



THE ANNIE E. CASEY
FOUNDATION

J.D.A.I On the Move

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative



JDAI = OPPORTUNITY

The Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County (Court) has been charged with changing the face of the juvenile justice system in Shelby County. One of the first responses to this charge was becoming a part of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). By becoming a JDAI site, the Court began the process of only using detention for children who are a threat to public safety or are unlikely to appear in court. Under JDAI, juvenile justice system stakeholders are developing alternatives to detention through a collaborative process that uses data to inform decision-making.

Since JDAI started in Memphis and Shelby County, the juvenile detention population has dropped. In 2011, approximately 2,600 youth were held in detention and that number dropped to 1,400 in 2013. These reductions occurred because stakeholders changed the decision-making process for deciding which youth would be held in detention. They used a juvenile justice system assessment, a Detention Utilization Study, new forms of data collection, and review and revision of the Detention Assessment Tool to reform policies and practices.

JDAI did not come to Shelby County in a vacuum. On April 26, 2012, the U.S. Department of Justice (Department or DOJ) released the report, Investigation of Shelby County Juvenile Court, which had findings based on a three-year investigation of the Court. The Department found procedural due process violations in the Court's processes, discrimination against African American children and unconstitutional conditions of confinement in the detention center. DOJ negotiated a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Court and the Shelby County government. The Court and DOJ signed the MOA on December 17, 2012.

While the JDAI is separate and independent from the Department's monitoring of the Court's compliance with the MOA, there are areas of overlap. JDAI is premised on eight core strategies: collaboration, use of data, use of objective decision making instruments, alternatives to detention, case processing, reducing special populations, racial and ethnic fairness, and improving conditions of confinement. Adherence to the eight core strategies will aid the Court in complying with the terms of the MOA.

DETENTION ASSESSMENT TOOL

Developing and using a detention assessment tool (DAT) or risk assessment instrument is one of the eight core strategies of JDAI. The DAT is an objective decision-making tool designed to determine whether to detain a youth, release a youth to community supervision, or release a youth to their parents or guardian without supervision. The DAT indicates whether a youth is a high, medium or low risk of committing another offense before adjudication or failing to appear in court. Using the DAT to determine which youth should be in detention is critical because detention has been shown to have a negative impact on young people.

Like the hundreds of JDAI sites across the country, the Memphis and Shelby County Juvenile Court uses a DAT. The assessment tool is used when youth are brought to the juvenile detention center. It examines a number of factors including current offense(s), prior offense history, prior failures to appear before court, and aggravating or mitigating factors. Each of these factors is assigned a point value that determines an overall score. This score identifies two risks: the public safety risk and risk of failure to appear.

DAT Scores	
Low Score (0-9)	Eligible for Release
Medium Score (10-18)	Eligible for Detention
High Score (19+)	Detain Youth

Based on the DAT score, a youth is either released to the custody of parents or other adults, placed into an alternative to detention program or admitted to the juvenile detention center. The JDAI Governing Committee credits the DAT as having a significant role in the almost 50% reduction in detention admissions between 2005 and 2011. In 2005, there were 10,366 youth admitted to detention and by 2011 the number of admissions dropped to 5,249. Furthermore, more than half of the 5,249 youth admitted to detention in 2011 were released within 24 hours. There were 3,556 youth released within 24 hours in 2011. This data indicates that more than two-thirds or 68% of the youth did not to present significant risk of re-offending or failing to appear in court.

JDAI Model Site Visits

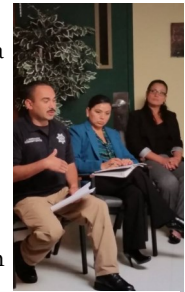
As part of JDAI, members of the Governing Committee visit JDAI model sites. There are five model sites: Bernalillo County, New Mexico; Santa Cruz, California; Multnomah County, Oregon; Cook County, Illinois; and the State of New Jersey. A model visit provides valuable peer-to-peer learning opportunities for new JDAI jurisdictions. Model sites allow visiting delegations an opportunity to observe and discuss the implementation of JDAI core strategies. Members of the Governing Committee visited two model sites: Cook County, Illinois and Santa Cruz, California.

In 2013, the Memphis and Shelby County Governing Committee sent a team to visit the model site in Cook County, Illinois. The delegation included Cheryl Beard, Debbie Fessenden, Felicia Hogan, Jerry Maness, Ronald Pope, Lisa Hill, Larry Scroggs, Marvin Chaney, Mike Warr, Robert Stanley, Sharon Paige, Tom Coupe, Tracy Wolfe, Willie Walton, Mamie Jones and Marilyn Hobbs. The delegation learned a lot during the visit. "The most impressive part of the visit was how well the different departments worked together," said Ronald Pope. "The services provided are in depth and all encompassing. I liked that the Juvenile Court controlled its own money and I liked the evening reporting center because it keeps kids off the streets and provides them with pro-social skills."



Kimrell Owens, JDAI Site Coordinator, and Lisa Hill, DMC Coordinator, recently visited the model site in Santa Cruz, California. Santa Cruz implemented JDAI in 1997 and their detention population dropped by 60% between 1996 to 2013. The Santa Cruz Probation Department reallocated funds to create more alternatives to detention programs.

Lisa Hill said, "Santa Cruz is an excellent example of how a detention center embraced change to develop a detention facility that is not run in the traditional way. The facility does not have the typical correctional atmosphere; rather, the detention center had a warm and welcoming environment filled with a lot of natural light, open spaces, and books."



Representatives from Barrios Unidos, BASTA, and Aztecas

VOICES from the Field — Minister Joe "Uncle Joe" Hunter

Minister Joe Hunter is known to most people as "Uncle Joe." He was also one of the first members of the JDAI Governing Committee and serves as a member of the Alternatives to Detention Subcommittee.



Uncle Joe is a native of Detroit, MI. He believes is doing the work he has been called by God to do, which is to preach and teach the gospel of Jesus

Christ to everyone he meets. He also has a special gift from God, which is the ability to work with youth.

For several years, Uncle Joe served as youth pastor in Memphis. He is known as "Uncle Joe" to hundreds of young people. He is Founder and Director of G.A.N.G., Inc. (Gospel At New Generation, Inc.), a youth enrichment ministry held at the North Frasier Community Center. Through

G.A.N.G., Inc. he mentors young people involved in gangs from Memphis and Shelby County. He also volunteers as a mentor to juvenile offenders at the Memphis & Shelby County Juvenile Detention Center.

G.A.N.G., Inc. is a year round youth enrichment ministry. It provides an alternative from joining street gangs and from being involved in drugs, sex, and violence for young people ages 12-18. G.A.N.G., Inc. provides free tutoring, mentoring and recreational activities in a safe environment.

Uncle Joe is excited about the work of the JDAI Governing Committee. "After working in youth enrichment for over ten years and trying to get people to work together in Memphis, I have great expectations of what we as a community can do," said Minister Hunter. "Together, through the JDAI, we can assist our youth to become productive citizens in our community."

Uncle Joe has made a tremendous impact in the community and on the lives of young people. To the left, Uncle Joe is pictured above with two former gang members. They are wheelchair bound and mentors at G.A.N.G., Inc.

Uncle Joe believes: ***"We must go where they are in order to reach them, teach them, and show them love."***



*Minister Joe "Uncle Joe" Hunter
Alternatives to Detention Committee
Memphis-Shelby County JDAI*

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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.

Memphis-Shelby JDAI	Schedule of Events
<p>Executive Committee <u>Chair:</u> Cheryl Beard Larry Scroggs Dini Malone Gary Cummings Marilyn Hobbs John Hall</p> <p>Governing Committee <u>Chair:</u> Cheryl Beard</p> <p>Subcommittees and Chairs <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"> • November 15, 2014: Teen Up 901 Webcast, Benjamin Hooks Library • November 20, 2014: Memphis and Shelby County Governing Committee meeting • November 21, 2014: S.O.L.I.D.'s Annual Loving thy Neighbor Event, Benjamin Hooks Library • November 22, 2014: 2nd Annual Turkey Giveaway, Hollywood Community Center • December 6, 2014: Hickory Hill Community Redevelopment Corporation Present Real Talk Session -- Love and Hip Hop, The Remix, Hickory Ridge Mall Towne Centre • December 9, 2014: Job Fair, Community Resources, and Adult Education, Hickory Ridge Towne Centre • December 12-18, 2014: Singing Christmas Tree, Bellevue Baptist Church

A Word from the Court - Gary Cummings

Gary Cummings is the Administrator of the Detention Center for Memphis and Shelby County Juvenile Court. Mr. Cummings has worked for Juvenile Court since 1991 and he knows his way around the detention center. He has worked in almost every position as he has been a probation counselor, supervisor, assistant manager, and manager. In 2006, Judge Curtis S. Person appointed Mr. Cummings to the Deputy Administrator position and then the Administrator position in 2012. "Being appointed Administrator of the detention center was the proudest moment of my career," said Gary Cummings. He has devoted much of his life to working with youth. Judge Michael reappointed Mr. Cummings to the Administrator position in 2014.



*Gary Cummings,
 Detention Administrator*

Mr. Cummings has been instrumental in the JDAI process from the beginning. He is currently a member of the JDAI Governing Committee and the Co-chair of the Detention Assessment Tool Sub-committee. Mr. Cummings said that JDAI is committed to ensuring that the right youth are held in secure in detention.

JDAI relies on data to guide facility administrators in developing effective policies and procedures to protect youth in their custody. With technical assistance from JDAI team leaders, training and assessments of detention centers, facility administrators learn how to operate humane detention facilities that will help young people successfully transition back into the community. For these reasons, our juvenile justice system will be better equipped to serve and protect youth.

Under Mr. Cummings stewardship, the Detention Services Bureau is committed to following JDAI core strategies and implementing reforms in daily operations.