



Boys Town Program Director Carolyn Slade meets with officials from the Ministry of Justice, Republic of Korea.

Korean Officials Tour New York City Juvenile Detention System

On Tuesday, April 1, 2008 visiting officials from the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Justice received a comprehensive tour of New York City's Juvenile Justice System. As part of the tour, the delegation visited a secure detention facility and a non-secure group home, as well as the headquarters of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

The tour, led by DJJ Assistant Commissioner for Communications & Public Affairs Scott Trent began at the Horizon Juvenile Center, a secure detention facility located in the Bronx, where the delegation learned of the Department's detention strategies and practices used to care for youth remanded to secure detention by the court system. The next stop on the tour was Boys Town/Marolla, a non-secure group home operated by the non-profit organization Boys Town, where the visitors were able to observe the less restrictive group home setting. The tour concluded at DJJ headquarters, where the officials met with Commissioner Hernandez and other senior staff members from the Department.

The delegation, made up of officials from the Social Protection & Rehabilitation Bureau of the Korean Ministry of Justice, South Korea, included Vice Director Oh Younghee, Kim Ji Su, Education Manager; Kim Hyunmi, Program Manager; and Sohn Tae Hee, International Coordinator. As administrators of the Republic of Korea's juvenile justice system, the officials were able to share valuable information on juvenile detention in their home country and were well prepared to be informed observers of the City's system.

The tour also provided DJJ officials a chance to brief the visiting delegation on juvenile justice reform efforts recently undertaken, including the Release to Parent Initiative (RTP) and the Collaborative Family Initiative (CFI). Both programs are designed to return youth to their communities while reducing detention usage. The Release to Parent Initiative targets youth being admitted to DJJ facilities and attempts to allow the youth to return home with a parent or guardian until the next date the court is open. The Collaborative Family Initiative works to provide critical mental health and psychiatric services to youth after being released to a parent or guardian.

Assistant Commissioner Trent said, "DJJ is always pleased to provide access to its facilities for our counterparts in other jurisdictions and share ideas and strategies to best serve the needs of our young people. We enjoyed meeting with officials from the Republic of Korea Ministry of Justice and we look forward to building a lasting friendship between our respective agencies."

