

>> Amy: Good afternoon!

Welcome to today's special Resource Basket webinar, Diverting Tribal Youth: Working with the Division of Juvenile Justice.

My name is Amy Gorn and I am a team member with The Resource Basket, a training and technical assistance center for people who work with or support rural Alaska Native youth.

Before we get started, I want to review a couple things that may be helpful this hour.

On the bottom of the screen there is information to access the teleconference for today's audio, if unable to use your computer's speakers.

For everyone who is on the teleconference, we ask that you mute yourselves right now.

You can mute yourself by pressing star 5 on your phone. or us your phone's mute function.

Our presenters today will also be using the teleconference line and we

do not want background noise.

Please do not place yourself on hold as background music may come through.

If you are listening through a computer, check that the volume is turned up.

We also have closed captioning available at the bottom left-hand side of the screen. We will have time at the end of the presentation to engage with your questions.

Today's webinar will be recorded and made available on The Resource Basket website. All of our previous online trainings are archived at : www.alaskanativeyouth.org.

I will also send an e-mail to registrants with the link to access today's recording.

At the end of this presentation you will be asked to fill out a brief, online survey about it.

Points of view or opinions expressed in this webinar are those of the presenters and do not necessarily represent the official position or

policies of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention or the U.S. Department of Justice.

Now we'll take a look at the webinar screen.

At the bottom right hand side is the chat box.

We will monitor the chat box throughout the presentation.

If you are joining us online, and are viewing as a group at a computer, go ahead and type in the chat box how many of you there are and where you're from. Such as the tribe has done. If you are watching by yourself, write a hello and where you're from!

That way we can get to know everyone.

Now let's open a poll and try out this interaction.

Using your cursor, please answer this poll: "What are your thoughts on the season's first snowfall? Let's see if we can get this. It there is. So you can begin selecting. If you're in a group come a consensus vote on the question, your thoughts on the

season's first snowfall. What do you mean? It's already happened. Or can't wait. Do you want to build a snowman?

No Way-still need to swap out my seasonal gear;

What Snow?

Alaska doesn't get that stuff anymore; or, "Indifferent-it happens when it happens.Well it looks like some parts of Alaska have certainly had their first snowfall which is great now that we're in the month of October. It looks like some of us still need to prepare and switch over for the new season.

Great. Thanks for trying out this poll feature, everyone. And now we're going to move on to a bit more serious question as we get to know everyone on the webinar with us. I would like for you to answer the question, does your community have an active Tribal Court? Answer by choosing and then clicking yes, no, not sure. We would like to. Or not possible. Wonderful. We see some rillets coming in. I'm glad everyone is able utilize this poll

function. We'll have another one later in the presentation. We have one participant with the Tribal Court, one that is not, one that is not sure and another that would like to. A good set of responses there. Thank you. We are going to close out this chat and poll right now. Thank you and welcome to all of those that are letting us know that you are on the webinar with us and where you're from and how many if you have more than one gathered with you. Our presenters today are Noelle Kennedy Torres, a social services program officer and juvenile

Services Program Officer and Juvenile Justice Specialist in Juneau with the Division of Juvenile Justice, or DJJ. We also have the of honor of being joined by Lorita Clough, DJJ's Rural Specialist in Fairbanks.

Ms. Arlene Peter of Fort Yukon is unable to join us today, however she has prepared remarks to share from her community, which will be provided by our presenters.

Before we begin, I want to give another reminder for everyone who is on the teleconference to mute please yourselves if you have not already by pressing star 5 on your phone.or using your phone's mute function. Also please do not place yourself on hold as background music may come through. Okay, a big welcome to Noelle and Lorita.

>> Good morning. I guess good afternoon, Amy. This is Noelle.

>> Noelle: We'll go ahead and start off with some introductions. Lorita, I don't go ahead and go first.

>> Lorita: Okay. Good afternoon, everyone. Amy. My name is Lorita Clough. I'm the rural specialist for the Division of Juvenile Justice. I'm stationed here in Fairbanks. I have been here for four years -- three years, I think. Before that I worked as a licensing worker, social worker for OCS. That's office of children's services for 25 years. And then so what I do here as a rural specialist, I connect with tribes and the -- and

work with the probation officers in connecting with the Tribes. Usually the probation officers are the ones that have used either go to treatment or in detention so I usually can work with the religious and help with identifying services or connection and other things I do to find tribes for other use that are not enrolled. So those are just a few things that I do. You can ask questions at the end. Thank you.

>> Noelle: Thank you, Lorita. My name is know most I'm a social serves program officer located at the Division of Juvenile Justice, state offices. I also have the pleasure of being the state of Alaska juvenile justice as a liaison with the office juvenile justice. While I have grown up in southeast Alaska for most of my life I had the opportunity to live for several years in Fairbanks which was wonderful. I missed the ocean and I had to come back for it. We're definitely looking forward to presenting to you today and to answering questions you may have at the end. As Amy had mentioned

unfortunately Ms. Peter was unable to join us but she gave us her information and Lorita and I will share with you as we continue through the presentation today. The first thing I wanted to share with you what is the division's mission is. The mission of the Division of Juvenile Justice is to hold juvenile offenders accountable for their behavior, promote the safety and restoration of victims in communities and to assist offenders and their families in developing skills to prevent crime. DDJ is committing to holding the youth accountable for their actions while also protecting communities and repairing the harm to victims and working to ensure you gain necessary skills to function in a success society. DJJ works close with other divisions in our Department of Health and social services and with a wild range of state and local partners to provide juvenile justice services to our clients. DJJ uses a variety of graduated responses with the expectation that juveniles must personally take part in restoring

cause to victims as a result of their behavior. And one of the biggest pieces to that is the restorative justice approach that DJJ uses. A balanced and restorative justice approach to services and programming ensure that our juvenile justice offenders take personal responsibility for repairing the harm caused to the victims and communities by delinquent behavior. And skills while breaking behaviors. But we don't see all youth. We actually have a very specific jurisdiction. DJJ's statewide is a jurisdiction but the crime has to occur before the age of 18; however, we have jurisdiction over the youth until they actually turn 19. Jurisdiction is the range of judicial authority over the right and authority to administer justice with by hearing and deciding over offenses. Things that our jurisdiction does not include: Minor consuming, Alaska fish and game violation, traffic violations including DUIs or reckless driving and youth who are 16 or older and commit very serious offenses

such as murder or sexual assault, can receive the automatic waiver where they're automatically waived to the adult system. But one of the things that we really work on in DJJ is diversion. What is diversion?

Diversion is managing juvenile cases with informal probation or referring to community panels. The diversion serves a number of important valuable purposes and help low-risk juveniles who are more likely to Rio fend and avoid the stigma and stress that result from delinquency adjudication and provides opportunities for community partners and victims to take more active roles in the management of low-risk juvenile offenders and diversion process reduces the burden on our court system which otherwise would find it impossible to adjudicate every offender that was referred to it. It is considerably less expensive and faster than the formal adversarial court processes and diversion processes reduce probation caseloads as well to better allocate resources to staff time

for more serious offenders and delinquency prevention programs. Diversion programs help to keep youth from getting more deeply involved in the juvenile justice system and today our main focus is on the community diversion program that are possible with our rural communities in Alaska. So what does it look like in action? It looks like a DJJ's partnership with tribes to support local response to appropriate juvenile offenders and it is important because it creates meaningful opportunities for community partners, victims and for the juvenile offender. At this time we have an interactive poll that we would like to pull forward. If you could answer the question, what situation could a youth be diverted from in DJJ? Skipping school? Stealing soda from the community grocery store? Running away? Physically harming another person? Both answers A & B? Both answers C & D? Or all have the above. I'll give you just a couple of moments. Okay. I think

we can probably go ahead and close out the poll. It looks like we have a lot of different answers. I see some folks changing and that's great. This is a wonderful opportunity for me to share that situations that you could be diverted from DJJ include stealing soda from the community grocery store or even skipping school. Those are both opportunities for DJJ to get involved. So we can go ahead and close that poll out. Thank you. So let's talk about community diversion programs. The concept of restorative justice reflects the values of DJJ which have been recognizably practiced by generations by the indigenous peoples of Alaska. These restorative justice concepts restore the DJJ belief that true accountability and justice is best practice at the most personal and culturally appropriate level. DJJ believes in and supports tribal and community restorative justice programs that address low level juvenile delinquency at a local level and seeking collaborative part

partnerships with tribal and counsels. Alaska law gives jurisdiction to DJJ to respond to juvenile delinquency within the state. Under that jurisdiction, DJJ is able to develop diversion programs and partnerships to keep youth from further penetrating the juvenile justice system tribes have partnered with us to establish the diversion panels which support local response to nonviolence, low level delinquency. These partnerships allow DJJ to support the local process and at the same time remain available to resume control of the case if the diversion plan is unsuccessful. The partnerships are established with DJJ through an MOU. So what is an MOU? An MOU is a memorandum of understanding. It is a document establishing an agreement between parties. In this case a partnership between the Division of Juvenile Justice and the Alaska native tribes and village counsels to develop community diversion panels in an effort to prevent local youth from further involvement

with the juvenile justice system.

Some of the memorandums of understanding are MOU's currently in place. Are in St. Paul with the A help. Ut community with St. Paul. In Sandpoint with Qagan Tayagungin Tribe. With Fort Yukon with the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Court. Barrow with the Native Village of Barrow and Nulato with the Nulato Tribal Council with Tribes and Village Council to develop additional community diversion panel and in an effort to prevent local youth from further involvement in the juvenile justice system. So if you're interested, we are interested and we're also really excited to develop these partnerships. So what steps need to be taken next? You need to contact DJJ to get an MOU and diversion packet but even before then you want to talk to our tribal and village council annual develop a single point of contact for DJJ to work with. DJJ will get an MOU and diversion packet to you that MOU outlines the

responsibilities of both DJJ and the Tribe and village council. The diversion packet includes samples of the forms that the panels would use in their program and this information will also help encourage discussion with interested communities stakeholders. DJJ will offer on-going technical assistance and training towards the development of diversion panels. We want to continue to build and strengthen our relationship with activities to include development of community start-up materials, check in, training and technical assistance with confidentiality, adolescent brain development, trauma informed care and suicide prevention. DJJ also wants to collaborate through the diversion process to include help finding resources for youth who are returning to their home community. Once you have the diversion packet which is available for download on this webinar presentation, you can take that information and interest to your tribal and village council and identify

your point of contact for DJJ to work with. We can discuss any questions or concerns that you have. Proceed to work with DJJ staff and establish a partnership with will be finalized with a signed MOU and once we both have both parties have the signed MOU we can start the training and begin to receive DJJ referrals. So at this point, I'm going ask Lorita to come in and speak for Ms. Peters as to how DJJ and the MOU and Fort Yukon took place. Lorita, I'll hand it over to you.

>> Lorita: Thank you, Noelle. DJJ with probation officer Sherry, Breckin and I and the Fort Yucon tribal judges met together and talked about the -- getting a court going with the MOU and we trained the judges in the HIPAA training. That is the -- I think everyone that deals with youth or any person has to have a training on the HIPAA law. So all the judges were given the website to contact the State Office for training and they did the training on line training online before

they started the program. I know there was just a -- an election happening so if there is new judges elected they'll have to go through the training, the HIPAA training to take on cases. Sherry and I have traveled to Fort Yukon. Me a couple of times and Sherry has been there maybe a number of times. At least all of the probation officers have to travel to their designated villages every other month. And work with the Tribes. Now they're pretty much ready we sent Arlene some questions. Oh, yeah. They're up. So the question was, why did you -- why did Fort Yukon choose to pursue the agreement with DJJ? The Tribe -- the judges and the Tribe have a lot of their youth getting into trouble and having records that would follow them for the rest of their lives. So the Tribe wanted -- what they envisioned was that the community would get involved being part of their -- the youth initial contact before they get too far in their criminal records. What was the

vision of the community? Well, creating the diversion promise. They wanted their youth from having records any criminal reports so the Tribe got involved and want to make sure that their youth are taken care of in their communities before they're involved with the state, the Division of Juvenile Justice. How was their experience in working with DJJ -- they mentioned Sherry and I are wonderful to work with. Gave us a lot of information and very helpful. We've been working with them on a regular basis through the phone. Meeting with them as a tribe. Giving them some examples of how they can work with their -- their courts. Especially when a youth first comes in. And to -- to make it into their own village Tribal Court. So that the youth has a meaningful sentence or -- not really a sentence but program to follow. Those were the questions that the -- did I answer everything?

>> Noelle: Yes. That was perfect.

>> Lorita: Their thoughts on the

implementation of the agreement and program. The Tribe has been wanting this involvement for two years and the Tribe is grateful we finally are getting -- we are actually ready to refer some cases on to the Fort Yukon tribe which will most likely happen within the next couple of months maybe hopefully. So there it is.

>> Noelle: Thank you, Lorita. At this point we've come to the end of our informational PowerPoint and we would like to invite you if you have any questions or comments. We would be happy to discuss them and answer them. You can either enter them into the chat box or you can unmute your phone lines and ask through the telephone. We welcome your questions. Oh, yes. Thank you. To unmute make sure you press star six on your phone or again you can type them into the chat box. Either way. Well, if there are questions that you have -- I see that there is a couple of folks who are putting some down. But also please don't hesitate to take

down our information. My information, Noelle Kennedy Torres, my information to contact me directly is there. Lorita's contact information is there and our main office line you can always contact through there. I see why are minor's consuming alcohol cases currently not part of the tribal diversion program? DJJ does not have jurisdiction over minor consuming that. Goes through District Court. It is possible to work with your local District Court but that is outside of DJJ's jurisdiction. How is the MOU with the Native Village of Barrow working out? That one just got started actually I believe the final executed agreement was received in July. So now we're going to be working with the Tribal Court to make sure everyone has their HIPAA training which is that confidentiality training and we should be able to start referrals to them just as soon as that is completed. There are some steps to show that the training has been completed. You log into a joint

Moodle is what it is called. Website.
So they can go through the training.
A certificate is received and then they
send it in to either myself or Lorita or
the probation officer working with the
community. Once we have received
those we can start the training and
working on referrals with the Tribal
court. Are there any other questions?

>> Lorita: To further answer the why
are the minor consuming alcohol, I
know the state court was working with
a tribe as well. But the magistrate is
no longer there that was really, really
working with them. Fort Yukon is
open to working with the tribes as well.

>> Noelle: We thank you all for your
time and encourage you to reach out
to us on your own time as well with
this contact information here. We're
certainly happy to help support
additional diversion programs within
your rural communities. And are
always happy to answer questions.
At this point I would like to pass the
presentation back to Amy and thank
you again for taking the time to sit in

with us today.

>> Noelle: While we're waiting for Amy to come back I saw an extra question. What is the typical term for the MOUs? We usually sign them and they're good for at least a year. Although, you know, we can write them for longer but we typically want to revisit them annually so that if there is new judges who have been elected we can make sure that they have gone through the proper training. Okay. Thank you all for joining us. I hope that you have an excellent day and again don't hesitate to reach out to us. We're happy to support you. The community diversion packet should be available for you to download.

>> Amy: Hi, this is Amy Gorn. So sorry for the confusion just a moment ago. I hope you're able to hear me. It looks like you can. I want to thank you, Noelle, Lorita and Arlene so much for sharing your knowledge and experiences with us today. I'm sorry if anyone was unable to unmute

yourself to come through on the phone line to ask a question, which is what happened in my case. Hopefully you can unmute your phone function and get through still if you have questions of Noelle and Lorita. Obviously utilizing the chat box which we have. So as Noelle mentioned available in the box on your screen are materials provided by DJJ. It is the diversion packet with a letter and MOU sample in there which you're able to upload if you would like at this time. And we will also send that out afterward when we have the recording of the webinar available. I'll move this box just over for a moment. We ask that you take a minute to answer a brief survey about this presentation. You may be redirected to these questions as you exit the webinar and the link is live on the screen to go to those quick questions. The resource basket also hosts a supporting youth webinar series with the Alaska after school network. Our next webinar in this series is scheduled for late November.

The topic is still being worked out and the date is still being worked out at this time. At the bottom of your screen is also a live link that will take you to our resource basket website where you can find additional information about upcoming opportunities. If you haven't already, like us on FaceBook. Thank you again so much to the Division of Juvenile Justice for providing this very helpful and straightforward information and we hope you'll take advantage of connecting with the staff afterwards. If you have additional questions or interest from communities you are a part of or connected to. And on behalf of the resource basket, and DJJ, thank you for being here today.