

# Analysis of the Mode and Effectiveness of Contemporary Judicial Social Work Intervention in Community Correction of Juvenile Delinquency in China

YanLin Song<sup>\*1.a</sup>, ZhiHong Huang<sup>2.b</sup> and Sisi Zhang<sup>3.c</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Social Development, Tianjin Polytechnic University, TianJin 300384, China

<sup>2</sup>School of law, Guangdong University of Technology, Guang Dong 510520, China

<sup>3</sup>School of law, Southwest Petroleum University, Chengdu 610000, China

Email: <sup>a</sup>songyanlinn1218@stud.tjut.edu.cn. <sup>b</sup>924297794@qq.com. <sup>c</sup>495363661@qq.com

**How to cite this paper:** Song, Y. L., Huang, Z. H., & Zhang, S. S. (2025). Analysis of the Mode and Effectiveness of Contemporary Judicial Social Work Intervention in Community Correction of Juvenile Delinquency in China. *Education and Social Work*, 1(2), 217–223. ISSN Print: 3079-515X, ISSN Online: 3079-5168.

<https://doi.org/10.63313/ESW.9026>

**Published: 2025-04-25**

Copyright © 2025 by author(s) and Erytis Publishing Limited.

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution International License (CC BY 4.0).

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



## Abstract

Due to the continuous acceleration of social development in China, there are real problems such as large income gap, severe employment situation, and unreasonable social structure. Social contradictions are easily exacerbated, and many teenagers are forced to embark on the path of illegal and criminal activities. Juvenile delinquency has also become a common problem in China. Based on this, this article analyzes the current situation of judicial and social work intervention in community correction of juvenile delinquency, and provides suggestions and countermeasures for reference.

## Keywords

Community Correction; Judicial Social Work; Juvenile Delinquency

## 1. Analysis of the Current Situation of Judicial Social Work Intervention in Community Correction of Juvenile Delinquency

### 1.1. Overview of Judicial Social Work Intervention

Since the introduction of social work from abroad, China's social work services have continuously developed and improved under the premise of "helping others to help themselves" and "altruism". At the same time, relevant policies and regulations on social work intervention in community correction are gradually being improved. So far, the number of social workers in China has been continuously increasing every year, which not only reflects the rapid development of social work in China, but also

demonstrates the initial effectiveness of the professional team construction of judicial social work services, which can effectively help young offenders complete community correction services and reintegrate into society. [1] Under the premise of rapid economic development in our country, other supporting services related to community correction have also achieved comprehensive development. The quality of community correction staff has been improved, social workers have participated in services, and the development of community correction supporting facilities has provided good correction services for juvenile offenders, helping them re-establish correct worldviews, outlooks on life, and values. However, there are still some areas that need to be improved and perfected in the intervention of judicial social work in community correction of juvenile delinquency, which requires the joint efforts of the whole society.

### **1.2. The main mode of judicial social work intervention in community correction of juvenile delinquency**

According to a survey on the intervention of judicial social work in community correction of juvenile delinquency, there are currently three main models of judicial social work intervention in community correction of juvenile delinquency in China: the Shanghai judicial social work model, the Beijing judicial management model, and the Shenzhen "social work+volunteer" linkage teaching model.

The Shanghai judicial social work model mainly divides intervention into two stages: primary correction and graded correction. The primary correction stage mainly uses technological means to analyze the main factors and sources of juvenile delinquency[2]. In the stage of graded correction, further quantitative data analysis is mainly conducted on the living environment and people around juvenile offenders, as well as the juveniles themselves, and specific intervention correction is carried out based on the analysis results; The Beijing judicial management model mainly provides community correction for juvenile offenders through rehabilitation education. During the correction process, corresponding judicial personnel and judicial social workers evaluate juvenile offenders based on their comprehensive performance abilities, use professional social work skills and methods to establish a therapeutic relationship with juvenile offenders, fully understand their basic needs during intervention, and construct relevant correction plans. Ultimately, they can truly help juvenile offenders and cultivate their correct values; The "social worker+volunteer" collaborative teaching model in Shenzhen mainly utilizes the corrective cognition and professional skills of social workers to intervene in juvenile offenders, while volunteers mainly provide companionship and positive emotional care to juvenile offenders during the intervention process[3].

Through the cooperation of social workers and volunteers, a more humane management model is formed for the intervention of juvenile offenders, which not only enables them to actively receive community correction treatment, but also plays a significant role in their reintegration into society after community correction treat-

ment. These three main models currently play a very important role in the intervention of judicial social work in community correction of juvenile delinquency in China, and also provide paradigms for the subsequent development of judicial social work.

### **1.3. The positive effect of judicial social workers intervening in community correction for adolescents**

#### **1.3.1. Compensated for the lack of flexibility in the execution of criminal penalties in community corrections**

Although community correction imposes penalties on juvenile delinquents from a punitive perspective and regulates how they should be corrected in the form of a legal system. However, in the process of community correction, due to the complexity of the work and various reasons such as the impartiality of judicial personnel, the flexibility of the punishment in the execution process is insufficient. Through the specific practical guidance of professional values in social work, social workers can use scientific methods to provide professional and systematic corrective intervention services for juvenile delinquents. The key is that social workers can use professional skills and methods in this process to promote their potential and help them achieve empowerment, driving juvenile delinquents to actively complete self change and adapt to the constantly changing social development; In addition, under the influence of social work values and ethics, professional social workers will actively accept juvenile delinquents in the intervention process, and give them full respect and concern. This not only enables juvenile delinquents to truly feel cared for and valued when receiving community correction, but also enables them to quickly break free from the label of criminals and the state of being stripped away from society through equal communication and exchange with juvenile delinquents in the process of intervention correction services, and actively express their true thoughts and emotional needs to social workers. Social work values fairness, equality, and respect, and social workers have a stronger affinity. In the process of corrective intervention, judicial social workers can not only establish good interactive relationships with juvenile offenders, but also make up for the lack of flexibility in punishment in community correction, making community correction services more smooth.

#### **1.3.2. Compensated for the deficiency of virtualization in the execution of criminal penalties**

During the process of community correction, juvenile offenders need to regularly report their recent thoughts and participation in correctional service activities to the community correction institution through specific means such as telephone or written communication. This form can effectively manage juvenile offenders and encourage them to participate in community correction projects, enabling them to reintegrate into society as soon as possible. It is not difficult for juvenile delinquents who want to reintegrate into society to comply with the regulations of these com-

munity institutions, but most community correctional institutions are not very familiar with the specific daily activities that juvenile delinquents participate in community corrections[4]. Moreover, in the process of reintegrating juvenile delinquents into society through community correction, juvenile offenders often have new needs and may encounter new problems. Community correction institutions find it difficult to timely and comprehensively understand and analyze these new needs and problems of juvenile delinquents, let alone provide them with further correction assistance. Therefore, the existence of these problems leads to the virtualization of community correction punishment execution. But when social workers participate in community correction and face juvenile delinquents, they can take the initiative with their professional skills and methods, gain the trust of juvenile delinquents in the process of community correction, and establish professional relationships with them. In this way, judicial social workers can not only discover and understand the new needs and demands of juvenile delinquents in the process of correction at the first time, but also help them solve these problems in a timely and effective manner. In this way, judicial social work can not only help juvenile offenders reintegrate into society, but also make up for the deficiency of virtual execution of punishment in community correction.

### **1.3.3. Compensated for the lack of social care in the execution of criminal penalties**

Social workers play multiple roles in the process of intervening in youth community correction, upholding the social work values of helping others and self-help, providing community correction services for juvenile delinquents. In the process of youth community correction, they are the link for juvenile delinquents to integrate into society without barriers. However, in real life, due to inherent social values and other factors, juvenile offenders often do not receive sufficient social care and may also be excluded and marginalized. This not only makes it difficult for juvenile offenders to correct themselves in correction, but may even further cause them to develop disgust and aversion towards society. The participation of judicial social workers in the process of community correction for juvenile offenders can effectively utilize social forces such as family and community to fully alleviate the exclusion and marginalization encountered by juvenile offenders in their reintegration into society and social interaction. It maximizes the sense of acceptance of juvenile offenders by society with the help of judicial social workers, and allows them to feel full social care and love during the correction process. In the process of intervening in correctional services for juvenile delinquents, judicial social workers attach great importance to the scientific and reasonable application of resources around juvenile delinquents and socially beneficial resources, rather than resorting to cold and coercive administrative enforcement measures like judicial authorities. Therefore, judicial social workers can use this to compensate for the lack of social care in the execution of criminal penalties.

## **1.4. Shortcomings of Judicial Social Work Intervention in Community Correction of Juvenile Delinquency**

### **1.4.1. In terms of organizational structure**

Compared to China, there are many professional correctional management agencies abroad that specifically supervise and manage community correctional services for juvenile offenders, such as the United States and the United Kingdom, which have established specialized management agencies for community correctional services for juvenile offenders. However, at present, there is no specialized community correction supervision agency for juvenile delinquents in China [3], and some regions have not separated juvenile delinquents from other correctional objects for correction. This not only leads to unsatisfactory results in correction, but also increases the difficulty of correction by potentially causing cross infection between juvenile delinquents and other correctional objects during the correction process. The deficiencies in the establishment of these institutions are likely to have extremely negative impacts on the reintegration of young people into society after rehabilitation.

### **1.4.2. At the level of corrective projects**

Foreign countries have adopted specialized correction programs for juvenile offenders in their community correction programs. For example, special correctional programs such as the Additional Justice Program of the New York Probation Bureau in the United States. However, in terms of the current community correction projects for juvenile offenders in our country, there is not only a lack of innovation, but also a large amount of work undertaken by public welfare organizations in the process of carrying out community correction for juvenile offenders. However, public welfare organizations only do some simple things that may seem related to community correction for juvenile offenders, but are not actually related. This makes it difficult to effectively achieve the correction goals for juvenile offenders.

## **2. Suggestions on the intervention of judicial social work in community correction of juvenile delinquency**

### **2.1. Optimize the intervention mechanism of judicial social work**

Firstly, there is a lack of relevant legal provisions in China regarding the intervention of judicial social work in community correction of juvenile delinquency. Corresponding legal provisions should be formulated as soon as possible to fill the gap in this field and further promote the legalization of judicial social workers' intervention in community correction of juvenile offenders through legal means; Secondly, clarify the positioning of social work. There are many problems in the current development of judicial social work in China, such as the inability of judicial social workers to accurately position themselves in the process of community correction for juvenile offenders, unclear functional authority, which will make it difficult for juvenile offenders to be accurately corrected during the process of receiving correc-

tion. Therefore, it is crucial to clarify the functional positioning of social work. Therefore, it is recommended that relevant national institutions establish a comprehensive personnel construction mechanism to ensure that the correctional personnel equipped for community correction of juvenile offenders have professional correctional skills. In addition, improve the juvenile criminal justice system. For teenagers, they lack accurate discernment of things around them. When they cannot distinguish right from wrong, they often unintentionally engage in highly deviant behavior and may even violate the law. So it is recommended to tailor a judicial community correction system for teenagers based on their characteristics.

## **2.2. Expand service coverage**

Firstly, judicial social workers conduct social surveys around juvenile offenders before carrying out corrections. The investigation includes the hidden reasons and social relationships behind the juvenile delinquency, and determines whether they meet the requirements of community correction. Judicial personnel often create a sense of oppression and suffocation, not to mention facing a group of young prisoners. If judicial personnel directly participate in the investigation, it may not only exacerbate the resentment and rejection of juvenile delinquents by those around them, but also make it difficult for them to receive community correction, directly leading to a significant increase in the difficulty of their integration into society after receiving correction. Judicial social workers can demonstrate their professional and theoretical superiority in conducting social surveys before carrying out community corrections for juvenile offenders, and can use professional skills and methods to establish harmonious and effective working relationships with the people around juvenile delinquents; Secondly, expand the service radius of community correction for juvenile offenders. Judicial social workers usually carry out their work during the execution phase of community correction for juvenile offenders. However, for juvenile delinquents, they have already established a certain degree of correction relationship with the correctional personnel in their community and received a certain degree of correction during this process. If judicial social workers suddenly join during this period, it is highly likely to cause strong rejection and resentment among juvenile offenders. Moreover, if judicial social workers fail to establish a good relationship with juvenile delinquents during this stage, it is likely that the juvenile delinquents under correction will feel that they are not receiving the attention they deserve in the process of correction, and community correction is also highly likely to end in failure. It is recommended that judicial social workers intervene in the entire process of community correction for juvenile offenders, and implement a series of coherent and uninterrupted community correction work for juvenile offenders, from the initial correction connection, execution, management supervision, assessment and rewards, to the final placement, assistance, rehabilitation and return to society. Ensure that juvenile delinquents do not experience correctional failure due to changes in community correctional staff or other reasons during the process of

receiving community correction.

### 2.3. Absorbing and introducing professional talents

Strengthen the construction of the judicial social worker team. In the process of community correction for juvenile offenders, judicial social workers often only play an auxiliary role, which leads to the inability to play the main role in community correction for juvenile offenders. The effectiveness of community correction for juvenile offenders is always unsatisfactory. So, it has become crucial to hire professional judicial social workers. The relevant judicial departments should increase the introduction of talents, give full play to the main position of judicial social workers in community correction of juvenile delinquency, and formulate corresponding institutional systems to provide guarantees for the specialized absorption of judicial social work. In addition, to prevent the loss of professional talents, corresponding personnel management regulations and systems should be formulated to ensure that juvenile offenders receive specialized services in the process of judicial social workers participating in community correction of juvenile offenders, and targeted analysis and specialized intervention correction plans with unique applicability should be adopted for each different juvenile offender.

### 3. Conclusion

Teenagers are the future of our country, and they are the hope for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Community correction for juvenile offenders is beneficial for the rehabilitation and reintegration of juvenile delinquents into society in China, and can further prevent deviant and illegal behaviors among young people, making the future of our country full of new strength. Whether in theoretical research or practical exploration, judicial social workers have laid the foundation for innovation in community correction work. It is hoped that in the future development process, China can gradually establish a sound community correction system, and social workers can also follow the principles of people-oriented and self-help, and help young offenders improve themselves and integrate into society through judicial social work.

### References

- [1] Zheng Xiaoqian. Research on the Intervention of Community Correction Social Work for Adolescents[D]. Chengdu: Xihua University, 2017
- [2] Fu Bin. Intervention of Judicial Social Work in Community Correction of Juvenile Delinquency Research [D]. Xiangtan: Xiangtan University, 2021
- [3] Wang Shunmei. Analysis of Social Work Intervention in Juvenile Delinquency Correction Model [J]. Rule of Law and Society, 202 (0 18): 128-129
- [4] Zhou Yueqin. Exploration of Judicial Social Workers' Intervention in Juvenile Delinquency Correction [J]. Law System and Society, 202 (17): 119-120