Department of Juvenile Services

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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
Juvenile Complaints Have Declined for All Race/Ethnicities Since FY06

- Complaints for African American youth declined 52.1%, and declined 65.4% for white youth.
- African American youth comprise 63.1% of complaints, up from 57.8% in FY06.
- African American youth comprise 32.0% of the general population.
Sensitivity to Disparate Treatment


| ✓ 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. |
Maryland Juvenile Detention Population Declined Significantly

- The average daily juvenile court population in DJS detention declined **55.0%** over ten years.
- Cases detained for the Adult Court now make up **37.3%** of the DJS detained population.
Resources

DJS Website
www.djs.maryland.gov

Data Resource Guides

Implementing Juvenile Justice Reform, National Research Council of the National Academies
http://www.nap.edu/catalog/18753/implementing-juvenile-justice-reform-the-federal-role
For More Information

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