse issues. Participants communicated their belief in employing specialized probationers, for mentally ill offenders and offenders with substance abuse issues, who have been trained to have the knowledge necessary to handle these types of cases in an effective way. Further, participants also spoke about the importance of making training for law enforcement mandatory while also keeping costs down by providing in-service training to them.
4. The last recurring theme of the Dublin Forum was the need for more programs that focus on creating stronger post-release programs and greater supervision for mentally ill and juvenile offenders. Participants indicated the importance of providing support for the successful reentry of parolees—especially those diagnosed with a mental illness. It was also suggested that supporting existing agencies who are providing mental health services by funding them so that they may obtain additional, trained personnel and expand their capacity to be effective.

WHAT'S WORKING

At the end of the forum, participants provided further insight by identifying the following effective and/or cost-saving, innovative practices:

- **Department of Juvenile Justice's School Based Probation Program** - For this program, a DJJ staff member is present at the assigned school a minimum of three days per week. The goal is to be a positive role model and conduct himself/herself in a professional manner at all times as well as to be responsible for monitoring attendance, discipline and grades for all youth under the supervision of the Laurens County Juvenile Court. Should a youth under the supervision of the Laurens County Juvenile Court be absent, the Juvenile Probation Parole Specialist (JPPS) conducts a home visit, determines why the youth is absent and attempts to get the youth in school. Further, they are tasked with: keeping contact with each youth under the court's supervision on a weekly basis, at a minimum; attending and participate in any Student Support Team meetings for any youth under the court's supervision; meeting with teachers as needed to discuss progress of youth and/or possible services for the improvement of youth supervised by the court; conducting weekly group education/counseling sessions if permissible; providing the court with school records at dispositional hearings; assisting youth returning home from placements/institutions with re-entry into the school system; notifying the school of a student's special educational or therapeutic needs that should be addressed through school programming; ensuring that youth under the court's supervision who need tutoring attend tutoring offered by the school; being responsible for counseling youth who are in danger of being suspended or expelled due to school problems; making recommendations to the JPPS or the Juvenile Program Manager on situations which may arise and be suitable for Restorative Group Conferencing; and working with school personnel to involve youth in extracurricular activities to promote academic and social skills.

The issues, challenges and possible solutions identified are a result of CJCC's staff discussions with the state and local agency representatives who voluntarily participated in the Dublin forum. CJCC staff acknowledges that the information obtained is not a complete list of all of the criminal justice issues in the region, but a representation of the region's priorities.

8th JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY REPORT *Milledgeville*

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is statutorily charged with the responsibility of convening stakeholders statewide to assist in the development, prioritization and publication of state and local policy agenda for the criminal justice system. To this end, on October 30, 2013, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council hosted its Regional Criminal Justice Forum for the Eighth Judicial District (Middle and Ocmulgee Circles) in Milledgeville, GA. Local participants at the forum represented the following agencies:

- 8th Judicial Administrative District
- Baldwin County Sherriff's Office
- Forsyth County Sherriff's Office
- Ocmulgee Drug Task Force
- Middle Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office
- Milledgeville Police Department
- Swainsboro Probation Office

Victim Services Organizations

- CASA of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit
- Circle of Love, Inc.
- Georgia's P.O.R.C.H.
- No One Alone (NOA)
- Northwest Georgia Family Crisis Center, Inc.
- Ocmulgee CASA
- Project Renewal
- Refuge Domestic Violence Shelter
- SafeHomes of Augusta
- Stepping Stone Child Advocacy
- The Sunshine House

In addition, the following state agencies were represented:

- Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
- Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC)

CJCC staff facilitated the forum and recorded this event. Attendees provided expertise and practitioner perspective to the forum to establish a dialogue of ideas and identification of issues affecting the Eighth Judicial Circuit.

IDENTIFYING REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Forum participants identified the region's top priorities and in group discussions further detailed the challenges and barriers that inhibit resolutions. After exchanging issue perspectives, participants were encouraged to offer possible solutions for each priority identified. The following table provides a summary of the issues and potential solutions.

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
<p style="text-align: center;">LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of funding for substantive and rigorous training for law enforcement agents in identifying and handling domestic violence and child abuse situations • Inability of agencies to allow numerous officers the ability to take several days off to attend trainings (due to a lack of resources/funding) • Victims often feel unsafe or uncomfortable in speaking openly with law enforcement officers about their situation • Time lag in processing domestic violence or child abuse cases • Lack of domestic violence or child abuse supports for Limited-English Proficient (LEP) individuals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create more targeted funding streams for law enforcement trainings of this nature • Ensure that trainings are done by qualified individuals to help officers in identifying domestic violence and child abuse situations • Consider moving to more online platforms for training to allow officers to train while not having to travel • More formal partnerships with DFCS to ensure a streamlined system for processing family cases • Create informational pamphlets and resources in some of the area's most commonly spoken languages to assist officers in directing individuals to appropriate services
<p style="text-align: center;">DECREASED FUNDING FOR RURAL PROGRAMS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants felt a stark urban/rural divide in terms of funding • Pronounced income disparities within counties means families and communities have different abilities to provide resources and services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide approach to addressing funding gaps and gaps in services • More events like forums in rural communities to enhance understanding of communities outside of metro areas
<p style="text-align: center;">DECREASED FUNDING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding has remained flat and stagnant for law enforcement agencies despite an increase in victims • Federal grants dedicated to law enforcement agencies may not be received due to a lack of support services within the area • Multijurisdictional drug task force agencies' funding has been cut which contributes to a rise in drug-related crime • General lack of law enforcement resources and personnel results in higher instances of victimization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritizing efforts in funding for law enforcement programs to ensure public safety and quality of services • Create programs that can build the capacity of local law enforcement agencies to be competitive for state or federal grant funding • Examine current state drug enforcement strategies to better target funding and training opportunities

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
<p align="center">ANCILLARY SERVICES FOR ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navigating and coordinating transit services in the area is problematic for accountability courts • No transportation infrastructure for mentally ill due to hospital closures in the eighth district • Stringent restrictions on reimbursing participants with gas cards or bus cards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and fund collaborative partnerships with faith-based organizations or others and develop resources for transportation and support services • Create more user-friendly policies for reimbursement of transportation costs • Equip courts and programs with alternative transportation vehicles, such as bicycles or mopeds • Add and fund more transportation initiatives to connect rural areas to their county seats
<p align="center">SUPPORT AND RESOURCES FOR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No treatment centers or facilities in the area for mentally ill individuals • Funding is limited for long-term treatment of victims with mental health issues • Jails are saddled with providing costly mental health services • Offenders can rarely afford long-term care or medication they receive in jail and frequently re-offend 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate more with community partners and coordinate with stakeholders to address the underlying issues offenders face such as poverty, mental health issues and untreated prior trauma • Seek more funding opportunities for jail-based programs that treat underlying mental health issues • Coordinate with regional mental health providers to develop back-end treatment programs for when a prisoner is released • Law enforcement needs training and ability to have the discretion to assess if victims with mental health issues are threats to public safety
<p align="center">UNFUNDED MANDATES WITHIN HB-242 AND CHINS KIDS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CHINS program is statutorily required to start 1/1/14 but no physical space to place kids within the 8th district • Concern that CHINS will cost counties more in the long term • Agencies have to be reactive and are inhibited from being proactive • Significant concern over unfunded mandates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporating parental accountability and involvement into drug court case plan may prevent some children from needing to enter CHINS • Create more programs that can re-direct kids at an earlier age • Significantly more coordination with local school systems and community service programs to target kids

RECURRING THEMES

After review of forum dialogues, CJCC discovered recurring themes among the issues within the region. Themes included:

1. Participants from the Eighth District indicated a need for a statewide conversation on funding priorities. Many participants expressed real concern over the “Two Georgias”—Atlanta and everyone else. There is a significant lack of funding for programs within the rural areas of the State resulting in disjointed services and inconsistent quality of programs for individuals.
2. An overarching issue was the need for more funding for law enforcement programs, personnel, and mixed methods training. Participants noted that the decrease in police manpower causes an uptick in the number of victimizations that occur within the region. Furthermore, many indicated that substantive online training sessions would make law enforcement efforts more effective, and allow staff to not have to take a day out of the office to complete training.
3. Participants further indicated that interagency coordination and cooperation must be built-in policies to ensure non-duplicative services. Furthermore, participants noted that the sharing of resources and information will allow service providers to better target their time and energies in swiftly assisting residents in the Eighth Judicial Circuit. Forums like these would be beneficial to have on a regular basis to ensure that coordination efforts result in increased effectiveness.
4. The participants indicated that strengthening and supporting existing policy programs would be far more beneficial to policy outputs and outcomes. Auxiliary services that bolster current programs are desperately needed in certain pockets of the Eighth Judicial District. A key example of this is transportation initiatives for accountability courts. Another example highlighted during the forum was treatment for mentally ill individuals as it directly bears upon an individual’s criminology, risk assessment, and recidivism risk.
5. Many participants expressed concern that the criminal justice system is increasingly burdened by a large volume of offenders and victims whose base level needs are not being met, thus making it very difficult for the criminal justice system to address the very problems they are charged with solving. In particular, participants stated that case management is a grave problem. Across all sectors of the criminal justice system, case managers are overburdened and often physically distant from their charges. This further aggravates the strain scarce resources have placed upon the criminal justice system in the Eight Judicial District.

WHAT’S WORKING

At the end of the forum, participants provided further insight by identifying the following effective and/or cost-saving, innovative practices:

- **Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Programs (JJIG)** - Baldwin County is a current recipient of the JJIG. While the program is still nascent, it was noted to already be proving efficacious for the juveniles currently involved. The program aims to treat juveniles along with their families in an evidence-based practice known as “Families in Action.” This is a current project funded by the Governor’s Office of Children and Families (GOCF).
- **River’s Edge** - River’s Edge is a behavioral health center that is funded partially with federal grants, but also local money. River’s Edge serves as a crisis center

and seeks to treat mental illness and drug and alcohol abuse. Not only does River’s Edge provide housing for their clients, but they coordinate and collaborate with many local partners such as churches and faith-based organizations to utilize all community resources available to comprehensively treat individuals.

The issues, challenges and possible solutions identified are a result of CJCC's staff discussions with the state and local agency representatives who voluntarily participated in the Eighth District forum. CJCC staff acknowledges that the information obtained is not a complete list of all of the criminal justice issues in the region, only a representation of the region's priorities.



APPENDIX H

Ninth Judicial District Summary
Gainesville, Georgia | September 2012

9th JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY REPORT *Gainesville*

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is statutorily charged with the responsibility of convening stakeholders statewide to assist in the development, prioritization and publication of state and local policy agenda for the criminal justice system. To this end, on September 20, 2012, CJCC hosted its first Regional Criminal Justice Forum for the Ninth Judicial District in Gainesville, GA. Local participants at the forum represented the following agencies:

- Athens Day Reporting Center
- Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit
- Canton Probation Office
- Clarkesville Probation Office
- Forsyth County Sheriff's Office
- Gainesville Police Department
- Ninth Judicial Administrative District (JAD)
- Appalachian Judicial Circuit
- Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit
- Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit
- Enotah Judicial Circuit
- Gwinnett Judicial Circuit
- Mountain Judicial Circuit
- Northeastern Judicial District
- Northeast Probation Area
- Georgia Bar Association (local chapters)
- District Attorney Offices in the Ninth JAD

Victim Services Organizations

- Community Voices and Men's Health Initiative
- Family Recovery, Inc.
- Forsyth County Child Advocacy Center
- GA Mtn. Women's Center (Circle of Hope)
- Gateway Domestic Violence Center
- No One Alone (NOA)

In addition, the following state agencies were represented:

- Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)

CJCC staff facilitated the forum and recorded this event. Attendees provided expertise and practitioner perspective to the forum to establish a dialogue of ideas and identification of issues affecting the Ninth Judicial Circuit.

IDENTIFYING REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Forum participants identified the region's top priorities and in group discussions further detailed the challenges and barriers that inhibit resolutions. After exchanging issue perspectives, participants were encouraged to offer possible solutions for each priority identified. The following table provides a summary of the issues and potential solutions.

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
LACK OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of coordination for supportive services • Staffing issues create obstacles; turnover necessitates constant cross-discipline training • Insufficient awareness of services provided between agencies • Need for collaboration between services for offenders going into the prison system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish community meetings with key partners in attendance • Encourage coordination of efforts through information-sharing • Create a resource guide for the community to increase awareness • Encourage interagency cooperation to decrease overlap in services and increase collaborative funding possibilities
INDIGENT RESOURCES AND COMPTITION FOR RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sense of self concern on the part of contending agencies when competing for the same grant dollars • Barriers to cooperation due to different agencies' directives and mission conflict 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more comprehensive grants to cover multiple entities and promote partnerships
DECREASED TASK FORCE FUNDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task force agencies are becoming reliant on seized funds to run their operations • Reliance on seized funds may inadvertently create the appearance of a "seize, seize, seize" mentality that would suggest an inappropriate motive • Reductions in funding puts task force agencies at risk of losing participating counties and makes those localities vulnerable to drug and drug-related activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop grant criteria to increase CJCC's funding for agencies who establish a collaborative effort between multiple law enforcement agencies
BALANCING FUNDS TO SUPPORT OFFENDER ACCOUNTABILITY WITH VICTIM SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victims are reluctant to seek services • Inadequate funding for divorce, which results in problematic custody situations • Despite funding for temporary protection orders (TPOs), it is difficult to find permanent safe havens for victims. Victims are not always aware of their right to or possess the proper documentation required to receive victims compensation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide education and training for law enforcement agencies, as well as probation personnel, regarding the victims services process • Inform the offender to create an understanding of the crime they have committed • Provide information on the victim's side so that it is easier for them to come forward

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
<p>MENTAL HEALTH OFFENDERS IN THE PRISONS/ EXPANSION OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COURTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health courts are not available in each county despite growing mental health needs • Mental health courts are often very time-consuming • Negative public perceptions of mentally ill offenders perpetuates the potential hesitation of the public to refer offenders to mental health courts • Families and offenders feel isolated, ashamed due to lack of support or education on the issue of mental health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a mental health court in each district • Allocate time dedicated to a mental health court docket rather than a separate court • Create awareness of the benefits of mental health services • Encourage the collaboration of the medical and the criminal justice communities • Expand eligibility criteria for offenders • Monitor compliance of all mental health program guidelines
<p>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TURNING AWAY VICTIMS DUE TO LACK OF SPACE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of shelters, manpower and operational resources • Due to competition for funding shelters are unable to achieve long-term sustainability • Lack of transportation for families receiving services, especially in rural areas • Lack of partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create community partnerships to meet individual needs • Promote early intervention • Provide court mandated compliance hearings • Develop educational and outreach initiatives to reach local businesses • Provide an increase in funding for shelter personnel
<p>IMPACT OF PRISON ON CHILDREN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are significantly affected by the incarceration of their parents and in line to repeat the cycle • Parents are not held accountable for the effect their incarceration has had (or will have) on their children • Programs for children do not translate to rehabilitation for parents • DJJ does not have sanctioning power to order parents to services • Children’s long-term visitations with incarcerated parents has a negative effect (e.g., become normal) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more wraparound services including a “dress for success” program for offenders • Develop collaboration at superior court level to develop a response to children affected (or potentially affected) by the imprisonment of their parents • Encourage dialogue on issues impacting children • Facilitate services through sentencing for children

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
DRUG TESTING ENFORCEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilizing probation officers to conduct drug testing is an inefficient process Inability to test for synthetic marijuana and other substitutions Drug testing is not conducted on nights and weekends due to a lack of personnel and resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employ more technicians for drug testing facilities Establish a centralized location that provides drug testing services 7 days a week Provide transportation assistants for ease of drug testing
CONSISTENCY IN INVESTIGATION AND/OR SENTENCING BETWEEN JURISDICTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inconsistency in sentencing provides for offenders in some areas to avoid consequences Not all jurisdictions have similar programs to use as a sentencing alternative Not enough resources for RSAT beds There are no best practices in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide education for all of the criminal justice community Facilitate more forums for communication Offer a shared programs option for smaller communities; larger jurisdictions taking more responsibility for rural communities Create mini-programs modeled after drug courts for smaller circuits

RECURRING THEMES

After review of forum dialogues, CJCC discovered recurring themes among the issues within the region. Themes included:

1. Interagency cooperation to decrease overlap in services was an overarching issue. Participants indicated that while cooperation and coordination efforts may produce more efficient utilization of common pool resources, it also allows for collaborative funding possibilities.
2. Participants from the Ninth District indicated a need for treatment options with regard to mentally ill offenders. Consequently, participants identified the lack of mental health courts to treat mentally ill offenders and the need to put an end to punitive sentencing as the de facto for those in need of treatment alternatives.
3. The availability of support services for domestic violence victims was discussed at length. The lack of shelters, work force, and additional resources was stated by many to be problematic. While funding of shelter personnel and services was the primary solution, participants also acknowledged the value of collaboration and sharing of resources as an alternative solution.
4. Additionally, an overarching theme discussed by forum participants was the need to implement services to increase the effectiveness of drug enforcement testing which would allow line officers to better utilize their time serving the public as opposed to supervising drug testing for offenders.
5. The final theme of the forum was regarding the importance of building more consistency in statewide policies by encouraging collaboration and communication of everyone involved—leading back to the overarching theme of the forum.

WHAT'S WORKING

At the end of the forum, participants provided further insight by identifying the following effective, cost-saving, and/or innovative practices:

- **Family Violence Intervention Programs (FVIPs)** - designed to rehabilitate family violence offenders and are charged with prioritizing victim safety and participant accountability.
- **Crisis Intervention Training** - Designed to assist individuals with mental illness and other disorders in times of crisis, reducing stigma associated with mental health issues.
- **One-Stop Juvenile Accountability Project** - The Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants (JAIBG) program was created by OJJDP to help states and communities strengthen their juvenile justice systems and reduce juvenile offending by implementing through accountability-based reforms that focus on holding both the offenders and the state and local juvenile justice systems accountable.
- **NOA/COH partnerships between shelter and Sheriff's Office** - No One Alone (NOA) is a nonprofit organization (state certified by the Governor's Office for Children and Families) that provides safe haven and support services to victims of domestic violence to help victims and their children achieve safety and stability.
- **Hall County SART** - Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART) are multidisciplinary, interagency teams of individuals working collaboratively to ensure that victims are provided with a broad range of necessary care and specialized sexual assault intervention services (ie: legal, medical, social services).

The issues, challenges and possible solutions identified are a result of CJCC's staff discussions with the state and local agency representatives who voluntarily participated in the Gainesville forum. CJCC staff acknowledges that the information obtained is not a complete list of all of the criminal justice issues in the region, but a representation of the region's priorities.



APPENDIX I

Tenth Judicial District Summary
Athens and Augusta, Georgia | February 2012

10th JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY REPORT *Athens*

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is statutorily charged with the responsibility of convening stakeholders statewide to assist in the development, prioritization and publication of state and local policy agenda for the criminal justice system. To this end, on February 23, 2012, CJCC hosted its first Regional Criminal Justice Forum for part of the Tenth Judicial District in Athens, GA. Local participants at the forum represented the following agencies:

- Alcovy Circuit Superior Court (Newton & Walton)
- Athens-Clarke DUI /Drug Court
- Clarke County Sheriff's Office
- Monroe Probation Office
- Newton County Juvenile Court
- Oconee County Sheriff's Office
- Public Defender's Office
- Western Judicial Circuit Felony Court
- Western Judicial Circuit District Attorney Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP)

Victim Services Organizations

- The Cottage
- Harmony House Child Advocacy Center
- Project Safe
- The Tree House

In addition, the following state agencies were represented:

- Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
- Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
- Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI)
- State Board of Pardons and Paroles (SBPP)

CJCC staff, along with the guidance and assistance of Kay Chopard Cohen, Deputy Director of the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA), facilitated the forum and recorded this event. Attendees provided expertise and practitioner perspective to the forum to establish a dialogue of ideas and identification of issues affecting the Athens region.

IDENTIFYING REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Forum participants identified the region's top priorities and in group discussions further detailed the challenges and barriers that inhibit resolutions. After exchanging issue perspectives, participants were encouraged to offer possible solutions for each priority identified. The following table provides a summary of the issues and potential solutions.

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
LACK OF RESOURCES FOR MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of funding for mentally ill offenders • Jails are overcrowded with mentally ill offenders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide funding for mental health courts and supportive housing • Conduct a cost/benefit analysis of jail versus mental institution services • Provide jail personnel with the training and support necessary to assess and manage mentally ill offenders • Employ mental health counselors to conduct need-assessments on mentally ill offenders
INDIGENT RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local agencies lack the assistance of certified personnel • Backlog in available RSAT beds • Employers are reluctant to hire convicted felons • Offenders are chronic 'users' of criminal justice resources • Policymakers are hesitant to support additional programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct research to determine means of addressing and providing services for nonviolent offenders • Develop effective programs for offender populations based on research • Fund and support efforts by: Drug Courts, Day Reporting Centers, Family Protection Centers, and Multi-Agency Task Force Organizations • Employ Moral-Reconciliation Therapy and RSAT
BROKEN JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient number of beds in detention centers • Deficiency in reentry transition for juvenile offenders • Lack of communication among state agencies • Delinquents are disengaged to programming opportunities and available services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide alternative funding options for juvenile justice system • Increase the number of programs for juveniles • Encourage the Department of Families and Children, the Mental Health System, and the Juvenile Justice System to make collaborative efforts in enhancing services for juveniles • Improve follow-up on risk assessments
LACK OF CROSS-AGENCY COORDINATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of protocols at the state level to help transitions at regional level (Athens) • Statutory constraints on day-to-day operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic collaboration. • Ensure agencies oversee systematic collaborations and structure protocols

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
VOCATIONAL TRAINING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gap in state services for offenders • Training needs to be expanded to include a comprehensive curriculum (not just one class) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide funding for vocational programs
ALTERNATIVES FOR PROBATION REVOCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lengthy program wait lists • Shortage of advisory boards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employ a collaborative/hybrid approach between DOC and Parole, to address probation revocations • Include consultation by local experts to determine community needs • Introduce local planning teams for the management of adult and juvenile offenders • Encourage collective use of agency resources

RECURRING THEMES

After review of forum dialogues, CJCC discovered recurring themes among the issues within the region. Themes included:

1. Offenders need greater support services (e.g., employment opportunities, supportive housing, residential substance abuse treatment, vocational education etc.), not just punitive action to end the cyclical nature of offenders recidivating. Services should be tailored to high risk, high need offenders and be given more non-punitive opportunities to end the revolving door of reoffending.
2. Services for offenders should be specialized, particularly for mentally ill offenders and those who have high rates of recidivism. A key to creating specialized services are improved risk needs assessments for both juvenile and adult offenders.
3. Collaborative efforts at both the state and local level of government are of great significance to establishing effective and sustainable improvements to the criminal justice system. As shown above, the need for a collaborative approach was a plausible solution to almost every issue identified.
4. Local criminal justice agencies are willing to take ownership of the problems specific to their region and should be entrusted with working to resolve them. Participants stated that issues vary in each region and thus the approach to resolving these issues should as well. Local agencies are more informed of regional needs and should be an integral part of the resolutions.
5. Even with state and local regional coordination, statewide policies can be inconsistent with local policies and issues causing a need for better control in area offender management.

WHAT'S WORKING

At the end of the forum, participants provided further insight by identifying the following effective, cost-saving, and/or innovative practices:

- **Task force concept** – The task force concept utilizes a multi-agency approach in an effort to find an effective and comprehensive solution to regional problems.
- **Local Interagency Planning Teams (LIPT)** – The multi-county teams, which have been established in the region to address juveniles with emotional disorders and addiction issues, may be an effective model for adult offenders, and for use statewide.
- **Reentry Housing Partnership Program (RHP)** – RHP is a cost-effective program designed to provide housing to work-ready felons.
- **Community Impact Program (CIP)** – CIP provides offenders access to services and treatment.
- **Georgia Fatherhood Program** – The Office of Child Support Services created the Georgia Fatherhood Program to ensure paternal involvement in children's lives and that financial responsibilities are met.
- **GoToMeeting** – GoToMeeting is a web conferencing tool used to host online meetings of up to 15 people. Parole uses the tool for its regional meetings as a cost-saving measure.
- **Voice Recognition System (VRS)** - VRS is a tool utilized by Parole to further cut costs by allowing low risk offenders to dial in rather than meet their parole officer in person. The VRS is 99.9% accurate and allows parole officers to focus on more high risk offenders.

The issues, challenges and possible solutions identified are a result of CJCC's staff discussions with the state and local agency representatives who voluntarily participated in the Athens forum. CJCC staff acknowledges that the information obtained is not a complete list of all of the criminal justice issues in the region, only a representation of the region's priorities.

10th JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY REPORT *Augusta*

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is statutorily charged with the responsibility of convening stakeholders statewide to assist in the development, prioritization and publication of state and local policy agenda for the criminal justice system. To this end, on March 22, 2012, CJCC hosted its second Regional Criminal Justice Forum for part of the Tenth Judicial District in Augusta, GA. Local participants at the forum represented the following agencies:

- Augusta Probation Office
- Augusta Day Reporting Center
- Augusta Judicial Circuit Drug Court
- Augusta Judicial Circuit Superior Court
- Augusta Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office
- Augusta Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office
- Burke County State Court
- Burke County Juvenile Court
- Columbia County Juvenile Court
- Richmond County Solicitor General's Office
- Toombs Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office

Victim Services Organizations

- Child Enrichment Inc.
- Peace Place Inc.
- Rape Crisis and Sexual Assault Services
- Safe Homes of Augusta

In addition, the following state agencies were represented:

- Administrative Office of the Courts of Georgia (AOC)
- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)
- Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI)
- Georgia Public Defender Standards Council (GPDSC)
- State Board of Pardons and Paroles (SBPP)

CJCC staff, along with the guidance and assistance of Kay Chopard Cohen, Deputy Director of the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA), facilitated the forum and recorded this event. Attendees provided expertise and practitioner perspective to the forum to establish a dialogue of ideas and identification of issues affecting the Augusta region.

IDENTIFYING REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Forum participants identified the region's top priorities and in group discussions further detailed the challenges and barriers that inhibit resolutions. After exchanging issue perspectives, participants were encouraged to offer possible solutions for each priority identified. The following table provides a summary of the issues and potential solutions.

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
LACK OF RESOURCES FOR STAFFING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of staff across the board. • Lack of funding for personnel. • Inadequate training for personnel. • Increased staffing reduction. • Outdated training at academies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide funding for qualified staff. • Improve budgeting practices throughout the whole system instead of passing of cuts. • Fund and develop better training programs for personnel.
LACK OF RESOURCES FOR MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of mental health court service implementation for juvenile mentally ill offenders. • Insufficient means of evaluation for mentally ill offenders. • Inadequate supervision of the mentally ill. • Mentally ill offenders are taking up room in prison intended for violent offenders. • Mentally ill offenders have issues paying for health services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement more mental health courts. • Provide mentally ill with needed medication and housing. • Conduct a cost/benefit analysis of jail versus mental institution services. • Fund mental health court services aimed for juvenile mentally ill. • Provide Department of Public health with funding and support to deliver programs.
LACK OF RESOURCES FOR SEX OFFENDERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelters for homeless sex offenders are not in line with proximity laws. • Reluctance to provide sex offenders with treatment and employment program services. • Decreased reporting of sex offenders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund and support programs that provide sex offenders with community re-entry services. • Establish a focused strategy on how to deal with sex offenders so victims and families of victims will not suffer more.
ACCOUNTABILITY COURT MODEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing is not enough to support number of offenders in the system. • Lack of comprehensive statewide drug control policy. • Insufficient in-prison RSAT. • Absence of standards across the board. • Lack of funding and coordination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish best practices for arrests. • Fund and support RSAT and CIP programs. • Introduce significant alternative sentencing options to community service or jails. • Encourage collaborative efforts between DOC and accountability courts. • Provide funding for staffing and central clearinghouses.

<i>Regional Priorities:</i>	<i>Issues:</i>	<i>Suggested Solutions and Potential Funding Priorities:</i>
JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of space for youth detention centers. • Juvenile justice courts lack full-time judges. • Insufficient number of prevention programs for the Department of Juvenile Justice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employ parent and team awareness programs in juvenile courts. • Collaborative efforts between courts, agencies, and volunteers. • Local buildings that stand empty can be used to provide space for youth detention centers. • Employ education programs to fight clusters of low graduation rates and under-employment.
DFCS SAFETY PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of funding for children’s programs. • DFCS is unwilling to work with courts (no accountability, no transparency to public, no information sharing). • Treatment is unavailable for parents. • Participants’ files close early. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement early intervention with families. • Introduce mandatory education program in schools about dating violence. • Raise number of parent/teen awareness programs. • Increase community involvement (politicians and volunteers). • Provide DFCS Safety Plans with judicial oversight.
PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program staff is not sufficiently trained. • The effectiveness of many available programs is questionable. • Absence of standardization in program audits. • Lack of preventative programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase funding for staff with capacity. • Improve program auditing procedures. • Include communication with program stake holders to develop better monitoring. • Develop more evidence based preventative programs.

RECURRING THEMES

After review of forum dialogues, CJCC discovered recurring themes among the issues within the region. Themes included:

1. Offenders need greater support services (e.g., employment opportunities, supportive housing, residential substance abuse treatment, vocational education etc.), not just punitive action to end the cyclical nature of offenders recidivating. Services should be tailored to high risk, high need offenders and be given more non-punitive opportunities to end the revolving door of reoffending.
2. Services for offenders should be specialized, particularly for mentally ill offenders and those who have high rates of recidivism. A key to creating specialized services are improved risk needs assessments for both juvenile and adult offenders.
3. Collaborative efforts at both the state and local level of government are of great significance to establishing effective and sustainable improvements to the criminal justice system. As shown above, the need for a collaborative approach was a plausible solution to almost every issue identified.
4. Local criminal justice agencies are willing to take ownership of the problems specific to their region. Participants stated that issues vary in each region and thus the approach to resolving these issues varies as well. Local agencies are well informed of regional needs and should be an integral part of the resolutions.
5. Even with state and local regional coordination, statewide policies can be inconsistent with local policies regarding issues of offender management.

WHAT'S WORKING

At the end of the forum, participants provided further insight by identifying the following effective, cost-saving, and/or innovative practices:

- **Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Program (RSAT)** – RSAT provides offenders access to substance abuse treatment and services to develop skills to be productive members of their communities.
- **Community Impact Program (CIP)** – CIP assists with offenders' return to society by providing drug treatment and counseling.
- **Court Appointed Special Advocates For Children (CASA)** – CASA is a nonprofit organization which offers deprived children with services and advocacy.
- **Friends of the Court Program** – Friends of the Court program enables the National Center for State Courts to provide quality training and education, essential research, and to promote awareness of issues surrounding the administration of justice.