



# Sixth District CJAN Newsletter

## FAMILY: THE ULTIMATE NATURAL SYSTEM

### CSOSA'S CJAN NETWORK

By: Lawrence E. Jordan

A product of the September 30, 2008 Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency's (CSOSA) Annual Citywide Community Justice Advisory Network (CJAN) Forum was the development of a Sixth District strategic plan and theme for FY-09. The Sixth District strategic plan is to support the successful offender reintegration process, the expansion of community and criminal justice partnerships, and to increase public safety via best practice Community Corrections methodology.

The theme or mantra for the Sixth District CJAN is the strengthening and preservation of the family unit. According to the standard internet encyclopedia, Wikipedia, family denotes a group of people

affiliated by a common ancestry, affinity, or co-residence. The original concept of family referred to relations by "blood," however, modern anthropologists and philosophers now argue that the concept of "blood" as the standard for defining family must be understood metaphorically. Furthermore, many societies understand the idea of family through diverse concepts such as: economic equality, geographic proximity, education equality, shared hardship experiences, victories and the list is endless.

A common element in understanding the concept of family is that family members assign value to one another, develop emotional trust, have expectations, find support, feel protected and a part of a unique social group. Community Correction professionals understand the strong connection and influence that an of-

fender's family has in his or her life. Through this understanding of the power and influence of the family (collateral contacts), we at CSOSA believe that it is essential to collaborate and partner with families of offenders as they support one of their own members; to inform the family of the supervision process so that the family can act as a mentoring unit for the offender; and to provide needed referral services when needed to the family to ensure and support the preservation of the family.

We further understand that during these tough economic and trying times, an individual holding on and maintaining the unity and connective-ness of a strong and vibrant family unit may be the deciding variable between success and the "good life", instead of misery, struggle and the unfulfilled life.



## CJAN FAMILY ORIENTED PHOTO GALLERY



CJAN members participating in Pilot Family Orientation.



Sixth District CJAN members discussing issues related to quality of life for families residing in the District of Columbia.



Former 7-D Commissioner Warees Majeed and his family pose with Ward Seven Council member, Yvette Alexander during Family Day event in the park.



CJAN members participating in a Sixth District forum discussing resources and social services available to offenders and their family members residing in the Sixth District.

### Announcements:

- ◆ June is National Family Month
- ◆ Sixth District CJAN meeting, June 23rd, 2009, 100–42nd Street, NE, 6:30 PM–8:30 PM

## A MESSAGE FOR THE SIXTH DISTRICT



### Neighbors and Residents of the Sixth District:

Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency is a Federal Government Law Enforcement Agency with a local public safety mission. Our mission is to increase public safety, prevent crimes, reduce recidivism, and support the fair administration of justice in close collaboration with the community. Our service to the District of Columbia is to establish strict accountability and to prevent the population that we supervise from engaging in criminal activity. In the Sixth District, we implement our objectives through activities that strengthen, educate and support the natural system of the family unit, thus positively affecting the reintegration outcome of those we supervise. Respectfully, *Lawrence E. Jordan*

To submit a community announcement, a scheduled activity or for more information about the Sixth District Community Justice Advisory Network, contact: Lawrence E. Jordan at (202) 220-5515 or (202) 220-5320.