

Resource Materials for Children and Youth at Risk of Juvenile Justice Involvement

Description of Priority Population

Strategies for this priority population address risk factors for delinquent behavior among children and youth. This means comprehensive, coordinated strengths-based approaches that begin with very young children and continue through adolescence and young adulthood. Cross-system collaboration, with the active involvement of families, may form the basis for all mental health prevention interventions for this population. This includes partnerships among schools, health and social services agencies, law enforcement, probation and other agencies and community-based organizations for youth development.

Many of the suggested strategies involve the entire family, such as family skill building, family therapy, and positive youth development. Positive youth development programs that are aimed at understanding, educating, and engaging children in productive activities should be offered to at-risk children, youth, and their families as early as possible. A number of these recommended strategies apply to more than one PEI priority population.

Funding may target priority communities with characteristics such as:

- High number of children and youth from ethnic and cultural groups underserved
- High poverty
- Low academic achievement, risk of school failure
- High rates of suspensions, expulsions and drop out
- High numbers of children and youth in foster care
- High rates of violence in the community
- High rates of youth involved with the Juvenile Justice system

Suggested Strategies

Prevention strategies and early intervention approaches listed for this priority population largely mirror those targeting the other PEI priority populations:

- Increase awareness about mental health and mental illness, and help seeking behavior
- Teach families, caregivers and educators skills to address behavior problems
- Develop programs to increase self regulation and resiliency
- Screen for mental health and learning problems
- Develop suicide awareness and prevention approaches
- Develop individual and small group therapeutic relationship interventions

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- Develop school-wide and community-wide approaches to prevent bullying and aggression
- Foster tolerance and understanding of diversity
- Identify problems early and intervene quickly
- Link individuals and families to other needed services/supports specifically in the areas of substance abuse, family violence and basic needs

An example of this linkage can come through the primary care system. Primary care providers (PCPs) can provide behavioral or emotional health screening and intervention services for children and youth brought to them for routine preventive and wellness care or for emergency treatment, particularly if the PCP determines they may be at-risk for contact with the juvenile justice system. After assessment, the PCP may provide a warm hand-off to a behavioral health specialist, initiating early interventions or referral to specialty mental health services (including substance abuse, anger management, violence prevention, etc.) for the youth and their family.

Potential Funding and Resource Partners

Potential funding and resource partners for this priority population include the following groups:

- Child welfare
- First 5
- Employment Development
- Law enforcement
- Probation
- Parks and Recreation
- Schools (preK-12)
- County Offices of Education
- After school programs
- Client/family member organizations
- Faith-based organizations
- Cultural and ethnic organizations
- Other community-based organizations
- Primary care
- Private foundations
- Businesses

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EXAMPLES OF STRATEGIES:

1. Prevention of Mental Health Problems			
<i>EXAMPLES OF STRATEGIES</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>SETTINGS</i>	<i>AGE GROUP</i>
Across Ages	A mentoring initiative targeting youth 9 to 13 years of age. The goal is to enhance the resiliency of children in order to promote positive development and prevent them from engaging in high-risk behaviors such as substance use, early sexual activity, or violence.	Community, School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.modelprograms.samhsa.gov/pdfs/model/AcrossAges.pdf			
Adolescent Transitions Program (ATP)	Multilevel, family-centered intervention targeting children who are at risk for problem behavior or substance use. Designed to address the family dynamics of adolescent problem behavior, it is delivered in the middle school setting to parents and their children.	School-based	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.dsgonline.com/mpg2.5/TitleV_MPG_Table_IndRec.asp?id=289			
All Stars	A program designed to delay the onset of and prevent high-risk behaviors in middle school adolescents 11 to 14 years of age through the development of positive personal characteristics in young adolescents.	Community, School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.modelprograms.samhsa.gov/pdfs/model/AllStars.pdf			

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<i>EXAMPLES OF STRATEGIES</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>SETTINGS</i>	<i>AGE GROUP</i>
American Indian Life Skills Development	A school-based, culturally tailored, suicide-prevention curriculum for American Indian adolescents. Tailored to American Indian norms, values, beliefs, and attitudes, the curriculum is designed to build self-esteem; identify emotions and stress; increase communication and problem-solving skills; and recognize and eliminate self-destructive behavior, including substance abuse.	High School	<input type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.dsgonline.com/mpg2.5/TitleV_MPG_Table_IndRec.asp?id=635			
Effective Black Parenting	A cognitive-behavioral program specifically created for African American parents that seek to foster effective family communication, healthy identity, extended family values, child growth and development, and self-esteem. It addresses child abuse, substance abuse, juvenile delinquency, gang violence, learning disorders, behavior problems, and emotional disturbances.	Schools, Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.ciccparenting.org/cicc_EBPdesc_312.asp			

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Gang Resistance is Paramount (GRIP)	An anti-gang program designed to steer children away from gang membership through classroom lessons, counseling and parental training.	Elementary, High School, Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.dsgonline.com/mpg2.5/TitleV_MPG_Table_Ind_Rec.asp?id=646			
The Incredible Years	Provides three comprehensive, multifaceted, and developmentally based curricula for parents, teachers, and children. Designed to promote emotional and social competence and to prevent, reduce, and treat aggressive, defiant, oppositional, and impulsive behaviors in young children 2 to 8 years old.	Early Childhood/Elementary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.modelprograms.samhsa.gov/pdfs/model/IncYears.pdf			
Leadership and Resiliency Program (LRP)	A program for high school students, 14 to 19 years of age, that enhances youths' internal strengths and resiliency while preventing involvement in substance use and violence.	Community-based, High School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.modelprograms.samhsa.gov/pdfs/model/leadership.pdf			

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Website: http://www.modelprograms.samhsa.gov/pdfs/model/SFA.pdf			
Los Niños Bien Educados	Parents learn how to praise effectively, to confront, to use family conversations, and to employ "time out" procedures. The program is widely used in schools, mental health and social service agencies, churches, and hospitals. It addresses school dropout prevention and drug and child abuse.	Schools, Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.ciccparenting.org/LosNinosBienEdDesc.aspx			
Second Step	Second Step is a universal classroom-based intervention designed to reduce impulsive and aggressive behaviors and increase protective factors and social-emotional competence. Organized by grade level, the program teaches children empathy, problem-solving skills, risk assessment, decision-making, and goal-setting skills.	Elementary, Middle School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://nrepp.samhsa.gov/programfulldetails.asp?PROGRAM_ID=80 or http://www.dsgonline.com/mpg2.5/TitleV_MPG_Table_Ind_Rec.asp?id=422			

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2. Early Intervention for Mental Health Problems and Concerns			
<i>EXAMPLES OF STRATEGIES</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>SETTINGS</i>	<i>AGE GROUP</i>
Screening	Voluntary screening; referral of children and youth removed from their homes.	Receiving Homes, Foster Placements, Juvenile Hall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Screening	Identification, voluntary screening, and referral (if indicated) for MH assessment of children and youth whose older siblings are involved in the justice system.	School, Police, Probation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Aggression Replacement Training (ART)	A multimodal intervention designed to alter the behavior of chronically aggressive youth ages 3 to 18. The curriculum consists of skill streaming, anger control training, and moral reasoning training.	School, Probation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.fightcrime.org/ca/toolkit/fcikcatoolkit.pdf			
Breaking Cycles	A family-focused, delinquency prevention and intervention program that directs strengths-based, family-centered community resources and programs to “at-risk” youth and their families and improves the juvenile justice and community intervention for juvenile offenders through a system of Graduated Sanctions.	Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation/jfs/bcaboutus.html			

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<i>EXAMPLES OF STRATEGIES</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>SETTINGS</i>	<i>AGE GROUP</i>
Brief Strategic Family Therapy	A family-based intervention designed to prevent and treat child and adolescent behavior problems. Targets children and adolescents who are displaying or are at risk for developing behavior problems, including substance abuse.	Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.modelprograms.samhsa.gov/pdfs/model/Bsft.pdf			
Coping Power Program	Multicomponent preventive intervention for aggressive children that uses the contextual sociocognitive model as its conceptual framework.	School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRIME Screening tool • Mood Questionnaire 	Screening and assessment of transitional-age youth who are in the early onset phase of a serious psychiatric illness. Referral to mental health if necessary.	CCHC, FQHC, NA Health Center, Rural Health Centers	<input type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.dsgonline.com/mpg2.5//TitleV_MPG_Table_IndRec.asp?id=317			

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<i>EXAMPLES OF STRATEGIES</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>SETTINGS</i>	<i>AGE GROUP</i>
Family-to-Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Differential Response is an early intervention and response system that targets families that have been referred to CPS but do not receive direct services because the children are not directly at risk of harm. Family to Family encourages neighborhood-based foster care and views foster parents as partners in the family reunification process. Purpose is to respond to reports of abuse and neglect. Hotline, screening, comprehensive assessment. (MHSA could place a Behavioral health specialist on staff to screen and provide PEI)	Child Welfare – referrals from teachers, and other mandated reporters; Community Engagement Specialist	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.f2f.ca.gov/ or http://www.aecf.org/MajorInitiatives/Family%20to%20Family.aspx			
Functional Family Therapy (FFT)	A family-based prevention and intervention program for dysfunctional youths, ages 11 to 18, that has been applied successfully in a variety of multi-ethnic, multicultural contexts to treat a range of high-risk youths and their families.	Home-based	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.dsgonline.com/mpg2.5/TitleV_MPG_Table_Ind_Rec.asp?id=29			

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<i>EXAMPLES OF STRATEGIES</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>SETTINGS</i>	<i>AGE GROUP</i>
Multi-dimensional Family Therapy	Comprehensive family-based program for substance-abusing adolescents (and their parents) or those at high risk for substance abuse or other problem behaviors. Helps individuals and families develop protective and healing factors.	School, Community, Court	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://modelprograms.samhsa.gov/pdfs/model/multi.pdf			
Multisystemic Therapy (MST)	Multisystemic Therapy (MST) is a family-focused, home-based program that focuses on chronically violent, substance-abusing juvenile offenders at high risk for out-of-home placement, who are 12 to 17 years of age.	Home-based	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.modelprograms.samhsa.gov/pdfs/model/Mst.pdf			
Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC)	Designed to provide a supervised, therapeutic living environment for youth with chronic delinquency and anti-social behavior. The program is aimed at keeping mentally troubled youth, in supportive home environments and out of residential placements or juvenile justice facilities. Targeted towards youth 11 to 18 years old.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.fightcrime.org/ca/toolkit/fcikcatoolkit.pdf			

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<i>EXAMPLES OF STRATEGIES</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>SETTINGS</i>	<i>AGE GROUP</i>
Parent/Child Interactive Therapy (PCIT)	PCIT is an empirically-supported treatment for conduct-disordered young children that place emphasis on improving the quality of the parent-child relationship and changing parent-child interaction patterns.	Clinic, Community, Home, School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.fightcrime.org/ca/toolkit/fcikcatoolkit.pdf			
The Parent Project	A parent training program designed specifically for parents of strong-willed or out-of-control adolescent children.	School, Probation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.parentproject.com/			
Parenting Wisely	A self-administered, interactive, multimedia program that reduces family conflict and child behavior problems by improving parenting skills and enhancing family communication and mutual support, supervision, and discipline. Targets parents with children ages 9 to 18.	Community, Home, Juvenile court, Child welfare	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.modelprograms.samhsa.gov/pdfs/model/ParentWise.pdf			
Strengthening Families Program (SFP)	SFP is an evidence-based family skills training program found to significantly reduce problem behaviors, delinquency, and alcohol and drug abuse in children and to improve social competencies and school performance.	School, Middle School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.strengtheningfamiliesprogram.org/index.html			

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<i>EXAMPLES OF STRATEGIES</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>SETTINGS</i>	<i>AGE GROUP</i>
Students Targeted With Opportunities for Prevention (STOP)	A program that targets youth aged 10 to 14 years who are not on probation, but who need services according to criteria of main risk factors for delinquency like gang affiliation, substance abuse problems, school issues, and family violence.	School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.fightcrime.org/ca/toolkit/fcikcatoolkit.pdf			
Truant Recovery Program	Collaborative effort between the school district and all community police jurisdictions within its boundaries. The program is preventive rather than punitive. Its primary task is to return truant students to school as soon as possible.	School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.dsgonline.com/mpg2.5/TitleV_MPG_Table_IndRec.asp?id=50			

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3. Linkage and Support in Navigating Service Systems and Other Providers as Needed			
<i>EXAMPLES OF STRATEGIES</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>SETTINGS</i>	<i>AGE GROUP</i>
School Attendance Review Boards (SARBs)	Composed of representatives from various youth-serving agencies, to help students and their parents or guardians solve school attendance and behavior problems through the use of available school and community resources. (MHSA could place a behavioral health specialist on the board)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ai/sb/			

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4. System Structure and Enhancements to Improve, Coordinate and Sustain Mental Health Programs and Interventions			
<i>EXAMPLES OF STRATEGIES</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>SETTINGS</i>	<i>AGE GROUP</i>
Neighborhood Accountability Boards (NAB)	Conducts hearing panels for first time offenders charged with non-violent misdemeanor offenses. Goal is to empower community to hold youth responsible for their actions. Court could link children and youth to programs for screening, early intervention, and referral for assessment and treatment if necessary.	Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: None			
Neighborhood Alternative Centers	Provides mandated intake for youth, ages 8-17 (WIC 626.5) who are exhibiting pre-delinquent conduct. Provides brief assessment, crisis intervention and referral. (MHSA could place a behavioral health specialist on staff to link children and youth to programs for screening, early intervention, and referral for assessment if necessary and treatment.	Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: None			

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<i>EXAMPLES OF STRATEGIES</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>SETTINGS</i>	<i>AGE GROUP</i>
Peer Courts	Juvenile offender programs where students determine the consequences to be imposed on other young people for low-level criminal conduct. Create linkage to early intervention programs.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: None			
Professional Development	Capacity building for teachers and school staff to identify and address potential mental health needs of students and their families.	School-wide	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: None			
Student Assistance Programs (SAPs)	Provide focused services to students seeking support or needing interventions for academics, behavior, and attendance often due to deeper concerns related to substance abuse, mental health, or social issues. The overarching goal of SAPs is to remove barriers to education so that a student may achieve academically.	School-wide	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C/Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAY <input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults
Website: http://www.nasap.org/			