

BEYOND BARS

KEEPING YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE AT
HOME AND OUT OF YOUTH PRISONS

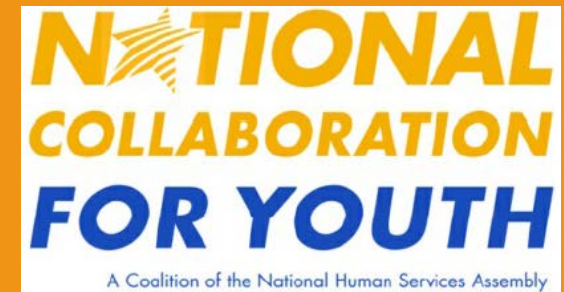
The National Collaboration for Youth



BEYOND BARS

Keeping Young People Safe at Home and Out of Youth Prisons

Report can be downloaded at www.collab4youth.org



INTRODUCTIONS

Hernan Carvente

Program Analyst at the Vera Institute of Justice

Shaena Fazal

National Policy Director, Youth Advocate Programs

Deborah Hodges

Lucas County Juvenile Court Administrator

Clinton Lacey

Director, Washington DC Department of Youth and Rehabilitative Services

CLINTON LACEY

Director, *Washington DC* Department of Youth and
Rehabilitative Services

202.299.3977

www.dyrs.dc.gov



Washington DC Department of Youth Rehabilitative Services (DYRS)

- Moving from a facility-based to a community-based system that keeps young people in the community and with their families
- Credible Messenger Initiative

Washington DC Credible Messenger Initiative

The “Credible Messenger Initiative” at the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) is a transformative mentoring intervention program for youth committed to the agency, with a restorative justice philosophy for young people in the community at large. The mission of the initiative is to connect all young people in the care and custody of DYRS to healthy homes and supportive communities, and to provide preventative supports to all youth in Washington D.C.

Credible Messengers, cont'd

Credible messengers are neighborhood leaders, experienced youth advocates and individuals with relevant life experiences whose role is to help youth transform attitudes and behaviors around violence. They serve young people whose needs go far beyond the traditional mentoring approach of companionship, confidence-building and typical academic, social or career guidance.

They are able to connect with the most challenging young people because they:

- Come from the same communities
- Are formerly incarcerated or were involved in the justice system • Have turned their lives around
- Demonstrate integrity and transformation • Are skilled and trained in mentoring young people
- Source: <http://dyrs.dc.gov/page/credible-messenger-initiative>

Roadmap For Today's Presentation

- About the National Collaboration for Youth, Youth First Initiative and YAP (sponsors of today's webinar)
- Thanks to our funders, the Annie E Casey Foundation and the Public Welfare Foundation, both committed to juvenile justice reform, reducing racial disparities and improving child and family well-being
- Overview of the Report
- Hear from the experts
- Q&A
- Housekeeping

SHAENA FAZAL

Youth Advocate Programs National Policy Director

sfazal@yapinc.org

202.594.6893

www.yapinc.org



How we define “continuum of care”

Definition: A continuum of care is an array of meaningful non-residential community-based programs, supports, resources and services specifically designed to meet the individual needs of young people and their families in their homes. Continua of care cultivate the strengths of youth and families and provide them with what they might need at different stages of intensity in order to keep young people out of the juvenile justice system and confinement.

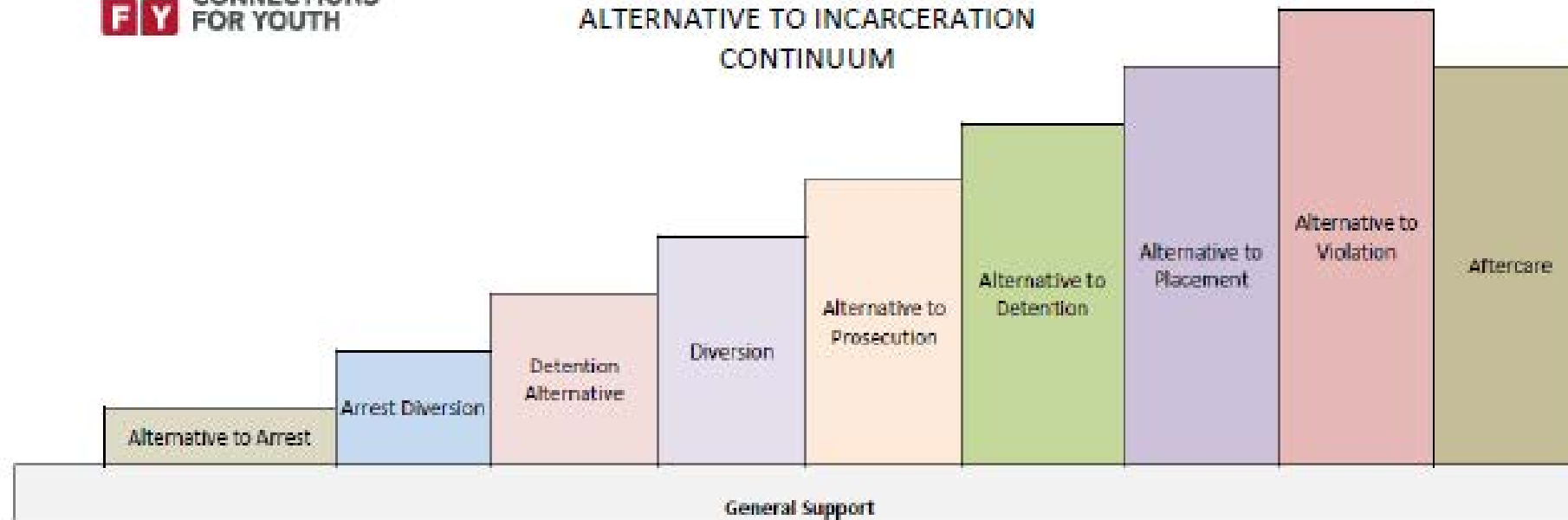
-

Impact: In a continuum of care, youth will be able to develop AUTONOMY, COMPETENCE and a SENSE OF RELATEDNESS or belonging to their families and communities in a way that helps to ESTABLISH OR IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY IN THEIR HOME COMMUNITIES.

Setting the Context



ALTERNATIVE TO INCARCERATION CONTINUUM



Promote positive youth justice/development and an increased sense of relatedness for young people.

1
GUIDING PRINCIPLE



#BEYONDBARS

Define public safety as more than law enforcement.

2
GUIDING PRINCIPLE



#BEYONDBARS

Shift from a slot-based system to a needs-based system.

3
GUIDING PRINCIPLE



#BEYONDBARS

Services must be culturally competent and neighborhood-based.

4
GUIDING PRINCIPLE



#BEYONDBARS

Ensure that services, programs and resources are family-centered.

5
GUIDING PRINCIPLE



#BEYONDBARS

Include young people's ideas when creating the continua.

6
GUIDING PRINCIPLE



#BEYONDBARS

Identify community strengths and assets.

7
GUIDING PRINCIPLE



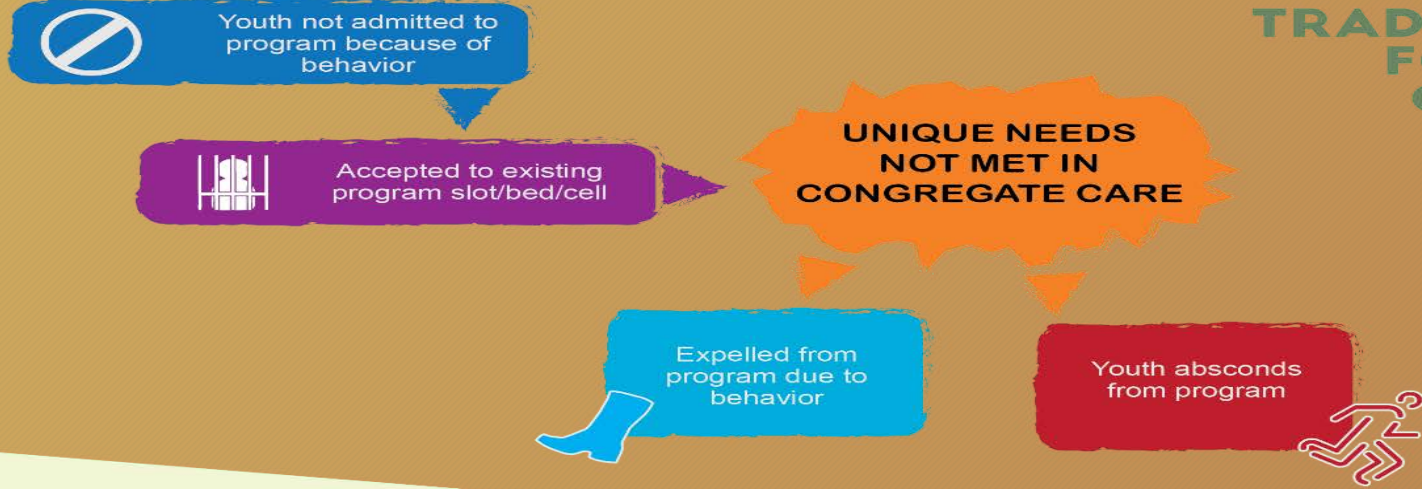
#BEYONDBARS

“Communities can only be built by focusing on the strengths and capacities of the citizens who call that community home. Those who have escaped the lures of deficiency, therefore, have been drawing up a new map based on old truths, an ‘Assets Map’ ... At the center of the map, and of the community building process, lie the ‘gifts’ of individual residents, their knowledge, skills, resources, values, and commitments. -”

John Kretzman Building Communities from the Inside Out

A Better Model for Serving Youth With Complex Needs

TRADITIONAL CONTINUUM FOR YOUTH WITH COMPLEX NEEDS

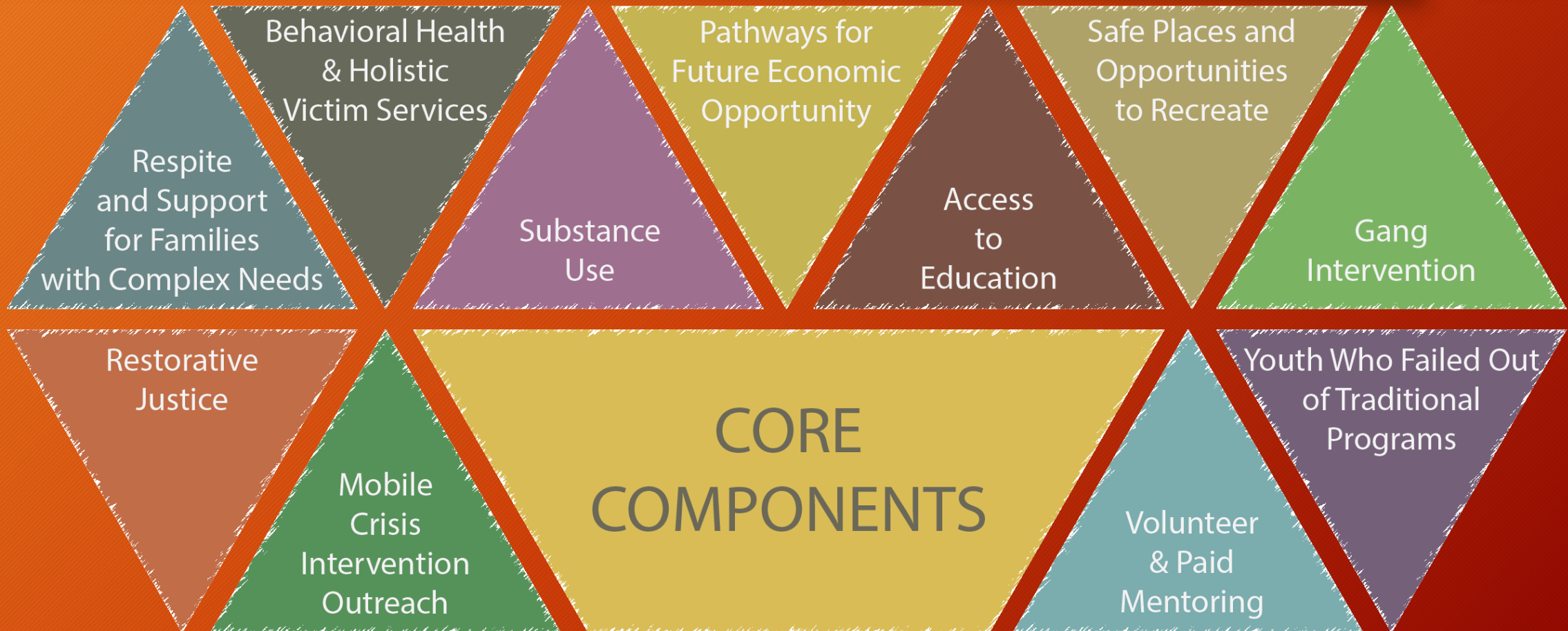


One size does not fit all

INDIVIDUALIZED SERVICE PLANNING PROCESS



Core Components of a Continuum of Care



Key Strategies

- **WRAPAROUND PLANNING PROCESS**
- **CREDIBLE MESSENGERS**
- **FAMILY ADVOCACY**
- **FLEXIBLE FUND FOR EXTRAORDINARY NEEDS**
- **CRISIS AND SAFETY PLANNING**

HOW TO DEVELOP A CONTINUUM OF CARE

Step #1: Establish a Sense of Urgency

- Rejecting youth prisons as the best way to meet youth needs, achieve public safety and improve youth outcomes

Step #2: Creating the Guiding Coalition

- Establishing expertise of youth, family and community in addition to that of systems and providers to safely decarcerate young people

Step #3: Developing a Vision and Strategy

- Defining a set of principles unique to community and culture for how to best serve young people in need

Step #4: Communicating the Change Vision

- Community and staff forums to share the vision, strategy and principles

Step #5: Empowering Broad-based Action

- Creating and funding a plan to implement the vision, strategy and principles that has been shared with others

Step #6: Generating Short-term Wins

- Track and acknowledge early, positive outcomes, including nontraditional
- outcomes for a juvenile justice system, such as stronger families

Step #7: Consolidating Gains and Producing More Change

- Official redirection of dollars earmarked for community vs. facility

Step #8: Anchoring New Approaches in Culture

- Closing youth prisons and depending instead on the community and its array of services to safely meet the needs of any young person and their family, in the community

DEBORAH HODGES

Lucas County Juvenile Court Administrator (Toledo, OH)

Dhodes@co.lucas.oh.us

419-213-6702

“Detention and youth prison will always be the default, so if we don’t have alternatives, and a full continuum even for our toughest kids, they are going to be locked up.”



Lucas County Juvenile Court

Denise Navarre Cubbon: Administrative Judge

Connie Zimmelman: Judge

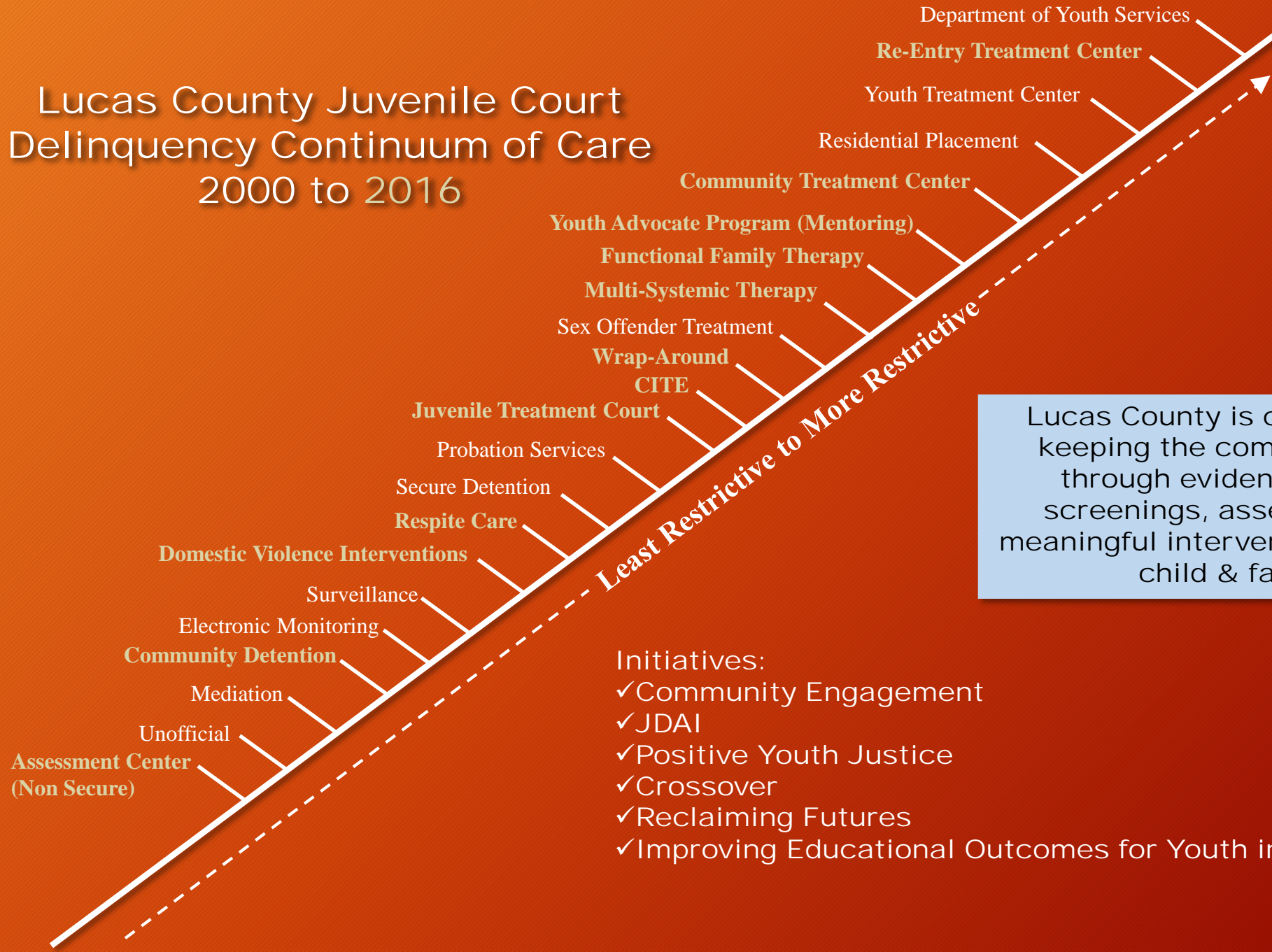
Deborah Hodges: Court Administrator



Lucas County Juvenile Court

Care | Guidance | Treatment | Protection

Lucas County Juvenile Court Delinquency Continuum of Care 2000 to 2016

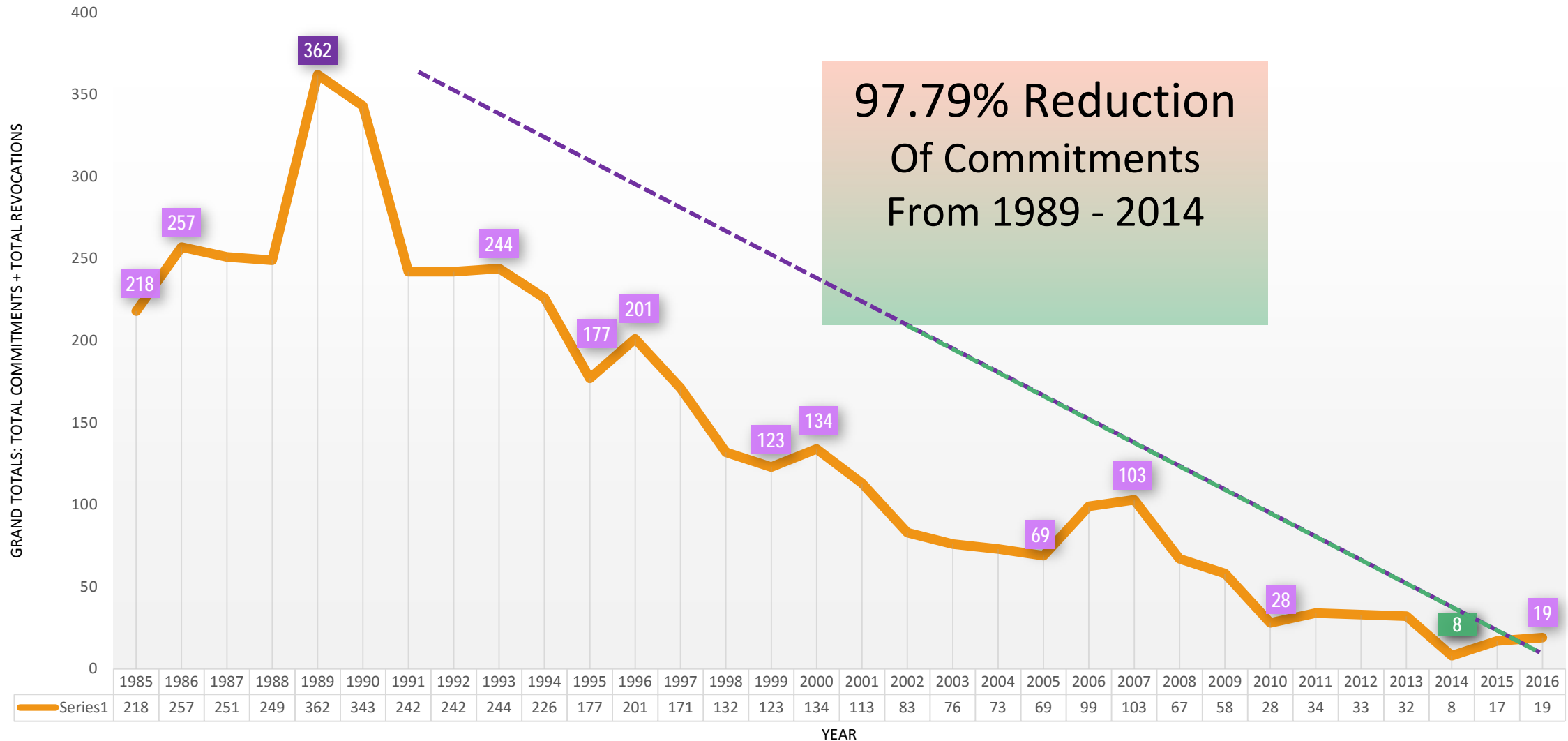


Lucas County is committed to keeping the community safe through evidenced based screenings, assessments & meaningful interventions for each child & family.

Initiatives:

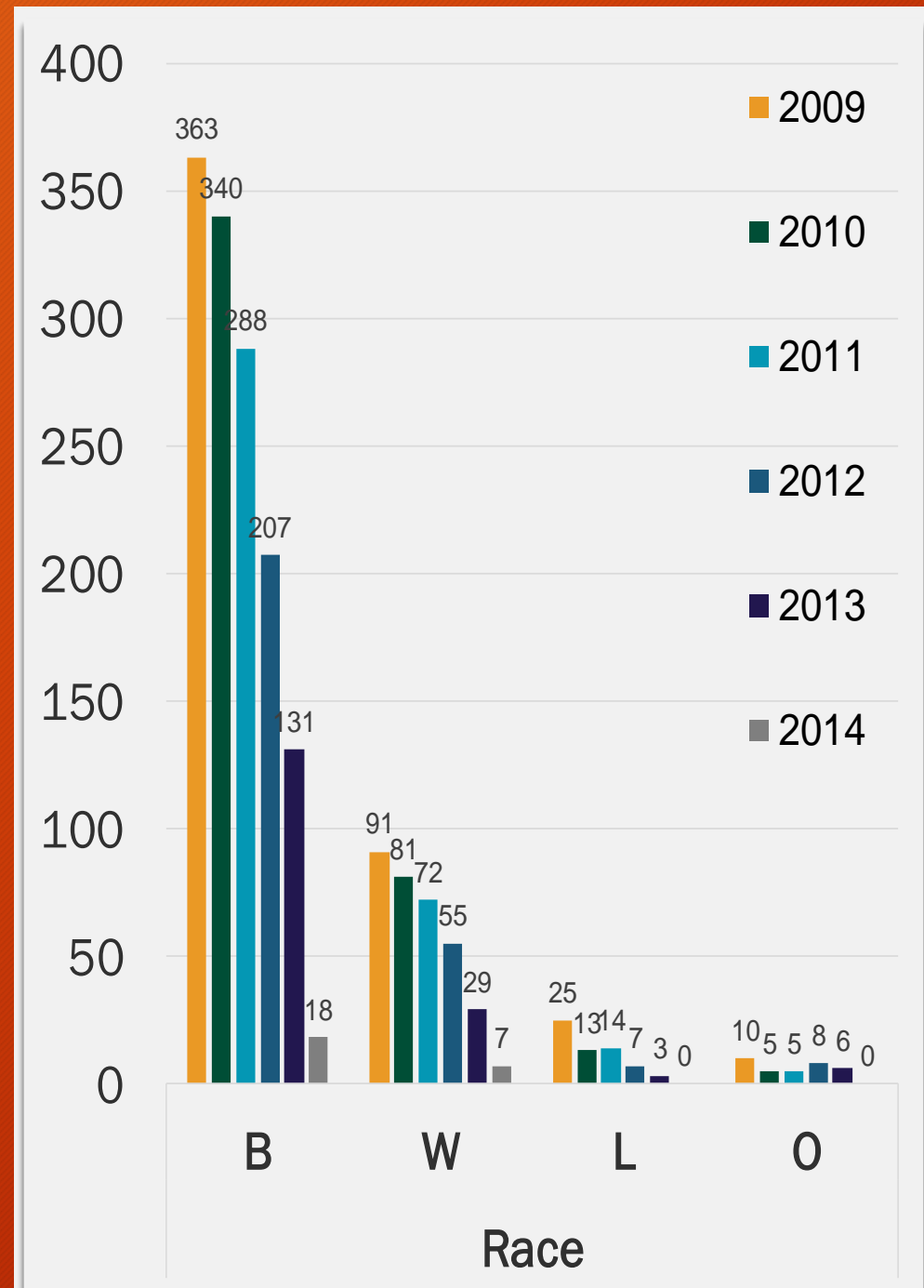
- ✓Community Engagement
- ✓JDAI
- ✓Positive Youth Justice
- ✓Crossover
- ✓Reclaiming Futures
- ✓Improving Educational Outcomes for Youth in Foster Care

Lucas County Juvenile Court Total Commitments (includes Total Revocations)
to Ohio Department of Youth Services 1985 - 2016



DRAMATIC REDUCTIONS in MINORITY SSO ARRESTS

SSO arrests booked in
the Lucas County
Juvenile Detention
Center of black youth
dropped by 95% since
2009.



Since conducting our system assessment Lucas County has continued to collaborate with a variety of stakeholders to begin to address each area of opportunity.

MAJOR THEMES IN LUCAS COUNTY

Dispositional Decision Making

- Develop a Structured Decision Making process that assists in structuring dispositional recommendation

Racial & Ethnic Equity

- Collaborate with The W. Haywood Burns Institute to develop equitable interventions
- Conduct in depth case analysis to identify potential drivers

Probation

- Develop an alternate track for low level offenses to be served through community partners
- Frontline practice reform with Positive Youth Justice

Community- Based Services

- Seek out new opportunities to safely serve youth in their community

Family Engagement

- Develop peer to peer supports for families
- Implement a steering committee for families to participate in reform efforts

Collaboration

- Reach out to grassroots organizations for partnerships

In addition to analyzing quantitative data we spent time asking children and their families for feedback about our services.

Positive Changes and Experiences

“We have a lot better communication. He is more respectful and he does a lot more then before at home”

“Teaching him how to prevent being in a bad spot or if he finds himself in a bad situation how to get out [was the most helpful].”

“Probation was the most helpful of all the programs I was in because they keep you out of trouble and help you set rules”

“The MST and YAP program helped me and my mom work out all this that we were struggling with”

Struggles and frustrations

“The amount of required communication [was least helpful]. If he was doing ok then you do not hear a lot from probation or anyone. It was when kids are messing up that you hear from probation”

“It’s been a long tiring process”

“I feel like probation has taken away my childhood”

“{Probation should} work with them instead of locking us up getting us in the habit of doing time and not caring”



So.....
what about
high risk youth?

The Balanced and Restorative Justice Model still rocks!

But...each case must be viewed through the lens of Positive Youth Justice and Safety.



Probation

- Develop an alternate track for low level offenses to be served through community partners
- Develop a Misdemeanor Services Track
- Frontline practice reform with Positive Youth Justice

Positive Youth Development is:

1. A comprehensive way of thinking about the development of adolescents and factors that help them transition to adulthood successfully;
2. Strength-based; and
3. A resilience-oriented perspective on adolescence.



Positive Youth Justice is an outgrowth of the Positive Youth Development. However Positive Youth Justice is:

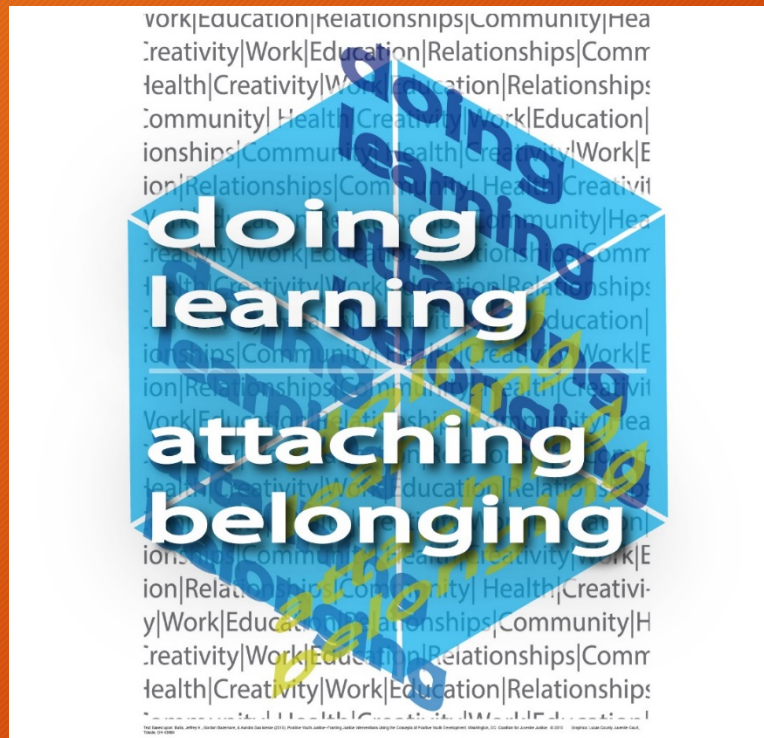
1. A reduced set of core elements from PYD concepts;
2. A framework that joins the realities of operating in a youth justice practice with the wide range of ideas in PYD; and
3. Rooted in theoretical and empirical literature about adolescent development but customized for the youth justice environment.

In order to root our practices in PYJ we first must view young people as resources and shift some of our assumptions about them.

Changing the Frame			
ASSUMPTIONS	PRIMARY LENS		
	Youth as Victim	Youth as Villain	Youth as Resource
Origins of Most Delinquent Behavior	Symptom of underlying disturbance	Anti-social impulses, lack of restraint due to permissiveness and the absence of punishment	Normative response to adolescent needs for status, belonging, power & excitement, lack of empathy
How Delinquent Youth Compare with Other Adolescents	Fundamentally different in psychological and emotional makeup	Fundamentally different motivations and impulses toward deviant behavior	Largely similar to other adolescents but with fewer social assets
Delinquent Youth Capacity for Behavior Change	Incapable of conventional behavior without therapeutic interventions	Incapable of conventional behavior without strict discipline and the threat of punishment	Inherently capable of conventional behavior with sufficient access to supports and pro-social opportunities
Principal Intervention Strategy	Individual or family-based therapeutic treatment	Deterrence and retributive punishment	Skill development, attachment and engagement
Role of Treatment	Primary	Secondary	Secondary
Risks of Treatment	Could fail to address underlying cause(s)	Could delay or impede deterrence	Could introduce stigma or harm—i.e., iatrogenic effects

Butts, Jeffrey A., Gordon Bazemore, & Aundra Saa Meroe (2010). Positive Youth Justice– Framing Justice Interventions Using the Concepts of Positive Youth Development. Washington, DC: Coalition for Juvenile Justice.

Understanding that youth are a resource to us, we then seek to positively intervene with opportunities for them to **Learn & Do** as well as **Attach & Belong**.



Learning/Doing

- Develop new skills
- Actively get to use new skills
- Take on new roles and responsibilities
- Develop self-efficacy and personal confidence

Attaching/Belonging

- Become an active part of a pro-social group
- Develop and enjoy a sense of belonging
- Place high value on service to other and being part of the community

Working with high risk youth in the community requires a shift in thinking.

- Need to get more comfortable with youth falling down.
- Reduce probation violations for behavior that other non-involved justice teenagers are involved in.....our data showed violations were a major factor in kids being sent to ODYS.
- Working with high risk youth in the community requires a commitment and philosophy to keep coming back to the table with the youth to address behaviors and problem solve solutions. This is an opportunity to teach problem solving skills to youth and families. Repetition is required!
- We have to believe that incarceration is not the answer.....except for the youth that truly pose a real threat to public safety.

How have we managed these dramatic changes in philosophy and practice over time?



Strong Judicial and Administrative Leadership

Why are we doing this? **How** are we doing this?

What am I supposed to do now?

Staff training based on emerging research

Staff input and participation

Role of middle managers is critical



HERNAN CARVENTE

Program Analyst, Vera Institute of Justice

www.vera.org

hcarvente@vera.org

212.376.3113



What does youth engagement mean?

- Youth engagement is the result when young people are involved in responsible, challenging actions to create positive social change. This means involving youth in planning and in making decisions that affect themselves and others (ACT for Youth Center of Excellence, 2017).
- Youth engagement happens in youth-adult partnerships that are structured so that both groups contribute, teach, and learn from each other (ACT for Youth Center of Excellence, 2017).

Engagement v. Partnership

Engagement

- One time opportunities to provide input
- Little to no follow-up
- On the agenda but not at the table

- Dictionary Definition:

*An arrangement to meet or be present at a **specified time and place***

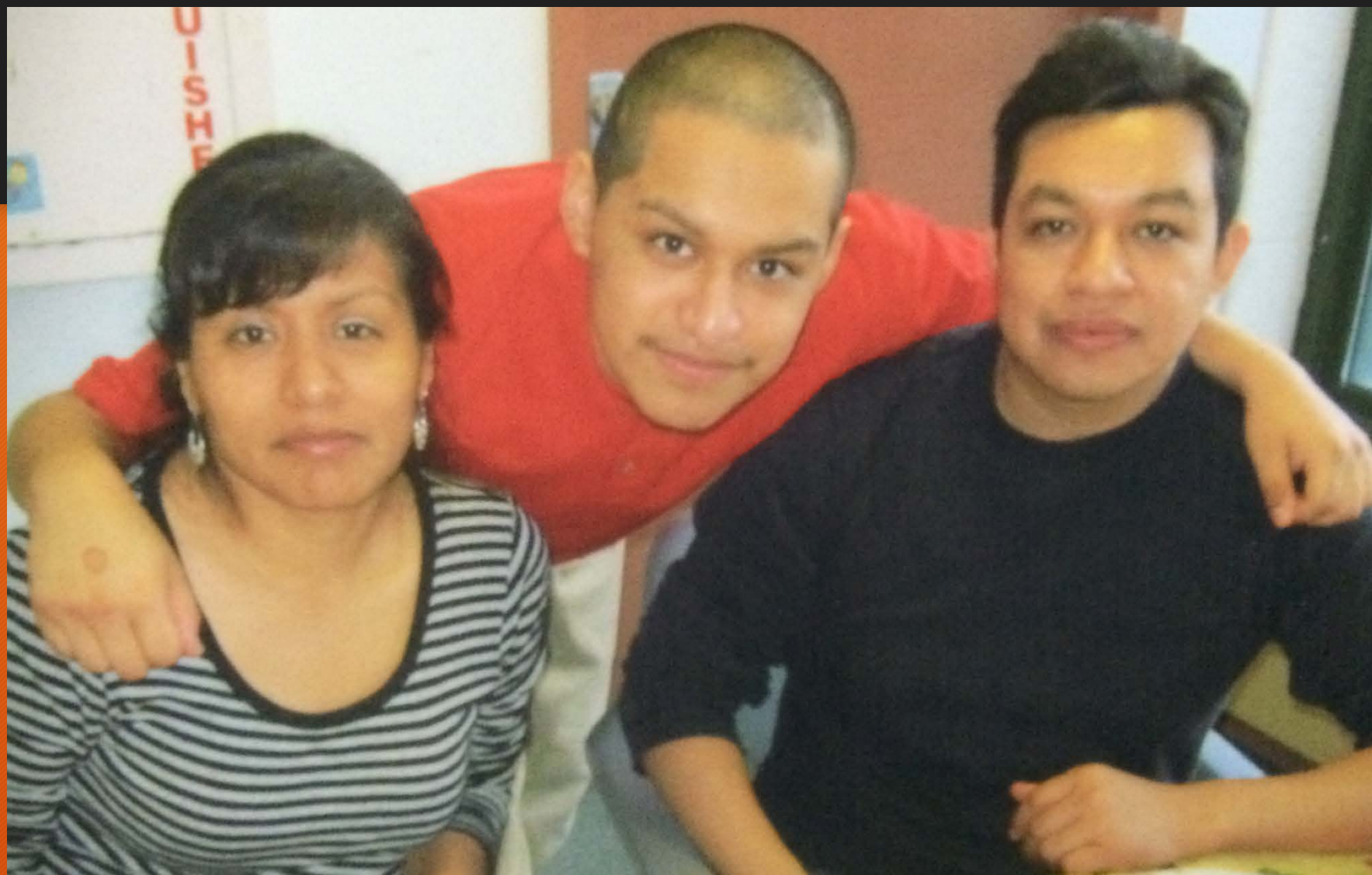
Partnership

- Shared-decision making power
- Consistent Follow-up
- On the agenda and actively engaged and included in at the table
- Dictionary Definition:
*A relationship resembling a legal partnership and usually involving **close cooperation** between parties having **specified** and **joint rights** and responsibilities.*

Examples

- Annie E. Casey Foundation's – Youth Advisory Council
- Vera Institute of Justice – Collaborative Research Approach
- Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice – Youth Fellowship Program
- Justice for Families – Founded and run by parents and families who have experienced the juvenile justice system
- Center for Court Innovation – Youth Justice Board





Q & A

“We are a community of possibilities, not a community of problems. Community exists for the sake of belonging and takes its identity from the gifts, generosity, and accountability of its citizens. It is not defined by its fears, its isolation, or its penchant for retribution.”

-John McKNight

Thank you!

