

DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES

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"Together...ReShaping Young Lives"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
News Release

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**DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES ANNOUNCES CONTRACT WITH
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND FOR THE EXPANSION OF EVIDENCE
BASED SERVICES**

BALTIMORE, MD—(June 12, 2008). Secretary Donald DeVore and the Department of Juvenile Services joined by the Children Cabinet members announced a contract with the University of Maryland's Child and Adolescent Community Innovations Institute for the research and expansion of Evidence Based Services for Maryland youth today.

Two of the Evidence Bases Services that have been implemented in Maryland are Functional Family Therapy (FFT) and Multisystemic Therapy (MST). FFT is a well documented and highly successful family intervention for at-risk and juvenile justice involved youth. The major goal of FFT is to improve family communication and supportiveness while helping families adopt positive behavior change and parenting strategies. Data has shown that when applied as intended, FFT can reduce recidivism between 25-60%.

MST is an intensive family- and community-based treatment that addresses the multiple determinants of serious antisocial behavior in youth at imminent risk of out-of-home placement. The multi-systemic approach promotes behavior change in the youth's natural environment, using the strengths of each system (e.g., family, peers, school, neighborhood, indigenous support network) to facilitate change. Evaluations of MST have demonstrated reductions of 25-70% in long term rates of re-arrest for serious juvenile offenders, as well as 47-64% reductions in out-of-home placements.

The State of Maryland currently has over 550 FFT and MST slots in Maryland. The Department of Juvenile Services has increased funding almost 300% from FY07 to FY09 for these types of services, under the leadership of Secretary DeVore. "We 'get it' and we're 'doing it'", stated Secretary DeVore. "Evidence Based Services is the trend and DJS is leading the way with increased funding and availability in Maryland's communities".

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