This month, NCYOJ is highlighting the recent formation of the National Assessment Center Association (NAC). From the NAC:

The NAC supports assessment centers through education, training and technical assistance, and advocacy. The NAC will be coordinating and facilitating networking and information sharing amongst the 60+ assessment centers across the US, providing training and technical assistance to communities on policies, operations, best practices, and serving as an advocate for assessment centers statewide.

Assessment Centers aim to prevent and divert youth from juvenile justice and child welfare systems through a single point of entry which identifies underlying issues contributing to concerning behavior and partners with youth and families to access individualized services and/or interventions. This occurs across a variety of interventions in schools, at points of arrest, and at the request of parents/caregivers, or through partnerships with other community stakeholders. Through in-depth interviews and validated screening and assessment tools, centers work to understand the barriers youth and families are experiencing at home, school, or in the community. Professionally assessed, Assessment Centers partner with the youth and family to access individualized resources and services to help youth and families address the barriers and ultimately create a more stable and healthy future. Where appropriate, centers coordinate with educational, social service, and other community stakeholders to ensure services and supports are accessible to meet the needs and goals of the family.

Assessment Centers and Services:
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NCYOJ looks forward to collaborating with the NAC to support the use of evidence-based and promising policy and practices in youth assessment centers nationwide.

For more information, visit the NAC website.

Resources

In Focus: Drug Courts
This one-pager from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention offers an overview of their work to support youth through drug courts, including juvenile drug treatment courts, family drug courts, and teen drug courts.

The Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbances Program: 2017 Report to Congress
This document provides the most up-to-date findings from the national evaluation of the 91 Children's Mental Health Initiative (CMHI) expansion and sustainability grantees funded between 2013 and 2017. Since its inception in 1993, CMHI has provided services to more than 140,000 children, youth, and families.

Opportunities

OJJDP FY 2020 Second Chance Act Youth Offender Reentry Program
The Second Chance Act Youth Offender Reentry Program encourages collaboration between state agencies, local government, and community- and faith-based organizations to address the challenges that second- and reentry-released youth face in their communities. This program supports communities to develop and implement systems of care for youth who were formerly incarcerated and who meet the requirements set forth by the Second Chance Act.

Application deadline: September 30, 2019

OJJDP FY 2020 Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program
The Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program supports efforts to develop and implement cross-system collaborative approaches to improve outcomes for youth with mental illness (MI) and/or co-occurring MI and substance abuse (CMISA) who come into contact with the juvenile justice system.

Application deadline: September 23, 2019

Events

A Conversation on Mobile Response and Stabilization During COVID-19
April 16, 2020 | Online

Responding to the Alarm: Addressing Black Youth Suicide
April 21, 2020 | Online

Innovative Strategies for Outreach and Engaging Young People in Behavioral Health Services
April 28, 2020 | Online

Join the NCYOJ listserve.