



Milwaukee Community Justice Council

Working collaboratively to ensure a fair, efficient, and effective justice system
that enhances public safety and quality of life in our community.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 16 2014

Milwaukee County Courthouse, Room 609

PRESENT: Jeffrey Kremers, John Chisholm, Tom Reed, Nate Holton, Kerri McKenzie, Richard Schmidt, Niel Thoreson, Joel Plant, Kit Murphy McNally, Colleen Foley, Chris Abele, Carmella Delucia, Willie Johnson, Héctor Colón, Stan Stojkovic, and Michelle Naples

SCHEDULED ITEMS:

I. Convene and Updates

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Jeffrey Kremers)

The Executive Committee approved the meetings minutes from June 23, 2014.

III. Coordinator Updates (All)

The group discussed the Council's work on establishing a framework for measuring and tracking recidivism. A memo on the Council's progress was sent to the County Comptroller's office as a part of the continuing response to the County Comptroller's recommendations to the Council as they relate to tracking recidivism.

IV. Update on Juvenile Issues (Héctor Colón)

Héctor Colón updated the group on juvenile justice reform. The system is aggressively pursuing system improvements that are evidence-based and person-centered through the use of risk assessments, behavior response grids, evidence-based analysis of service providers, and the use of the least restrictive environment based on risk assessments. Colón presented a PowerPoint and went over examples of other jurisdictions who participated in alternative detention facilities. Those who participated saw a decrease in violent crime arrests among juveniles.

The system continues to look at ways to address the small group of repeat offenders who are disproportionately responsible for juvenile crime. Colón encouraged the Council to work together to address juvenile issues as they emerge and to make policy decisions based on larger system issues and trends.

V. Court Appearance Video Conferencing (Richard Schmidt)

Richard Schmidt noted that there were quite a few defendants with court dates who are coming from outside the county that do not have access to video conferencing. He recommended using

video conferencing for those individuals coming from state prisons when appropriate. Jeffrey Kremers noted that judges are reminded to use it when appropriate, particularly when involving defendants coming from outside of Milwaukee County. The Committee moved to refer the issue to the Jail and Huber Committee for further study.

VI. CJC Partnership with UWM (Stan Stojkovic)

Stan Stojkovic informed the group that UW-Milwaukee would be a valuable resource to the existing efforts of the Council and his department has faculty with expertise on program evaluation, trauma informed care, addiction, mental health research, and other important areas. He suggested that the Council create requests for assistance from UW-Milwaukee so that a continued discussion can take place about what the department can provide. He talked about valuable resources such as the CUIR – Center for Urban Initiatives and Research who could possibly do an evaluation for little to no cost on some of the Council’s current and future initiatives.

III. Other Business

Niel Thoreson provided an update from DOC on the potential impact of the sex offender ordinance being considered by the City of Milwaukee. The biggest impact would be in the use of supervised living facilities and there could be an increase in the number of sex offenders who are homeless or using a fake address. Joel Plant said that MPD is concerned because they’d rather know where the sex offenders are located and the ordinance may complicate that. He also suggested that a state-level solution to the situation would be ideal.

IV. Adjourn

Milwaukee County DHHS- Delinquency & Court Services Division

Juvenile Justice System Reforms



Roadmap to Juvenile Justice System Reform

1. Improve/enhance/reform internal practices
2. Introduce evidence-based decision-making using structured and objective tools
3. Provide optimal services that are person-centered, recovery-oriented, trauma-informed, integrated, and culturally intelligent
4. Program evaluation: right services, at the right place, in the right way (modality, dosage, duration), at the right time
5. Expand community-based alternatives in least restrictive settings reducing reliance on detention and corrections

Improve/Enhance/Reform Internal Practices

- "System" reform is not just about adding new services and requiring different things of our community-based providers. First it requires changes in our values, beliefs, behaviors and perspectives.
- Belief that youth are capable of success
- Reinforcing role of Human Service Worker (as opposed to Probation Officer)
- Home visit requirements
- Motivational Interviewing training
- Policies and procedures for transparency & accountability
- Quality Assurance
- New tools for Human Service Workers (e.g. effective response grid for sanctions and incentives)

Evidence-based Decision-Making

Use of Structured, Objective Tools for Decision-Making

- Allows for more objective and predictive decision-making of outcomes based on risk factors
- Used for: determining placement, release, and supervision levels; and/or guiding case planning
- Provides a consistent unit of measurement to compare changes over time
- Provides a common language

Evidence-based Decision-Making

Tools:

- **Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI)**
 - To help determine if the youth should be detained or placed in a non-secure detention alternative program or released home
- **Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI)**
 - A risk and needs assessment tool to help guide recommendations for supervision levels and programming
- Developing a service matrix to guide decision-making on which services youth should receive

Provide Optimal Services

- Person-centered
- Recovery-oriented
- Trauma-informed
- Integrated
- Culturally intelligent

Program Evaluation

- Using the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP) tool to rate all agency services (service type, quality of service delivery, amount of service, & risk level of youth served) based on the research of what works to reduce recidivism among juvenile justice youth
- Will work with providers to engage in program improvement activities based on the SPEP findings
- Ongoing evaluation and system improvement activities
- Eliminate programs/providers that are not producing good outcomes
- Expand programs that are effective

EXPANDING COMMUNITY BASED ALTERNATIVES

DIVERSION	PRE-ADJUDICATION	POST-ADJUDICATION	AFTERCARE
First Time Juvenile Offender Program (FTJOP)	Detention	CCSN Network Services	DOC State Provided Aftercare Supervision & Services
Children's Court Services Network (CCSN)	Shelter Care	Day Treatment	
Faith-based Mentoring (MPD)	Level-II Monitoring (*SPEP enhancement added July 2013)	Group Care/Foster Care	+ Reentry Coordination (County)
Family Intervention and Support Services (FISS)	*Court/Caplan Abatement Program	Restorative Justice (1st Burglary)	+ DOC Collaboration (Wraparound)
Wraparound REACH	*Evening Report Center (June 2014)	Targeted Monitoring Program (Firearms, Burglary, SCOR, MCAP)	O'YEAH (Wraparound)
A True After Care Program - Siblings		Wraparound Milwaukee	A True After Care Program - Targeted Monitoring Graduates
*Diversionary Accountability Panels (Aug. 2014)		FOCUS	*Saturday Alternative Sanctions (July 2013)
		MCAP	*Community Service/Restitution (June 2014)
			*Functional Family Therapy (July 2014)
			*Supervision Engagement Program (Aug. 2014)
Also Employment Program Grants →			*Community Building (Aug. 2014)

Least Restrictive, Community-based Placements

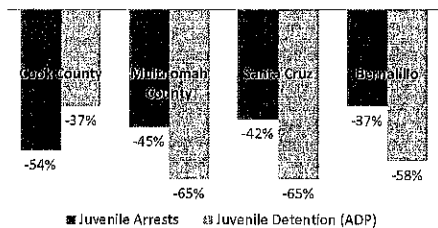
- Most youth "age out" of crime on their own
- Research indicates that confinement and intensive interventions can actually increase recidivism for lower-risk youth (Lowenkamp & Latessa, 2004; Petrosino et al., 2010)
 - Through exposure to higher-risk youth
 - Through provoking defiant reactions
 - Through disrupting life factors (e.g. family ties, employment, community activities, etc.).
- Decisions about confinement of youth are often unrelated to severity of offense or risk level
- The farther a youth penetrates into the juvenile justice system, the more likely he or she will be involved in the adult criminal justice system - controlling for other factors (Gatti et al., 2009)
- Dollars spent on detention and corrections preclude investments in community and evidence-based practices that offer more promise for far less money

Least Restrictive, Community-based Placements

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) has shown detention reform/alternatives are effective:

- Overall juvenile arrests drop at greater rates at JDAI sites than other sites (see next slide)
- Detention alternatives work: the vast majority (over 90%) of youth return to court and remain arrest-free while pending court
- Some sites have eliminated detention facilities all together; while collectively facilities have been reduced by 40%

Juvenile Crime and Detention Reduced in JDAI Model Sites



NOTE: Crime declines are juvenile felony arrests in Santa Cruz (1996-2005) and Multnomah (1994-2000); juvenile violent arrests in Cook County (1993-2002); and juvenile arrests in Bernalillo (1993-2006). Detention declines occurred during the following timeframes: Multnomah (1995-2002); Cook (1996-2002); Santa Cruz (1997-2005); and Bernalillo (1999-2001).
Source: Detention Reform: An Effective Public Safety Strategy (JDAI Detention Reform Brief)

Juvenile Corrections Versus Community-based Alternatives

- Available studies of youth released from secure juvenile correctional facilities find that 70-80% of youth are re-arrested within 2-3 years after release
- The majority of studies have also found that confinement is, at best, no more effective than probation or other sanctions at reducing future criminality of youth, controlling for other factors
- Moreover, longer stays in juvenile institutions do not decrease recidivism
- One major study of community-based correctional alternative programs shows that youth were about 10% less likely to be arrested for a new offense than the control group of confined youth

(Mendel, 2011)

