

## Program Narrative

### **a. Description of the Issue**

#### **1. System description: Structure and function of the juvenile justice system**

The State of New Hampshire is a 100% waiver state. The Division for Children Youth and Families is responsible for the oversight and management of youth who come before the courts. The Division is the designated state agency responsible for the preparation and administration of the 3-year plan. Executive Order 99-3, signed by Governor Shaheen, “ by virtue of the authority vested in me under Part II, Article 41 of the New Hampshire Constitution, do hereby order the following: a State Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice is hereby established for purposes of supervising the administration of State Formula Grants under Part b of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, by the Division for Children, Youth and Families, Department of Health and Human Services” ., which was signed on May 12, 1999. New Hampshire’s juvenile justice system includes 8 of the 9 decision points of the system. Youth enter the juvenile justice system when they have police contact and/or have been arrested, although police have discretion as to whether to petition to court or not – counsel and release is also an option or youth can be referred to a diversion program. NH does not refer youth to court; instead youth are petitioned to court via a petition submitted by law enforcement. DCYF employees Juvenile Probation and Parole Officers (JPPOs) who are responsible for the supervision of youth, attend court hearing, write reports and manage the youth’s case. DCYF contracts with community based providers, and residential services to ensure that youth have access to services and programs that can address their identified needs. JPPOs work

in collaboration with the Division's Child Protection Service Workers when youth that are under the care and supervision of the abuse/neglect system involve themselves in delinquent and/or children in need of services situations.

DCYF is also responsible for the John H. Sununu Youth Services Center (SYSC), which is the State's only juvenile training school. Youth are committed and/or detained through a court order. Youth can be detained up to 21 day, however, youth are typically return to court and are released or sent to placement within a five day period. Please see attachment # A for a description of the programming and services provide by SYSC.

Law enforcement agencies arrest youth and can petition them to court or can refer them to a community based organization for pre-adjudicatory services.

Corrections - The age of majority in NH is 18. Youth who have been certified as adults remain at SYSC until their age of majority. In most instances, the sheriff's department arrives at the facility just prior to midnight of the youth's birthday and transports them to either the County Department of Corrections or to one of three state's prisons. NH has two facilities for men, one in Concord and one in Berlin. NH just opened a new facility for women, which is now located in Concord, just behind the men's prison.

Court - Family courts address juvenile related issues including child protection.

Youth are petitioned to court, and are arraigned, and at that time, they either plead true or not true. If they plead not true, they are provided an attorney, and a trial is set. Once a youth has pled true or found to be true, a dispositional investigation report is ordered. The JPPO conducts the interview, gathers the necessary background on the youth to determine what the best services/programs should be recommended. Once the court orders services the JPPO is responsible to oversee and manage the youths case until the case is closed. The state has contracts with community-based service providers that are equipped to address the multitude of issues that youth and families must contend with. See attachment # B for systems flow chart

## **2. Analysis of juvenile delinquency problems (youth crime) and needs.**

### **Overview**

For the purposes of tracking the crime rate in NH, it has been determined to use the numbers of arrests statewide, and the charges for which individuals have been arrested. The outcome of these arrests, whether individuals went to court, accepted pleas, were found guilty or not, may be addressed partially in the following section (Demographics). But for the matter of crime rate, it just means numbers of arrests.

Arrest data is tracked by the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). In New Hampshire, Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) are now required to submit the data on all arrests to the NH Department of Safety (a result of HB 475, effective July 19, 2016), which gives this information to the FBI for the Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR). Because this was voluntary, not all LEAs submitted data, so any data will not be

complete statewide. However, because compliance is high, roughly 90%, we feel that valid conclusions can be made from the existing data. NH will have a complete and accurate accounting of all crime reports for the 18-20 Title II application.

Crimes are divided into two Parts, I and II (Table 1). Part I offenses are generally considered the more serious, and will be discussed separately. Part II offenses will be included when total crime numbers are considered.

New Hampshire has historically used on the NIBRS, UCR, Bridges Welfare System and the SYSC court stream system to determine trends and other. Staff from the Bureau of Learning and Quality Improvement is working with other Division's within the Department to gather youth specific data. It is expected that NH will be able to provide more data in the 2018-2020 3 year plan, which then help to guide the SAG about trends and patterns for all youth regarding of their status within the system, or out of the system.

**Table 1**

<b>PART I OFFENSES</b>	
<b>VIOLENT CRIME INDEX</b>	<b>PROPERTY CRIME INDEX</b>
Murder and Non-Negligent Homicide	Burglary
Forcible Rape	Larceny / Theft
Robbery	Motor Vehicle Theft
Aggravated Assault	Arson
<b>PART II OFFENSES</b>	
Disorderly Conduct	Narcotic Laws
Driving Under Influence	Non-Aggravated Assault
Embezzlement	Prostitution and Commercialized Vice
Family and Children	Sex Offenses (Not Rape or Prostitution)
Forgery / Counterfeiting	Stolen Property
Fraud	Vandalism
Gambling	Weapons
Liquor Laws	

**3. NH Population**

Crime Rates are measured by the number of crimes per 100,000 people. To establish these rates, the following population numbers were used [*U.S. Census*] (Table 2). These numbers are estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau, and are subject to change.

**Table 2**

<b>Population</b>	<b>New Hampshire Total</b>	<b>New Hampshire Juveniles 10-17</b>
2014	1327996	130544
2015	1330609	128628
2016	1316256	126462

Juveniles age 10-17 are about 10% of the general population. From 2014 to 2016, the general population of NH has slowly increased and decreased, by less than 1% per year. However, the population of juveniles ages 10-17 slowly decreased, by 1-2% per year.

#### 4. Part I Offense Crime Rates

Crime Rates are determined by how many times that crime occurs per 100,000 people.

**Table 3**

NH	TOTAL PART I CRIME RATE	VIOLENT CRIME RATE	PROPERTY CRIME RATE
2014	2158.8	196.1	1962.7
2015	1945.0	199.3	1745.7
2016	1710.5	197.6	1512.9

<https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2016/crime-in-the-u.s.-2016/topic-pages/tables/table-2>

In 2016, NH had a total crime rate of 1710.5. That is a 20% decrease since the numbers in 2014. Even though the Violent Crime Rate has remained relatively stable, the property crime rate in NH continues to steadily decline (Table 3).

#### 5. Total Arrests

Total Arrests covers any arrest for any reason, from murder and kidnapping to shoplifting and bad checks.

The Crime Rate for all arrests in NH in 2016 is 3592.2. Since 2015, a 6% increase in arrests, coupled with about a 1% decrease in population, has resulted in a Total Crime Rate increase of 7.7%. (Table 4).

**Table 4**

NH TOTAL POPULATION			
YEAR	POPULATION	TOTAL ARRESTS	TOTAL CRIME RATE
2014	1327996	46180	3477.4
2015	1330609	44368	3334.4
2016	1316256	47282	3592.2

<https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2016/crime-in-the-u.s.-2016/topic-pages/tables/table-22>

The Juvenile Crime Rate has seen increases mirroring the total crime rate. Total arrests increased by 9%, and population decreases of almost 2 percent, have resulted in an 11% increase in the Total Crime Rate.

**Table 5**

NH POPULATION UNDER 18
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YEAR	POPULATION	TOTAL ARRESTS	TOTAL CRIME RATE
2014	130544	4199	3216.5
2015	128628	3421	2659.6
2016	126462	3754	2968.5

<https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2016/crime-in-the-u.s.-2016/topic-pages/tables/table-20>

## 6. Conclusion

The Violent Crime Rate for the total NH population has been basically steady since 2014; any variation may be the result of such a small sample size. However, the NH Juvenile Violent Crime Rate has increased each year over that same time span. Robbery arrests seem to be the most responsible, with aggravated assault contributing.

The Property Crime Rate for the total NH population has been falling at roughly 10% annually. In 2016, there was an increase in arrests, even as the property crime rate decreased. The NH Juvenile Property Crime Rate seems to mirror that trend, which points to a large increase in charges like drug possession, even while other crimes continue to decrease.

## 7. Detention

New Hampshire has one architecturally secure facility, the Sununu Youth Services Center (SYSC). Youth are detained there until they appear in court, or a court determines they should be released for a variety of reasons. The gender, race, and ethnicity for those detained at SYSC are in the table below (Table 6).



**Table 6**

2014	White Non-Hispanic	Black Non-Hispanic	American Indian Non-Hispanic	Asian or Pacific Islander Non-Hispanic	Hispanic Origin All Races	Other or Bi-Racial	Total
Male	96	8	1	2	21	8	136
Female	41	4	2	0	6	2	55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>191</b>
2015							
Male	102	13	0	0	12	3	130
Female	34	5	2	0	9	2	52
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>182</b>
2016							
Male	113	17	0	4	33	2	169
Female	46	0	1	1	8	0	56
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>225</b>

The number of detentions for juveniles in NH has been steady but slightly decreasing since 2013, until 2016 when an increase of 23% occurred over 2015 numbers

The percentage of White Non-Hispanic Juveniles detained compared to all minorities has gone down, from 81% in 2013 to 75% in 2015 and 71% in 2016.

The percentage of females to males has decreased every year, from 38% in 2013 to 25% in 2016.

## Petitions

In NH, juveniles do not receive a summons; they receive a petition that they must appear in court. Below is a count of the petitions issued in NH, and the gender, race, and ethnicity of those who received the petitions (Table 7)

**Table 7**

2014	White Non-Hispanic	Black Non-Hispanic	American Indian Non-Hispanic	Asian or Pacific Islander Non-Hispanic	Hispanic Origin All Races	Other or Bi-Racial	Total
Male	1621	134	8	9	219	0	1991
Female	534	41	5	2	106	0	688
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2155</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2679</b>
2015							
Male	1534	127	10	14	189	0	1874
Female	553	47	6	8	88	0	712
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2087</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2586</b>
2016							
Male	1679	170	12	38	294	0	2193
Female	655	35	2	4	87	0	783
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2334</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2976</b>

For years the number of petitions has been slowly decreasing, until 2016, when there was a 15% increase. Even the rate at which arrests result in a petition being issued has increased, as seen in Table 8.

**Table 8**

PETITION RATE			
YEAR	JUVENILE ARRESTS	PETITIONS	PETITION RATE
2014	4199	2679	63.8%
2015	3421	2586	75.6%
2016	3754	2976	79.3%

The percentage of petitions for White Non-Hispanics compared to all minorities is slightly decreasing, 82% in 2013, and 80% in 2014 and 2015, 78% in 2016. This correlates to the rate at which the demographics in the general population are also changing. The percentage of Males and Females is stable; females representing 25.5 to 27.5% of the total each year (Table 7).

**8. True Findings**

When NH juveniles are determined to be guilty in court, the proper terminology is that the charges brought against them were found to be true, or they can plead true. Below are the gender, race, and ethnicity of all charges that were found true, whether by finding or plea.

**9. Table 9**

	White Non-Hispanic	Black Non-Hispanic	American Indian Non-Hispanic	Asian or Pacific Islander Non-Hispanic	Hispanic Origin All Races	Other or Bi-Racial	Total
2014							

Male	629	51	4	1	83	0	768
Female	193	14	6	1	51	0	265
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1033</b>
2015							
Male	631	46	6	5	80	0	768
Female	211	22	5	3	41	0	282
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1050</b>
2016							
Male	585	43	5	12	119	0	764
Female	213	13	0	2	41	0	269
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1033</b>

The overall number of True Findings remained steady from 2014 to 2016. However, while the Hispanic and Asian rates rose, mirroring the results for the other measurement parameters, White and Black rates fell. The male to female ratio stayed relatively stable.

## 10. Conditional Release

Juveniles in NH on conditional release are those that are placed on probation. If they violate the conditions of their release, they re-enter the criminal system through one of the measurable points in this report, whether it be detention, commitment, etc. The gender, race, and ethnicity of those who received conditional release are below.

## 11. Table 10

2014	White Non-Hispanic	Black Non-Hispanic	American Indian Non-Hispanic	Asian or Pacific Islander Non-Hispanic	Hispanic Origin All Races	Other or Bi-Racial	Total
Male	558	36	3	1	61	0	659
Female	136	13	4	1	38	0	193
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>852</b>
2015							
Male	472	37	6	4	62	0	581
Female	161	19	4	1	28	0	213
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>794</b>
2016							
Male	463	34	3	10	79	0	589
Female	144	8	1	2	21	0	176
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>765</b>

The numbers of Petitions has increased, and True Findings numbers are stable. So even though the raw numbers of Youth who are being given Conditional Release is falling, the above trends point to the percentage of those receiving it is even lower.

White and Black rates are down at least 10% since 2014, while Asian and Hispanic rates are increased by at least 10% over the same period. Male rates are stable with 2015 levels, but female numbers continue to decline

## 12. Commitment

New Hampshire has one architecturally secure facility, the Sununu Youth Services Center (SYSC). This is the only facility to which juveniles are committed to the age of majority. While at SYSC, youth are afforded treatment (individual, family and group

counseling). In recent years, legislation has changed and now requires that youth who have been committed go before the juvenile parole board for parole consideration. If the board determines that the youth has satisfied the program requirements, and is not a safety concern to themselves or others and/or the community, youth are released to parole. Youth are required to sign their conditions of parole and obey those rules. Should youth violate those conditions they are returned to the facility on a violation, and they go before the preliminary hearings officer who determines whether or not there is probable cause to keep them at the facility. Youth are then seen by the parole board within ten (10) days of their preliminary hearing. This has altered the data for commitment admissions, and also the opportunity for parole violations to result in a re-admission to SYSC. Any analysis of commitment numbers should consider this.

Youth who are placed at community based group homes are also afforded mental health services. Youth placed in a general group home see therapists in the community, while those placed in an intensive residential placement are seen by therapists at the facility.

The Division utilizes the Bridges System and Courtstream. This information is available to Division staff only. This information is provided to the courts as needed.

**13. Table 11**

2014	White Non-Hispanic	Black Non-Hispanic	American Indian Non-Hispanic	Asian or Pacific Islander Non-Hispanic	Hispanic Origin All Races	Other or Bi-Racial	Total
Male	56	7	0	0	9	3	75
Female	29	3	0	0	3	3	38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>113</b>
2015							
Male	54	7	1	0	10	1	73

Female	15	1	0	0	4	1	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>94</b>
2016							
Male	44	14	1	0	19	2	80
Female	23	1	0	0	4	0	28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>108</b>

\*\*\*The sample size for this data is greatly smaller than the other data in this report. Therefore, any perceived changes in the year to year trends may not be indicative of real changes in the numbers.

The total number of commitments is back up to 2014 levels after being sharply lower in 2015. This increase is almost totally based on the minority Commitment level. The number of White juveniles committed has decreased each year. But the number for Black Juveniles has almost doubled since 2015, and Hispanics have almost doubled since 2014. Due to small sample sizes, the 2017 numbers will inform whether this is a trend or just a few individuals moving the needle.

The male to female ratio continues to remain relatively low. In 2013, females were 33% of those committed, 22% in 2015, and 25% in 2016.

#### 14. Sources

15. *U.S. Census Bureau*

16. *FBI*

17. Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics obtained from [fbi.gov](http://fbi.gov)

18.

19. *Bridges*

20. New Hampshire's Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS).
21. *Courtstream*
22. Online data management system for Sununu Youth Services Center (SYSC).

The State Advisory Group (SAG) participates in the development and review of the State's juvenile justice plan prior to submission to the supervisory board for final action. The SAG members each have an opportunity to verbalize what they feel the focus areas for the plan should be. After discussion, a vote is taken and members then determine what the focus area(s) should be. This is done through regularly scheduled SAG meetings and during the Executive Committee conference calls. The SAG is provided updates at each meeting. At these meetings, further discussion may occur based on the information provided. For instance, the events that were aired by our local news station (WMUR), provided information regarding the racial issues with grammar aged school youth. SAG members also brought this concern because of conversations they had with community stakeholders. These incidents were discussed at the SAG meetings, and subsequently, the member's voted to focus on DMC at the grammar school. Updates to the plan are also provided to the Executive Committee member's during their conference calls.

The SAG is afforded the opportunity to review and comment, within 30 days after their submission to the advisory group, on all juvenile justice and delinquency prevention grant applications submitted to the designated state agency. The grants subcommittee of the SAG reviews and scores the grant applications and provides funding recommendations that are



made to the full SAG at the next regularly scheduled meeting after receiving the applications. The full SAG provides the final approval on the awards to be made by the designated state agency.

The SAG holds annual strategic planning meetings, and the SPA representatives are invited. Due to meeting conflicts with the Director of the Division, the Chair, Co-chair and the JJ Specialist meet with the Director of DCYF the week of the regularly scheduled SAG meetings. These meetings provide an opportunity to continue with the collaboration and communication between the two entities. The SAG members have discussed the points that members would like to have addressed at each meeting with the Director. Through supervision, the JJ Specialist also provides a bi-weekly update to the Bureau Chief who is a direct report to the Director.

The SAG provides an annual update to the Governor and legislature on the status of the four core requirement. It is expected that the report will be submitted to the Governor for 2018 in June. The latest report is attached.

The SAG contacts and seeks regular input from juveniles currently under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system. NH currently has 2 youth who either are or were in the juvenile justice system. In fact, on May 17, 2018, the SAG's community relations committee

interviewed a young man who was in the juvenile justice system. His nomination to the SAG will be sent to the Governor's office for appointment this month. The SAG has also discussed meeting at the SYSC to afford them with additional information from youth who are at the last stage of the system. No meeting to date has been scheduled for this event. At the next SAG meetings the JJ Specialist will inquire about specific dates for this to occur. Youth are represented at each SAG meeting and are encouraged to speak and provide input on the subject matter(s).

The SAG membership is comprised of representatives from units of local government. In addition, the JJ Specialist is a member of many community based organizations advisory committees. This provides an additional opportunity for the SAG to gather input from the community. As the compliance monitor, information is also gathered from local law enforcement regarding the issues they encounter with youth in their respective communities.

NH releases and posts the requests for proposals on the Department of Health and Human Services website. NH attempts to be equitable in the distribution of funding, however, most grantees are located in the southern part of the state. Information regarding the availability of grant funds is provided at the community advisory group meetings the Specialist attends, and at the compliance monitoring site visits. This provision can also be accomplished once the local grammar school teams are created.

NH provides for the coordination and maximum utilization of juvenile delinquency programs, programs operated by public and private agencies and organizations, and other related programs in the state. This occurs through meetings, the involvement of SAG members who have connections through various programs throughout the State.

NH has a relationship with the University of New Hampshire, Durham when it requires research, training and evaluation assistance and guidance. However, NH has also utilized other research agencies to conduct DMC identification and assessments.

NH submitted the on-line compliance monitoring tool, including the data and documentation about compliance with the core requirements as required. Attached, also find the signed copy of Appendix K – training certification.

Youth in the juvenile justice system are treated equitably on the basis of gender, race, family income and disability. NH provides information to youth and their families on access to an Ombudsman; this information is also displayed at any program that is funded through federal funds. The Division also has, contained within the policy and procedure manual (located on the DHHS internet), the student/parent handbook provided to all youth who are committed, a student non-discriminatory grievance procedure form, a Bill of Rights for Youth in Care, and a policy on Basic Rights for committed and detained youth. To support the Division's stand on this, staff is provided mandatory cultural diversity training.

The Division is dedicated to ensuring that youth and families are included in all treatment meeting, as outlined in the SYSC brochure, to decrease the likelihood of youth entering the system again.

NH has established procedures to protect the rights of recipients of services and for ensuring appropriate privacy with regard to records relating to such services provided to any individual under the state plan. All agencies that contract with the Department are compliant with HIPAA and other relevant laws related to information sharing and privacy concerns.

NH affirms that any assistance provided under this Act will not cause the displacement of any currently employed employee, activities assisted under this Act will not impair an existing collective bargaining relationship, contract for services, or collective bargaining agreement shall be undertaken without the written concurrence of the labor organization involved.

NH has strong internal fiscal controls and fund accounting procedures necessary to ensure prudent use, proper disbursement and accurate accounting of funds received under this title.

The financial management and internal controls questionnaire has been completed and signed by the financial point of contact and is attached.

NH assures that federal funds made available under this part will be used to supplement and increase, but not supplant the level of state; local and other nonfederal funds that would be used in the absence of such federal funds made available for these programs, and will in no event replace such state, local and other nonfederal funds.

NH will give priority to the extent practicable in funding programs and activities that are based on rigorous, systematic and objective research that is scientifically based. Although NH will comply, historically we have not funded evidence-based programs due to the cost associated with such programs.

The effectiveness of funded programs is reviewed at a minimum quarterly. The SAG is provided updated information on these programs. Information gathered and submitted by the grantee(s) is used to determine future funding. NH has not and will not fund a grantee if they fail to comply with programmatic requirements. NH does not use the VCO

NH has submitted data and documentation on the DMC on-line tool regarding this core requirement.

NH affirms that if the state receives an amount that exceeds 105 percent of the amount received under this section; all such excess would be expended through or for programs as part of a comprehensive and coordinated effort to enhance the current focus area of the SAG.

The Division for Children Youth and Families Child Protection and Juvenile Justice Staff share the Bridges system. This information contains all the relevant information needed for the worker to manage the youth's case. Information on the child's involvement with the system will be made known to the court.

NH affirms that juvenile offenders whose placement is funded through Section 472 of the Social Security Act receive the protections specified in section 417 of such Act, including a case plan and case plan review as defined. Workers in NH are required to have a case plan on every youth, and those plans are reviewed at each meeting, court hearing, annually, if chosen randomly through the Child and Family Services Review – US DHHS, Administration for Youth. NH was part of this review with the Administration for Youth in April 2018.

### **Goals and objectives**

The State's focus for the 2018 application is: Program Purpose Area #21:

Disproportionate Minority Contact. The State will work on both goals simultaneously.

Goal 1: To reduce the number of reported racial incidents on grammar school aged youth.

Objectives:

1. Hold bidders conference
2. Release RFP

3. Approve proposals
4. Establish local DMC teams
5. Work with each local teams to develop strategic plans; plans will include:
  - a. Role of the team
  - b. Identified prevention and intervention strategies
  - c. Determine any technical assistance needs
6. Develop age appropriate educational curriculum
7. Develop and/or modify the cultural diversity training
8. Engage the NH Department of Education in the development of curriculum and cultural diversity training, and for the purposes of future sustainability.

Goal 2: To reduce the number of violations of conditions of parole and any new arrests for committed youth.

Objectives:

1. Continue to facilitate the Mirror project at the SYSC
2. Train youth counselors to become Mirror project facilitators.
3. Develop a program/curriculum and other interventions that build on the Mirror project.
4. Develop a cultural diversity curriculum/training for SYSC youth

5. Collaborate with local law enforcement to engage with SYSC youth
6. Create a SYSC team that oversees and manages the project at the facility
7. SYSC team will develop a strategic plan to determine practice, training opportunities and other action steps that build upon this intervention
8. Collaborate with the judiciary around training opportunities and current practices to ensure that all youth are treated fairly and equally
9. Determine technical assistance needs

Goal 3: Conduct a DMC assessment in Hillsborough County

Objectives:

1. Hold bidders conference
2. Release RFP
3. Approve proposal

**b. Implementation**

Goal 1: To reduce the number of reported racial incidents on grammar school aged youth.

The SAG will release a notification to the community, through the Department of Health and Human Services website, about the bidders conference that will be held (time to be determined) to outline the specific components of the request for proposals, which will



include information on both the goals described above, the expectations of the grantees and the time line for acceptance of their proposal and roll out of the project.

The DMC Coordinator and the JJ Specialist will work with local jurisdictions to establish local DMC teams to ensure that the most appropriate stakeholders are at the table.

Although the focus is on grammar school aged youth, community outreach will be an important component of this project. As we know, schools are the nucleus of the community in many respects. Outreaching to the community will become an information medium for the general public. This outreach should garner support and commitment for future program development. The Coordinator and Specialist will also work with local teams to develop their respective strategic plan, which will describe the roll and expectation of each team, discuss and determine prevention and intervention strategies that include who will be responsible for what action item, and timeline, as well as any technical assistance needs. Technical assistance, if requested will also be offered to other school districts. It is expected that this document will be used as a living document so the teams are able to better manage the project.

The local team members will be invited to assist in the development of the educational curriculum and the cultural diversity training program. The new curriculum will be developed using the current Mirror and cultural diversity training as a model in the creation of this new curriculum. Through the involvement of local teams members in the planning strategy and development of the curriculum, partner involvement will ensure

team buy-in, subject matter experts and knowledge about the educational development of grammar school youth, subsequently increasing the reduce in incidents and sustainability.

Engaging the NH Department of Education at the start of the project will aid the State in designing developmentally appropriate curriculum, commitment to the project and project sustainability. If the Dept. of Education approves and endorse this project, an ultimate goal would be for all school districts to participate in this project.

Goal 2: To reduce the number of violations of conditions of parole and any new arrests for committed youth.

The SAG will release a notification to the community, through the Department of Health and Human Services website, about the bidders conference that will be held (time to be determined) to outline the specific components of the request for proposals, which will include information on both the goals described above, the expectations of the grantees and the time line for acceptance of their proposal and roll out of the project.

The DMC Coordinator and the JJ Specialist will work with the Bureau of Quality Improvement and Training staff to continue facilitating the Mirror Project. Currently, the DMC Coordinator facilitates these training in the facility. Moving forward, the BOLQI training officer assigned to the facility will collaborate with the DMC Coordinator and coordinate the Mirror project training for identified youth counselor staff. With the new changes to the timeline for committed youth eligibility to be paroled (HB 517, 3 months for misdemeanor offenses and 6 months for felony level offenses); the expectation for

youth participation in these groups would occur every three months to ensure that youth who are either newly committed or about to be paroled can participate. This training will also count toward the recommended number of groups that each youth is required to participate in, which is based on their committing offense(s) and the issues identified through the classification process as points toward their program goals.

The facility will create a SYSC team that will act as an advisor to the project. SYSC team will develop a strategic plan to determine practice, training opportunities and other action steps that build upon the Mirror project intervention. Technical assistance opportunities will also be part of the strategic plan.

This team will be instrumental in the development of program and curriculum development and other program interventions as deemed necessary. Curriculum development will also include a modification of the current cultural diversity training that is provided to all Division staff. It is hoped that a school representative would be a regular participant on the team, as they have expertise in curriculum development. The curriculum will build upon the Mirror project. Once the curriculum is developed, staff will be introduced to the curriculum and trained to facilitate the group(s). This curriculum will also be designed to address American cultural as a means to indoctrinate many of the youth that come to New Hampshire as part of the resettlement community initiative.

Many of the youth committed to SYSC are from Hillsborough County, which is the largest county (population 406,000) in the State. As the largest county, many of the cities and towns are beginning to see the same trends emerge here, that larger cities have been experiencing, however NH is typically about five years behind other cities, especially around gangs. Since the Mirror project was developed as an intervention/prevention tool to improve relationships between law enforcement and youth, the facility will also reach out to the local law enforcement departments (City of Manchester and Nashua) to extend and improve relationships between the two groups. Manchester police department's School Resource Officer currently facilitate the Mirror project for all eighth graders. The experience of these officers will provide another opportunity for law enforcement to improve relationships with our youth, with the hope of further reducing the number of youth who return to the facility on a violation of their conditions of parole and/or a re-commitment due to committing another delinquent offense.

With the intervention strategies outlined above, we are hopeful that committed youth will be less likely to either violate their parole conditions or commit new offenses.

Another objective is to reach out to and collaborate with the NH judiciary to discuss current court practices regarding youth who enter the juvenile justice system, but specifically about youth who are court ordered committed. Unfortunately, the SYSC has a 3 % minority over representation rate. Through this collaborative effort, it is expected that the entire juvenile justice system will be impacted with the end goal of reducing minority over representation of youth starting at the petitioned stage of the

system. NH currently provides both Effective Police Interactions with Youth and the Mirror project for law enforcement, which is beginning to have an impact on the number of youth petitioned to court. Additionally, we will work towards offering and providing cultural diversity training to the judiciary. We will reach out to the Administrative Office of the Courts justice to secure a spot on the agenda at their annual conference. Working with the judiciary is the most logical next step to impact the system.

New Hampshire will continue to provide Effective Police Interactions with Youth (EPIWY) and the Mirror Project to local departments that are interested. We will continue to collaborate and coordinate with NH Police Standards and Training (PST) regarding these two projects. This will ensure ongoing training for both youth and law enforcement officers to build upon the success of improving the relationship between the two groups, and increase the chance that everyone goes home safe. Cultural diversity training will continue to be provided to DCYF staff, and other agencies/departments that request it. To date, the NH Attorney General's Office, Department of Corrections, Sheriff's departments and local law enforcement agencies have requested training. Information regarding these training opportunities is send to the Chiefs of Police via e-mail notification from PST and through the Compliance Monitor during on-site visits.

Participants in both the Mirror Project and EPIWY will continue to be asked to complete an evaluation at the end of each session (Exhibit C and D respectively).

Goal 3: To conduct a DMC assessment in Hillsborough County

The SAG will release a notification to the community, through the Department of Health and Human Services website, about the bidders conference that will be held (time to be determined) to outline the specific components of the request for proposals, which will include information on both the goals described above, the expectations of the grantees and the time line for acceptance of their proposal and roll out of the project.

Hillsborough County is the State's largest county (406,000) and contains the two largest cities - Manchester (110,000) and Nashua (88,000). Both cities are host cities for immigrants and applied for and received permission to be resettlement communities. These communities have been welcoming immigrants for at least a decade. Unfortunately, many of the immigrant youth are engaged in the juvenile justice system, and consequently are committed to the SYSC, especially from the Cities of Manchester and Nashua.

Through the assessment, we expect to learn more about the county, what services are available, what is lacking for services for youth and what barriers prevent access to those services. Once this information has been gathered, the SAG is poised to begin to develop a strategy that will address these issues.

#### Gender Responsive Update

New Hampshire does not currently have an analysis or a specific plan to provide gender specific services to youth. NH will be submitting a technical assistance (TA) request to address this need; however, a date/time has not been determined. The TA request will outline three (3) separate phases, (1) community based organizations, including the Juvenile Probation and Parole Officers and Child Protection Service Workers, (2) group homes and residential programs, and (3) the Sununu Youth Services Center, the state's

only secure facility for both detained and committed youth. The goal of this training is to provide a system-wide gender responsive foundation so that no matter what part of the system a youth is part of, the same basic services and programming will be provided.

#### Rural Prevention/Treatment update

There is not plan for rural prevention and treatment. Youth who reside in the rural areas of the state have access to treatment, including mental health treatment. Youth, regardless of whether or not they are in the system have the ability to receive treatment. Payment is either through private insurance, a sliding scale fee, or through state assistance.

Youth also have access to community based organizations services such as the Boys/Girls Clubs and the YMCA/YWCA. Involvement in these programs provides an opportunity for youth engagement, and positive youth development, rural programs are encouraged to apply for federal funding, however due to the requirement of seed money and sustainability most rural communities do not have the financial means to continue programming once funding has expired. Neither rural communities nor community agencies have indicated a need or desire for assistance in developing/creating additional services to this officer. Due to the population size, they may have not differentiated their

juvenile population from adults and identified the overall problem.

### Mental Health update

Youth can access mental health services through a referral from a diversion program, and a residential program that does not offer in-house services. Youth who are in either the child protection and juvenile justice system are often required to attend individual counseling, family counseling, drug/alcohol and other relevant treatment groups as needed and/or required. These services are court ordered, which prompts payment from the State. In fact, services such as these are outlined in the juvenile statute as part of the graduated sanctions continuum.

Youth who are not in the care of the state are able to access services at any of the ten local mental health centers and/or through private counseling agencies. If a family cannot afford these services, they are able to pay based on income through an established sliding scale fee developed by the mental health centers and/or can seek assistance from the state.



Consultation and participation of units of local government: NH addresses and incorporates the needs and requests of units of local government through participation at community-based meetings, and through compliance monitoring.

Collecting and sharing juvenile justice information: Arrest data is tracked by the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). In New Hampshire, Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) are now required to submit the data on all arrests to the NH Department of Safety (a result of HB 475, effective July 19, 2016), which gives this information to the FBI for the Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR).

Crimes are divided into two Parts, I and II (Table 1). Part I offenses are generally considered the more serious, and will be discussed separately. Part II offenses will be included when total crime numbers are considered.

New Hampshire has historically used on the NIBRS, UCR, Bridges Welfare System and the SYSC court stream system to determine trends and other. Staff from the Bureau of Learning and Quality Improvement is working with other Division's within the Department to gather youth specific data. Information is also gathered and analyzed through the collection of the juvenile lock up logs.

The Division has been discussing the importance of the information that is collected and retained by the NH Department of Education. We expect to include the need for data sharing when we approach the DOE regarding their participation and support of the prevention strategy with the grammar school aged youth.

The Division for Children Youth and Families is one of twenty-one Divisions under the auspices of the Department of Health and Human Services. As a result, DCYF is able to obtain some of this data, however, with some barriers (please see below for issues surrounding barriers to data collection). Information is also gathered by utilizing the Divisions Bridges System (used by both juvenile justice and child protection), and the BizStream system, utilized by the SYSC staff. Staff is able to access each system, which allows for better communication and management of the youths case. Due to the confidential nature of mental health, NH is able to gather information on mental health services because of the Bridges and BizStream systems; however this information is only available on youth who are involved in the system. Information on youth and families in the system who are receiving assistance from the State welfare system is difficult. NH does not have any information on the local level regarding welfare assistance for families.

One of the barriers New Hampshire encounters around sharing information on juveniles appears to be policy restrictions, especially around confidentiality. Even within the Department, we encounter this same situation. There are also issues about how the information is collect. For families that are on welfare, the system does not capture data on whether or not a youth is part of the system, which is confidential. Neither the Bridges system nor the BizStream system captures socio-economic data. Information on at risk youth would be provided to us via the Diversion Network members as informal diversion contacts. Formal diversion referrals are submitted to us through the Administrative Office

of the Courts. Although the relationship between the Network and the Division has improved, discussions still occur about data, and the best way to collaborate.

To improve the New Hampshire's data sharing efforts, we will convene a meeting with other Division's within the Department of Health and Human Services, the Diversion Network, the NH Department of Safety and the NH Department of Education to discuss the Division data needs, develop a plan to access this information and create memorandums of agreement that outline each data element, timeframes and reason for said requests. This is a perfect opportunity for child serving agencies to begin a collaborative relationship that benefits all parties.

c. Formula Grants Program staff

Organizational chart – see attachment # E

Program Staff – see attachment # F

Management Plan – see attachment # I

JJ Specialist Job description – see attachment # G

DMC Coordinator Job description – see attachment # H

This position is a contracted position for 29 hours/week.

1

6. Plan for Collecting the Data required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures

NH has reviewed and understands the performance measures data reporting requirements. NH will provide the grantees with the required performance measures and will continue to collect this information through the grantees submission of the demographic information form and narrative. This information, along with the required performance measures is also included in the grantee's contract, Exhibit A. This information will be submitted through the annual progress reporting on the GMS system.

## 7. Budget and Associated Documentation

- a. Budget Detail Worksheet- see attached
- b. Budget Narrative – see attached as part of the budget detail worksheet
- c. Information on Proposed Subawards
  1. Information on proposed subawards – N/A
  2. Information on proposed procurement contracts – N/A
- d. Pre-agreement Costs – N/A

## 8. Indirect Cost Rate agreement – N/A

9. Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire – see attached

10. Disclosure of Lobbying Activities – see attachment

11. Additional Attachments

a. Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications

New Hampshire does not have any pending applications for federally funded grants or cooperative agreements.

b. Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity – N/A

c. Demonstration of compliance with additional requirements of the JJDP Act – see Appendix I.

d. Agency contact information – see Appendix J