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## **Iowa Girls Justice Initiative** September 2015 – February 2017

The Iowa Girls Justice Initiative (IGJI) seeks to both develop and coordinate implementation of an innovative, viable and effective plan for services to and supervision of young women who are involved in the juvenile justice system at the deepest levels.

This project is made possible by an innovation award from OJJDP's National Girls Initiative. The Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) partnered with the Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (Friends) to make this successful proposal.

The Iowa Task Force for Young Women (ITFYW), which is a sub-committee of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council, will serve as the collaborative group for the IGJI. The ITFYW will expand its existing membership to include a broader range of juvenile justice system officials and stakeholders for the purpose of planning for the needs of females under juvenile court jurisdiction who are high risk and/or high need and likely exhibit the delinquent histories, behavior, prior unsuccessful placements and/or risk to public safety that would have made them eligible for placement in a state training school setting according to Iowa Code.

It will be the function of the ITFYW, with staff support from CJJP to facilitate this planning using the expertise of its expanded membership in consultation with national experts and through available technical assistance. The end result will be an effective, female-responsive plan for services that has not previously existed in Iowa. The IGJI is also intended to assist with the coordination and initial implementation of this resulting innovative plan for services as it is integrated within Iowa's broader system of care.

### Goals, Objective and Activities of IGJI

**GOAL 1:** Establish an accurate, current and complete picture of the services, needs and gaps pertaining to high risk and/or high need juvenile female offenders.

**Objective 1:** Conduct a gap analysis.

**Activity:** Collect information on services currently in use.

**Activity:** Review recent studies/reports for relevant findings and recommendations.

**Activity:** Collect relevant data from available sources.

**Activity:** Outline barriers that exist within the current system.

### Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning

**GOAL 2:** Provide a structure to develop a process to objectively analyze the current effectiveness of services for deep-end female juvenile offenders, and identify strategies to improve the level of care, the effectiveness, and the quality of services for young women under juvenile court jurisdiction that is proportionally equivalent in resources to the same level of care afforded to male juvenile offenders with similar risks and needs.

**Objective 1:** Augment existing capacity for the project.

**Activity:** Expand membership of the ITFYW.

**Activity:** Hire a qualified project facilitator.

**Activity:** Initialize the process for selecting national experts.

**Objective 2:** Conduct the planning process.

**Activity:** Expand ITFYW meeting schedule.

**Activity:** Schedule consultations from national expert(s).

**Activity:** Gather youth input.

**Activity:** Complete written plan for services.

**GOAL 3:** Integrate the female and culturally responsive, trauma-informed care, strength-based, and developmentally appropriate plan for services into the existing system.

**Objective 1:** Coordinate the implementation of the plan for services.

**Activity:** Assist with operationalizing the plan for services.

**Activity:** Facilitate training and technical assistance for relevant personnel.