

Department of Juvenile Services

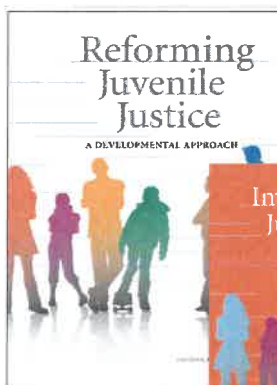


BETSY FOX TOLENTINO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PRE-ADJUDICATION SERVICES & REFORM

NOVEMBER 30, 2018

1

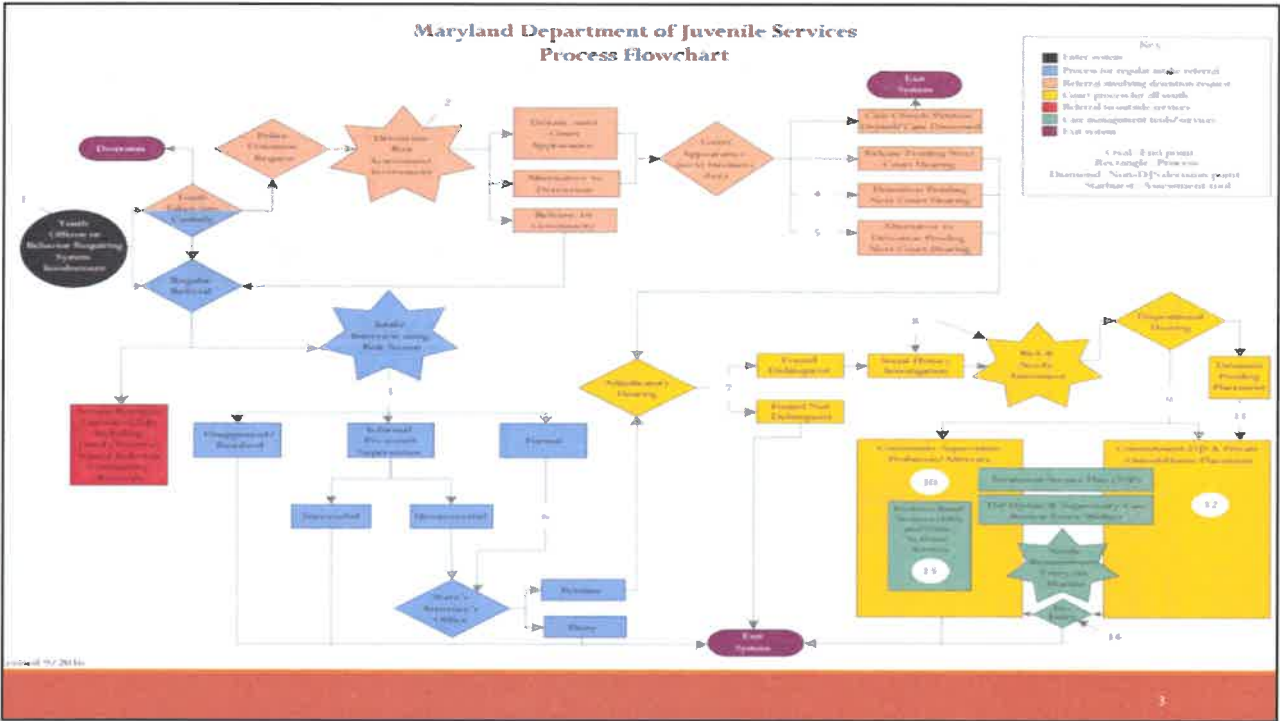
Developmental Approach to Juvenile Justice Reform



Hallmarks of the Developmental Approach

- Accountability Without Criminalization
- Alternatives to Justice System Involvement
- Individualized Response Based on Assessment of Needs and Risks
- Confinement Only When Necessary for Public Safety
- A Genuine Commitment to Fairness
- Sensitivity to Disparate Treatment
- Family Engagement

2



Hallmark #1 & #2
Developmental Approach to Juvenile Justice Reform

#1 Accountability Without Criminalization

#2 Alternatives to Justice System Involvement

Improving Services and Interventions at the Front Door of the Juvenile Justice System

- ✓ Agency Reorganization
- ✓ GAP Analysis
- ✓ Improved Evening Reporting Center Operations

- ✓ Behavioral Health Diversion Initiative
- ✓ Crossover Youth Practice Model

Behavioral Health Diversion Initiative

BHDI serves to link youth with behavioral health needs and their families to community services, keep youth in their homes, and divert them from adjudication within the juvenile justice system.

❖ Large numbers of youth in the juvenile justice system are experiencing behavioral health disorders

❖ Screen youth for behavioral health needs using the MAYSI-2.

The MAYSI-2 is a brief behavioral health screening tool designed especially for juvenile justice programs and facilities.

❖ Refer youth to appropriate services.

Support youth and families connecting to services.

Crossover Youth Practice Model

The Crossover Youth Practice Model is designed to address the unique needs of youth who fluctuate between and are known to the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Collaboration with Georgetown University - includes stakeholders from DJS, DSS, Courts, Law Enforcement, CASA, Child's Counsel, State's Attorney's, and Community Partners.

Crossover Youth

- Any youth in the care and custody of DSS that is subsequently arrested. (Pathway 1)
- Any youth currently under the supervision of DJS that becomes the subject of a petition for neglect and/or abuse. (Pathway 2)

Reforms

- Coordinated case management and joint assessment process.
- Dedicated DJS/DSS units and dedicated court dockets (One Judge / One Family Model).

#3 Individualized Response Based on Assessment of Needs and Risks

DJS Collaborates with Researchers to Develop and Implement Objective Assessment Tools at Various Decision Points in the Juvenile Justice System

DRAI – used to make initial DJS detention decisions and Court recommendations

MCASP – used to make disposition recommendations to Court

#4 Confinement Only When Necessary for Public Safety #5 A Genuine Commitment to Fairness

Reducing Over-Use of Incarceration for Youth Who Commit Technical Probation Violations in the Community Through a System of Graduated Responses and Incentives - AIM

Implemented in July 2015, the Accountability and Incentive Management Initiative (AIM) created a standardized and structured decision-making process for DJS case managers to use when a youth commits a technical violation of their probation order, such as missing appointments or curfew times.

AIM seeks to:

- ✓ Reduce incarceration of low level youth for technical violations of probation; and
- ✓ Mitigate racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system by structuring the decision making of case workers.

#6 Sensitivity to Disparate Treatment

Embedding a Race Equity Lens in Agency Operations Through Skill-building and Policy Analysis to Mitigate Disparate Impact of Agency Operations on Youth and Families of Color

- ✓ Implementing Race Equity Training Series to “operationalize” principles and practices of race equity through increased dialogue, assessment, and policy and practice solutions
- ✓ Increasing regional and local capacity for race equity strategies through equity coaching and specialized technical assistance
- ✓ Vetting DJS assessment and treatment policies and procedures through the new *Racial Impact Assessment Lens (RIAL)*
- ✓ Modifying policies and practices in order to mitigate disparate, adverse outcomes for youth of color
- ✓ Routine monitoring of decision point data for youth of color to assess progress and identify additional work opportunities.

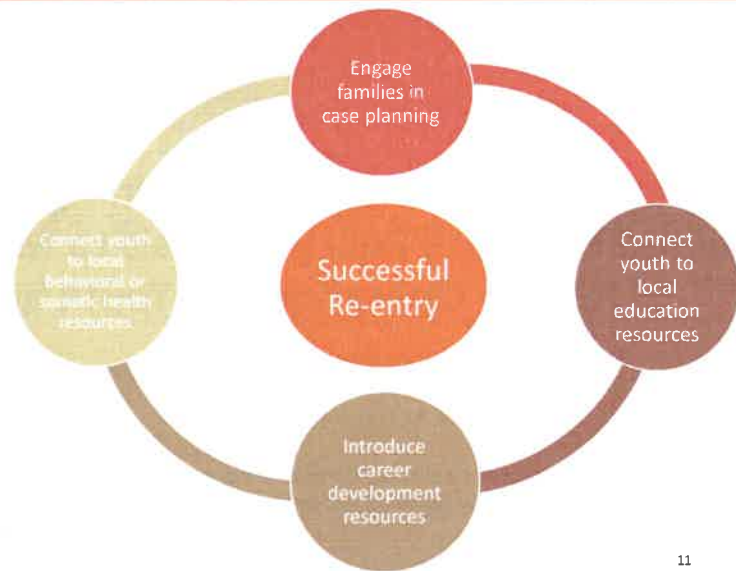
#7 Family Engagement

Empowering Youth and Families through Creating Meaningful Opportunities for Engagement and Removing Unnecessary Barriers

- ✓ Implementing a Family Peer Support Network
- ✓ Enhancing Valuable Family Connections in DJS Facilities
- ✓ Revising Policy and Procedure to Remove Unnecessary Barriers
- ✓ Supporting Family Visitation

Re-entry Strategic Plan

The Re-entry Strategic Plan goals emphasize DJS, family, and community service provider engagement and interaction to increase communication among those most essential to our youths' success during the placement and community re-entry process.



11

Resources

DJS Website

www.djs.maryland.gov

Data Resource Guides

www.djs.maryland.gov/data-resource-guides.asp

Implementing Juvenile Justice Reform, National Research Council of the National Academies

<http://www.nap.edu/catalog/18753/implementing-juvenile-justice-reform-the-federal-role>

12