

New law designates the Institute for Public Health and Justice (institute), organized under authority of the LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, as an advisor to the legislature on matters related to youth in the criminal justice system and youth with behavioral health needs.

New law requires the institute to act at the direction of the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate, in consultation with the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission (commission).

New law provides that the institute shall serve as a resource for best practices in the juvenile justice field, including promising local models of juvenile justice reform and national best practices models.

New law provides that the institute shall render technical assistance to the commission, review the implementation of juvenile justice reform, and prepare annual reports to be submitted to the legislature and the governor.

New law authorizes the institute to work in partnership with the University of La. at Lafayette and with other institutions of higher learning to fulfill the purposes of new law.

New law authorizes the institute to work in partnership with DPS&C, youth services, office of juvenile justice, to fulfill the purposes of new law. Information may be provided on a per project basis and any release of data by the office of juvenile justice is subject to approval by the deputy secretary for youth services. The institute is required to maintain the confidentiality of legally protected juvenile information and is prohibited from using any information shared pursuant to new law for any proprietary purpose.

New law authorizes the institute to seek, accept, and expend monies from any source, including donations, state appropriations, and federal grants and to seek, accept, and use services from individuals, corporations, and governmental entities.

Effective August 1, 2013.

(Adds R.S. 24:981 and 982)