The Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs
810 Seventh Street NW – Washington, DC 20001

November 13, 2015 Meeting
3:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

SUMMARY

The November 13, 2015, meeting of the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (Council) was hosted by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and focused on youth violence issues and reduction/prevention strategies at the national, state, and local level.

U.S. Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch, *Council Chair*, reiterated her appreciation for the nearly 40 years that the Council has demonstrated its longstanding commitment to youth justice. She also emphasized the Department's commitment to advancing the work of the Council in a comprehensive and holistic way, deploying intervention/prevention programs, traditional law enforcement methods, and collaborative strategies. These include Supporting Male Survivors of Violence, the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention, and the President's initiative, My Brother's Keeper. Highlighting the importance of reentry programs, DOJ awarded $53 million in grants this past fiscal year under the Second Chance Act. Attorney General Lynch asserted that creativity and energy are needed to change lives by breaking the cycles of criminality and incarceration, and by empowering youth to flourish through self-discovery.

OJJDP Administrator Robert L. Listenbee, *Council Vice-Chair*, reiterated the top OJJDP priorities around youth violence: to enhance public safety and increase positive outcomes for youth. He is very optimistic that the prevention methodologies—now informing and guiding the Department through a common, shared framework—will put a continued dent in the violence.

Dr. Thomas Simon of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention framed the discussion and led a distinguished panel that presented youth violence issues and reduction/prevention strategies, as viewed through multiple lenses. The national perspective was reported by Ms. Geroma Void of OJJDP, followed by the state perspective offered by Ms. Stacie Bladen of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Mr. Stephon Shallow of the Crown Heights "Save Our Streets" Program in Brooklyn, NY, and Mr. Joseph A. Arreola of the Community Alliance for Safety and Peace in Salinas, CA, communicated their insights and progress on local, community-based, anti-gun violence efforts. Each perspective highlighted the need for an interagency, multi-disciplinary approach to youth violence prevention that requires public and private sector involvement in the areas of labor, justice, public health, and education.

Under Attorney General Lynch's leadership, the Department continues to expand and enhance its response to youth violence, and to build a policy and programmatic infrastructure that will sustain its work into the years to come.

The good news is that prevention strategies *are* being successfully deployed to stop youth violence, bringing hope to the nation's children and families.

Opening Remarks and Introductions

Scott Pestridge, *Senior Policy Advisor, OJJDP, and acting Designated Federal Official (DFO)*[1], *Coordinating Council*, welcomed U.S. Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch, OJJDP Administrator Robert L. Listenbee, Assistant Attorney General Karol Mason, and Council members in person and on the phone. Verbal comments were not accepted from the public and the meeting notes will be posted within 90 days on the Council's website at www.juvenilecouncil.gov. Roll call was taken (titles and agency/organization affiliations are available on the website under Meeting Attendance):

Via telephone/webcast

- R. Dwayne Betts
- Justice Maura Corrigan
- Judge Trina Thompson

In person

- Deane Dougherty
- Stacie Bladen *
- Thomas Simon *
- Stephon Shallow*
- Geroma Void
- Audrey Rowe
- David Esquith
- Judge Adele Grubbs
- Karen Morgan
- Rebecca Flatow
- Laurie Garduque
- Charles Homer
- Karol Mason
- Loretta E. Lynch
- Robert L. Listenbee
- Roy Austin
- John Kelly
- Tanya Robinson
- Mary Lou Leary
- Cheryl Andrews-Maltais
- Joseph (José) A. Arreola *

** denotes guest speakers*

Robert L. Listenbee, *Administrator, OJJDP, and Vice Chair, Coordinating Council*, thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting to discuss federal, state, and local efforts to enhance public safety and increase positive outcomes for youth.

Loretta E. Lynch, *U.S. Attorney General, DOJ, and Chair, Coordinating Council*, thanked Administrator Listenbee and Scott Pestridge for organizing the meeting, Karol Mason for her outstanding leadership of the Office of Justice Programs, and those around the table committed to America's youth. Reiterating her appreciation for the nearly 40 years that the Council has demonstrated its longstanding commitment to youth justice, she acknowledged that the challenges remain deep and grave. More issues are affecting young people, from the traditional exposure to violence to the tremendous influence from extreme cultures and the losses they experience.

The Department is committed to advancing the work of the Council in a comprehensive and holistic way, initially by allowing young people to share their lives rather than quickly jumping to assumptions. Many justice-involved adolescents are exposed to violence at an early age as victims and witnesses, and the entire family often suffers mental, physical, and emotional harm. Later in life, these individuals encounter educational barriers and substance abuse/mental health problems. Juvenile justice advocates have a special responsibility to youth going deeper into the criminal justice system; such youth face significant barriers to progress with collateral damage continuing long after they pay their debts to society. This is why the Department emphasizes intervention and prevention programs, traditional law enforcement methods, and collaborative strategies. Attorney General Lynch communicated several exciting programs in progress:

- **Supporting Male Survivors of Violence**: Operated by OJJDP and the Office for Victims of Crime, along with public health departments, hospitals, probation officers, schools, and

[1] As of the posting of these notes, Jeff Slowikowski is now the Designated Federal Official for these federal advisory groups: **Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**; and the **Federal Advisory Committee for Juvenile Justice**

faith-based organizations, this program delivers a comprehensive set of services to those members who are most susceptible to violence but least likely to receive assistance.

- National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention: DOJ joins the White House, and the Departments of Education (ED), Labor (DOL), Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and Health and Human Services (HHS), to continue violence prevention efforts.
- My Brother's Keeper Initiative: This program leads the President's efforts to give all young people the ability to reach their potential and shape their own future.

Attorney General Lynch acknowledged that many ideas around criminal justice reform are not new, and young people must have the requisite tools to enter the educational system and job markets, while avoiding the justice system. She appreciated the increasing emphasis on reentry programs to ease youth transition back into society from incarceration. To that end, the Department awarded grants this past fiscal year totaling $53 million under the Second Chance Act (programs designed to support the successful transition for young fathers and mothers as they return to their families and communities from detention, out-of-home placement, or incarceration). The Second Chance Pell program provides a limited number of Pell grants to incarcerated individuals. DOJ and ED collaborated to provide evidence-based support for legislators to expand this program beyond an experimental basis, because education is the number one factor in reducing recidivism for incarcerated individuals of all ages.

The Attorney General reminded everyone that their crucial guidance, insight, creativity, and energy are needed to change young lives by breaking the cycles of criminality and incarceration. Youth must be empowered to flourish through self-discovery. On behalf of the nation's children, she expressed thanks to the federal and state partners, and everyone committed to ending youth violence.

Administrator Robert L. Listenbee cited the Department's top priorities: support juvenile justice reforms for community transformation and achieve better outcomes for youth. This begins with the focus on youth violence prevention through direct funding to communities, accompanied by technical training from diverse experts. Today [November 13, 2015] the Department will host a convening in Baltimore, Maryland, welcoming representatives from all community violence prevention grantees (Defending Childhood Initiative sites, National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention sites, and community-based violence prevention sites). The convening theme is "*Improving Public Safety and Health in Communities with High Trauma, Neglect, and Stress*." Grantees will work with diverse experts – faith leaders, clinicians, law enforcement, and advocates devoted to addressing racial and ethnic disparities, and seeking equal justice for youth, families, and communities.

Meeting materials, including presenter biographies, are available on the Council's website at www.juvenilecouncil.org.

INTRODUCTION AND OVERALL FRAMING

Dr. Thomas Simon, *Associate Director for Science, Division of Violence Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*, thanked Attorney General Lynch, Administrator Listenbee, and OJJDP staff for allowing him this opportunity. He highlighted the need for an interagency, multi-disciplinary approach to youth violence prevention that requires public and private sector involvement in the areas of labor, justice, public health, and education. Dr. Simon began with eye-opening statistics that underlines the devastation of youth violence.

Homicide is the third leading cause of adolescent deaths across the country; more youth die from that than the next seven leading causes, combined. In fact, homicide victims could fill 90 school buses. Based on emergency room data, 600,000 people require treatment for injuries due to assaults and the economic cost is equally staggering: medical care and missed work result in a $17 billion annual loss in work productivity across the lifetimes of these individuals. It has been estimated that this amount could fund a four-year college education for 250,000 young people. Early exposure to violence increases the likelihood of cancer, heart, and other chronic diseases, and costs associated with incarcerations, prosecutions, or other long-term consequences. Research practices in the areas of health, employment, justice, and education demonstrate what works and emphasize the responsibility to put them into action. Law enforcement and communities say we cannot arrest our way out of this problem so there must be a strategic alignment in the work between practitioners, youth, and families.

The CDC focuses on a preventive public heath approach and the goal is to stem the flow of youth into the juvenile justice system and emergency departments. A key component is data collection to spot trends that identify the greatest risks and evaluate the most promising prevention strategies. That must be followed by dissemination of best practices to bridge the gap between data versus community outcomes. The CDC recently released the "Preventing Youth Violence Opportunities for Action" (and a companion document "Taking Action to Prevent Youth Violence") designed to raise awareness and prevention opportunities within communities. The CDC further leads this charge by focusing on public health leadership and evidence-based prevention strategies to reduce youth violence across the nation.

The Striving to Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere initiative (known as STRYVE) is a selector tool that provides resources to local health departments. It can be customized through 50 strategies to support their unique needs, including the following examples: universal school-based prevention strategies to help youth identify how they think and respond to violence; parenting/family approaches to enhance communications, especially for high-risk families; and community-based policy and environmental approaches to reduce opportunities for violence and to increase opportunities for positive, pro-social interactions.

Dr. Simon explained that while implementation issues are challenging, there is an increasingly positive return on investments in the practice and research to stop youth violence. He concluded with the exhortation that everyone has the opportunity and the responsibility to stop youth violence before it starts.

OJJDP VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVES

Geroma Void, *Senior Policy Advisor*, *OJJDP*, communicated the OJJDP youth violence prevention initiatives.

National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention

OJJDP goals are to promote the well-being of youth and families, reduce violence, improve community capacity to address all forms of violence, and promote alignment. In partnership with the CDC, and using input from other federal agencies, a shared framework for reducing violence and promoting well-being was developed. That framework embraces all youth violence prevention work and provides a roadmap for safe, healthy, and thriving children, youth, families, and communities. The forum is a network of 15 cities around the country, implementing evidence-based practices through comprehensive strategic plans designed to prevent youth and gang violence. Mayors, public health officials, law enforcement officials, educators, faith- and community-based groups, businesses and philanthropic leaders, parents and teens from each city work together to meet local needs. Federal partners in the forum (HHS, ED, DOL, HUD, CDC, the White House Office of National Drug and Control Policy) encourage member cities to change the way they do business and to share common challenges/strategies.

At the federal level, OJJDP provides guidance and oversight to the forum coordination team comprised of many agencies represented at the meeting. All the partners make this effort possible and OJJDP was fortunate to have assistance from a senior fellow with the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Meetings are taking place with colleagues in the World Bank, who are developing implementation strategies to help other countries combat youth violence.

Defending Childhood Initiative

Launched by the then U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder in 2010, the Defending Childhood Initiative seeks to prevent children's exposure to violence, mitigate negative effects, develop knowledge, and spread awareness of the issue. There are eight demonstration sites—including two tribal nations—and a national technical assistance provider who works with a significantly increasing number of grantees, through the lens of a trauma-informed approach.

Community-Based Violence Prevention Program

Program goals are to change community norms for reducing violence, providing alternatives to violence when gangs/guns make risky behavior, and increasing the awareness of perceived risk and cost of involvement. Communities now have an increased understanding of the importance of trauma-informed care, and 16 community-based violence reduction sites have experienced reductions in gun violence, increased community engagement, and changes in public perception around gun violence issues. The number of grantees has increased as states, counties, and tribes continue to address youth violence. Ms. Void stressed that the solutions require coordinated efforts to achieve a positive impact.

STATE PERSPECTIVE

Stacie Bladen, *Deputy Director for Children's Services Agency, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services*, presented on Michigan's experiences and its urgency.

Flint and Detroit suffer homicide rates of 62 and 48, respectively, per 100,000 residents. Detroit's homicide rate alone is nearly seven times the national average and FBI data rank Flint, Detroit, Saginaw, and Pontiac among the nation's ten most violent cities. Forty percent of Michigan's adults, representing over 2.4 million people, experienced between 1-3 adverse childhood experiences. Ms. Bladen communicated other tragic statistics, including: 21,049 confirmed annual child abuse and neglect cases; and 30,953 identified victims of child abuse and neglect (of these 38 percent are under the age of 4).

Ms. Bladen explained that regardless of the service provisions, children experiencing violence have poorer outcomes. It is no longer acceptable for organizations and agencies to work in silos, because the sharing of funding streams and responding in consistent, coherent, and cohesive ways to children and families has proven more effective. Safety and permanency have been the focus for many years in child welfare but less so for wellbeing; more targeted strategies are needed. It is known that violence affects children's mental and physical development across their lifespan, yet we historically expected people to be good and purposefully choose their behavior. Ms. Bladen asserts that the time has come to change the approach:

- From punitive – What's wrong with you? How can we control or punish you?
- To supportive – What happened to you? How can we support you and help you heal?

She recently attended a class of 500 Michigan State University freshmen students who discussed foster care. They heard bleak testimony from youth in foster care who sounded hopeless but she knew, unequivocally, that there are available tools, expertise, and evidence-based interventions that actually work for youth.

The Defending Childhood Initiative

The initiative allowed Michigan to develop cross-system approaches to children's trauma experiences. They generated a strategic plan, working with ED, former Department of Community of Health, the Governor's office, and various government entities. The next step was to develop screening tools, assessments for children, and evidence-based interventions (used by mental health and Medicaid providers). Schools, healthcare providers, early childcare providers, law enforcement, etc. – everyone has a role to play in recognizing and responding to trauma. Foster parents indicate these strategies have made a tremendous difference and are requesting additional training. The true test is to build resilience, hope, and wellness, and they want children to heal.

Ms. Bladen shared how children and families – through a new set of expectations – are experiencing things differently because of the Defending Childhood Initiative:

- A 3-year-old child, experiencing trauma since birth and placed in foster care, should now experience stability attributable to early mental health intervention and foster parents who are now trained to recognize and respond appropriately to her trauma.
- An 11-year-old witnessed the violent death of her sibling from a drive-by shooting. She'll receive trauma screening and school-based, mental health support that will help her avoid suspension and exclusion from class for disruptive behavior.
- A 16-year-old charged with a nonviolent crime will receive trauma assessment, evidence-based clinical intervention, and home- and school-coordinated support to remain out of detention and in school to graduate.

- A 17-year-old victim of sexual trafficking will experience physical and psychological safety in her community or specialized setting, rather than be charged with prostitution and facing criminal adjudication and life on the streets.

Ms. Bladen's excitement was infectious and she expressed her desire to return and share more successes.

YOUTH PERSPECTIVE

Stephon Shallow, *Crown Heights "Save Our Streets" (SOS) Program, Brooklyn, NY*, explained that SOS is an anti-gun violence program in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, New York.

The organization aims to stop the shootings and killings within a 40-block radius.[2] SOS has four centers – one each in Crown Heights and Bedford–Stuyvesant, and two in the Bronx.

Personal Testimony

Mr. Shallow's began with his personal testimony about his participation in a California gang, where he sold drugs and left school to run the streets. One day, he had an encounter with an SOS member and realized he wanted a new way – a better way – of life. He came to the SOS Mediation Center and immediately felt love, support, and an embracing environment. Now his priorities are to volunteer all his time to the SOS organization and its activities, reaching back to help other weary but willing gang members find a new way of life, off the streets.

SOS Outreach Approach

SOS collaborates with multiple communities and hosts public events like basketball tournaments, achieved without violence. SOS seeks high-risk individuals, known for shooting, killing, gangbanging, or selling drugs. Their soft approach does NOT include asking these individuals to leave the gangs. Rather, they ask them to simply put down their weapons and stop taking any more innocent lives. Eventually, individuals see the powerful, positive impact when the suffering of families on both sides stops – for both victims and perpetrators.

Mr. Shallow enjoys taking high-risk individuals to sporting events – basketball, football, hockey, etc. – to build rapport. He shares his life's journey, which included a rough childhood, making sure that participants understand he too knows how to live the street life. In modeling an example participants can understand, he deepens the trust and ties with these young brothers his age—and even younger—that there are always other ways to resolve issues besides picking up a gun or knife.

- Attorney General Lynch was very familiar with Crown Heights and inquired how youth react when SOS mediators reach out to them. He candidly shared his initial reluctance to approach youth on the front lines, especially when he was still in training and not on the team yet, but one of his closest friends persuaded him to try it. Mr. Shallow's first observation was that most people his age initially reject the help but eventually come around with an open mind. SOS is satisfied when individuals take the first step to just show up.

[2] SOS was modeled after the Cure Violence program founded by Dr. Gary Slutkins, *Epidemiologist, University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health*, using strategies associated with infectious disease control: target the highest-risk, most infected and stop the infection at its source.

- Before leaving the meeting, the Attorney General asked Mr. Shallow for suggestions on how to take that program to east New York. His street approach is to explain the SOS program to individuals using an informative card that speaks to the consequences of gun use (with a slightly different version for high-risk individuals) titled "*How to Ruin Your Life in Three-Easy Steps*." SOS makes no demands but advises youth on the street to consider that they could lose their own life when shooting others. The organization invites youth to stop by the office to talk, strives to make them feel comfortable, and encourages them to communicate when they need help.

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

Joseph (José) A. Arreola, *Community Safety Administrator, Director, Community Alliance for Safety and Peace for Salinas, California*, discussed the collaborative impact of partnership initiatives such as the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention and My Brother's Keeper Initiative.

National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention

Battling gang violence for a long time, Salinas, CA has one of the largest and most violent prison gang populations in the country. The city became a focus because of its disproportionate youth homicide ratio, relative to its population of approximately 150,000 people, rivaling the rate of much larger cities. Clearly, the city needed to address the roots of violence and the decision was made to deploy a collective, high-impact, public health approach.

In 2008, the Violence Prevention Subcommittee of the Monterey County Children's Council formally joined the Salinas Community Safety Alliance to become the Community Alliance for Safety and Peace (CASP). This response to the crisis in Salinas was a strategic, unifying effort to promote peace and safety. A cross-sector, collective impact and networking organization with over 60 member agencies, CASP embraces operating principles designed to:

- Build strong cross-sector relationships
- Learn and disseminate best practices
- Align its work across organizations
- Implement a strategic violence reduction program

Experience has demonstrated the folly of simply cobbling together a collaborative without clear direction so a key component is the monitoring and sharing of plan indicators. To lay the foundation for sustainability, the decision was to have a single operational structure residing within the Salinas Community and Safety Division, and to ensure all actions were research- and data-driven. They recognized the need to consult with other professional communities around the country on policies and best practices. Key partner initiatives through the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention incorporate strategic planning, funding, networking, and sustainable technical assistance supported by the

Is CASP Effective?

Violent crime rates in Salinas are statistically significant when compared against Monterey County and California. Salinas Community Safety Administrator, and CASP Director, José Arreola believes that the focus on prevention work contributed to a dramatic reduction in violent crimes: between 2001 and 2013, there were 300 fewer violent crimes per 100,000 people.

Many Salinas homicides involve gangs and youth victims; however, an interesting development over the last four years is the aging of homicide shooters, now rising to age 35, and their victims. While 2015 saw a record number of homicides, the <u>percentage</u> of violent crimes decreased … with fewer young people dying and/or affected by violence.

faith-based community. Project goals were to build the capacity of CASP and the Health Department to prevent youth violence, with emphasis on networking.

Another important element was to increase the leadership capacity in communities where the violence is most problematic; prevention requires people in place who desire change and who have the support and fortitude to make it happen.

The Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework has been invaluable to Salinas and has helped to spawn another interagency initiative – the School Climate Leadership Team – to transform schools and communities. Jointly funded by ED, DOJ, and HHS, PBIS is being delivered to 83 percent of Salinas' schoolchildren. The result has been dramatic decreases in tardiness, truancy, suspensions, and expulsions in three of the largest school districts. PBIS has become the tool administrators can use to drive the conversation on the school-to-prison-pipeline.

My Brother's Keeper Initiative

This has not been as well implemented in Salinas: they signed on and accepted the challenge a bit late so they are taking more time to deploy a multi-agency approach. A summit is planned for March 2016 and will be co-hosted by the city of Salinas, Building Healthy Communities, Motivating Individual Leadership for Public Advancement, and Monterey County. To avoid initiative "fatigue" they are asking people to frame the work around the lens of My Brother's Keeper because so much of the critical work needed centers around Salinas young men of color, who represent a big demographic of the social problems.

Discussion: *Opportunities to Advance Positive Outcomes, Lessons Learned, and Implications for Federal, State, and Local Efforts*

~~J~~ustice Maura Corrigan, *American Enterprise Institute,* thanked Stacie Bladen and the other presenters for their excellent work.

Judge Trina Thompson, *Alameda County Superior Court*, asked Mr. Shallow to identify the top three (3) things that are helping him transition from a violent lifestyle. **Stephon Shallow** first cited that he returned to school and will graduate in June 2016 [eliciting exuberant applause from the meeting attendees]. He also cut most ties to gang members; the remaining, minimal connections exist only where they can strategically exert a positive influence. Finally, he believes in modeling a better lifestyle to his peers—especially young men ages 16-25—through a community-oriented focus.

Dwayne Betts, *Campaign for Youth Justice*, asked Jos**é** Arreola if the decrease in Salinas' violent youth crimes was accompanied by comparable increases in other metrics (e.g., high school graduations, employment). **José Arreloa** confirmed there are increases in graduation rates. The coordinated approach to deploy more prevention and shared learning across the county, city, and nonprofit sectors is yielding tremendous positive returns.

Judge Gordon Martin, *Massachusetts Trial Court*, commented on the utility of smaller communities attempting to relate to larger ones. He appreciated Ms. Bladen's report, acknowledging the public health perspective on youth violence, and expressed enthusiasm related to the Attorney General's reference to the Second Chance Pell [Pilot] grants.

Laurie Garduque, *John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation*, welcomed the different perspectives from the federal, state, and local efforts, and particularly applauded the ground level, on-the-streets work done by Mr. Shallow and his colleagues. She was interested in how the presenters track/measure outcomes, accountability, transparency, etc. at the community, systems, and individual level. **Stacie Bladen** first acknowledged that it is no longer acceptable to do what does not work, when armed with information about what <u>does</u> work. Michigan tracks concrete outcomes related to victims of maltreatment and domestic violence, and the numbers of children placed into foster care, entering residential treatment, or being diverted, detained, or adjudicated. Michigan takes a robust quality service review/approach, particularly in child welfare, to examine the experiences and impact on families and children. **Dr. Thomas Simon** confirmed that the CDC promotes a range of outcomes but he emphasized the need for behavioral outcomes and reliance on archival data, including data from emergency departments (assault-related injuries) and law enforcement (arrest rates). CDC staff members encourage self-assessments and routinely work with grantees around data collection from youth and their families.

Tonya Robinson, *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*, acknowledged that the few compelling examples of cross-agency collaborations still seem to possess a measure of isolation. She asked the panelists for recommendations at the state and local level to address the silo environment. Through the filter of the Defending Childhood Initiative, **Ms. Bladen** explained that cross-system trainings are a priority to ensure that everyone speaks the same language, given the number of individuals who are just becoming informed about the significance of trauma. The courts, schools, juvenile workers, foster parents, etc. must all learn how to respond in ways that minimizes trauma to the children. Michigan utilizes mental health staff in the schools to better understand the family dynamics facing children and to help them access proper services. They are approaching parent representation in a more collaborative way—emphasizing training, screening, and assessment—to deploy attorneys and social workers as needed. Effective, therapeutic response to trauma requires more than just the application of evidence-based, clinical

interventions; best practices must also be integrated into the informal, daily interactions between students and their teachers or foster parents.

OJJDP Administrator Listenbee asked if Mr. Shallow believed efforts are still isolated in silos or if they are achieving more progress through cross systems. **Stephon Shallow** felt cross-system work is becoming more prevalent; and **José Arreola** added that buy-in from high-level leadership and the intentional development of relationships external to the community positively contribute to the sustainability of these systems.

Judge Adele Grubbs, *Superior Court of Cobb County*, considered the intimidating black robe she wore when facing a youth in chains who became caught up with a bad group and appeared before her on gun and drug charges. In hindsight, she wondered how she could have better persuaded that young person to see a different world, essentially duplicating the epiphany Mr. Shallow must have experienced in his transition from gang life. **Stephon Shallow** felt youth respond better to someone who understands the impulses that drove them to their fateful actions … someone they feel can genuinely relate to their specific background and experiences but who achieved a different outcome.

Charles Homer, *U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*, commented that most of the interventions described seemed to occur very late in the process; e.g., an individual entering the child welfare system, or one who has experienced multiple traumatic episodes and has been actively engaged in gang activity. He inquired about actions that can be taken further upstream to help youth withstand the impact of toxic situations. **Stephon Shallow** articulated that youth often just need an "open door" or an opportunity for a new perspective on their life. Most young men sell drugs or rob people, surprisingly often to support their mothers. More jobs could change the landscape of a young man, perhaps negating his need to sell drugs to feed his mother. **José Arreola** again cited the use of PBIS to track the intervention/enforcement points. These interventions, exacerbated by large classroom sizes, can occur as early as kindergarten where elementary school boys of color experience devastating expulsion and suspension rates. Successful implementation of PBIS requires that resources be reallocated early, and Salinas is very involved with local efforts (with a cradle-to-age five program) to address literacy. There is a direct correlation between the inability to read, subsequent dropout rates, and the school-to-prison pipeline phenomena. **Geroma Void** added that the Essentials for Childhood Initiative (a framework to identify safe, stable, and nurturing relationships) under the CDC has provisions to begin working with mothers in their pregnancy. **Dr. Thomas Simon** agreed that early intervention, with evidence-based programs and policies, requires fewer resources and delivers better outcomes, such as reduced child abuse and neglect.

David Esquith, *U.S. Department of Education*, expressed appreciation for the work of the Secretary and the Department as a whole. Contemplating a collective societal responsibility for violence, he wondered if we should discuss society's addiction to violence and the appropriate methods of response, prevention, and reaction. **Dr. Simon** understood this provocative notion of violence addiction and reiterated the very strong supports for evidence-based interventions, such as significant returns on investments in prevention (ex., a health economist recently documented significant savings of $10-15-20 saved for every dollar spent on prevention). Dr. Simon's hope is that decision makers may at least be motivated by the economic benefits, if not moved by the moral, altruistic argument. **José Arreola** believes a vicious cycle of the problem originates within the systems but he maintains hope that those systems can be changed, albeit slowly.

Council Member Announcements

Administrator Robert E. Listenbee announced the formation of two Council subcommittees in the June 2015 meeting: (1) Mentoring, and (2) Family and Youth Engagement. He sent letters in September 2015 seeking nominations but received limited response; therefore, both subcommittees will temporarily engage OJJDP staff and Practitioner members who will periodically report on progress to the Council. The Administrator again requested nominations for people to serve on these subcommittees and he will ensure the invitation is resent.

Tonya Robinson mentioned the Juvenile Re-Entry Assistance Program and expressed gratitude for the support of Administrator Listenbee and her colleagues at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (Maria-Lana Queen, Kymian Ray, and Donald Sherman). The Notice of Funding Availability was issued in early November with the application deadline of January 4, 2016. The program was designed to provide resources to public housing authorities who collaborate with nonprofit legal services organizations, to address the issue of juvenile records, confidentiality, expungement, and the collateral consequences. **Administrator Listenbee** also acknowledged the team contributions of Brent Cohen, *Senior Advisor to the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs.*

Closing Remarks and Meeting Adjournment

Administrator Robert L. Listenbee thanked everyone for a highly engaging and informative meeting, and conveyed his ongoing appreciation for the work of the Coordinating Council. He promised to consider the broader issue of violence as addictive. Equally important is the realization that prevention approaches are being successfully deployed to stop violence … and the hope they bring to the nation's children and families. He is optimistic that the prevention methodologies/strategies that now inform OJJDP through a common, shared framework will put a continued dent in the violence.

The Administrator also acknowledged friends from the World Bank who have been bringing their colleagues from Central and South America to the Violence Prevention forums to learn and share about violence prevention strategies they can use in their home countries.

Resource materials will be posted on the Council's website at http://www.juvenilecouncil.gov/. Everyone is encouraged to share collaborative ideas on working together.

Meeting adjourned: 4:41 p.m.