

Simon G. Gonsoulin

Education

M.Ed. 1981, Louisiana State University, Administration and Supervision
B.A. 1977, Louisiana State University, Special Education/Elementary
Education

Present Position

Principal Research Analyst for Education, Human Development, and Workforce Program, American Institutes for Research (AIR)

Responsibilities include serving as Director for the National Evaluation and Technical Assistance Center for the Education of Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk (NDTAC). The mission of NDTAC is to improve educational programming for neglected and delinquent youth. NDTAC is funded by the U.S. Department of Education to develop a uniform evaluation model for State education agency Title I, Part D, Subpart 1 programs, provide technical assistance to states in order to increase capacity for data collection and their ability to use the data to improve educational programming for youth who are neglected, delinquent, or at risk, and facilitate communication and collaboration between different organizations, agencies and other stakeholders that work with this population. Additionally, act as the juvenile justice resource specialist for the Technical Assistance Partnership (TAP). TAP is responsible for providing technical assistance to Systems of Care (SOC) communities around the country. In this capacity, I work directly with SOC Communities that have identified juvenile justice youth as a population of focus in their grant and six-year plan. SOC are funded through the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Professional Experience

Deputy Secretary – Office of Youth Development/Governor’s Cabinet, State of Louisiana (2004-2008)

The Deputy Secretary for the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Youth Services, Office of Youth Development is appointed by the Governor of Louisiana and confirmed by the Louisiana Senate. This position was a member of the Governor’s Executive Cabinet and the Louisiana Children’s Cabinet. The Office of Youth Development has an annual budget of \$182 million, is accountable for over 4700 youth throughout the State, and employs 1350 full time employees. The responsibilities of the Deputy Secretary included directing the state juvenile justice effort which encompasses the management of three (3) secure care facilities (*ranging in size from 70 to 170 youth*), operation of eleven regional probation and parole offices, \$70 million dollars in contracts for community based services, and the management and operation of a central office. Major initiatives accomplished included: 1) dismissal from federal litigation between the State, private plaintiffs, and the

United States Department of Justice pertaining to conditions of confinement, protection from harm, educational, medical, and mental health services in the secure care facilities, 2) writing and disseminating a five-year Strategic Plan for reforming the Louisiana Juvenile Justice System, 3) creating an independent Office of Management and programmatic functions within Youth Services as established by executive order and legislation in 2004, 4) changing the focus and culture of the agency from a correctional/custodial model to a treatment/youth-centered model, and 5) transforming the “training” program for staff into a professional “staff development” model of continuous staff improvement that is built on previous learning and skill acquisition.

State Director of Education – Office of Youth Development, Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, (2000-2004)

The State Director of Education was responsible for statewide supervision and implementation of the educational services for youth (approximately 800) in Louisiana’s secure care facilities. Educational units offer traditional and alternative academic, vocational, special education, GED, and post-secondary offerings twelve months per year. Responsibilities included executing the Education Settlement Agreement between the State of Louisiana, private plaintiffs and the United States Department of Justice from the signing of the agreement to complete dismissal. The agreement was over 75 paragraphs in length and encompassed construction, budgetary issues, staffing patterns, staff development, special education concerns, vocational and other post-secondary education activities, assessment of students, quality assurance, school climate, and certification requirements of staff. Major initiatives accomplished included: 1) establishing and training leadership teams at each facility school to act as change agents for educational growth and reform, 2) writing the quality assurance plan for the State of Louisiana’s secure care juvenile education programs (including leading conducting numerous multi-day quality assurance monitoring tours of facilities, conducting exit summation sessions following each monitoring tour, completing written reports following each monitoring tour, and monitoring each school’s corrective action plan that addressed areas of concern/growth), and 3) acting as the liaison or “point person” for the Office of Youth Development to Louisiana State University Health Science Center (medical school) to facilitate a contract providing medical, dental, and mental health services, as well as aspects of training.

Supervisor of Special Education – West Baton Rouge Parish School Board, Louisiana (1996-2000)

The Supervisor of Special Education was responsible for supervising the special education programs for the parish of West Baton Rouge (Louisiana). There were 700 exceptional students and 60 special education staff members ranging from school psychologists to classroom professionals. There were special education programs at 11 schools in the school district and eleven school building level administrators (principals) to coordinate the services for exceptional students. Major initiatives accomplished included: 1) providing inservice for special education teachers, regular education teachers, and administrators, 2) making personnel aware of effective educational techniques, materials, and innovative programs and providing assistance in the adoption of programs proven effective through demonstration and

research, 3) collecting evaluation data and submitting reports to local, state, and federal agencies, 4) planning and submitting budgets at state level, 5) keeping abreast of state and federal mandates and monitoring programs to ensure compliance at the local level, and 6) mediating disputes between teachers, administrators, parents, and agencies concerning special needs students.

Special School Principal/Assistant Principal – Greenwell Springs Hospital School, State of Louisiana (Department of Education/Special School District #1), (1986-1996)

The special school principal/assistant principal was responsible for supervising 32 employees- 18 professional level positions, 12 teacher aides, and 2 clerical staff members. The goal of this position was to provide leadership in developing, achieving, and maintaining quality educational programs and services in the assigned school and to supervise all aspects of the school's instructional program. The supervision of 32 employees occurred at four geographically different sites. Appropriate supervision required travel to each site and the ability to conduct supervisory duties via other means of communication. Major initiatives accomplished included: 1) serving as liaison and fostering good relationships and communication with other agencies at both the state and local levels, 2) acting as liaison with the following agencies – Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Louisiana Department of Education, Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, numerous local educational school districts, and 3) assisting in the establishment of the Evolutions' Program – a partial hospitalization program for adolescents.

Supervisor of Adult Education – Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections (1982-1986)

The Supervisor of Adult Education supervised 48 educators, including school building administrators (principals), educational consultants, assessment teachers, and classroom teachers. Responsibilities included administering the adult basic education program for this state agency. The adult basic education programs were operated at eight geographically separate facilities in Louisiana. Each program instructed students with functional levels ranging from nonreaders to high school graduates. Approximately seven hundred students enrolled annually. Major initiatives accomplished included: 1) conducting the monitoring of the adult basic education program on a statewide basis, and 2) providing technical assistance through inservice activities to principals, teachers, and pupil appraisal personnel on a regular basis.

Educational Consultant/Educational Assessment Teacher – Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections (1981-1982)

The Educational Consultant was employed by the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections as the educational component at the Adult Reception and Diagnostic Center,

St. Gabriel, Louisiana. Responsibilities included serving as the evaluation coordinator and Supervisor of the pupil appraisal team composed of an educational consultant, a speech pathologist, and a psychologist, conducting individual psycho-educational evaluations and adaptive behavior evaluations on all students in the Department suspected on being exceptional and requiring special education services, coordinating educational services with four areas of treatment operating at the ARDC (medical, psychological, social workers, and classification sections, and coordinating the transfer of special education students from the ARDC to institutions where appropriate special education services were offered.

Instructor – Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections (1979-1981)

The responsibilities of an instructor included providing special education instruction within an adult correctional facility operated by the State of Louisiana. Specific duties included: 1) teaching of all subject areas to exceptional students (math, reading, pre-vocational skills and social skills), 2) teaching students diagnosed as being mild mentally disabled, moderately mentally disabled, learning disabled and behavior disordered, 3) interpreting individual evaluations conducted on each student, and 4) writing Individual Education Plans (IEP) on all assigned students.

Classroom Teacher – East Baton Rouge Parish School Board, Louisiana (1977-1979)

The responsibilities of the classroom teacher included teaching a self-contained special education class composed of exceptional students ranging in age from seven to fifteen years. Specific duties included: 1) teaching all subject areas (reading, math, science, general knowledge, and self-help skills), 2) writing Individual Education Plans (IEP) for each exceptional student, 3) working with students diagnosed as being mild mentally disabled, learning disabled, emotionally disturbed and speech impaired, and 4) coaching, guidance, and care of students prior to and during the Louisiana Special Olympics.

Employment History

- 2008-Present** Principal Research, American Institutes for Research, Education, Human Development, and Work Force Program
- 2004-2008** Deputy Secretary, Louisiana Office of Youth Development
- 2000-2004** State Director of Education, Louisiana Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections Office of Youth Development
- 1996-2000** Supervisor of Special Education, West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana
- 1986-1996** Special School Principal/Assistant Principal, Louisiana Department of Education, Special School District #1
- 1982-1986** Supervisor of Adult Education, Louisiana Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections
- 1981-1982** Educational Consultant/Educational Assessment Teacher, Louisiana Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections
- 1979-1981** Instructor, Louisiana Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections
- 1977-1979** Classroom Teacher, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

Publications

- Gonsoulin, S. & Lewis, E. (2004). *Navigating Your Way Through Class-Action Lawsuits*. Corrections Today, February, 2004.
- O’Cummings, M., Colombi, G., & Gonsoulin, S. (2008). *Colloboration Strategy Report*. Washington, D.C.: National Evaluation and Technical Assistance Center for the Education of Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or At Risk (NDTAC).
- O’Cummings, M., Bardock, S., & Gonsoulin, S. (2010). Issue Brief: *The Importance of Literacy For Youth Involved in the Juvenile Justice System*. Washington, D.C.: National Evaluation and Technical Assistance Center for the Education of Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or At Risk (NDTAC). Online at http://www.neglected-delinquent.org/nd/docs/literacy_brief_20100120.pdf.
- Osher, D., Gonsoulin, S., & Lampron, S. (2010). Preface: *Addressing the Unmet Educational Needs of Children and Youth in the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare System* – P. Leone and L. Weinberg, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform. Washington, D.C.

Professional Presentations and Webinars

- Gonsoulin, S. (2010, March). *Girls, Trauma, and Juvenile Justice*. Presented to Federal Roundtable on Trauma and Women. Washington, D.C.
- Gonsoulin, S. & McLaughlin, J. (2010, March). *Encouraging Continuous Quality Improvement of Educational Programs Through Monitoring Efforts*. Presented to Correctional Education Association’s Annual All Leadership Forum. Annapolis, MD.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2009, November). *Lessons Learned: Managing Disasters in Juvenile Justice*. Testimony Before the National Commission on Children and Disasters. Washington, D.C.
- Gonsoulin, S. & O’Cummings, M. (2009, August). *Effective Transitional Practices: Emphasizing Multi-System Collaboration for Youth Involved with the Juvenile Justice System*. Presented via Webinar for the TA Partnership and Federation of Families. Washington, D.C.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2009, July). *Interagency Collaboration in Community-Based Services for Youth Leaving Secure Care*. Presented to Summer 2009 System of Care Community Training. Anaheim, California.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2009, July). *Applying Public Health Strategies to Engage Families of Youth In the Juvenile Justice System*. Presented to Summer 2009 System of Care Community Training. Anaheim, California.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2009, May). *Effective Transitions through Systems of Care: Collaborative Community Supports as a Means to Success for System-Involved Youth*. Presented to Coalition for Juvenile Justice Annual National Conference. Crystal City, Virginia.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2009, March). *Meeting the Educational Needs of Youth Exposed to the*

- Juvenile Justice System*. Presented to Correctional Education Association 2009 Leadership Forum. Annapolis, Maryland.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2009, March). *Transition Toolkit: Meeting the Educational Needs of Youth Exposed to the Juvenile Justice System*. Presented to National Conference on Juvenile Justice. Orlando, Florida.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2009, March). *Collaborative Practices in Educational Programs for Children and Youth Who are Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk*. Presented to National Title I Conference. San Antonio, Texas.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2008, November). *Preventing Youth Homelessness Following Incarceration: Identifying and Supporting Youth At Risk of Becoming Homeless After Release from Institutional Settings*. Presented to National Association for The Education of Homeless Children and Youth. Crystal City, Virginia.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2007, December). *Juvenile Justice Update*. Presented to Juvenile Justice Implementation Commission. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2007, November). *Louisiana Office of Youth Development Reform*. Presented to Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators. Williamsburg, Virginia.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2007, October). *Quality Education in a Secure Care Setting*. Presented to the International Conference of the Council of Behavior Disorders. Dallas, Texas
- Gonsoulin, S. (2007, September - October). *Stakeholder Outreach - Juvenile Justice Update*. Presented to Stakeholders in 7 Regions. Statewide, Louisiana.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2007, September). *Working Together to Better Serve Dually Adjudicated Children*. Presented at Together We Can Conference. Lafayette, Louisiana.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2007, May). *Juvenile Justice Update-Female Population*. Presented to Southeastern Louisiana Conference on Gender Responsive Programming. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2007, May). *Office of Youth Development Orientation*. Presented to all OYD staff. Statewide, Louisiana.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2007, April). *Juvenile Justice Reform Update*. Presented to Children's Cabinet Advisory Board. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Gonsoulin, Simon. (2007, March). *Juvenile Justice Update*. Presented to Juvenile Justice Implementation Commission. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2007, February). *Juvenile Justice Reform Overview*. Presented at the Co-Occurring Disorders: Charting the Direction for Success in Juvenile Justice, Symposium, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2007, January). *Juvenile Justice Update*. Presented to Louisiana Judges Meeting. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

- Gonsoulin, S. (2006, October). *Juvenile Justice Update*. Presented to Louisiana Juvenile Detention Association. Shreveport, Louisiana.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2006, October). *Juvenile Justice Update*. Presented to Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus, Leadership Retreat. New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2006, June). *Strategic Plan Update*. Presented to Juvenile Probation and Parole Association of Louisiana Conference. Marksville, Louisiana.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2006, June). *Office of Youth Development Progress of Reform*. Presented to National Governor's Association of Best Practices, National Conference of State Legislatures, Forum for Youth Investment. Portland, Oregon.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2006, March). *Office of Youth Development Strategic Plan*. Presented to Family Focus Conference. Lake Charles, Louisiana.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2006, February). *Office of Youth Development Strategic Plan*. Presented to Drug Court Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2006, February). *Conditions of Confinement in Louisiana's Secure Care Facilities*. Presented to Department of Justice. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2006, January). *Juvenile Justice Update*. Presented to Louisiana Judges Meeting. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2005, December). *Office of Youth Development Reform Update*. Presented to Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2005, June). *Juvenile Justice Reform Initiatives and Building Partnership in Louisiana's Juvenile Justice System*. Annual District Attorney's Association Conference, Destin, Florida.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2005, June - August). *Stakeholder Outreach - Juvenile Justice Update*. Presented to Stakeholders in 9 Regions. Statewide, Louisiana.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2005, April). *Juvenile Justice Update*. Presented to Juvenile Justice Implementation Commission. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2005, February). *Juvenile Justice Update*. Presented to Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana Conference. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2004, April). *Quality Special Education Programming in a Secure Care Setting*. Center for Education, Disabilities and Juvenile Justice Best Practices. Denver, Colorado.
- Gonsoulin, S. (2003, January). American Correctional Association. *Navigating Through a DOJ Settlement Agreement*. Charlotte, North Carolina.

Recent Contributions to the Profession

Member of Board of Directors, Council for Juvenile Correctional Administrators, Learning Institute for Performance-based Standards, 2009 – Present.

Member of multi-agency re-entry work group associated with the United States Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, January 2010 – Present.

Member and leader of the multi-agency respond and recover work group associated with the National Commission on Children and Disasters, United States Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, November 2009 – Present.