

CREATING CHANGE FOR IOWA

The Iowa Gender-Specific Services Task Force involves key stakeholders in Iowa's juvenile justice system, particularly those forward-thinking service providers who are committed to comprehensive system change that reflects gender equity for girls and young women.

Members include program administrators, direct-service staff, juvenile court officers, social workers, researchers, educators, representatives from various State departments, and others who are concerned about the quality of life for Iowa girls and young women.



Our members represent a range of professional expertise extending from issues related to girls of color, special education, chemical dependency, sexual assault, and domestic violence, to issues of restorative justice, the legal system, gangs, sexual orientation, and gender-specific program planning.

Since 1995, the State of Iowa has committed itself to the improvement of services for adolescent females in its juvenile justice system. First, the Iowa Juvenile Justice Advisory Council along with the Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) formed a task force to address the issue. Soon thereafter, they applied for and received a federal Challenge Grant to fund the Task Force's efforts. The result has been expansive work towards meaningfully equitable services in Iowa's juvenile justice system, with change happening at various rates and various levels within the greater system. We invite you to join us in furthering this change.

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GIRLS

GENDER-SPECIFIC SERVICES FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS WILL

1. Provide emotional and physical safety.
2. Be culturally appropriate.
3. Be relationship-based.
4. Provide positive female role models and mentors.
5. Address the abuse in girls' lives.
6. Be strength-based, not deficit-based.
7. Address sexuality, including pregnancy and parenting.
8. Provide equitable educational and vocational opportunities.
9. Address the unique health needs of females, including nutritional concerns and regular physical exercise.
10. Nurture the spiritual lives of participants.
11. Involve individual members of girls' families.

ACTIVITIES

Speakers bureau offering presentations and workshops related to planning for and serving girls

Technical assistance for communities and service providers

“Whispers & Screams” annual statewide conference for girl-serving professionals

Courageous Advocacy Awards to honor girl-serving professionals and advocates in Iowa

Annual fall retreat for Task Force members and other invited community members

The Girl Connection, a free quarterly insert for girl-serving agencies’ newsletters or other information distribution efforts

Funding Community Planning Initiative and Young Women’s Empowerment Events

Publications

- *Female Juvenile Justice* (1996)
- *Providing Gender-Specific Services for Adolescent Female Offenders: Guidelines & Resources* (1999)
- *Promising Directions: Programs That Serve Iowa Girls in a Single-Sex Environment* (2000)

Training Assistance & Speakers Available

Community/activity planning assistance

On-site program evaluation

Gender-Specific Programming 101

Female adolescent development

Understanding gender

Techniques for working with girls

Males working with girls

Sex education / sexuality

Dealing with girls’ anger

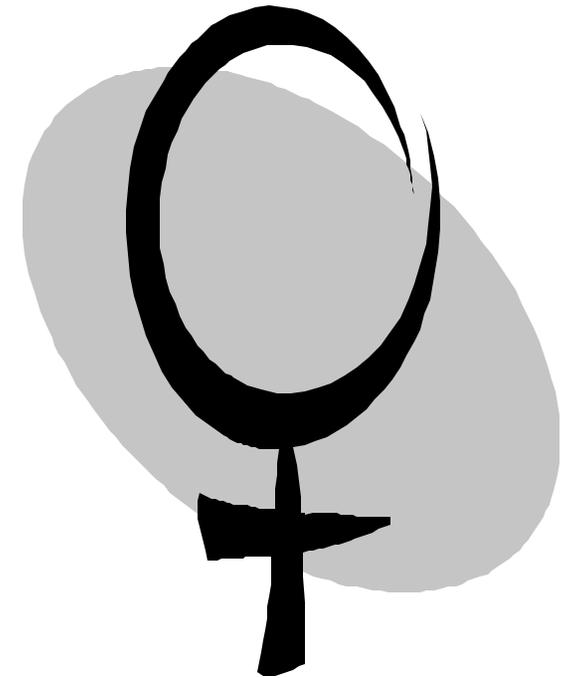
Culturally specific programming

Working with survivors of abuse

Violence

LGBTQ girls

Speakers Bureau/Trainers will consider requests to tailor information to specific group needs.



IOWA GENDER-SPECIFIC SERVICES TASK FORCE

*a progressive force
within the state of Iowa advocating
for equitable services for girls involved
with or at risk
for involvement with
the juvenile justice system*