

*For Immediate Release*

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**The Department of Juvenile Services Secretary DeVore receives leadership award from the Association for the Advancement of Evidence Based Practices in Maryland**

SAVANNAH, GA--(September 24, 2008). Secretary Donald DeVore from the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) received a "Leadership Award" from the Association for the Advancement Evidence Based Practices (AAEBP) today for his outstanding guidance and fortitude to expand Evidence Based Practices for youth in the State of Maryland.

Two of the Evidence Bases Practices that have been implemented in Maryland are Functional Family Therapy (FFT) and Multisystemic Therapy (MST). FFT is a well documented and highly successful family intervention for at-risk and juvenile justice involved youth. The major goal of FFT is to improve family communication and supportiveness while helping families adopt positive behavior change and parenting strategies. Data has shown that when applied as intended, FFT can reduce recidivism between 25-60%.

MST is an intensive family- and community-based treatment that addresses the multiple determinants of serious antisocial behavior in youth at imminent risk of out-of-home placement. The multi-systemic approach promotes behavior change in the youth's natural environment, using the strengths of each system (e.g., family, peers, school, neighborhood, indigenous support network) to facilitate change. Evaluations of MST have demonstrated reductions of 25-70% in long term rates of re-arrest for serious juvenile offenders, as well as 47-64% reductions in out-of-home placements.

DJS has increased funding by approximately 300% from FY07 to FY09 for Evidence Base Practices under the leadership of Secretary DeVore. DJS has 299 FFT and MST slots of the 550 total slots in Maryland and is looking to increase the number of slots further.

"DJS is leading the way in Evidence Based Practices with increased funding and availability in Maryland's communities- I am thrilled Maryland is being recognized for these accomplishments," stated Secretary DeVore. "These promising programs address the fundamental needs of our youth. As a Department we are committed to continuing to increase the number of slots in Maryland and encouraging service providers to adopt these practices," added DeVore.