

**Criminal Justice Planning Agency**  
Office of the Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**FY 2019-2021 Three Year State Plan Update**  
***UPDATED AS OF 11.21.2022***

**US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs,**  
**Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**  
**2021 Title II Formula Grant Application**

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## **Introduction**

- The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) was established in 1980 under the Office of the Governor through Executive Order No. 16 which created the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System. On November 20, 1998 pursuant to Public Law 11-47, CJPA's Councils and authorities were created by law. The Criminal Justice Planning Agency was established as the staff of the Supervisory Council, to function in a manner consistent with the Constitution and Laws of the Commonwealth and tasked to comply with the Federal Omnibus Crime Control and Safety Street Act of 1968, as amended, and other related Federal Laws. The Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the improvement of the Criminal Justice System, also known as the CJ PA Supervisory Council, serves as the “Supervisory Body” for the administration of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) grant programs for the CNMI and as a mechanism for cooperative action among the various law enforcement and criminal justice agencies and related community programs in the CNMI.
  
- ***Goals and Objectives.*** The Criminal Justice Planning Agency is committed to providing service to the public and community programs by securing federal funds on critical justice needs under the direction of the Governor, Supervisory Council and State Advisory Council. CJPA currently functions in a manner to achieve the following goals and objectives:
  1. To successfully administer federal programs relating to the CNMI criminal justice system by preparing and developing annual state plan applications for federal funds that will benefit the CNMI criminal justice system and monitoring and evaluating criminal justice programs and projects funded under CJ PA administered programs.

2. To advise and assist the Governor in developing policies, plans, programs and budgets for improving the coordination, administration, and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in the Commonwealth.
3. To encourage comprehensive justice planning efforts.
4. To monitor, evaluate and coordinate programs and projects, funded in whole or in part by the Commonwealth Government, aimed at reducing crime and juvenile delinquency and improving the administration of justice.
5. To apply for, contract, receive and expend for its purposes any appropriations or grants from the Commonwealth, the Federal Government, or any other source, public, or private, in accordance with the appropriate process.
6. To collect from any Commonwealth department, agency, instrumentality, office, or other entity, information data, reports, statistics or such other material which is necessary to carry out the Council's or Agency's functions.

- ***Authority as the Territory Designated State Agency (DSA).*** Pursuant to CNMI Executive Order No. 2010-07, the Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) is the designated state agency to administer Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act grants, and is required to monitor compliance with the Core Protection Requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Under CNMI Executive Order No. 2010-07 CJPA's authority to implement such a plan is not specifically stated. CJPA is coordinating with its Executive Office (CNMI Office of the Governor) to revise the executive order to add a provision that CJPA (CNMI's DSA) will have the authority to implement such a plan.

### **CNMI's State Advisory Group**

- The CNMI's SAG (State Advisory Group) functions as a committee consisting of council members appointed by the CNMI Governor. The SAG reviews grant packages prepared by the CJPA staff that consist of all applications from sub-grantees or new applicants who outline their proposals and project goals that support the best interests in CNMI's youth community and adhere to OJJDP guidelines. The key responsibilities and functions of CNMI's SAG are detailed as follows: **A)** to advise the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the improvement of the Criminal Justice System and the

Criminal Justice Planning Agency on all issues relating to the improvement of the juvenile justice system and its services to youth in the CNMI; **B)** to advise the CNMI Governor and the CNMI Legislature on issues of concern to juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, including the activities of the Advisory Council and to issue annual reports on the status of the CNMI's compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act mandates; **C)** To review and comment on all sub-grantee applications for the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (hereinafter referred to as the JJDP Act) grant funds; **D)** To participate in the development and review/approval of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention portion of the comprehensive state plan and its annual update; **E)** To seek annual input from juveniles currently under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system; and **F)** To review progress and accomplishments of programs funded with the JJDP Act grant funds. It should be noted that The CNMI SAG Bylaws were written in 2010 and the CNMI is in the process of updating its bylaws to include language that references a coordinating body for Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED).

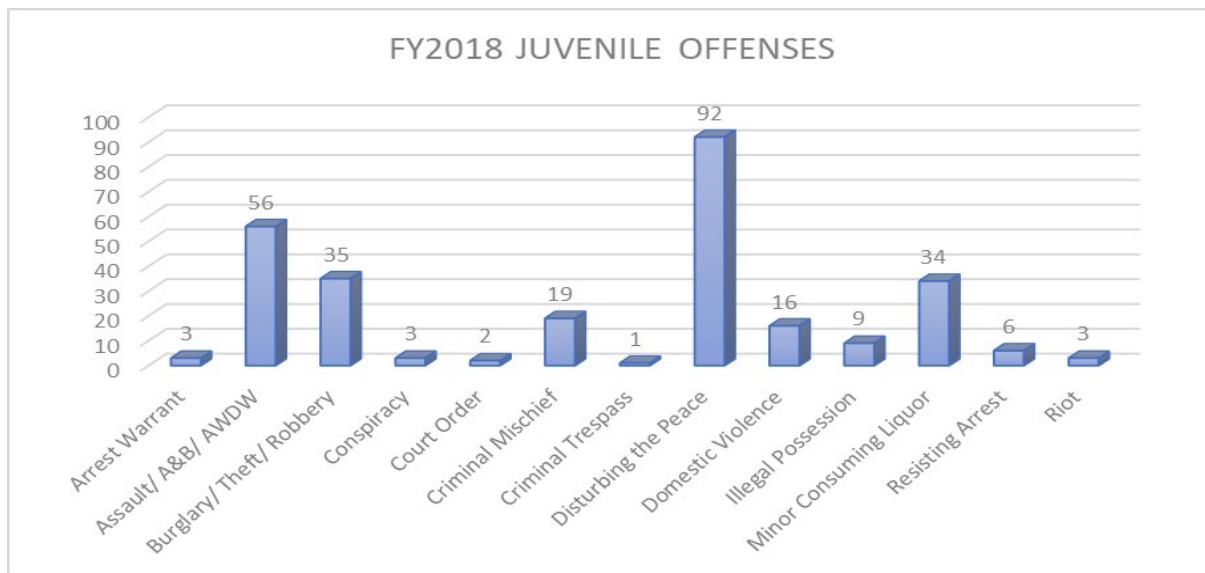
- The 2021 State Advisory Group (SAG) is composed of members who hold positions in various areas of government. As of 2021, there are 16 members under CNMI's SAG. The latest SAG roster is composed of individuals who represent a multitude of Professions, all of which play a key role in the realm of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention. These professions include the following: A Member of the CNMI Legislature, a School Mental Health Director, a Family Court Manager, a School Counselor, a Juvenile Probation Supervisor, a Victim Advocate, a Community Guidance Center Director, a Fiscal Specialist and Child Protective Services Staff.
- The most recent CNMI SAG roster is attached here [[CNMI FY 21 SAG Roster](#)]. Contact with SAG members listed on the most recent roster (2021) has been difficult. A majority of members have been unreachable (phone, emails, etc. are not correct). CJPA continues attempts to reach out to the SAG members as listed but believes it is best to review and revise membership requirements to reflect current requirements per the JJRA and seek new members. CJPA will then work with CNMI's Appointing Authority to reestablish the SAG, filling vacancies for those members we have been unable to contact or who are

reluctant to remain as a SAG member. All new appointments will be in compliance with membership requirements as stated in **Section 223(a)(3)(A0-(B)(v)**.

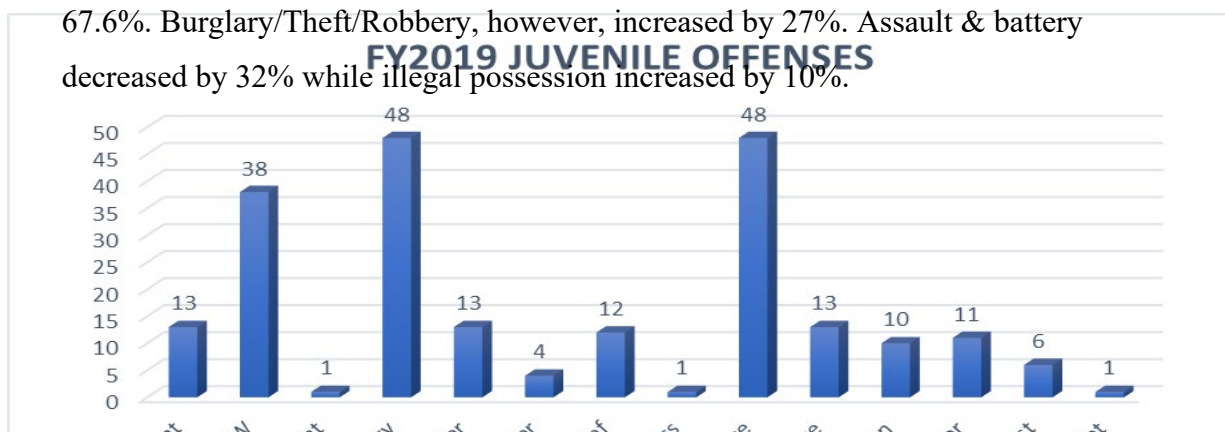
- As mentioned above, our SAG membership is largely unreachable and appears to have been inactive for an extended period. Completion of the three-year plan was primarily done by CJPA's Program Manager for OJJDP Funding (JJ Specialist) and Grants Financial Analyst by reaching out to other government/non-government agencies for information and assistance with three-year plan content.
- When the SAG membership has been reconstructed the following tasks will be prioritized on meeting agendas to be acted upon on and in order to allow CNMI's SAG to be revived in full activeness and functionality:
  - Bring the current three-year plan to the committee's attention for review and discussion. Necessary changes will be made following that process and submitted to OJJDP. CJPA will also develop an annual schedule of SAG meetings which will include meetings for SAG participation in future three-year plan development and annual reviews.
  - CJPA will work with newly appointed SAG to review their Bylaws and add the 45 day requirement for SAG review and comment of Title II applications submitted to the DSA.
  - CJPA will work with the SAG to develop the process that will be used to get such regular contact and input from juvenile justice involved juveniles.
  - CJPA will work with the SAG to develop the process and timing for SAG review of progress and accomplishment of Title II-funded programs.
  - Discuss an action plan to meet the requirement for active consultation with and participation of units of local government or combinations thereof in the development of the state/territory plan. This plan development will be added to the SAG Bylaws and reflected under duties of the SAG.
  - Discussion with the SAG to determine how to provide for equitable distribution of the assistance received under section 222 [34 U.S.C. § 11132] within CNMI.

## Territory's Analysis of Juvenile Delinquency and Findings

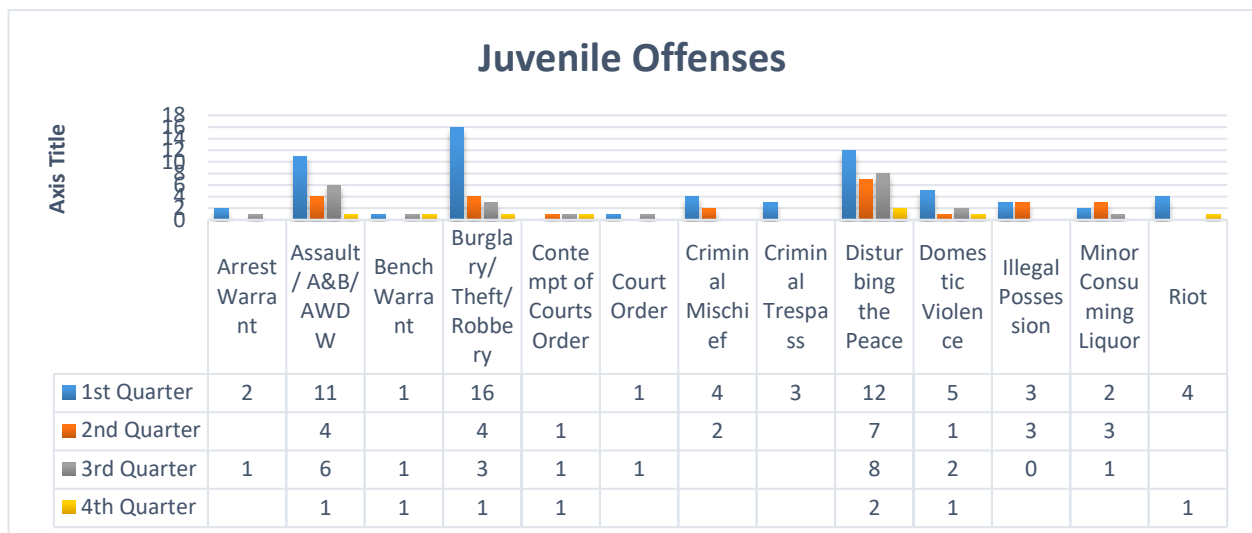
- **Arrests, Booking, Probation:** Juvenile arrests are done by CNMI's Dept. of Public Safety. Booking and Intake process of arrested juvenile biography are done by the Department of Corrections together with detention and confinement in the corrections facility. The Department of Youth Services Juvenile Probation Unit oversees juveniles released on conditions of probation.
- **Year 2018 findings:** shift in the trends of most prevalent crimes being committed by Juveniles. There has been a change in the top crimes from disturbing the peace and possession of substances to assault and battery and theft. Disturbing the peace decreased by 10.6% compared to 2017. Minors consuming alcohol, which was the next highest number of offenses committed in 2017, decreased by 58%. The third most common offense committed in 2017, Burglary/theft/robbery, decreased by 51.3%. Assault & battery dropped by 17.6% while illegal possession dropped by 78%.



- **Year 2019 findings:** The trend continues for the top Juvenile Crimes in the CNMI. Disturbing the peace decreased by 47.8%. Minors consuming alcohol decreased by 67.6%. Burglary/Theft/Robbery, however, increased by 27%. Assault & battery decreased by 32% while illegal possession increased by 10%.



- **Year 2020 findings:** In 2020, The beginning of the year the numbers of offenses are higher and slowly dropping towards the middle/ending part of the year for the Juvenile Crimes in the CNMI.



- In addition the findings listed out in this Three-Year State Plan, CNMI has identified several critical needs listed below here:
  - Need for CNMI to establish a centralized information hub that will provide ease of access to information and statistics.
  - Need for CNMI’s designated state agency (DSA) to rebuild its State Advisory Group by establishing sound communication with the existing active members as well as updating all regulating policies/procedures to reflect the 2018 JJDP provisions and OJJDP SAG guidelines.

- Need funding to implement juvenile gender-specific services. Many government agencies provide gender-inclusive services instead.
- Need for services that are in line with the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency in rural areas.
- Need for mental health services to youths in the juvenile justice systems.
- Need the establishment of coalition or task force that is structured to the prevention, screening, and investigation of juvenile human trafficking crimes and that develops an assistance need plan for victims of such crimes.

### **Core Entities and their Services**

- Throughout the creation of this State Plan, CJPA had identified a number of key entities (government agencies/department/organizations/establishments, etc.) who all provide distinct services that youth clients can avail to, assist in reshaping the juvenile justice system in improved ways and actions, and may have coordinate a partnership with one another to achieve the best results for their clients. Those entities along with further details on their services and purpose are listed below:
  1. **CNMI's Division of Youth Services (DYS):** **DYS** is a CNMI government entity whose services center around providing essential services through various programs catered to the improvement of youth welfare, family growth, sheltering, and juvenile probation.
    - A
    - Have gender-inclusive services.
    - Works closely with the CNMI Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC), who offer teen pregnancy and parenting services to juvenile females. Other programs under **DYS** and those under CNMI Systems of Care (SOC) offer gender-inclusive services, not specific to a single gender
    - The CNMI is relatively small compared to Puerto Rico and the 50 states in the U.S. Mainland. CNMI's composition is that there are no towns, cities or counties. Rather, the CNMI—which comprises the islands of



Saipan, Rota and Tinian—has multiple villages on each island. There are programs administered by DYS that cater to youth through offering intervention services.

- Provide youth intervention services
2. **Department of Corrections (DOC):** The main and single correctional facility in the CNMI where adult inmates and juveniles in detention are confined in, either awaiting court appearance or serving their sentence. A separate section inside DOC that is collocated in the facility is the Juvenile Detention Unit (JDU) that confines all juveniles who are detained after arrests awaiting for court hearings or those who are serving a sentence.
  3. **CNMI Public School System (PSS):** CNMI's primary educational providing entity. PSS offers relevant programs such as Early Intervention, Cooperative Education and its Incarcerated Youth Program.
    - Works in collaboration with CHCC's System of Care (SOC) Mental Health team of the CNMI's Public School System (PSS) for school-based peer support
  4. **Commonwealth Healthcare Community (CHCC):** CNMI's primary healthcare provider for in-patient and out-patient clients. CHCC provides a long range of health care services that CNMI residents can avail to depending on specific needs.
    - Based on the FY October 01, 2020 - September 30, 2021, male juveniles accounted for 89% of arrests made. Although there are female-specific services, such as pregnancy and parenting services offered by the CNMI's Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC), other programs such as the CNMI's Systems of Care offer gender-inclusive services which are not specific to a single gender.
    - Have gender-inclusive services.
  5. **Community Guidance Center (CGC):** is the primary provider of mental and behavioral health services in the CNMI, offering comprehensive services for children, adolescents, adults, and elderly people living with emotional, behavioral, or substance abuse-related issues.

- Have gender-inclusive services.
  - Systems of Care, for instance, offer services focused on family engagement and family development collaboration.
  - Works closely with the CNMI Division of Youth Services (DYS), through who teen pregnancy and parenting services to juvenile females.
  - Provide youth intervention services
6. The CNMI Department of Public Safety: The local police department of the CNMI performs general policing responsibilities and law enforcement actions around the community.

### **Compliance with 2018 JJRA Core Requirements (CMM & R/ED PLAN)**

- In the past years, CNMI's DSA, the Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) had gone through an audit by OJJDP that was conducted in 2017. As a result of that audit there were key findings and critical items that CJPA needed to comply and revise its existing Compliance Monitoring Manual (CMM) to meet essential requirements. See the audit report here ([Audit Report](#))
- As of 2022, CJPA's new OJJDP Title II Program Coordinator with the assistance of CJPA's Grants Financial Analyst had worked diligently and effortlessly during their starting months of employment to achieve an updated and efficient Compliance Monitoring Manual. See the most current version of the CMM here ([2022 CNMI CMM](#)).
- In a similar circumstance, As of 2022, CJPA's new OJJDP Title II Program Coordinator with the assistance of CJPA's Grants Financial Analyst had worked diligently and effortlessly to develop an updated Racial & Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) Plan. With inconsistencies and errors found on the previous RED Plans submitted for FY19 and FY20, CJPA took the initiative to seek out assistance and guidance from CCAS staff to reach the goal of producing an updated, accurate, and quality R/ED Plan. See the most current version of the R/ED Plan here ([2022 CNMI R/ED Plan](#))

## Territory Various Plans and Compliance

- ***Gender specific services.***
  - There are a few agencies identified in the CNMI that offer gender-specific programs for youth. For example, the CNMI Division of Youth Services (DYS) works closely with the CNMI Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC), who offer teen pregnancy and parenting services to juvenile females. Other programs under DYS and those under CNMI Systems of Care (SOC) offer gender-inclusive services, not specific to a single gender.
- ***Plan for Prevention and Treatment of Juvenile Delinquency in Rural Areas.***
  - The CNMI is relatively small compared to Puerto Rico and the 50 states in the U.S. Mainland. CNMI's composition is that there are no towns, cities or counties. Rather, the CNMI—which comprises the islands of Saipan, Rota and Tinian—has multiple villages on each island. There are programs administered by community service-focused departments (such as the Division of Youth Services and Systems of Care) that cater to youth through offering intervention services. Systems of Care, for instance, offer services focused on family engagement and family development collaboration.
- ***Plan for Alternatives to Juvenile Detention***
  - Government entities/agencies/departments (**examples identified in this response**) that work closely within the juvenile justice system or who provide services to mainly youth (minor) clients all impact one way or another to the general youth, youth who are in juvenile detention, or youth under juvenile probation supervision.
  - The CNMI has programs in place that cater to juvenile status offenders. The CNMI Division of Youth Services (DYS) and Systems of Care (SOC), for instance, provide intervention services to youth in the CNMI. The goal of SOC is to improve mental health outcomes for youth and their families. SOC works with the Mental Health team of the CNMI's Public School System (PSS) for school-based peer support. DYS works with SOC by referring juveniles for intervention. Both DYS and SOC compile data that

helps with analyzing data at the end of the year. It is hoped that these services, especially services by SOC and the Public School System help to curtail juveniles away from detention. The end goal being to help keep juveniles out of contact with the justice system and have them re-enter as contributing members of society. The CNMI PSS, for instance, has instructors that teach incarcerated juveniles so that when they re-enter the public school system that their credits are counted back toward their education, allowing them to complete their education and hopefully have them employed as contributing members of the community.

- ***Plan for Juveniles in Detention Awaiting Placement in Residential Treatment Programs***

- Currently, at the Department of Corrections (DOC) CNMI's only secure detention center, the juvenile detention population is at a very minimal scale. The CNMI DYS works with Youth Empowerment Solutions (YES) to provide counseling for juveniles under probation. Although DOC's primary responsibility is the safety, security over juveniles in secured detention, specialized services for welfare will be coordinated with partnering agencies such as the Department of Youth Services.

- ***Plan for Family Engagement with Juveniles***

- The CNMI has departments and agencies that work together, such as Systems of Care (SOC) under the Community Guidance Center (CGC), that spread awareness by conducting outreach events and providing brochures, pamphlets, and other means of public information to youth and their families so they can be aware of their services.
- The Department of Youth Services Juvenile Probation Unit (DYS JPU) works closely with their assigned juvenile clients from the juvenile's time in detention, appearance in court, attendance during programs and other services that are deemed necessary to the juvenile supported by court order.

- Regarding to the subject of post-placement, DYS JPU has a set of standard practices (see listing after this bullet point) that help prepare juvenile clients (juvenile probationers) for re- entering society from juvenile detention.
  - **Ongoing education:** DYS JPU connects with the CNMI PSS Incarcerated Instructor to ensure the juvenile transitions out to their home school with ease. DYS provides clothing, shoes, backpack, school supplies or vouchers to parents to help prepare them for school. Assist w/ required immunization updates.
  - **Employment:** If client is unemployed DYS connects them to CNMI's DOL-WIOA or DOL-Employment Services to register and seek employment with monthly follow-ups from us.
  - **Counseling:** Ensure necessary counseling sessions are completed. Most counseling agencies do follow-ups in 3 months (approx.) after they've been discharged. Partnering counseling agencies such as CGC-Systems of Care, CGC-Healthy Transition and Youth Empowerment Solutions have expanded their case management to include assisting our clients seek employment or further their education as their goal.
  - **Other Programs:** Connect clients to CNMI DYS-Family Youth Enhancement Programs (FYEP); avail of group counseling for various programs (Matrix, Botvin, ART), family counseling, parenting class, Volunteer, and encourage involvement in our outreach or any DYS community activities.
  - **Housing situation:** Ensure housing for the juvenile to reside in is safe, drug and alcohol free. For juveniles 18 years of age, we encourage or assist them with applying for housing through NMHC.
  - **Independent Living Transition to learn life skills:** Connect clients under the IEP/SPED program who are 18 years to register.

- **Medical Insurance:** Ensure client is insured and assist with Medicaid process if qualified.
  - **Transportation:** Provide transport or issue bus tickets to assist with any school, employment, medical, counseling and DYS function.
- ***Plan to utilize community-based services for at-risk youth and juveniles***
  - The CNMI Division of Youth Services (DYS) refers youth who are considered at-risk of serious emotional disturbances to Systems of Care (SOC) under the CGC. SOC in turn compiles data such as demographic information in order to determine the effectiveness of services to youth. The types of services SOC provides are: 1) Wraparound Care 2) Youth and Family Therapy 3) Youth Peer Support (Natural Helpers) 4) Outreach (Suicide Prevention, Youth Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention).
- ***Plan for development of adequate research training, and evaluation capacity***
  - Within the CNMI, various key agencies have distinctive roles that impact the juvenile justice system and to address juvenile delinquency prevention. It is to be noted that there is no one single entity that notable key agencies in the CNMI that work to improve and take on challenges toward the juvenile justice system are:
    - Department of Public Safety (DPS)
    - Department of Corrections (DOC)
    - Department of Youth Services (DYS)
    - CNMI Youth Affairs Office
    - Commonwealth Healthcare Center (CHCC)
    - CHCC Community Guidance Center (CGC)
    - CNMI Public School System (PSS)
  - At one point in previous years, CNMI's DSA, the Criminal Justice Planning Agency had a position close to a Statistical Analyst but throughout the following years, funding for that position gradually decreased leaving CJPA without a Statistical Analyst.

## **Identifying Health Screening and Substance Abuse Screening Services**

- Mental health and substance abuse screening are available for juveniles through various avenues. Whether it is a juvenile in secured detention, a juvenile released on probation conditions, or even youth from the community who has never been through the juvenile justice system, health screening services are available to them. Incarcerated youths avail the services through notifying the Juvenile Detention Unit Officers of the CNMI Department of Corrections of their needs and would often involve the recommendations from the juvenile's legal counsel. From there, the officers will coordinate with the CNMI Division of Youth Services (DYS) to loop in other partnering agencies. Youth who are released under probation conditions will confide with the DYS Juvenile Probation as the network entity to coordinate with partnering agencies to achieve locating the best suitable mental health or substance abuse treatment screening services.
- In the CNMI, the main health care facility, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation have a range of services through programs under the Community Guidance Center and other specialized programs that prioritize mental and behavior health, youth suicide prevention, substance abuse treatment, and youth mental health

## **Identifying Screening methods for victims of domestic human trafficking**

- As human trafficking is a complicated and serious crime to address in many states and territories, the CNMI does provide relevant services and needs to such victims of the crime.
- One example is evident in the services provided by CNMI's Karidat Human Trafficking Program. The program is funded through a DOJ grant that allows Karidat Advocates to perform casework and aid victims of human trafficking.
  - Clients are pre-certified through an attorney (cases either originate from various CNMI law firms, Pacific Ombudsman for Humanitarian Law, or the Micronesian Legal Services). Referrals are addressed to Karidat's Director who then assigns the casework to staff, beginning the start of an intake and then the locating appropriate services and needs for the client(s). General services include: Food assistance, Rental assistance, Transportation, and Medical assistance.

- In the past, there used to be the CNMI Human Trafficking Intervention Coalition that consisted of various agency representatives from all over the Commonwealth. The main objectives and goals of the Coalition was to assess the essential needs of trafficked youth, coordinate assistance with state/federal partners, and important raise awareness of the need to identify trafficked youth. See the 2008 assessment [here](#).

### **Conclusion**

- This reaches the conclusion of CNMI's updated 3 Year State Plan. Drafting, updating, and completion of the 3 Year State Plan would not have been possible through the assistance of DOJ, OJP, OJJDP, CCAS, and CNMI's partnering entities.
- It should be noted that, in reference to CNMI's response to the [33 Requirements](#) there a number of requirements left pending with a response. CNMI's DSA, the Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) assures that appropriate communication with the respective entity point of contact has been made with a request of information. As soon as CJPA receives feedback and responses from said entities, content on the 3 Year State Plan will be amended and OJJDP will be notified accordingly.