BUILDING PATHWAYS TO
ALTERNATIVES TO
DETENTION

Eyes of the
Child Regional
Conferences
September
2014
RESEARCH SHOWS THAT MOST JUVENILES ENGAGE IN CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR, BUT DON’T CONTINUE INTO ADULTHOOD.

- Longitudinal studies begun in the 1950s show most juvenile offenders age out of criminal behavior.
- Researchers believe this is because the transition to young adulthood ‘cements’ bonds to society and deters most from continued criminality.

DETENTION LEADS TO WORSE OUTCOMES. AFTER RELEASE, DETAINED YOUTH ARE FAR MORE LIKELY TO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL AND USE DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behavior</th>
<th>Incarcerated vs. Non-Incarcerated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Using alcohol</td>
<td>49%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth who have been detained or incarcerated (post-release)</td>
<td>Youth who have not been detained or incarcerated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Using any illicit drug</td>
<td>42%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dropping out</td>
<td>59%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth who are detained are more than three times as likely to be found guilty and incarcerated than similarly situated peers</td>
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Purpose of Detention

Purpose of Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI)
PURPOSE OF SECURE DETENTION

- Risk to Public Safety
- Risk of Flight
Guides decision makers in ensuring that detention is used for its statutory purpose.

Promotes consistency, equity and transparency in decision making.

Provides a buffer against criticism.

Reduces justice by geography (statewide use).

Measures risk of re-offense pending court and failure to appear.
DEFINING ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION
PURPOSE OF ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION

- To provide non-secure community-based options for youth who would otherwise be securely detained.

- To increase the level of supervision in the community to ensure a youth comes back to court and remains crime-free until the disposition of the case.
ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

- Target Population
- Data Driven
- Least Restrictive
- Community Based
- Case Processing Considerations
- Supervision vs. Monitoring
- Culturally & linguistically relevant
Utilize data to ask the following questions:

- Why are youth detained locally?
  - Review by race, ethnicity, gender, geography, offense (REGGO)
  - By RAI overrides of low/med risk youth
  - By technical violations
  - By average length of stay
- What drives these detentions - policy, practice, or procedure?
Detention Alternatives – Continuum

Home or community detention (non-residential, non-facility-based supervision)

Day or evening reporting centers (non-residential, facility-based supervision)

Shelter or foster care (non-secure residential placement)
COMMON TYPES OF ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION PROGRAMS

- Home Supervision
- Community Supervision
- Electronic Monitoring
- Day/Evening Reporting Centers
- Shelter Care
- Reception Center
HOME AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

- **Home Supervision:**
  - Supervision of youth in their home with parents or relatives.
  - Supervision staff provide frequent, random unannounced face to face contacts at youth’s home.

- **Community Supervision:**
  - Supervision of youth in their home with parents or relatives.
  - Community Based Organization hires an advocate to provide 15-30 hrs/wk supervision per youth in the home and out in the community.
Used in a home detention program.

Used as more restrictive option for youth who have failed program rules OR for youth who would otherwise not qualify with routine program eligibility criteria.

EM programs should not replace face to face supervision, and instead should enhance home or community supervision.
DAY & EVENING REPORTING CENTERS

- A non-secure community program.
- Provides 6-12 hours of daily supervision & structured activities (NOT treatment for pre-adjudicated youth).
- Can be used in conjunction with non-secure residential placement.
- Modification is providing structure and supervision during 3-9pm, “high crime” after school hours.
SHELTER CARE AND RECEPTION CENTER

- **Shelter Care**: a non-secure residential facility staffed to provide time-limited housing; they provide “normal” age specific services – education, recreation, tutoring and life skills training.

- **Reception Center**: a community based organization, where law enforcement brings youth that are low and medium risk to be assessed and provided services: crisis intervention, behavioral & mental health, referrals to needed services, case management, parental involvement and shelter.
COMMON ISSUES AND UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

- Access to detention alternative programming
- Developing detention alternatives without data
- Mission drift
- Net-widening
- Funding
TRACKING THE DATA

From ATD Providers
- Track all data by race, ethnicity, gender, geography, offense.
- Referrals & denials
- Daily census by risk score
- Program successes & failures

At the System Level
- Utilization
- Impact on detention population
- Re-arrest rates
- Failure to Appear Rates
- Impact on Racial and Ethnic Disparity
Youth and family centered ATD programming:
- Orientations to the ATD
- Parent involvement in progress review, exit interview
- Family events at the ATD (i.e. parent talking circles)

Youth and parent voice:
- Planning, implementing, managing and monitoring ATD
- Focus groups, survey’s and summits
Sarpy County had community collaboration and alternatives in place for nearly 25 years:

- SAFE Policy Committee;
- Electronic Monitoring;
- Evening Reporting Center;
- Tracker Services;
- Community Service Coordinator;
- Alternative School
Sarpy County became a Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) site in 2012.

JDAI has provided:
- Framework to enhance current services:
  - Probation/EM sanction with Luv a Lamb program;
  - Expanded reporting center hours;
  - Tracker Program;
  - Truancy Prevention program;
  - Other creative community based services
- Support from decision makers;
- Case processing (bond contracts, review hearings)
- Coordination with Probation
LESSONS LEARNED

- Not everything works
- Community Collaboration is key
- Building relationships is critical
- Tailor programs to meet needs of youth in their community
If this were your child, or a child you cared about is the system good enough?
Pathway 4: Consider the Alternatives – Planning and implementing detention alternatives.  
www.jdaihelpdesk.org

Community Connections for Youth, Training on: Building Community Capacity to Serve Youth in the Justice System.  www.cc-fy.org

Nebraska Crime Commission: Community Plans & Community Based Aid Funding
- Community Team training on Evidence Based Practices Oct. 29-31
CONTACT INFORMATION

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