

Editor's Note

Sarah Kuborn and co-authors Carol Kellison, Kristen N. Sobba, and Darcy Robins discuss the Missouri Division of Youth Services (DYS) and what is known as “The Missouri Model” in this issue. The DYS approach toward juvenile justice provides an example for other states since its approach toward addressing problem youths has resulted in both low violations of the law and low recidivism. The success of the system can be traced back to developments that began in the 1970s. The authors stress the importance the family plays in creating this success story.

In our second article, Ivy Shen addresses a topic that universities have been confronting for some years: performance-based funding. Performance-based funding focuses on the broader activities of a state-funded university, such as student retention rates, graduation rates and cost efficiency. Shen also addresses the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE). The concern is that while linking performance to finances is a worthy goal, there may be some unintended consequences if universities make changes to graduation policies to improve their performance.

The *Missouri Policy Journal* had hoped to include an article on Missouri and COVID-19 in this issue. One of the issues that has been addressed in broad public discussions about this pandemic is the role governors play in either trying to responsibly keep COVID-19 infection rates down in their states or, essentially, doing next to nothing at all. We hope to address this topic in the next issue.

Joseph A. Cernik, *Editor*