



San Francisco Juvenile Collaborative Reentry Team Program Description

In the Fall of 2009, San Francisco was awarded the Department of Justice Second Chance Act grant to implement the Juvenile Collaborative Reentry Team or JCRT. The JCRT is an unprecedented collaboration between the Superior Court of California, the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department, the Public Defender's Office, and the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJ CJ) to provide coordinated and comprehensive reentry case planning and aftercare services for youth returning to the community from out-of-home placement.

This pioneering model is one of only 5 such grants awarded nationwide and is the *only* one where the Juvenile Court is directly involved. The ReEntry Court officially began in December 2009. The Court convenes one time per week on Thursday mornings. Approximately 40 youth have appeared in Court to date. Initial data has already shown a marked reduction in recidivism and in AWOLS from placement.

The model establishes a collaborative team approach in the development and implementation of reentry plans for youth. The team consists of a probation officer, public defender, social worker, and community case manager and works with a dedicated judge to ensure that youth are assisted in a comprehensive and monitored transition and community reintegration process. The team has also developed community partnerships with the SFUSD, Seneca Connections, ILSP, San Francisco City College and various employment agencies, among others.

Critical components of the team are the youth and his or her family. The youth is involved in every decision regarding the services, education, vocational opportunities and other programs that he or she will receive once released to the community. In addition, the JCRT involves the family in team meetings throughout the case planning process and includes the family in education, treatment, and therapy plans. The family also plays a key role in court hearings.

Eligibility for the program includes the following:

- Youth referred to out-of-home placement as part of a juvenile court disposition
- Youth represented by the Public Defender's Office

The JCRT makes initial contact with every participant at the time of disposition to introduce him or her to the program and formally begins the process of developing a release plan. Three months prior to release, the plan is finalized and may include housing, vocational training, education, therapy and/or drug treatment, and any other services needed to ensure the minor's success. The entire JCRT team meets regularly outside of court to develop detailed case plans. Each member signs the plan; partners to advocate on behalf of the child and family, and jointly presents the plan to the Juvenile Court.

The JCRT is a three-year pilot that the partners hope to continue beyond the grant period and expand to include more out-of-home placement youth in San Francisco.