

What is the Bernalillo County Juvenile Justice Continuum Board?

The Bernalillo County Juvenile Justice Continuum Board (BCJJCB): BCJJCB stands for “Bernalillo County Juvenile Justice Continuum Board”. If a city or county applies for continuum funding, they are required by the New Mexico Juvenile Continuum Act to develop an Advisory Board to create and guide a continuum of services. BCJJCB is one of twenty Juvenile Justice Continuum Boards in New Mexico. Under the Juvenile Continuum Act all Continuum Boards are required to have officials and public agencies, and tribal equivalents, whose partnership in the juvenile justice continuum is statutorily required.

Required Stakeholders in the BCJJCB

- a unit of local or Tribal Government
- the Children’s Court
- the District Attorney
- the Public Defender
- a local (municipal, county, tribal) Law Enforcement agency
- the Public School district

Besides the required partners BCJJCB encourages community involvement by inviting representatives of public agencies (advocacy organizations), private nonprofit organizations, families, and youth membership to sit on the Board.

How to be an Effective BCJJCB Member

To fulfill your role of bringing adult, community and youth perspectives to juvenile justice oversight and reform efforts in your state, you need to be an effective BCJJCB member. Here are a few ways you can make the most out of your roles as member and leader of data driven practice.

Key to Effective Participation: Know the eight core strategies of Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI).

The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) is a multi-year initiative in which communities across the country create and test ways to establish more effective and efficient juvenile justice systems. The Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative is an objective process that assesses each arrestee as an individual.

Roles and Responsibilities of BCJJCB members:

- Have a strong commitment to the standards put forth by the New Mexico Children’s Court Code, as well as the values and principles of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI).
- Manage the Board through the following tasks.
 - Request and review quarterly reports.
 - Request contracts and RFP’s
 - Submit recommendations to the Chair/Continuum Coordinator for improving your county’s Juvenile Justice System.
 - Seek regular input from youth currently involved in the system and their families.
 - Award money to juvenile justice programs.
 - Request programs updates.
 - Review and monitor data regarding programs.

The Importance of Becoming a BCJJC Board Member:

- After becoming a BCJJC member, and knowledgeable about the juvenile justice system, you are well positioned to educate your Board about juvenile justice and delinquency prevention issues of importance to you, your family, your community, and your state. Individuals on the BCJJC serve a very important function to ensure that JJAC and public agency representatives understand critical concerns and the most effective responses to prevent, reduce, and treat juvenile delinquency.
- It is understandable that participating in the BCJJC may be intimidating. However, as a member who attends meetings, participates in decision-making and provides input, our members have a direct impact on our community. By maintaining the mission and vision that links the BCJJC to the community and acting to serve, strengthen, and transform the entire community BCJJC Board members are truly “community trustees”.

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act) Originally enacted in 1974, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act) is a federal law that provides delinquency prevention grants to states and localities to improve systems and practices, and to establish basic safeguards known as core requirements for states and localities to follow regarding the care and custody of youth who come into contact with the justice system.

In addition, the JJDP Act establishes a structure for citizen input and oversight of state implementation of the law’s mandates and programs; through the work of a State Advisory Group (SAG) appointed by the governor or chief executive in each jurisdiction.

The JJDP Act requires youth to serve as equal members of their SAGs along with adults. The JJDP Act also requires involvement of youth in all SAGs, to include youth who are, or have been involved in the juvenile justice system.

Four Core Requirements

The JJDP Act is perhaps best known for the four core requirements that provide safeguards for youth who come into contact with the justice system. These are also sometimes known as the four “core protections.”

1. Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders

2. Sight and Sound Separation
3. Jail Removal
4. Reduction of Disproportionate Minority Contact

Since 1974, the JJDPa has received bipartisan support in Congress. In 2002, the JJDPa was reauthorized, and has been reauthorized once again in 2018.

**Bernalillo County
Juvenile Justice Continuum Board**

Mission

The Mission of the Bernalillo County Juvenile Justice Continuum Board is to reduce the number of youth within the Juvenile Justice system through prevention, intervention, and alternative programs that empower youth, families and communities.

Vision

The Vision of the Bernalillo County Juvenile Justice Continuum Board is for an inclusive society that provides equitable access to fair, effective and timely justice for all.