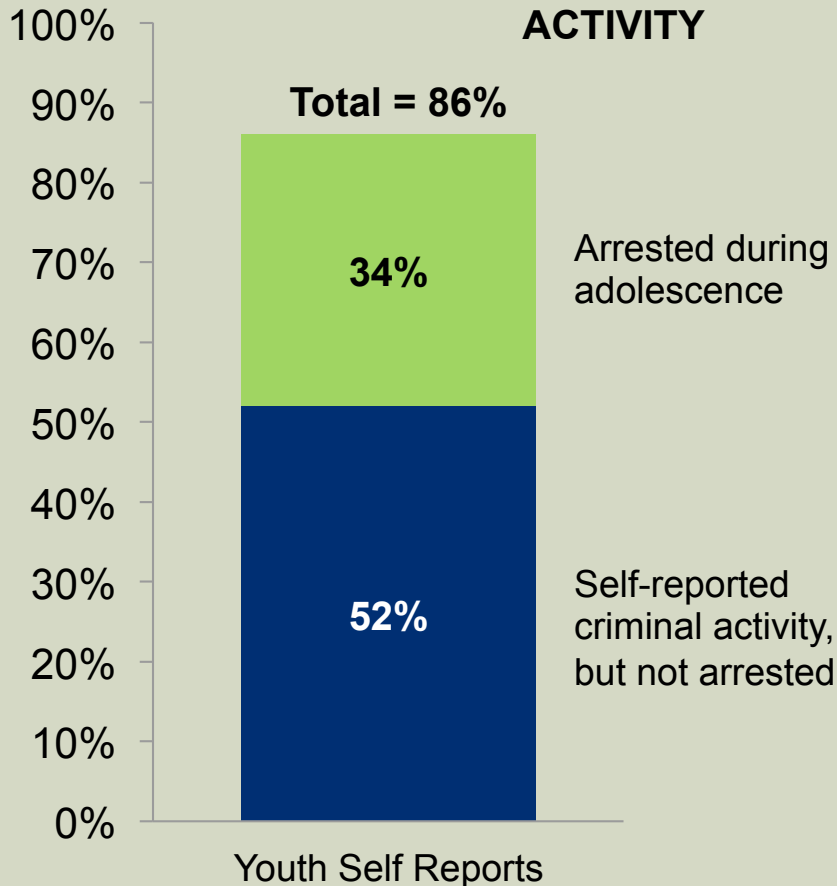


# **BUILDING PATHWAYS TO ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION**

Eyes of the  
Child Regional  
Conferences  
September  
2014

# RESEARCH SHOWS THAT MOST JUVENILES ENGAGE IN CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR, BUT DON'T CONTINUE INTO ADULTHOOD.

## YOUTH SELF REPORTING CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

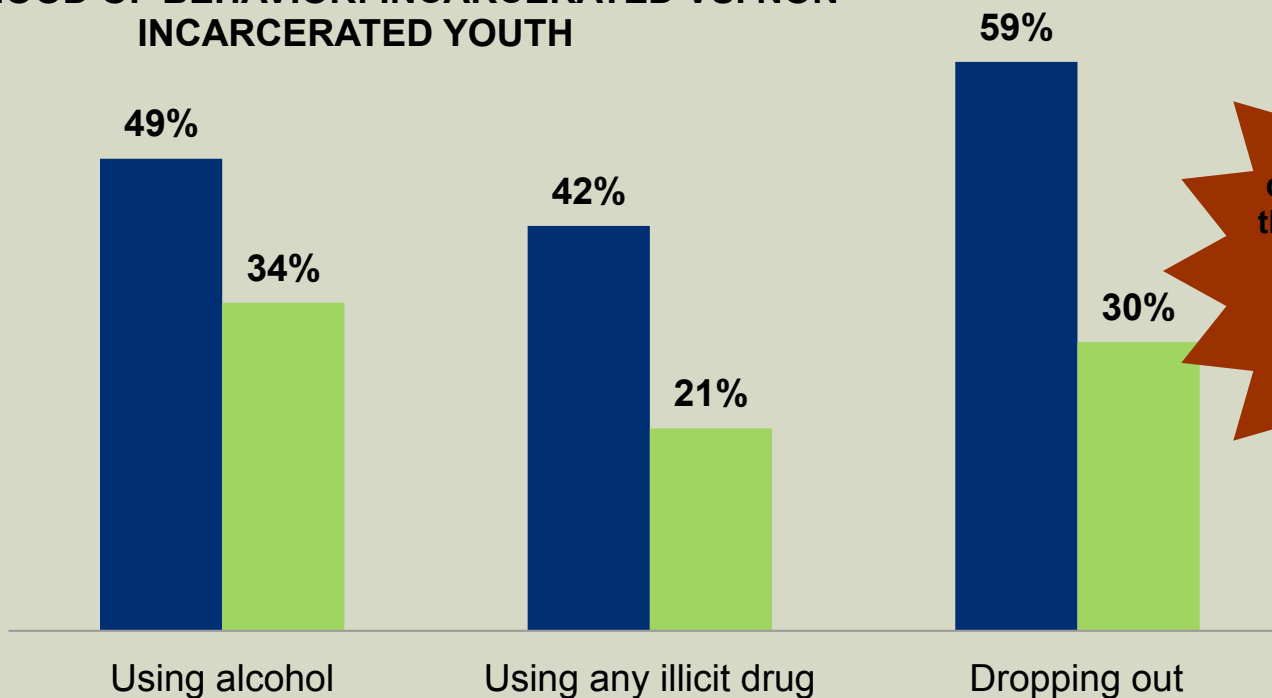


**Most youth  
age out of  
criminal  
behavior on  
their own**

- ▶ 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

## LIKELIHOOD OF BEHAVIOR: INCARCERATED VS. NON-INCARCERATED YOUTH



Youth who are detained are more than three times as likely to be found guilty and incarcerated than similarly situated peers

- Youth who have been detained or incarcerated (post-release)
- Youth who have not been detained or incarcerated

# REVIEW

Purpose of  
Detention

Purpose of  
Risk  
Assessment  
Instrument  
(RAI)

# PURPOSE OF SECURE DETENTION

- **Risk to Public Safety**
- **Risk of Flight**

# PURPOSE OF A RISK ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT (RAI)

- 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

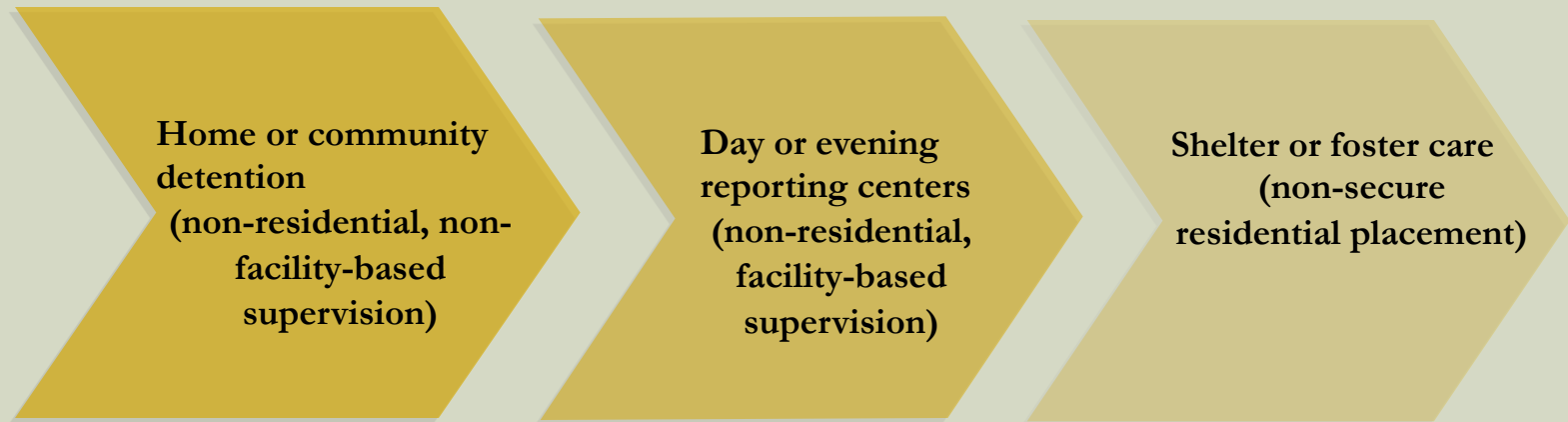
- **Target Population**
- **Data Driven**
- **Least Restrictive**
- **Community Based**
- **Case Processing Considerations**
- **Supervision vs. Monitoring**
- **Culturally & linguistically relevant**

# WHAT KIND OF ALTERNATIVES DO WE NEED?

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



# 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.

# ELECTRONIC MONITORING (EM)

- 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

# ENGAGING FAMILIES IN ALTERNATIVE TO DETENTION PROGRAMMING

- 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 EXPERIENCE

- 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

# WHAT ELSE DID SARPY COUNTY NEED?

- 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

## FINAL THOUGHT

**If this were your child, or a child you cared about is the system good enough?**

# RESOURCES

- Pathway 4: Consider the Alternatives – Planning and implementing detention alternatives.  
[www.jdaihelpdesk.org](http://www.jdaihelpdesk.org)
- Community Connections for Youth, Training on: Building Community Capacity to Serve Youth in the Justice System. [www.cc-fy.org](http://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

Hon. Larry Gendler

[lgendler@sarpy.com](mailto:lgendler@sarpy.com)

402-593-2217

Monica Miles-Steffens

Director of Placement-Court Services

[Monica.miles-steffens@nebraska.gov](mailto:Monica.miles-steffens@nebraska.gov)

402-405-6825