Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

David P. Redpath
Steve Tyrrell
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What is JDAI?

- A Comprehensive Juvenile Justice System Reform Model
- Established in 1992 by the Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Most widely replicated and extensively documented juvenile justice reform in decades
- Nationally, operational in 39 states and nearly 300 jurisdictions
- Locally, operational in 7 of the 15 Arizona Counties, representing over 80% of referrals and detention population
Arizona is a State Site
Youth involved in the juvenile justice system will have opportunities to develop into healthy, productive adults, and that youth are capable of success. No Exceptions!

OUR VISION:
Goals of JDAI

- Decrease the number of youth unnecessarily or inappropriately detained
- Create a system where decisions are data-driven
- Reduce the number of youth who fail to appear in court or re-offend pending adjudication
- Redirect public funds towards effective juvenile justice processes and public safety strategies
- Reduce the disproportionate minority confinement and contact of the juvenile justice system
- Improve the juvenile justice system overall
8 Core Strategies

PURPOSE:
To demonstrate that jurisdictions can establish more effective and efficient systems to accomplish the purposes of juvenile detention.

- Collaboration
- Use of accurate data
- Objective admissions criteria and instruments
- Alternative to detention
- Case processing reforms
- Reducing the use of secure confinement for ‘special’ cases
- Reducing racial disparities
- Improving conditions of confinement
Collaboration

• Interdisciplinary Connections: Working with other agencies, community, law enforcement, schools, treatment providers, advocates.....
• Transitioning from department-driven to being community-driven
• How have we identified the “right” people to collaborate with and have at the table?
Local JDAI Committees

- Broad Membership: Community-based
- Specific Purpose: Data Committee, DMC Committee, Case Processing Reforms
- Initial Strategy: Data Collection and Review
- Long-term Strategy: Develop Alternatives / System Improvement
The JDAI State Advisory Committee

• Ensuring the pieces fit!
Use of Accurate Data

• Begin to make local goals based on local data
Use of Objective Screening Instruments

- **Objectivity**: Objective criteria anchor detention decisions in established facts such as the nature and severity of the offense, the number of prior referrals, or the minors history of flight from custody.

- **Uniformity**: The criteria should be uniform in the sense that they are applied equally to all minors referred for a detention decisions within AZ.

- **Risk based**: The criteria should be risk-based, meaning that they should measure specific detention related risks posed by the minor
  - The risks are: risk of reoffending before adjudication and failing to appear at a court hearing.
Alternatives to Detention

• Places or Process
  o These can be day and evening reporting centers, expedited case processing, referral to assessment centers or use of community supports.
  o Variable supervision strategies to impact the youth
Case Processing Reforms

• Implementing case processing reforms which reduce delays promote justice.

• Correcting the problem requires change only by adults; it is essentially an administrative action, not predicated on changes in behavior by the juveniles involved.
Graduated Responses and Incentives and Sanctions

• Detention is contained and valid in both of these approaches

• Please describe how your department and JDC will minimize the use of detention as a sanction for youth in your JDC, attach the policy/procedure that you have or will put in place to achieve this and how staff will be trained on the goal to reduce detention as a drug court sanction.
Reduce the use of secure care for ‘special’ cases

• Identify Special Cases....(Warrants, VOPS...)
• Gather data
• Adopt written guidelines or matrices
• Use a screening tool
• Supervisory review of detention recommendations
• Non judicial handling of technical violations
• Use of Alternatives
• Detention still can be used
Reducing Racial Disparities

- Implicit Bias
- Unintended consequences
- Societal Issue
- Arizona’s history and actions
Improving Conditions of Confinement
Arizona Successes

• JDAI sites have experienced the following reductions when compared to their baseline year:
  o 45% reduction in Admissions to Detention
  o 38% reduction in Average Daily Population
  o 71% reduction in Commitments to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections

• A workgroup has developed a statewide DSI (RAI) to eliminate inconsistent admission to detention

• Currently being field tested in six of the seven JDAI counties
Intersection of Initiatives
System Alignment

- Ensuring our efforts are not duplicated
- Ensuring our efforts are complimentary
- Ensuring our efforts are directed toward the common goal of the youth’s success.
- Lets believe that all youth are capable of success, no exceptions!
Likelihood of Behavior: Incarcerated vs. Non-incarcerated Youth

Thank you!