

**South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice System Master Plan**  
Columbia, South Carolina

**Contact:** Judge William Byars, Director  
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Original Project Completed.....January 2002  
Project Updates.....2005, 2007, 2009

In 2002 Chinn Planning, Inc. completed a Master Plan for the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice. The Master Plan included analysis of growth trends and offender profile characteristics; review of risk assessment and classification; an assessment of program services and staffing levels; capacity projections; and statewide commitment patterns in order to develop a long range master plan for providing services to youth placed in state custody. Existing state owned and operated facilities were evaluated for their operational efficiency, conditions of confinement, and reuse potential. Recently completed designs for a new correctional and a new detention facility were also evaluated. The Master Plan that was developed for the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice included system and operational recommendations, facility recommendations, new capacity requirements and statewide policy initiatives.

In 2005, 2007, and 2009 Chinn Planning, Inc. was hired by the Director of the Department of Juvenile Justice to review progress on the implementation of system, operational and facility improvements recommended in the original Master Plan. These reports were delivered to the Court for review, as promised by the Director when he ended a 12 year old lawsuit in 2003 related to conditions of confinement. The Department of Juvenile Justice made significant progress in improving services, operations, and facilities for youth committed to state custody.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Increase Staffing Levels
- Dedicate Staff Assignments in Housing/Living Areas
- Improve Staff Recruitment and Retention
  - > Reduce Staff Turnover
- Improve Training and Staff Development
  - > Mental Health Treatment Needs
  - > Cross-Training of Treatment and Custody Staff
- Replace Housing at Broad River Road Campus
  - > Develop operational and facility plan
- Define Program and Levels
  - > Classification and Reclassification
  - > Consistency
  - > Housing Assignments
- Expand High Management Community Residential Capacity
- Reduce Evaluation and Admissions Processing Time
  - > Increase Community Based Evaluations
- Improve Programming for Girls
  - > Transition Housing
  - > Communities in Schools
  - > Recreation, Other
- Reduce Detention Population
  - > Expand Detention Alternatives (Shelter Care and Community Based)
    - Strengthen Admissions Criteria



New DJJ Dormitories