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# Report Highlights

## Monitoring of Prevention and Diversion Contract Providers *Office of Juvenile Justice*

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### Why We Conducted This Audit

We conducted this audit to evaluate whether the Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ) effectively monitors prevention and diversion contract providers. The purpose of prevention and diversion programs is to help prevent youth from entering into the juvenile justice system. These youth are typically charged with a misdemeanor crime or have received behavioral citations and been recommended by either their school or the courts for placement into a prevention and diversion program.

### What We Found

Overall, we found that OJJ does not effectively monitor prevention and diversion contract providers. We found that:

- OJJ cannot ensure that its program specialists are adequately monitoring the specific services of each contract provider. While OJJ has developed a standardized monitoring tool, this tool is not specific to each type of prevention and diversion program.
- OJJ does not ensure providers submit annual reports showing their performance in specific areas as required by their contracts. For fiscal year 2013, only 30 (71%) of the 42 providers submitted an annual report and of the 30, 26 (87%) were incomplete. These annual reports contain performance and outcome information such as the number of youth who successfully completed the program and the number of youth who did not enter the juvenile justice system at 6, 12, and 18 months following completion of the program. Without complete information, OJJ cannot monitor the performance of prevention and diversion providers.
- OJJ does not evaluate the effectiveness of prevention and diversion programs as required by state law. From fiscal year 2013 to fiscal year 2014, OJJ decreased its prevention and diversion contracts by 57% (from 42 to 18) without evaluating which programs were the most effective. As can be seen in the exhibit at right, OJJ did not renew six (60%) of the 10 programs with the lowest entry rate into the juvenile justice system for fiscal year 2014; two of which had a 0% entry rate.

#### Ten Lowest One-Year Entry Rates\* Fiscal Year 2012 Prevention and Diversion Programs

<b>0.00%</b> <b>15th Judicial District Court</b> Families in Need of Services (FINS) Family Empowerment Counseling	<b>4.00%</b> <b>31st Judicial District Court**</b> FINS
<b>0.00%</b> <b>Calcasieu Police Jury**</b> Calcasieu Juvenile Mental Health Community Treatment Program	<b>4.04%</b> <b>Youth Service Bureau of St. Tammany**</b> FINS
<b>0.00%</b> <b>32nd Judicial District Attorney's Office**</b> Family Services Unit - Youth Intervention Program	<b>4.65%</b> <b>Rutherford House, Inc.</b> Caddo Adolescent Truancy Center and Misdemeanor Referral Center
<b>0.74%</b> <b>Sabine Parish School Board</b> PALS After-School and Summer Program	
<b>1.43%</b> <b>Caddo Parish Commission**</b> Restorative Justice	
<b>2.38%</b> <b>Ron Anderson, LLC**</b> Project Reclaim	
<b>3.79%</b> <b>Lafayette Teen Court, Inc.</b> Family and Adolescents Services Program - Life Skills	

\* The one-year entry rate measures the percentage of youth who completed a prevention and diversion program during fiscal year 2012 and had entered into the state juvenile justice system by the end of fiscal year 2013 (June 30, 2013).

\*\*Indicates providers who were not renewed for fiscal year 2014.

**Source:** Prepared by legislative auditor's staff using information from the 26 (out of 59) fiscal year 2012 prevention and diversion providers who provided complete information.