165th International Senior Seminar

Panel on Juvenile Justice and the United Nations Standards and Norms
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How the United States Tries to Comply

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The Good and the Bad

• The Bad
  • Most justice professionals and legislators in the United States know little or nothing about the:
    • United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules)
    • United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines)
    • United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty
    • Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System
    • Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

• The Not So Bad
  • The United States has several sets of standards and laws that address just about every aspect of juvenile justice
    • For the most part they are detailed, measurable and monitored
• The Commission on Accreditation for Corrections (CAC) is the official accrediting body of the American Correctional Association. Created in 1974, the Commission is the official arbiter of accreditation status for all facilities and agencies. 1,400 Facilities Accreditated.

• Standards
  • Standards for Juvenile Probation & Aftercare
  • Performance Based Standards for Juvenile Correctional Facilities
  • Standards for Juvenile Day Treatment
  • Standards for Juvenile Detention Facilities
  • Standards for Small Juvenile Detention Facilities
  • Standards for Juvenile Boot Camp Programs
  • Standards for Juvenile Community Residential Facilities

ACA Standard and Accreditation

• Standards are evidenced-based
  • Standards are developed and field tested and continuously updated
  • Auditors are trained and tested
    • Most have an extensive background
  • Facility must show documentation to prove standards are complied with
    • Most facilities have a standards or accreditation manager or facilitator
  • Auditors visit facility, tour, review documentation, visit with staff and inmates
  • Auditor reports are reviewed and accreditation can only be awarded after the facility goes before a review panel
  • Accreditation lasts 3 years and the renewal process includes a full inspection

• Courts, legislatures, media and NGOs follow the accreditation process and use standards to judge the facilities and treatment of offenders

• Applicable standards of health, safety, educational and professional organizations must also be complied with
Making the U.N. Standards Measurable
Questions – Comments

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