

**AN EVALUATION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION OF INDIGENT
DEFENSE'S HOLISTIC REENTRY PROJECT IN
RICHLAND COUNTY**

**FUNDED BY THE JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY BLOCK
GRANT ADMINISTERED BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

**FINAL REPORT FOR GRANT YEAR 2016-2017 PREPARED BY
SYSTEM WIDE SOLUTIONS, INC**

October 25, 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There are two primary purposes for the Holistic Reentry Project. The first is to reduce recidivism and therefore disproportionate minority contact among Richland County youth with the juvenile justice system. The target population is minority youth that have been incarcerated in Richland County for at least ten days after being adjudicated delinquent in the Richland County Family Court. The project provides holistic reentry services to improve the outcomes of targeted youth who are returning to their communities after serving a period of secure confinement. The project has client level and program level goals including improved outcomes for the youth and sustainability, expansion and dissemination of the project.

The second purpose is to demonstrate that this type of intervention can be successful, to communicate that success and the methods for achieving that success to others and to support continuation of the program in Richland County and replication of the program elsewhere.

The project is using social case work methods to support the clients and their families and to access the community resources needed by both. This is a difficult process, impeded by two major barriers. First, the clients and their families have little resource of their own and a reluctance to make investments of time and energy they are not prepared to make. Second, the institutions which are established to provide education, health, mental health and social services are also under resourced and therefore reluctant to invest in cases which they believe will have little chance of success. The project is working hard to overcome both of these barriers.

The program served seventeen clients and their families during the 2016-17 grant year. All of the clients were male, Fifteen of the 17 are African-American and 75% are 15 and 16 years old.

Of the ten process objectives, the Holistic Reentry Project met six, did not meet two, partially met one and exceeded one. The objective exceeded is Develop partnerships in the community to support sustainability including USC College of Social Work (for interns), health and human service agencies (for services), educational and employment agencies. The program did a remarkable job of carrying out this objective.

It was not possible to measure the single outcome objective, since measurement depends on pre-post tests and no post tests were administered.

The project has made a strong start in mobilizing local resource and in carrying out services for the youth enrolled. At this point the project has made the following progress on its goals.

- 1. Develop a holistic youth reentry program to provide intensive support and case management to reentering youth and their families in Richland County.*

The project is providing support and case management, has developed relationships with some essential community resources and developed a methodology, largely based on social casework. It still needs to develop more community resources to support the clients and their families as well as means for helping the clients and their families learn how to manage their lives.

2. *Identify, assess and enroll minority youth at high risk for recidivism and develop individualized reintegration plans for them.*

The project is designed to work with the most difficult cases in the community. Reintegration may be a misnomer in the goal, since these clients were never integrated into the community in the first place. The work of bringing them and their families into the community so that they may lead productive lives is problematic. The project should be congratulated for attempting to do so.

3. *Help each client achieve health, education and social goals in their homes and communities.*

The project is putting in place the mechanisms to help each client achieve their goals. There are two barriers that impede progress in doing so. First, the clients and their families have little resource of their own and a reluctance to make investments of time and energy they are not prepared to make. Second, the institutions which are established to provide education, mental health and social services are also under resourced and therefore reluctant to invest in cases which they believe will have little chance of success. The project is working hard to overcome both of these barriers.

4. *Intensely monitor youth and family's participation in their plan.*

The project is using telephone calls, texts, and personal visits to monitor the clients and their families. The suspicion of people perceived as authority figures by the clients and families must first be overcome in order to communicate with the clients and families. This takes a large investment of time and skills to accomplish. The project is making that investment, but it is a lengthy process requiring specialized knowledge and skills.

5. *Evaluate the project for effectiveness, quality and potential expansion.*

As evidenced by this report and the contact between the evaluators and the project, this goal is being achieved.

6. *Sustain the program in years two and three.*

This goal is being met at this time and will be evaluated again third year of the project.

The project staff should continue to work toward objectives in Year Three with emphasis on continuing the personal relationships with clients, families and community resources.

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The mission of the Richland County Public Defender's office is to provide the highest quality representation possible to indigent criminal defendants, both adult and juvenile. In 2015, to further that mission and to provide holistic representation to youth in Richland County, the office established a Juvenile Reentry Program. The Program's mission is to engage and support youth and families in Richland County by facilitating opportunities through creating community connections and service networks in order to help them reach their goals.

"Reentry" is not envisioned to be a specific program, but rather a process that begins when the individual is first incarcerated (pre-release) and ends with his or her successful community reintegration and reduction in risk of recidivism (post-release). In order to improve the outcome of youth returning to their communities there needs to be a collaborative effort among stakeholders to provide services to youth. To further the impact of the office's work, the office is pursuing an effort to build a coalition of key stakeholders to examine, develop and implement strategies to combat the challenge of juvenile reentry.

There are two primary purposes for the Holistic Reentry Project. The first is to reduce recidivism and therefore disproportionate minority contact among Richland County youth with the juvenile justice system. The target population is minority youth that have been incarcerated in Richland County for at least ten days after being adjudicated delinquent in the Richland County Family Court. The project provides holistic reentry services to improve the outcomes of targeted youth who are returning to their communities after serving a period of secure confinement. The project has client level and program level goals including improved outcomes for the youth and sustainability, expansion and dissemination of the project.

The second purpose is to demonstrate that this type of intervention can be successful, to communicate that success and the methods for achieving that success to others and to support replication of the program elsewhere.

The Reentry team includes a Social Worker, the Project Director, and two to four Youth Advocates (bachelor or master level social work interns). The treatment team, led by the Social Worker, carries a maximum active caseload of 15 clients and each client is on the caseload for at least six months after his or her release from detention. Priority is given to clients who, at the time they were placed in detention, were not enrolled in any school or educational program, and to clients who are overage and under-credited.

The Project Director is the Richland County juvenile public defender (case attorney). The Project Director is responsible for overseeing the work of the reentry team and has particular responsibility for managing the legal services to the client. The Public Defender's office contributes the supervision time of the Project Director to the program.

The Social Worker is a Licensed Master Social Worker, with experience in the justice system and youth serving programs. The Social Worker and Project Director develop an initial plan and protocol for referrals and treatment of reentering youth.

Based on research and needs of the target population, the team selects relevant, reliable assessment tools. Culturally competent interventions and tools are selected to meet needs of client as youth from minority communities and recognize needs of LGBT youth and those who have experienced trauma.

The Social Worker is responsible for program activities-both direct service and program management. The Social Worker works with enrolled youth and their families to develop individual reintegration plans. To ensure intensive community based support to youth and their families, the Social Worker supervises two to four Youth Advocates who meet with youth and/or their families at least weekly, with additional contact offered as needed to provide encouragement, information about the reentry process, service referrals and concrete supports. The Social Worker directly supervises the youth advocates, meeting at least twice weekly with them for supervision and meets at least once every two weeks with the Project Director to discuss client progress, program evaluation and sustainability prospects. The Social Worker is responsible for intake, eligibility determination, coordination of psychosocial assessment and gathering client records, individual plan development and monitoring plans. Case planning is structured around six domains: family and housing; education and economic opportunity; physical and mental health; supportive adults; civic engagement and structured activities; and complying with legal conditions of release (probation, parole and supervised release). The treatment plan lays out specific long-term goals for the client, along with specific measurable objectives to be reached at one month, three months and six months from release. Action items outlined in the plan are clearly designed.

Program Goals

1. Develop a holistic youth reentry program to provide intensive support and case management to reentering youth and their families in Richland County.
2. Identify, assess and enroll minority youth at high risk for recidivism and develop individualized reintegration plans for them.
3. Help each client achieve health, education and social goals in their homes and communities.
4. Intensely monitor youth and family's participation in their plan.
5. Evaluate the project for effectiveness, quality and potential expansion.
6. Sustain the program in years two and three.

Program Measurable Objectives

1. Implement a quality, effective pilot reentry program for up to 30 confined youth a year in Richland County.
2. Improve 12 month education, behavioral, health and legal outcomes for enrolled youth.
3. Eighty percent of clients will have long term (12 month) positive legal outcomes such as complying with probation requirements and avoiding recommitment. The long term outcomes will include reducing arrests and goals and will be set once baseline data is available.
4. One hundred percent of clients will be screened for mental health, health, substance use, anger management issues and trauma disorders. One hundred percent of those diagnosed with disorders will be referred for treatment and 85% will comply with treatment
5. Eighty percent of clients will have positive education outcomes including school enrollment, attendance, and academic performance {passing grades}.
6. One hundred percent of clients will be assessed and referred for occupational outcomes such as vocational training. One hundred percent of clients will include vocational goals in their individual plans.
7. One hundred percent of families will be assessed for housing and other concrete support needs and referred to community agencies for support.
8. One hundred percent of clients will have an identified caring adult or mentor in the community as part of their reentry plan.
9. Improve, expand and sustain the program in Richland County within three years.
10. Implement a process and outcomes evaluation to monitor and improve program quality and outcomes.
11. Develop partnerships in the community to support sustainability including USC School of Social Work (for interns), health and human service agencies (for services), educational and employment agencies.
12. Identify local, regional and national funding sources to secure funding to sustain and expand the program (two full-time LMSWs) in Richland County by year Three.
13. Brief local government entities annually on program to generate financial support for sustainability and expansion.

METHODOLOGY

Philosophy of the Approach

SWS is using an action research approach to conduct this evaluation. As described by Greenwood and Levin in *Introduction to Action Research*, action research involves the professional researcher working with the members of an organization and community to improve a situation. Action research (or, in this case, evaluation) means that information developed by the evaluator is used by the organization and community to change their activities and objectives as they go along to make it more likely that the goals of the program will be achieved. In action research, the evaluator is part of the process. In traditional evaluation, the evaluator stands outside of the process.

Parts of the Methodology

There are seven parts to the methodology for the evaluation. The seven parts are:

- Part 1 - Conduct three or more on-site visits. During the second year of the program, the first visit was to review the Project's activities, goals, and objectives and performance indicators. During the first visit the evaluation plan and database were discussed. Subsequent site visits were made to review progress on the program.
- Part 2 - Revise the database developed in the first year as necessary and retrain staff on its use.
- Part 3 - The surveys identified in the first year were reviewed. .
- Part 4 - Conduct a process evaluation by measuring the implementation of the applicable process measurable objectives.
- Part 5 - Conduct an outcome evaluation by measuring the progress made towards meeting the applicable outcome measurable objectives.
- Part 6 - Prepare a final report at the end of the grant year. The final report includes an executive summary, an introduction, the process and the outcome evaluations, other findings, conclusions regarding meeting the goals of the project and recommendations.
- Part 7 - As part of the evaluation, report the evaluation data required by OJJDP.

Data Gathering

A series of interviews with project personnel, reviews of documentation, and observations were conducted during the year. Support was provided to review surveys. A method for documenting qualitative data was developed for use by persons involved in the program.

The database developed by the program and SWS was used to store the data needed to measure the objectives.

Develop Evaluation Reports

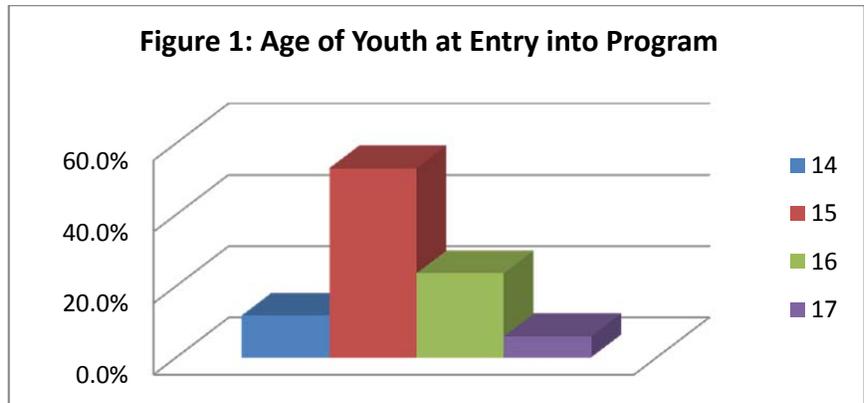
There are five parts to developing the evaluation reports. 1) A quantitative database and a qualitative database were developed into which all of the data gathered could be placed. 2) Statistical and qualitative methods were used to analyze the databases, creating a description of the project, its successes and its weaknesses. 3) The findings of the analysis were described in charts, tables, and a written form that is understandable and usable. 4) Written conclusions were drawn from the findings and reported. 5) Written recommendations were made.

The final report includes an executive summary, a description of the grant and its goals and objectives; a section for the findings of the process evaluation; a section for the outcome evaluation findings; a section for other findings, conclusions regarding meeting the goals of the program; and the recommendations. This results in a detailed, written discussion of how well the grant proposal is being carried out. The process and the outcome evaluation sections may be broken out into two separate reports.

DESCRIPTION OF YOUTH SERVED

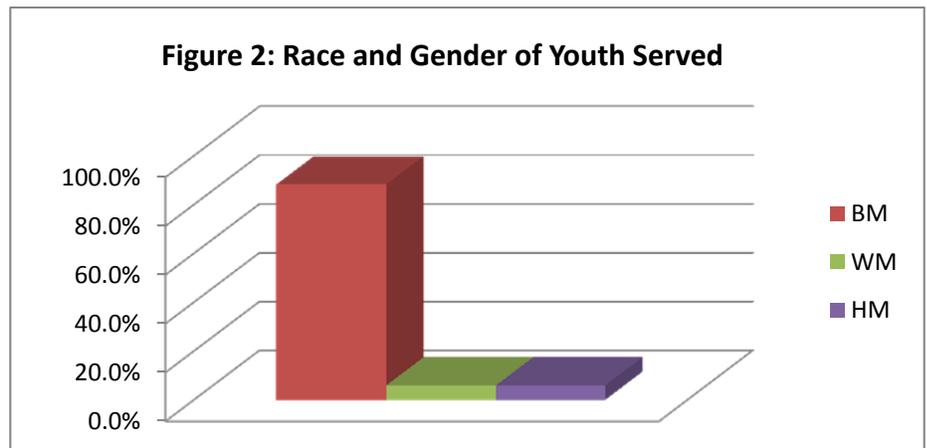
A total of 17 youth were served, 56.7% of the maximum number planned. The youth ranged in age from 13 through 17, with one (5.9%) age 13, two (11.8%) age 14, nine (52.9%) age 15, four (23.5%) age 16, , and one (5.9%) age 17. (See Table 1 and Figure 1)

Table 1: Age of Youth at Entry into Program		
	GY 2017	
	#	%
13	1	5.9%
14	2	11.8%
15	9	52.9%
16	4	23.5%
17	1	5.9%
Total	17	100.0%



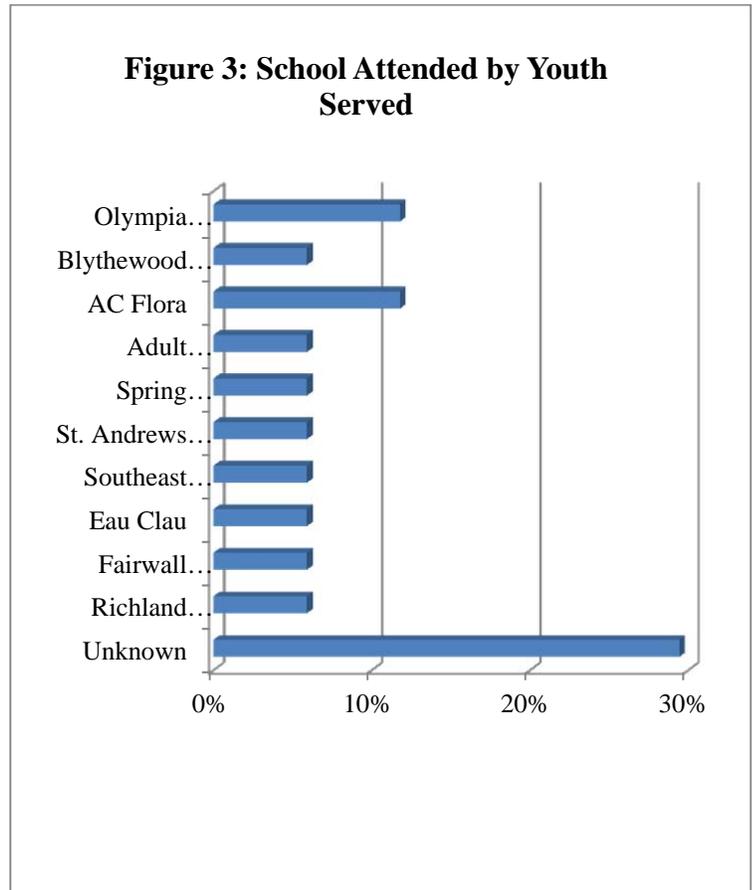
Of the 17 youth, all seventeen (100%) are male. Fifteen (88.2%) are African-American, one (5.9%) is white and one (5.9%) is Hispanic. (See Table 2 and Figure 2)

Table 2: Race and Gender of Youth Served		
	GY 2017	
	#	%
Black Male	15	88.2%
White Male	1	5.9%
Hispanic Male	1	5.9%
Total	17	100.0%



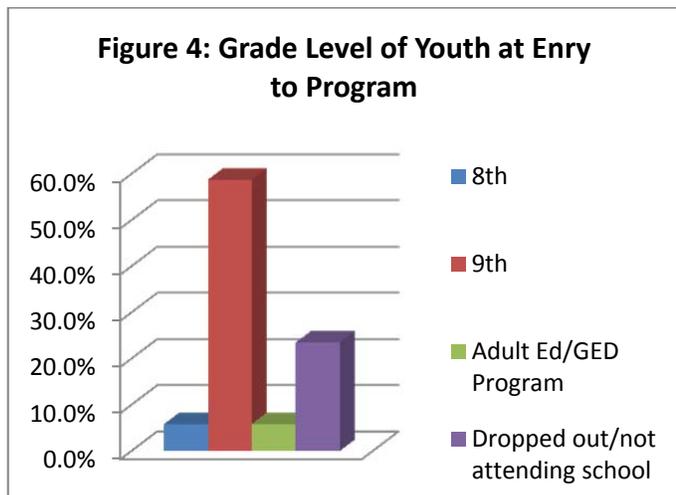
Twelve youth attend ten different schools in Richland County and for five youth school information was unknown. (See Table 3 and Figure 3)

Table 3: School Attended by Youth		
School	GY2017	
	#	%
Olympia Learning Center	2	11.8%
Blythewood Academy	1	5.9%
AC Flora	2	11.8%
Adult Ed/GED Program	1	5.9%
Spring Valley High	1	5.9%
St. Andrews middle	1	5.9%
Southeast Middle	1	5.9%
Eau Clau	1	5.9%
Fairwall Excell Program	1	5.9%
Richland North East	1	5.9%
Unknown	5	29.4%
Total	17	100.0%



Ten youth are in ninth grade (58.8%), one (5.9%) is in sixth grade, one (5.9%) is in eighth grade, one (5.9%) is in eleventh grade, one (5.9%) is in a GED program, and four (23.5%) either dropped out or are not currently attending school. (See Table 4 and Figure 4)

Table 4: Grade of Youth at Entry into Program		
	GY 2017	
	#	%
6th	1	5.9%
8th	1	5.9%
9th	10	58.8%
11th	1	5.9%
Adult Ed/GED Program	1	5.9%
Dropped out/not attending	4	23.5%
Total	17	100.0%



PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING PROJECT PROCESS OBJECTIVES

During the project period, October 1, 2016 through o September 30, 2017, the Project Director and Social Worker, with help from personnel in the Richland County Public Defender’s Office, worked to complete the following grant objectives:

1. *Implement a quality, effective pilot reentry program for up to 30 confined youth a year in Richland County.*

Findings: A program was developed and implemented that includes providing case management and support to the clients and their families. Seventeen clients and their families took part in the program. All seventeen youth were provided services throughout the grant year for a total of 356 hours of service; that is an average of 20.94 hours of service per youth. (See Table 5) Additional elements are still being added to the program, such as a Life Skills Management curriculum.

The project met this objective.

Table 5: Services to Youth			
Service Type	Hours	#Youth Served	Hrs Per Youth
Community Support Services	12.5	2	6.25
Group session	3	2	1.50
Home Visits	63.5	15	4.23
Individual Session	52.25	11	4.75
Transportation	24	6	4.00
Phone Contacts	66	17	3.88
Intervention	2	2	1.00
Outreach	3.25	3	1.08
School Visit	36.5	7	5.21
Other	93	15	6.20
Total	356	17	20.94

2. *One hundred percent of clients will be screened for mental health, substance use, anger management issues and trauma disorders. One hundred percent of those diagnosed with disorders will be referred for treatment and 85% will comply with treatment*

Findings: The project is using the mental health, substance use, anger management issues and trauma disorders assessments of the clients received from the screenings at the Department of Juvenile Justice Evaluation Center. Out of the 17 youth served all 17 (100%) were screened and 15 (88.2%) were referred for services.

The project met this objective.

- 3. One hundred percent of clients will be assessed and referred for occupational outcomes such as vocational training. One hundred percent of clients will include vocational goals in their individual plans.*

Findings: Finding environments in which the clients can be accepted and flourish has been difficult. At this time 15 of the 17 youth (88.2%) have been assessed for occupational outcomes and nine (53%) have been referred for occupational training.

The project did not meet this objective.

- 4. One hundred percent of families will be assessed for housing and other concrete support needs and referred to community agencies for support.*

Findings: Assessments of parents' needs occurred for three of the seventeen families (17.6%). Referrals to community agencies are taking place. However, developing relationships with the families so they will provide information on themselves and accept referrals and developing relationships with potential referral sources is an on-going process.

The project did not meet this objective.

- 5. One hundred percent of clients will have an identified caring adult or mentor in the community as part of their reentry plan.*

Findings: Negotiations to access mentors from Sowing Seeds are under way. Five of the Reentry clients are currently receiving mentoring. The social work students placed with the project are carrying out some of the duties of caring adults/mentors.

The project has partially met this objective

- 6. Improve, expand and sustain the program in Richland County within three years.*

Findings: Expansion and sustainment of the program is being carried out through developing partnerships, presentations, media coverage and similar activities. These are described in detail below under Objective 8.

The project met this objective

- 7. Implement a process and outcomes evaluation to monitor and improve program quality and outcomes.*

Findings: System Wide Solutions (SWS) is conducting the evaluation.

The project met this objective

8. *Develop partnerships in the community to support sustainability including USC College of Social Work (for interns), health and human service agencies (for services), educational and employment agencies.*

Findings: Reentry staff participate on the following coalitions: Achieve Columbia, Give Kids A Chance, State Alliance for Safe Schools, Youth Suicide Prevention, Developed, Youth in Transition and the School to Prison pipeline.

A strong relationship has been developed with the University of South Carolina College of Social Work. The support from the College takes two forms. The first is graduate students carrying out their two day a week field placements with the program. There are two first year MSW students and four second year. They help with records, orientation of families and students and reviewing assessments from DJJ. Each student has two cases: They visit schools once a week and help with 504 plans. Along with the Case Manager, they set up services for students before they leave incarceration and develop new services as needed

The second is the i3 Incubator program operated by the College. The Reentry program was chosen to take part in the i3 Incubator, one of three programs chosen from many applications. The i3 incubator is a space for social sector organizations to test and explore new ideas. i3 knows the challenges organizations can face when trying to implement a new idea. i3 provides these organizations with the tools and resources they need to ensure lasting impact on the South Carolina community.

i3 works with social sector organizations looking to test or explore a new idea or intervention within their organization. A social sector organization can come from community organizations, non-profits, social service agencies, philanthropic organizations, and universities.

i3 provides project specific resources and tools depending on the need and scope of the proposed project. Some of the provided resources include, technical assistance, network building, stakeholder engagement, financial support, media, project planning, and more.

I3 provides one to two years of support and services for a project selected for the incubator.

With the support of i3, the Reentry program has developed the Resilience Coalition. The Resilience Coalition is composed of relevant state and local leaders, and representatives of relevant agencies, service providers, nonprofit organizations, and other key stakeholders. The Coalition will examine ways to pool resources and funding streams, implement best practices in reentry, and collect outcome data from stakeholder agencies and organizations. The Coalition will then present a multidisciplinary, jurisdiction-wide reentry strategy to improve outcomes for individuals. The first meeting of the Coalition took place on September 28.

In the past, limitations in interagency communication and policies have prevented holistic collaboration to address the needs of reentering youth. The Reentry Coalition will create opportunity for the key stakeholders to recognize their role in supporting youth reentering the community and will mobilize their involvement in the youth' success. Improving education, employment and mental health outcomes will create stronger communities and a better prepared

workforce and result in fewer young adults with limited opportunities. The Reentry team has been invited to present workshops on reentry advocacy by various local and national agencies, to include Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Children's Law Center, Public Defender's Conference and National Juvenile Defender Summit. Such workshops are opportunities to share information about the scope of the Reentry work and to encourage others to replicate the model. Moreover, such conferences are also helpful with creating networks and exchanging information among new and potential partners. For example, as part of the incubator program for building a Reentry Coalition the team was invited to the Southeastern School Behavioral Health Conference where they will meet with educators, school administrators, mental health professionals, non-profit leaders, and researchers striving to advance school behavioral health. This cross-discipline dialogue is a necessary step in advancing changes in the issue of school-to-prison pipeline and affecting the well-being of youth.

As part of the advancement of Reentry clients' needs beyond their criminal charges in the family court, the program is involved in two law suits addressing systemic problems for youth in South Carolina. The program provided both the plaintiffs and necessary information and connections for the law suit against the Department of Social Services (filed on January 12, 2015 and settled on October 4, 2016) and one challenging the school-to-prison pipeline (filed by ACLU on November 28, 2016).

By providing post-disposition advocacy the program is able to monitor the conditions of confinement for its reentry clients. The program is able to challenge both the overuse of solitary confinement and lack of appropriate educational services by filing complaints to state agencies and involving other advocacy groups (i.e., ACLU, P&A, DOJ).

The Reentry team considers developing community relationships as crucial to the youths' success. The social worker meets regularly with the social workers of Richland School District 1 and 2 to discuss resources and services for youth in both districts. The social worker also works closely with the program manager of Big Brother Big Sister and Sowing Seeds Into the Midlands. The Project Director has also met with the Director of SC Community Uplift to discuss mentorship opportunities and community service opportunities for program youth.

Additionally, the team has been working closely with the DJJ's Job Readiness Training Center to identify and refer youth for training and education opportunities and met with the Richland County DJJ supervisors to discuss further cooperation.

The Reentry team has also developed a partnership with the South Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association that allows it to refer clients and their family members who are in need of jobs directly to restaurant and hotel managers.

Moreover, the Reentry team has developed partnerships with the United Way of the Midlands, Achieve Columbia, MIRCI and the Children's Law Center. One example of that community partnership is the screening of a documentary movie, *Paper Tigers* at the Nickelodeon theatre in March of 2017. The movie addresses issues of the need for trauma based services for children at schools and how to change an approach to school discipline and break the cycle of poverty and violence that affect families in the county. The screening was followed by a panel discussion and hopefully started the initiative to raise awareness about school-to-prison pipeline and provide some concrete solutions to that problem. The film will be shown again on October 24 at the USC

School of Law. Presentations about the Reentry Program took place at the Youth in Transition meeting at the United Way of the Midlands on October 3 and an exhibit table about the program and the Resilience Coalition will be provided at the Prevention Convention put together by the Children's Trust of South Carolina on October 2 and 3.

Further partnerships exist between the Reentry Program and SC Legal Services and Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities.

The Reentry team members serve on various committees and boards in the community that advance the issues of youth and their families. Examples of such membership include, Youth in Transition, Richland County Sheriff's Department Community Work Group, Give Kids a Chance Campaign, the State Alliance for Safe Schools, Lawyers' Committee for Children's Rights, and Coalition to Implement Raise the Age.

The Project Director spends a substantial amount of time addressing legislation and advocating for statutory changes advancing youth's wellbeing. She presents at hearings and testifies on issues such as school-to-prison pipeline, sex offender registry for youth and raising the age for youth in family courts.

The advocacy of the Reentry team is depicted both in local and national media. For example, upon interviews with the Project Director, the Marshall Project presented a story on the conditions of confinement of youth at SC DJJ and the *Atlantic* covered the story of the Spring Valley High School student.

The project exceeded this objective

9. *Identify local, regional and national funding sources to secure funding to sustain and expand the program (two full-time LMSWs) in Richland by year Three.*

Findings: The program staff, through the Reentry Coalition, I3 and other contacts, is identifying the possibilities for additional funding. At this point, the Office is establishing at least one social worker as part of the regular staff.

The project met this objective.

10. *Brief local government entities annually on program to generate financial support for sustainability and expansion.*

Findings: Numerous presentations to local government agencies occurred as stated above.

The program met this objective

PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING PROJECT OUTCOME OBJECTIVES

1. Improve 12 month education, behavioral, health and legal outcomes for enrolled youth.
 - a. *Eighty percent of clients will have long term (12 month) positive legal outcomes such as complying with probation requirements and avoiding recommitment. The long term outcomes will include reducing arrests and goals will be set once baseline data is available.*

Findings: Seven of the seventeen youth had court hearings during the grant period and all seven (100%) attended those court hearings. Four of the seventeen youth served reoffended during this current grant period, but the Holistic Reentry Program is continuing services for three out of those four youth. Therefore, 76.5 % of clients had positive legal outcomes during the year.

The program virtually met this sub-objective.

- b. *Eighty percent of clients will have positive education outcomes including school enrollment, attendance, and academic performance {passing grades}.*

Findings: Partial entry level data on nine of the seventeen youth served were provided by the schools, but due to the lack of unification within the schools on how this data is given no conclusions can be made at this time.

No conclusion can be made at this time for this sub-objective.

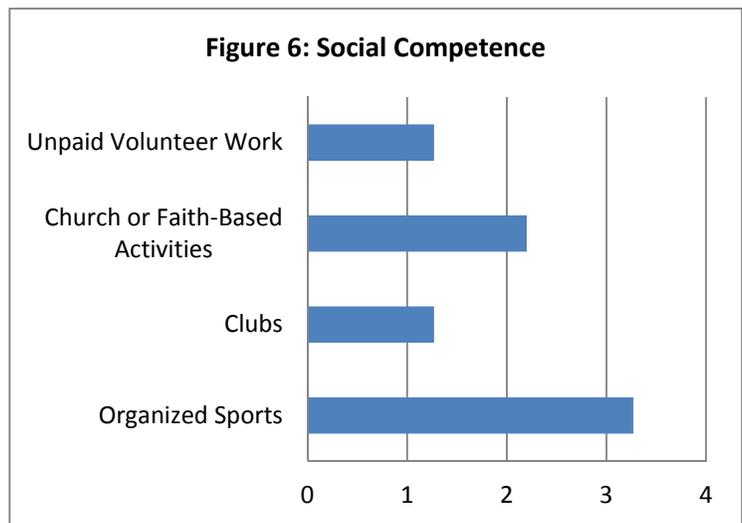
- c. *Eighty percent of clients will have positive behavioral health outcomes.*

Findings: Evaluators developed a custom pre and post-test survey for the project (See Appendix One for a copy of survey.) The survey uses items from the SAMSHA question pool to assess risk factors such as social competence, anti-social behaviors and family relations. The pre-test survey was administered at the beginning of services. The post test is to be administered to participants at the completion of the program. Only pre-test data is available at this time.

Seventeen total youth participated in the program this current grant year. Pre-test survey data is available for fifteen youth on social competence. Of the youth who took the pre-test the mean score for Social Competence was a 2.00 on a scale of 7-1 with seven being every day and one being never. This score is *Hardly Ever*. (See Table 6 and Figure 6).

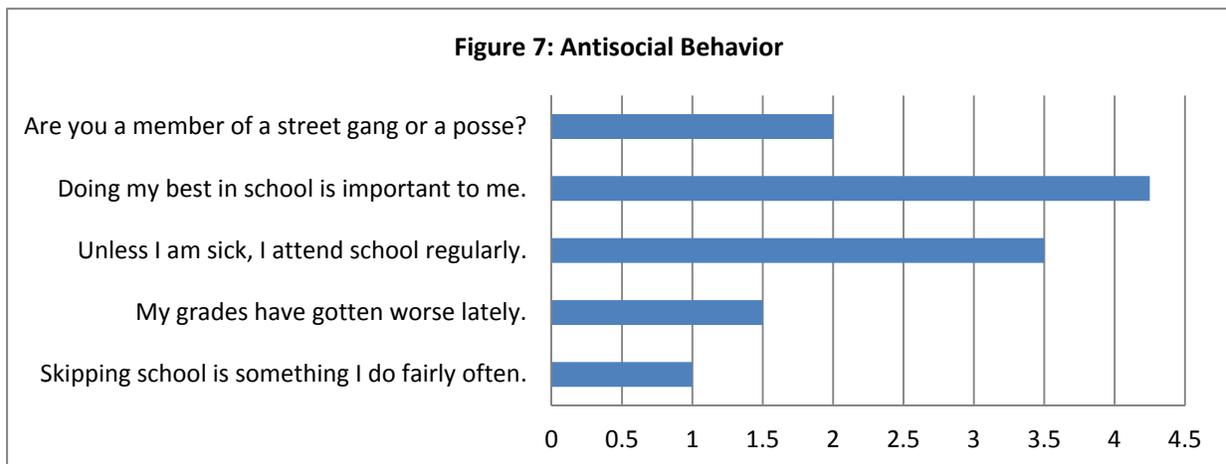
The youth were most likely to be involved in organized sports, with all reporting engaging in sports once in a while. The least likely activity the youth reported being involved in was clubs and unpaid volunteer work, with an average score of 1.27. See Table 6 and Figure 6).

Table 6: Social Competence Pre-Test		
In the past 6 months, how often did you participate in the following activities?		
	# of Participants Completed	Average Response
Organized Sports	15	3.27
Clubs	15	1.27
Church or Faith-Based Activities	15	2.2
Unpaid Volunteer Work	15	1.27
Average	15	2



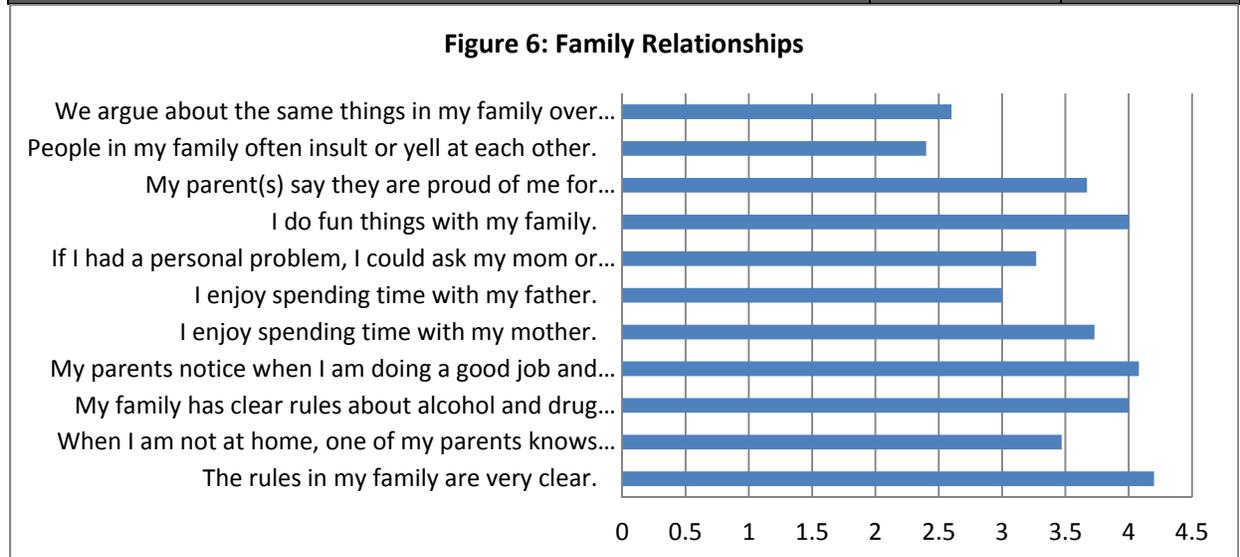
Seventeen total youth participated in the program this current grant year. Pre test survey data are available for fifteen youth on anti-social behavior. The scale is 5-1 with five being strongly agree and one being strongly disagree. (See Table 7 and Figure 7).

Table 7: Antisocial Behavior Pre-Test		
How much do you agree or disagree with these statements?		
	# of Participants Completed	Average Response
Skipping school is something I do fairly often.	15	2.45
My grades have gotten worse lately.	14	2.43
Unless I am sick, I attend school regularly.	15	3.27
Doing my best in school is important to me.	15	4.13
Are you a member of a street gang or a posse?	13	1.85



Seventeen youth participated in the program. Pre- test survey data is available for fifteen youth. Of the youth who took the pre-test the average score for Family Relationships was (on a scale of 5-1, with five being strongly agree and five being strongly disagree with the first nine questions scored positively and the last two negatively). The overall mean is 3.49. (See Table 8 and Figure 8)

Table 8: Family Relationships Pre-Test		
How much do you agree or disagree with these statements?		
	# of Participants Completed	Average Response
The rules in my family are very clear.	15	4.2
When I am not at home, one of my parents knows where I am and who I am with.	15	3.47
My family has clear rules about alcohol and drug use.	15	4
My parents notice when I am doing a good job and let me know about it.	13	4.08
I enjoy spending time with my mother.	15	3.73
I enjoy spending time with my father.	15	3
If I had a personal problem, I could ask my mom or dad for help.	15	3.27
I do fun things with my family.	15	4
My parent(s) say they are proud of me for something I have done.	15	3.67
People in my family often insult or yell at each other.	15	-2.4
We argue about the same things in my family over and over.	15	-2.6
Average		3.49



Since there are no post scores, no conclusion can be made at this time for this sub-objective.

OTHER FINDINGS

The overall goal of expanding the scope of this office’s focus is to reduce recidivism among youth in South Carolina and to increase public safety and public health by improving the outcome of youth returning to their communities following incarceration. The dimensions of the socioeconomic challenges confronting incarcerated youth exacerbate recidivism. In South Carolina, the three-year recidivism rate for youth who are prosecuted and found guilty is 70.6% (http://www.swsolutionsinc.com/Library/Reports/2011_SCDJJ_ArbitrationProgram.pdf). In Richland County, the probation violation cases alone constituted about 23% of the cases handled in the last three consecutive years. Probation violation was one of the two most common committing offenses for Richland County youth identified as Seriously Mentally Ill. The parole and probation staff that currently deals with youth reintegrating into the community play only a supervisory function. Their supervision takes place only upon release, and does little to address the myriad of non-legal needs that contribute to successful youth reintegration. This is not enough to adequately tend to the needs of youth or public safety. These service gaps are widened by the absence of strong and effective advocacy for children who are already wary of the system. The key state and local agencies that should play a crucial role in providing supporting services for youth reintegrating to the community (i.e., schools, mental health services, transitional housing, vocational training, peer connection groups, etc.) are acting in a disjointed manner and without a clear understanding as to their role in the effective reintegration of youth.

Recidivism is high among juvenile offenders because they face a number of barriers when attempting to reintegrate back into society, not only because of their own personal struggles, but also due to their relationship with the environments into which they are reintegrating. Many confined juveniles return to communities with high crime rates and poverty, unstable households and family relationships, behavioral and medical issue, failing school systems and unemployment.

Probation violation cases in Richland County have remained relatively stable over the last several years. In 2016, the time the program began, the number of cases began to decline. The decline is rather large. The decline is not necessarily the result of the program, but does correlate with the activities of the program.

Recidivism Case in Richland County Over Time	
Year	Recidivism Cases
2005	160
2006	112
3007	117
2008	141
2009	190
2010	162
2011	117
2012	161
2013	163

2014	161
2015	181
2016	81
2017	27 (partial)

CONCLUSIONS

The program served seventeen clients and their families during the 2016-17 grant year. All of the clients were male, fifteen of the 17 are African-American and 75% are 15 and 16 years old.

Of the ten process objectives, the Holistic Reentry Project met six, did not meet two, partially met one and exceeded one. The objective exceeded is Develop partnerships in the community to support sustainability including USC College of Social Work (for interns), health and human service agencies (for services), educational and employment agencies. The program did a remarkable job of carrying out this objective.

It was not possible to measure the single outcome objective, since measurement depends on pre-post tests and no post tests were administered.

The project has made a strong start in mobilizing local resource and in carrying out services for the youth enrolled. At this point the project has made the following progress on its goals.

1. *Develop a holistic youth reentry program to provide intensive support and case management to reentering youth and their families in Richland County.*

The project is providing support and case management, has developed relationships with some essential community resources and developed a methodology, largely based on social casework. It still needs to develop more community resources to support the clients and their families as well as means for helping the clients and their families learn how to manage their lives.

2. *Identify, assess and enroll minority youth at high risk for recidivism and develop individualized reintegration plans for them.*

The project is designed to work with the most difficult cases in the community. Reintegration may be a misnomer in the goal, since these clients were never integrated into the community in the first place. The work of bringing them and their families into the community so that they may lead productive lives is problematic. The project should be congratulated for attempting to do so.

3. *Help each client achieve health, education and social goals in their homes and communities.*

The project is putting in place the mechanisms to help each client achieve their goals. There are two barriers that impede progress in doing so. First, the clients and their families have little resource of their own and a reluctance to make investments of time and energy they are not prepared to make. Second, the institutions which are established to provide education, mental health and social

services are also under resourced and therefore reluctant to invest in cases which they believe will have little chance of success. The project is working hard to overcome both of these barriers.

4. *Intensely monitor youth and family's participation in their plan.*

The project is using telephone calls, texts, and personal visits to monitor the clients and their families. The suspicion of people perceived as authority figures by the clients and families must first be overcome in order to communicate with the clients and families. This takes a large investment of time and skills to accomplish. The project is making that investment, but it is a lengthy process requiring specialized knowledge and skills.

5. *Evaluate the project for effectiveness, quality and potential expansion.*

As evidenced by this report and the contact between the evaluators and the project, this goal is being achieved.

6. *Sustain the program in years two and three.*

This goal is being met at this time and will be evaluated again in the third year of the project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The project staff should continue to work toward objectives in Year Three with emphasis on continuing the personal relationships with clients, families and community resources.
2. The staff should work towards achieving more complete post-test data.

**APPENDIX ONE:
INSTRUMENTS**

Client Pre-Post Survey

[Administer pre test on entry and post test before exit of program]

Student Name: _____

Today's Date: _____

Directions: Please answer these questions as honestly as you can. Circle your answer or mark an X in the box.

In the past 6 months, how often did you participate in the following activities?	Every Day	Several Times a Week	At Least Once a Week	At Least Once a Month	Once in a While	Hardly Ever	Never
1. Organized Sports	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
2. Clubs	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
3. Church or Faith-Based Activities	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
4. Unpaid Volunteer Work	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
5. Paid Employment	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
6. GED classes	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

How much do you agree or disagree with these statements?	Strongly Agree	Agree	Can't Decide	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
7. Skipping school is something I do fairly often.	5	4	3	2	1
8. My grades have gotten worse lately.	5	4	3	2	1
9. Unless I am sick, I attend school regularly.	5	4	3	2	1
10. Doing my best in school is important to me.	5	4	3	2	1

Circle the best answer								
11. My estimated GPA (grade point average) is	4.0-3.5	3.5-3.0	3.0-2.5	2.5-2.0	2.0-1.5	1.5-1.0	1.0-.5	.5-0
12. At the end of last semester my grades were	Mostly As		Mostly Bs	Mostly Cs	Mostly Ds		Mostly Fs	
13. Are you a member of a street gang or a posse?	Yes		No					

How wrong do your parents feel it would be for you ...	Very wrong	Wrong	Don't know	A little bit wrong	Not wrong at all
14. to steal anything worth more than \$5.00?	5	4	3	2	1
15. to draw graffiti, write things, or draw pictures on buildings or other property (without the owner's permission)?	5	4	3	2	1
16. to pick a fight with someone?	5	4	3	2	1
17. to carry a handgun?	5	4	3	2	1
18. to skip school without parent's permission?	5	4	3	2	1

How much do you agree or disagree with these statements?	Strongly Agree	Agree	Can't Decide	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
19. The rules in my family are very clear.	5	4	3	2	1
20. When I am not at home, one of my parents knows where I am and who I am with.	5	4	3	2	1
21. My family has clear rules about alcohol and drug use.	5	4	3	2	1
22. My parents notice when I am doing a good job and let me know about it.	5	4	3	2	1
23. I enjoy spending time with my mother.	5	4	3	2	1
24. I enjoy spending time with my father.	5	4	3	2	1
25. If I had a personal problem, I could ask my mom or dad for help.	5	4	3	2	1
26. I do fun things with my family.	5	4	3	2	1
27. People in my family often insult or yell at each other.	5	4	3	2	1
28. We argue about the same things in my family over and over.	5	4	3	2	1
29. My parent(s) say they are proud of me for something I have done.	5	4	3	2	1
30. These questions are important.	5	4	3	2	1
31. I have been very honest in filling out this survey.	5	4	3	2	1

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS SURVEY

**APPENDIX TWO:
PRESS RELEASES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**



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College of Social Work

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For Immediate Release

TWO ORGANIZATIONS SELECTED FOR COLUMBIA'S NEW SOCIAL IMPACT INCUBATOR

COLUMBIA, SC, - Big impact for Columbia is on the horizon as two organizations are gearing up to begin their year-long incubator process with i3 Innovative Intervention Incubator. Starting in January 2017, The Autism Academy of South Carolina and Juvenile Reentry Program at the Richland County Public Defender's Office will begin developing their social innovations, which stand to have a major impact on Columbia's youth and their families.

i3 | Innovative Intervention Incubator will provide hands on support, project planning, and innovation training to assist these two organizations in taking their ideas and making them a reality. "We created i3 to be a source of inspiration and a kind of R&D lab for Columbia's social sector," says Dr. Robert Hock, assistant professor at the College of Social Work and director of i3. "We help local organizations test and launch high-impact social innovations in our community. This year, we have two dynamic teams who are deeply committed to creating opportunities for youth in our city."

The Autism Academy of South Carolina's will launch their No Couch Campaign, a year long process that will assist them in launching their Couch to Career program, which offers hands-on, work-based, extended job training and placement into employment for transition-aged youth with autism spectrum disorder, aged 14-24. "Each year, approximately 50,000 people with autism finish school, many with no meaningful plans for adulthood," said Lorri Shealy Unumb, Esq., President of the Autism Academy of South Carolina. "We are thrilled to address this issue in partnership with i3 via our 'No Couch Campaign' – our effort to stop the epidemic of young adults with autism spending years, or even a lifetime, sitting on their parents' couches because of a lack of employment training and work opportunities. Because we work hands-on with teens with autism every day at the Academy, we know they have skills that should lead to employment, but we need the expertise and resources of the Innovative Intervention Incubator to tackle the problem in a sustainable and replicable way"

The Richland County Public Defender's Office's Juvenile Reentry Program seeks to build a coalition of key stakeholders to examine, develop, and implement strategies to combat the challenge of juvenile reentry. The Reentry Coalition will create opportunities for stakeholders to support youth reentering the community and mobilize stakeholder's involvement in these youth's success. "Building the Reentry Coalition requires implementation of social and behavioral research and innovative techniques to encourage civic engagement from crucial partners in the community. i3 team members will provide the Juvenile Reentry Program with necessary and invaluable expertise and skills to assure a development of a sustainable evidence-based model of the Reentry Coalition."

i3 is an initiative at the University of South Carolina College of Social Work that brings community members and researchers together to explore and test innovative ideas for solving social problems. i3 will provide staffing, resources, technical assistance, and mentoring to grow new ideas into high-impact, sustainable interventions here in South Carolina. The incubator will serve as a catalyst and an opportunity for engagement between the social, private, and public sectors across the city.

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RESILIENCE

THE BIOLOGY OF STRESS & THE SCIENCE OF HOPE

SAVE THE DATE

Screening and Panel

Examining what communities, schools, and programs can do to help children with toxic stress

OCTOBER 24, 2017

5:30 - 8:30PM

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AUDITORIUM

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA School of Law



RICHLAND COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER