

UPDATE!



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SPOTLIGHT: ANNE ADAMS

"In many respects, the collaborative model and juvenile justice programs here are leading the way!"

That's according to Anne Adams, after her first visit to Idaho to meet with youth professionals. One component of all the young offender grants nationwide is the assignment of a technical advisor, also called a Site Facilitator. These facilitators



Candy McElfresh and Joe Herring visit with Anne Adams

are acknowledged experts in particular arenas, and make up a large contingent of available consultants. We have been assigned Anne Adams, who arrived for a short initial visit on May 14. In addition to being nationally recognized for her development of bi-level case management, including a widely used manual, an excerpt from her official bio reads:

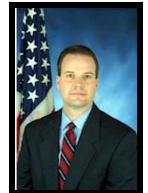
Anne Adams is a Research Associate at the Heller Graduate School Center for Youth and Communities at Brandeis University in Massachusetts. She also works contractually with (several) organizations dedicated to serving youth, families and communities through the United States.... Ms. Adams has also supported a number of pioneering youth initiatives through technical assistance, including the National Youth Fair

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GUIDING PRINCIPLES & **Ideal Juvenile Justice**

At the recent conference for Young Offender Demonstration Project grantees in Chicago, Illinois, there were several excellent speakers. Two in particular stood out; one elaborated on the guiding principles for effective youth development services, the other on what an ideal juvenile justice system would/should look like.

The first extraordinary speaker was Mason Bishop, Deputy Assistant Secretary at the Department of Labor in Washington, D.C. He outlined the following:



Guiding Principles for Effective Youth Services

- Pursue our work with a "labor market mentality," with social services as "wraparound" support. While a youth program funded with Department of Labor money might help 100 youth stop using drugs, the "bottom line" is education and employment. Ultimately, employers are looking for someone who has obtained a high school diploma, GED, or postsecondary education certification. Programs need to focus on addressing education and employment training outcomes.
- Fund programs that incorporate "what works." If a particular program practice is working, we need to figure out how to disseminate this information to the field.
- Engage private sector backing—especially employers. *(Continued on page 3)*

PROJECT PARTNERS:



IDHW



IDJC

**SOUTH
CENTRAL
IDAHO
WORKS!**



YOUTH *Aspire Higher!*



10 young people from Lincoln, Gooding, and Jerome counties are now enrolled in work maturity and job readiness classes known as ASPIRE HIGHER! Magic Valley Youth and Adult Services collaborated with local school districts to provide classroom space and transportation to hold classes on site. In the past few weeks, the youth have been developing time management and interview skills, learning about the culture of the business world, exploring conflict resolution techniques, and identifying personal assets. In addition to the classes, some youth may be referred into a special summer employment experience, where they will have the opportunity to design a project, implement it as a team member, and earn money that can be used to pay restitution or court fines.

Y E S !

On April 24 members of the Transition House committee appeared before the Governor's Economic Advisory Council in Boise to request federal funding to rehabilitate the existing home in Twin Falls.

On May 13 we got the word: **YES!** The request for \$92,500 was granted! The federal funds come through the federal Community Development Block Grant program.

The additional money will enable the rehabilitation to be completed as soon as possible. Then the home can begin to serve up to eight young men 17—19 years old, who are returning from state commitment or county detention. The young men will receive assistance to find and keep employment, finish their education if needed, and receive life skills and independent living training. The program is designed to reflect Idaho's balanced approach to juvenile justice: Accountability, Community Protection, and Competency Development.

THANK YOU to everyone on the committee, and a special thank you to those who traveled to Boise to present or otherwise show support in front of the governor's Council:

Twin Falls Commissioner Bill Brockman, juvenile Judge Larry Duff, businessman Ray Strolberg of Covenant Insurance, Magic Valley Youth and Adult Services president Sylvia Ann Bradshaw and manager Susan Baca, Jodie Trembley of Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, Health and Welfare administrator Kathy James, business owner Diana Lincoln-Haye of Idaho Diagnostic Sleep Lab, District 5 Liaison Bev Ashton with the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections, South Central Idaho Workforce Development manager Candy McElfresh, Jim Fields with South Central Community Action Agency, and Young Offender Project Coordinator Catherine Haynes.

A very special **THANK YOU** to Carleen Herring of Region IV Development, who not only wrote the original grant request, but helped the committee put together the critical presentation for Boise.

The community involvement and collaboration of everyone was central to convincing the board that **BILLS PLACE** is a well planned, sustainable project.

As the construction begins, another committee will begin meeting. The new committee will form the core of a permanent community board to design, develop, and manage the actual operations of the house, including applying for and meeting state licensing requirements.



BILLS PLACE, the new transition home for youth at 396 Martin Street, Twin Falls



Floor plan with new wing

THE VISION

BUILD ON EXISTING COMMUNITY EFFORTS AND PROGRAMS



BUILD STRONGER RESOURCE CONNECTIONS AND COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS BETWEEN YOUTH PROVIDERS

DEVELOP TWO OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING AND AFTERCARE, INCLUDING CAREER PREPARATION



YODP STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Joe Herring, *Region IV Development Association*
- Judge John Varin, *Magistrate Judge Juvenile Court*
- Judge Larry Duff, *Magistrate Judge Juvenile Court*
- Bill Brockman, *Twin Falls County Commissioner*
- Veronica Lierman, *Jerome County Commissioner*
- Dan Stapelman, *Minidoka County Commissioner*
- Bev Ashton, *Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections, District 5*
- Candy McElfresh, *South Central Idaho Works!*
- Alejandro Castaneda, *Youth Council*

TRANSITIONAL HOUSE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Bill Brockman, *Chair*
- Judge John Varin, *Magistrate Judge Juvenile Court*
- Jim Fields, *South Central Community Action Partnership*
- Sylvia Ann Bradshaw, *Magic Valley Youth and Adult Services*
- Linda Wright, *Fifth Judicial District, Trial Court Administrator*
- Bev Ashton, *Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections, District 5*
- Kathy James, *Idaho Department of Health and Welfare*
- Kyla Kelly, *Magic Valley Safe Kids Coalition*
- Ray Strolberg, *Covenant Insurance*
- La Deane Brown, *U.S.D.A.*
- Judge Larry Duff, *Magistrate Judge*
- Diana Lincoln Haye, *Idaho Diagnostic Sleep Lab*
- Ken Loosle, *Magic Valley Regional Medical Center*
- Tom Mikesell, *Twin Falls County Commissioner*
- Candy McElfresh, *South Central Idaho Works!*

NOTE: Preparation of this item was funded by the United States Department of Labor under Grant Agreement No. AF-12396-02-60

GUIDING PRINCIPLES & Ideal Juvenile Justice *(continued from Page 1)*

- Enhance the skills of front-line workers. While providing professional development to hundreds of front-line staff who may report they are applying new information and material from staff training in their day-to-day work, the “bottom line” is whether or not the performance of youth improves. For example, are we seeing a relationship between the intensity and frequency of staff training and an increase in entered employment rate?
- Enhance connections with the One-Stop Career System. We expect that community and faith based organizations receiving Department of Labor funding will reach out to connect with the One-Stop System and a range of partners, especially employers.
- Focus program evaluation on outcomes. For example, we want to know if the actual crime rate goes down, not whether people’s perceptions of the crime rate change.
- Supportive services better invested and reinvested
- A system of punishment that is not just retribution but also addresses education and skills training while incarcerated
- Flexible enough to accommodate and recognize youth are best served by alternative sentencing, not mandatory sentencing
- Able to provide a mechanism to bring those we can’t safely channel or rehabilitate back before the court for
- Reevaluation — in other words, simply releasing a youth because he/she has reached the maximum age of confinement is not a solution

Judge Corriero said the only way this ideal vision will become reality is through a collaborative vision, imagination, commitment and passion on the part of communities, youth services providers, and local juvenile justice staff.

The Young Offender Demonstration Project in South Central Idaho has recognized that our current system, while certainly not perfect, comes effectively close. The YODP grant is building on the existing efforts, and the hope for sustainability will come through the willingness of everyone at the table to continue collaborating and connecting.

These six principles are already evident in whole or in part, in several local programs that serve youth, including our educational, employment, and juvenile justice systems.



The second speaker of particular note was Honorable Michael A. Corriero, currently sitting in the New York State Supreme Court. Judge Corriero presided in juvenile court for several years, and emphasized the role the juvenile

justice system plays in socializing our children. He pointed out that juveniles rarely commit crimes alone — it’s almost always as part of a group, and peer pressure is “critical.” His experience shows that automatic placement into the adult system for youth committing certain crimes is frankly wrong. He laid out a vision of the ideal juvenile justice system as being:

- Flexible enough to incorporate different communities’ wishes
- A system of prosecution that identifies the more chronically delinquent youth
- A reality that places more trust for determination at the juvenile justice level

Catherine Haynes, Project Coordinator for the YODP grant in South Central Idaho also presented in Chicago at a workshop addressing the challenges of working with youth in rural areas. Her presentation included a synopsis of viewpoints from educational, workforce development, juvenile justice and social service workers. Challenges include transportation, lack of resources and capacity, gang involvement, lack of strong parental roles, and methamphetamine. Also identified was what one worker cited as an “aimless mentality,” that many youth in our area shrug off the need for goal setting or commitment to education and employment, with phrases like “something will come along” or “I can always get another job.” Many of our issues are not germane to rural life, but topics like a lack of transportation or the sheer distances involved to access services surprised and even shocked some of the attendees.



YODP Project area is 7,795 square miles over 6 counties

Sylvia Ann Bradshaw, President of Magic Valley Youth and Adult Services also attended the conference, and was pleased to hear that many of the current programs and community collaborative efforts we take for granted were held up as models for other areas of the United States to follow. In so many ways, our schools, juvenile justice personnel, and workforce development professionals are leading the way.

CALENDAR
ADD YOUR EVENT / MEETING

The purpose of this UPDATE is to:

- ◆ **INFORM ALL INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS**
- ◆ **DIALOGUE, INFORM, RESOURCE, CONNECT**
- ◆ **SPOTLIGHT BEST PRACTICES**
- ◆ **EXCHANGE INPUT AND IDEAS**
- ◆ **ENCOURAGE COLLABORATION AND CONNECTIONS**

Please feel free to add your upcoming youth oriented events and meetings by contacting catherine@rivda.org.

Every Thursday, 7:00 p.m. is an open 12-Step support meeting for youth, held at the Port of Hope on 2nd Avenue North, Twin Falls. These meetings are free, and confidential.

June 11—YODP Regional Conference Call at Region IV Development. Call for details.

June 18— YODP Steering Committee Meeting at 12:00 noon, Region IV Development Office

**CONTACT
CONNECT
COMMUNICATE**

YODP Project Coordinator:
Catherine Haynes
208-732-5727, ext 3004 or
800-769-5666
catherine@rivda.org

YOUTH COUNCIL:
Alejandro Castaneda
208-737-3907
alexc@rmci.net

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND WELFARE:**
Kathy James
208-736-3020
jamesk@idhw.state.id.us

**SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO
WORKS!:**
Candy McElfresh
208-732-5727, ext 3007
candy@rivda.org

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
JUVENILE CORRECTIONS,
DISTRICT 5**
Bev Ashton
208-736-4776
bashton@djc.state.id.us

**MAGIC VALLEY YOUTH AND
ADULT SERVICES:**
Sylvia Ann Bradshaw
208-734-4435
mvyas@pmt.org

**JUVENILE PROBATION
CONTACTS**

Mini-Cassia: Lisa Kamachi
208-436-7156
Jerome: Kyle Fisher
208-324-8992
Gooding: Carol Johnson
208-934-5168
Lincoln: Cheryl Adams
208-886-7672
Twin Falls: Kevin Sandau
208-736-4215

Anne Adams Visits
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Chance and the Youth Opportunities Out-of-School Youth Demonstration Projects, the Chatham-Savannah Youth Futures Project sponsored by the Annie Casey Foundation, and the New Jersey Public Welfare REACH and Teen Progress programs. Her experience in workforce development and welfare reform includes projects and/or training workshops in 12 different states, including Wyoming. She has publications regarding social group work, teaching of diversity content, and leadership.



Twin Falls County Chief JPO Kevin Sandau shows Anne Adams the Competency Development Center

The purpose of her first visit was to obtain a general overview, and begin meeting some of the key partners. In the course of one day, she was able to meet with Twin Falls County Commissioner Bill Brockman, Health and Welfare Administrator Kathy James, Magic Valley Youth and Adult Services staff, Twin Falls Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Kevin Sandau, Region IV Development director Joe Her-ring, and South Central Idaho Works manager Candy McElfresh. YODP Project Coordinator Catherine Haynes was with Anne throughout the visit. Ms. Adams will return in mid-July for a week long trip to continue her assessment and meet with grant partners and stakeholders. Anne commented how impressed she was with the welcome she received from everyone she met.

ATTENTION: YOUTH!

You can email, write, or call Project Coordinator Catherine Haynes at the above contact information.

Personal comments, poetry, or suggestions are welcomed.

Whether you are currently involved with juvenile court system or not – this is an open forum!