

**FINAL CONSULTANT REPORT
TASK ORDER: VI-06-051-FG-0827**

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I had the privilege of presenting and facilitating a workshop at the OJJDP Juvenile Justice National Conference (sponsored by the Coordinating Council) in January 2006.

Approximately 110 participants were present for the workshop. Following the workshop, I was approached by Kimberley Causey Gomez, Administrator, for the US Virgin Islands Department of Children and Families. She was interested in convening a conference in the US Virgin Islands on this topic. This opportunity was explored through follow-up telephone conversations with Ms. Gomez and members of her staff. Subsequently, 2 days were planned to convene a symposium on both St. Croix and St. Thomas to address the issue of the connection between maltreatment and delinquency and the need to promote more coordination and integration between the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

On June 14, 2006 at the Divi Carina Bay Resort on St. Croix, the VI Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Symposium entitled “Strategies and Solutions for the Virgin Islands” was convened. There were 175 participants present for the symposium. I provided keynote remarks and also a training presentation on the framework that CWLA has developed to use with state and local jurisdictions to address the issues confronting improved systems coordination. This provided participants with an opportunity to understand the range of issues involved in this work and a chance to construct initial steps in their work to approach this issue. The symposium featured several legislators, an impressive array of print and media coverage, and several system leaders (including the President of the US VI Senate).

The Chief Judge for the St. Croix Family Court was also present for this event and provided luncheon remarks. I was able to meet with her at the close of the symposium and secure a commitment from her to convene a group of key leaders to further the discourse on this topic and organize a governance structure to address the issue of maltreatment and delinquency. This was a very promising development for further action resulting from this provision of technical assistance.

On June 15, 2006 at the Wyndham Sugar Bay Resort on St. Thomas, the VI Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Symposium entitled “Strategies and Solutions for the Virgin Islands” was convened. There were 140 participants present for the symposium. I provided keynote remarks and also a training presentation on the framework that CWLA has developed to use with state and local jurisdictions to address the issues confronting improved systems coordination. This provided participants with an opportunity to understand the range of issues involved in this work and a chance to construct initial steps in their work to approach this issue. As with the St. Croix symposium the previous day, the symposium featured several legislators and several system leaders. I also

participated in a special luncheon during which key leaders were able to ask questions and we were able to generate a discussion about the issues unique to St. Thomas.

The Chief of Staff for the President of the US VI Senate attended the St. Thomas event. He also participated in the luncheon discussion. He is interested in several of the examples of model legislation/statute to help guide the President in the construction of legislative reform regarding this issue in the US VI. I agreed to provide these examples. Additionally, other participants saw the need to construct a Children's Commission of Children's Board that oversees activities of all involved in youth serving work. This may be an area that will be further developed as a result of this symposium.

An evaluation was collected at each symposium event but was retained by the sponsoring staff.

There were no problems in delivering this technical assistance. Kimberley Gomez and her staff did an outstanding job of making full use of my time and consultation and organized the symposia to ensure maximum opportunities to meet with key personnel and discuss in detail next steps and critical issues.