



THE ANNIE E. CASEY
FOUNDATION

J.D.A.I On the Move



What is JDAI?

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) is designed to address the efficiency and effectiveness of juvenile detention across the United States. Beginning with a handful of jurisdictions, the JDAI core strategies were proven to reduce unnecessary and inappropriate secure detention, reduce costs, increase system fairness and improve the juvenile justice system overall without compromising public safety. JDAI demonstrates that communities can improve their detention systems without sacrificing public safety. The goals of JDAI are to:

- Decrease the number of youth unnecessarily or inappropriately detained;
- Reduce the number of youth who fail to appear in court or re-offend pending adjudication;
- Redirect public funds towards effective juvenile justice processes and public safety strategies;
- Reduce racial and ethnic disparities affecting youth of color in the juvenile justice system; and,
- Improve the juvenile justice system overall.

JDAI is a process, not a conventional program. This means that JDAI helps counties and states restructure policies and practices to create system improvements that reach far beyond detention. JDAI sites have demonstrated safe reductions in the number of youth detained through a set of interrelated strategies which include:

1. Collaboration among juvenile justice agencies, community organizations and other government agencies;
2. The use of data in making policy and case-level decisions;
3. Objective instruments to guide detention decisions;
4. Operation of a continuum of non-secure detention alternatives;
5. Case processing efficiencies to reduce time between arrest and case disposition;
6. Safe reductions of special populations (e.g. violations of probation, warrants and cases awaiting placement);
7. Racial and ethnic fairness in policy and case-level decision-making; and,
8. Improvement of conditions of confinement in juvenile detention facilities.

Today JDAI is in 39 states and 250 jurisdictions. Memphis and Shelby County is happy to be part of this important initiative. If you want to gain more information regarding JDAI, please visit <http://www.jdaihelpdesk.org>.

JDAI in Memphis and Shelby County - A Plan of Action

The implementation of JDAI in Memphis and Shelby County began in 2012, making this county the first and only city or county in Tennessee to be a JDAI site. Upon implementation, one of the first steps is to create a governance structure. The governance structure consists of an Executive Committee, Governing Committee and several subcommittees. The Executive Committee is made up of key decision-makers that impact children's lives in Memphis and Shelby County. The members of the Executive Committee set the policies that affect our children. The Governing Committee includes the members of the Executive Committee as well as community representatives. This committee works closely with the subcommittees to research, develop, and implement reform strategies to safely reduce reliance on secure detention. Some of the subcommittees and their plans of actions are as follows:

Alternative to Detention (ATD) Subcommittee

- Research and develop ATDs that would work for best for Memphis and Shelby County.
- Conduct a review of all existing youth alternatives to detention.

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*Memphis and Shelby County
JDAI Governing Committee*

JDAI in Memphis and Shelby County - A Plan of Action

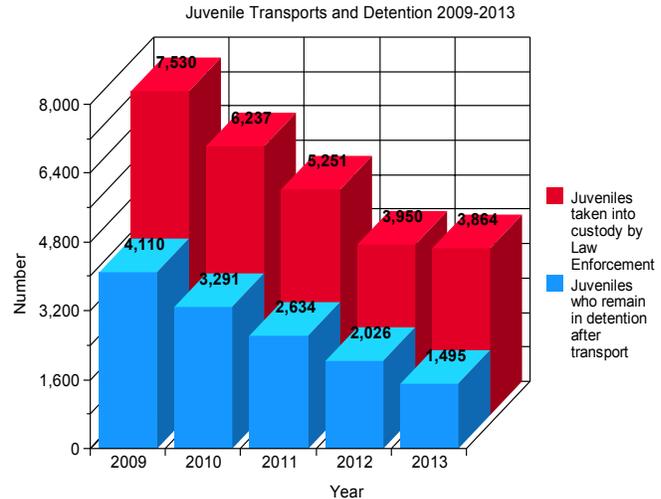
Disproportionate Minority Contact Subcommittee

- Research and create a questionnaire for law enforcement to assess perceptions of discretion at the initial point of contact.

Domestic Assault Cases Subcommittee

- Review and analyze data to discuss alternatives to detention for domestic assault cases.
- Review the possibility of legislative advocacy to change the law requiring the arrest of youth for domestic assault charges.

JDAI has dramatically helped reduced admissions to Memphis and Shelby County Juvenile Court’s Detention Center. Between 2007 and 2012, there was a drop in detention population by more than 50%. Since 2012, there has been an additional drop of 40% in detention admissions. The chart to the right shows the number of juveniles taken into custody by law enforcement and juveniles who remain in detention after transport. As you can see juveniles actually detained were significant lower than those transported by law enforcement. Those taken into transport by law enforcement will be a target group for the governance structure to create alternatives to detention.



Shannon Caraway, Juvenile Court

The Governing Committee meets every other month for approximately two hours. During the meetings, the committee discusses the detention data from the previous period, reports from the JDAI subcommittees, Juvenile Court’s progress towards meeting terms of a settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice, and a presentation from a community-based organization.

VOICES from the Field - Cheryl J. Beard

After Memphis and Shelby County was designated as a JDAI Site, Cheryl Beard was invited to be one of the initial members of the Governing Committee. Shortly



Cheryl Beard, Chair
Memphis-Shelby County JDAI

thereafter, she was nominated as Chair, and she graciously accepted.

Actively involved as an advocate for youth and juvenile justice for 25 years, Cheryl is deeply concerned about the apparent “Cradle-to-Prison-Pipeline” that is happening to the young people in Shelby County and across the country. According to Cheryl, “Children are not born delinquent. There are generally complicated issues surrounding them that determine how and why they become involved in the juvenile justice system.”

Cheryl feels this is an opportune time to partner with the Memphis and Shelby Juvenile Court to implement juvenile justice reform. The Court is making changes while under a settlement agreement with U.S. Department of Justice. She believes the JDAI Governance Committee can be

instrumental in completing, sustaining, and furthering the transformative work that has begun. “The hope is that with JDAI’s help, our Juvenile Court will become a model for the nation.”

Cheryl J. Beard serves as the Chair of the Memphis-Shelby County JDAI Governing Committee. She has served the community as a youth minister, not-for-profit leader, and is now on the pastoral staff of Olivet Fellowship Baptist Church.

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Get Involved!

There are many ways you can be a part of the Memphis and Shelby County Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiatives (JDAI). JDAI is always seeking programs, services, suggestions and ideas about how to provide alternatives to secure detention.



To learn about volunteer opportunities or to get involved, contact the site coordinator, Kimbrell Owens, at Kimbrell.Owens@shelbycountyttn.gov or (901)405-8590.

Memphis-Shelby JDAI

Executive Committee

Chair: Larry Scroggs
Magistrate Dan Michael
Dini Malone
Gary Cummings
Marilyn Hobbs
Cheryl Beard
John Hall

Governing Committee

Chair: Cheryl Beard

Subcommittees and Chairs

Alternatives to Detention

Chair: John Hall

Data

Chair: Bill Cash

Detention Assessment Tool

Chair: Ronald Pope

Domestic Assault

Chair: Tom Coupe

Schedule of Events

- **June 1-5, 2014:** Raising Hair for Memphis Child Advocacy Center (Downtown Farmer's Market)
- **June 2-4, 2014:** JDAI Inter-Site Conference, Philadelphia, PA
- **June 3-4, 2014:** DMC Training by Office of Juvenile Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), The Urban Child Institute
- **June 5, 2014:** DMC CASP Training, The Urban Child Institute
- **June 5-7, 2014:** Saving Ourselves Symposium, Family Safety Center
- **June 6, 2014:** DMC Summit, Hilton Hotel
- **June 8, 2014:** Uniting for the Cause Concert, St. Paul Baptist Church
- **June 20, 2014:** Urban Youth Initiative Gala, Second Presbyterian Church
- **July 24, 2014:** Memphis and Shelby County Governing

A Word from the Court - Larry Scroggs

"In January 2012, the Annie E. Casey Foundation officially designated Memphis and Shelby a Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Site. The Court sought site designation for three years while continuing to reduce the number of juveniles detained by pursuing JDAI principles.

The strong pursuit of JDAI site selection for Memphis and Shelby County was based on the goal of reducing juvenile detention and the need to address racial issues as a community. The success of the initiative will require collaboration among government agencies, community-based organizations and key individuals, as well as skillful analysis and use of accurate data."

*Larry Scroggs, Chief Administrator Officer/Chief Counsel
Memphis and Shelby County Juvenile Court*



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-Larry Scroggs