**What’s Going On at NJJEC?**

A new Logic Model Toolkit is now available on the NJJEC resources page. This toolkit provides some basic information about the components of a logic model, and includes three templates that can be filled in or modified to meet your program’s needs. For more information about program logic, see Part 2: Introduction to Program Logic and Part 3: Advanced Program Logic of our webinar series on assessing project performance.

On September 5, NJJEC staff will deliver a webinar entitled Demystifying Survey Data Collection. Panelists will discuss the basics of survey data collection and reporting. Registration is available on the NTTAC website!

**Upcoming Events of Interest**

**Coalition of Juvenile Justice Youth Summit**

August 2-3

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice will host its 2013 Youth Summit in Washington, DC from August 2nd to 3rd. The Summit provides juvenile justice reform information for young people ages 16-30. Review conference information online.

**25th Annual Crimes Against Children Conference**

August 12-15

The Dallas Children’s Advocacy Center will host the 25th Annual Crimes Against Children Conference August 12 through 15 in Dallas, Texas. The conference provides information and training to children’s service professionals from government agencies and non-profits. Register online.

**Global Implementation Conference**

August 19-21

On August 19 through 21, the Global Implementation Conference will be held in Washington, DC. The conference promotes the use of implementation science to researchers, policymakers, and practitioners in a variety of fields. The theme for this year’s conference is “Putting Implementation into Practice: Tools for Quality and Sustainability.” Registration is available online.
39th Annual National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) Conference September 15-18

The National Organization for Victim Assistance will host its 39th Annual Conference in Columbus, Ohio September 15-18. The conference theme is Implementing the Tools of Our Trade to Build a Comforting Justice. The conference includes hundreds of sessions for victims professionals, including juvenile service providers. Check the conference website for more information and to register.

Featured Resources:
OJJDP Report on Family Drug Courts

Our April 25th webinar Making ‘What Works’ Work for You: Evidence-Based Components and Adaptation highlighted ways to apply knowledge about “what works” in a variety of settings and contexts when a well-matched evidence-based program is not available. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) recently released a report entitled Guidance to the States: Recommendations for Developing Family Drug Court Guidelines that describes some important evidence-based components of these specialized courts.

Family drug courts address a range of issues faced by families involved in the child welfare system who are also affected by issues of substance abuse. To determine the most essential components for this approach to be effective, a team of substance abuse and child welfare experts examined research studies and previous guideline recommendations. The report outlines a series of ten recommendations, such as developing interagency partnerships, developing an early identification and assessment process, implementing funding and sustainability strategies, and evaluating shared outcomes to ensure accountability. A description, research findings, and effective strategies are included for each recommendation.

Evaluation Feature:
ICAC Task Force Child Safety Materials

With funding from the National Institute of Justice, the Crimes Against Children Research Center conducted an evaluation of educational materials used by Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Forces. The project included a systematic review of effective prevention strategies for youth, content analysis of the curricula of four widely used programs, a process evaluation to better understand delivery of this information, and an outcome survey of 6th through 10th grade youth.

The project resulted in the development of the KEEP (Known Elements of Effective Prevention) Checklist for practitioners developing and delivering internet safety education (ISE) programs. Recommendations of the checklist include a structured curriculum, skill-based learning objectives supported by research, active learning strategies, use of multiple sessions, and additional learning opportunities beyond initial program delivery.

The authors found a lack of skill-based learning objectives and use of research to support program activities, objectives, and dosage. The majority of the programs included some form of audience participation, but these activities were generally intended to support messages
conveyed by the curricula rather than to give audience members a chance to actively apply skills learned during the lessons.

The evaluation included a survey of law enforcement officials and school personnel involved in the delivery of ISE. More than half (62%) of surveyed ICAC Task Force presenters indicated that they used research to update their education materials. Internet predators and cyberbullying were the most frequently cited topics for programming by presenters, while school personnel indicated that their primary concerns in internet safety education were cyberbullying, privacy, and online reputation.

A final component of the project was the development of a set of outcome measures for youth participating in ISE programs. The outcome measures more specifically targeted changes in victimization and youth behavior, rather than knowledge and attitudes, to ascertain actual change without the assumption that attitudinal change or increased knowledge would manifest as such. More than one-third of youth included in the pilot survey indicated that they had been victimized by at least one form of online harassment. Results of the survey were consistent with other national surveys.

The authors included policy and practice implications to improve the effectiveness of ICAC education programs, including using multiple lessons to convey messages and elicit behavior change, reducing the use of “scare tactics” during educational programming, reexamining the efficacy of internet safety education for young children, tailoring programming activities to more specific internet safety topics, and more extensive use of research in developing educational messages and program logic.

The executive summary and the full report are available online.

State Spotlight: Indiana

NJJEC’s recent webinar, *Making ‘What Works’ Work for You: Evidence-based Components and Adaptation* focused on the application of evidence-based strategies and techniques when a well-suited evidence-based program is not available. Performance measurement and evaluation are still key pieces to assess implementation and determine if a strategy works in a specific context or for a specific target population.

Recent work by Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) and the Center for Criminal Justice Research (CCJR) at the Indiana University Public Policy Institute is consistent with this approach. ICJI and CCJR have produced a series of reports outlining best practices for several funding streams administered by ICJI. The reports include a list of recommendations for improving practice and supporting the use of research evidence in grant applications and program implementation.

The most recent report, *Review of Best Practices for ICJI Program Areas and Funding Streams: Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) and Sexual Offense Services (SOS)* included a list of specific best practices already employed by ICJI subgrantees, such as Sexual Assault Recovery Team (SART) and the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program (SANE). The report provides a summary of more general techniques and practices to ensure the use of research evidence to support program planning and operations for each relevant service area: general services, crisis response/intervention, victim advocacy, mental health services, and sexual assault prevention. Best practices include strategies such as establishing and maintaining consistent referral procedures.
(general services), developing and maintaining protocols with local agencies and hospitals specifying how medical exams and interviews should be conducted (crisis response/intervention), and utilizing a trauma-informed care approach with victims of sexual assault (mental health services).

In 2011 ICJI published a similar report on Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) programs as part of the same series. The report contains 11 purpose area sheets describing evidence-based techniques or strategies ascertained from a review of research evidence. The purpose areas are Funding for Prosecutors, Training for Law Enforcement and Court Personnel, Juvenile Records System, Information Sharing, Accountability-Based Programs, Risk and Needs Assessment, School Safety, Restorative Justice, Juvenile Courts and Probation, Detention and Corrections Personnel, and Reentry.

Examples of evidence-based programs and practices include the inclusion of quality-control mechanisms in data collection (juvenile records system), providing more intensive interventions for youth with high risk levels (risk and needs assessment), and the use of wraparound models (juvenile courts and probation).

Each purpose area sheet notes OJJDP-required performance measures for that area, as well as important considerations in programming identified from these measures. Key references are included as well.

The report concludes with a set of recommendations to ICJI to encourage best practices (see page 20):

1. Provide more leadership in recruiting proposals from the key purpose areas.
2. Use the purpose area summary sheets and list of model programs as tools to inform potential grantees of key focuses and principles of program design and implementation.
3. Explore ways to thoughtfully address training in future requests for funding.
4. Explore ways to raise the level of appreciation and consideration for collaboration in JABG-funded projects.
5. Provide education on the meaning of key initiatives.
6. Be more conscious of the strategic goals in the three-year plan when making funding decisions.
7. Provide quality training on OJJDP’s core performance measures to potential and existing grantees.
8. Develop expertise on the purpose areas and offer technical assistance to enhance the capacity of the local jurisdictions.