



# J.D.A.I On the Move

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

THE ANNIE E. CASEY  
FOUNDATION



## JDAI in Memphis and Shelby County - A Plan of Action

JDAI has two overarching goals – keep youth who do not need to be in detention out of detention AND protect public safety. To achieve these goals, it is imperative that JDAI in Memphis and Shelby County create additional alternatives to detention programs. The local JDAI Governing Committee created an Alternatives to Detention Subcommittee (ATD) chaired by John Hall and co-chaired by Reverend Audrey Gonzalez. Members of the ATD Subcommittee include representatives from the community, partnering agencies, service providers and staff from the Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County (Juvenile Court). The ATD Subcommittee's main goal is to advise the JDAI Governing Committee on viable alternative forms of supervision for youth who would otherwise be detained in a secure facility.

Currently, Shelby County has two alternative to detention programs: electronic monitoring and four beds at Porter-Leath. Electronic monitoring (EM) requires youth to make daily voice verification calls to the Youth Service Bureau and requires them to wear ankle bracelets with GPS tracking technology. The other alternative to detention program requires transporting youth to Porter-Leath, a nonprofit organization serving families and youth in Shelby County since 1850. Youth transported to Porter-Leath require supervision, but they do not warrant detention in a secure facility. Porter-Leath provides four short-term beds to the Juvenile Court.

The ATD Subcommittee is researching new alternative to detention programs and visited different programs during JDAI model sites visits. Other JDAI sites use alternatives like short-term shelter beds, foster family homes, and day and evening reporting centers. Day and evening reporting centers are community-based alternative detention programs that provide youth with structured, supervised group activities during the day or in the hours after school and into the evening.

The ATD Subcommittee recently expanded its membership to include service providers. This new membership will help the ATD Subcommittee assess local service providers.



*Alternatives to Detention  
Subcommittee Meeting*

## JDAI Inter-Site Conference



The annual JDAI Inter-Site Conference took place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in June 2014. Conference attendees came from JDAI sites all over the country. The Shelby County team consisted of Cheryl Beard, Pastor and Chair of the JDAI Governing Committee; Thomas Coupé, Supervising Attorney, Juvenile Court; Debbie Fessenden, Legal Advisor, Sheriff's Office; Lisa Hill, DMC Coordinator; Felicia Hogan, Magistrate Judge, Juvenile Court; Mamie Jones, DBS Deputy Administrator, Juvenile Court; Kimbrell Owens, JDAI Site Coordinator; and Malrie Shelton, Program Coordinator, Network for Overcoming Violence and Abuse (NOVA).

In addition to plenary sessions and keynote speakers, there were a variety of workshops for participants on topics, such as: Eliminating Solitary Confinement, Engaging Community, Leveraging Funds for Juvenile Justice Reform, and Adolescent Development and the Law. The conference provided an opportunity to network and share ideas and best practices. Attendees gained knowledge they can share with people in local sites.

One highlight of the conference was the electrifying speech delivered by native Tennessean, Van Jones. Mr. Jones has a rich career history and was the founder of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights in San Francisco and a former Special Advisor to President Barack Obama. Currently, he is the co-anchor of CNN's Crossfire with Newt Gingrich. Mr. Jones discussed how important it is to build a national movement to end mass incarceration and how JDAI contributes to the work. He talked about the "Yes We Code" initiative, which aims to train 100,000 low-income youth to be world-class computer programmers.

Attendees also celebrated Bart Lubow's career as the director of JDAI, on the occasion of his retirement. As he approached the stage to give the closing remarks for the last time as the leader of the Initiative, he received thundering applause and a standing ovation. As the caption of his picture says, "You will be missed."



*Cheryl Beard, Van Jones, and Kimbrell Owens (Left to Right) JDAI Inter-Site Conference 2014*

## VOICES from the Field — John Hall

John worked to bring the Annie E. Casey Foundation to Memphis and Shelby County for over ten years. John first met Bart Lubow, former Director of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, at a conference in Washington, DC.

John was very impressed with the accomplishments of JDAI and the emphasis on using data to determine how to enact detention reforms to reduce racial and ethnic



*John Hall, Chair Alternatives to Detention Committee Memphis-Shelby County JDAI*

disparities in the juvenile justice system without compromising the public safety.

John believes that it is vital for leaders to move beyond the gridlock to provide positive leadership and better outcomes for all children in Memphis. Improved leadership will only be achieved through collaboration and honest and effective communication.

John says that JDAI in Memphis and Shelby County must remain focused on developing a level playing field in the juvenile justice system that treats all children equally regardless of race, creed or color. These reforms must be done with a sense of urgency and with the utmost respect for everyone involved in the juvenile justice system. We must remember that the children are our future.

For the last fourteen years, John Hall has held a variety of positions with the Memphis and Shelby County school system. Currently, he is the Coordinator of the School House Adjustment Program Enterprise (S.H.A.P.E.), a program he developed to limit the numbers of youth who touch the juvenile justice system by working with them when they engage in delinquent behavior in school.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention recognizes S.H.A.P.E. as a "best practice" model for racial and ethnic disparities reduction. S.H.A.P.E. has also been recognized by the Coalition on Juvenile Justice, the Center for States and Government, the International Association of Police Chiefs, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Council of State Legislatures and the New York Times as a model program.

**Kimbrell Owens**  
**JDAI Site Coordinator**

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**Get Involved!**

There are many ways you can be a part of the Memphis-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.

<b>Memphis-Shelby JDAI</b>	<b>Schedule of Events</b>
<p><b>Executive Committee</b>  <u>Chair:</u> Cheryl Beard                      Larry Scroggs                      Dini Malone                      Gary Cummings                      Marilyn Hobbs                      John Hall</p> <p><b>Governing Committee</b>  <u>Chair:</u> Cheryl Beard</p> <p><b>Subcommittees and Chairs</b>  <u>Alternatives to Detention</u>                      Chair: John Hall</p> <p><u>Data</u>                      Chair: Bill Cash</p> <p><u>Detention Assessment Tool</u>                      Chair: Ronald Pope</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sept. 19, 2014:</b> Lecture, Juvenile-in-Justice: Photographer by Richard Ross, University of Memphis</li> <li>• <b>Sept. 20, 2014:</b> G.E. Patterson’s 5K run/walk for Pre-K, Porter-Leath</li> <li>• <b>Sept. 20, 2014:</b> Free Legal Clinic, Hickory Ridge Towne Center</li> <li>• <b>Sept. 20 - Nov. 26, 2014:</b> Juvenile Justice Art Exhibit, University of Memphis</li> <li>• <b>Sept. 23-24, 2014:</b> JDAI Model Site Visit, Santa Cruz, CA</li> <li>• <b>Sept. 26, 2014:</b> Memphis and Shelby County Governing Committee meeting</li> <li>• <b>Sept. 26, 2014:</b> Memphis Police Department Training, Mark Soler, Keri Nash and Dr. Altha Stewart</li> <li>• <b>Oct. 4, 2014:</b> Frayser Fall Festival</li> <li>• <b>Oct. 18, 2014:</b> Literacy Awards and Gala, Hilton Hotel</li> </ul>

**A Word from the Court - Newly Elected Judge Dan Michael**

The Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County has a new Judge, Dan H. Michael. Judge Michael is not new to the juvenile justice world as he has worked for the Juvenile Court since he graduated from law school. He was appointed to the bench in 1997 by Judge Kenneth Turner. For almost 17 years, Judge Michael served as a referee and magistrate for Judge Turner and his successor, Judge Curtis S. Person. Judge Michael is committed to the protection of the law and the protection of our community.

Since the designation of Memphis/Shelby County as a Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative site, Judge Michael has met with JDAI site coordinator, Kimbrell Owens, to express his willingness to assist in reforming the operation of the juvenile justice system in Memphis and Shelby County.

“I have had a keen interest in JDAI since the late 90’s. I am thrilled with our relationship with the Casey Foundation and I am committed to continuing the good work that has begun. The evidence is sound — children who find themselves detained are at significant risk of sliding deeper into the juvenile justice system. By addressing their problems through alternatives to detention, perhaps we can begin to turn the tide on delinquency.”



*Dan H. Michael, Judge  
 Memphis and Shelby County Juvenile Court*

*By addressing the problems through alternatives to detention perhaps we can begin to turn the tide on delinquency  
 -Judge Dan H. Michael*