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Effective Alternatives to Detention for Dual Status Youth

Video Q&A

- As you watch the introductory video, please note:
- 1) Number of People Involved
- 2) Use of Equipment
- 3) Planning Involved
- 4) Collaboration Required

National Perspective on Dual Status Youth (DSY) in Detention Research Findings

Disparate Treatment of Foster Youth

- Dual status youth more likely to be detained than youth without child welfare involvement (Conger & Ross, 2009)
- Dual status youth spend more time in detention than youth not involved with child welfare (Halembe & Siegel, 2011)

Impact of Being Detained on Youth (JPI, 2006)

- Once detained, research shows a greater likelihood of going deeper into the JJ system
- Youth who are incarcerated are more likely to recidivate
- Detained youth with special needs often fail to return to school

Alternatives to Detention in Los Angeles

- Early notice, action and collaboration:
Project confirm West (PCW)
- Dependency attorney attends delinquency arraignment
- If detained, conscious efforts to keep foster youth separate from general delinquency population: Elite Family Unit

Project Confirm West (PCW)

- Based on Vera Institute New York Model
 - MOU between probation and child welfare
 - Probation contacts CW upon arrest to gather info relevant to detention or release decision.
- Los Angeles Model
 - MOU between probation, CLCCAL attorney and child welfare
 - Probation calls CLCCAL 24/7 to notify of arrest, gather input, and to solicit help to release to child welfare.
 - Historically probation and CW in LA do not communicate or collaborate
 - Probation often wants to release but CW CSW's do not pick youth up.

Purpose of PCW

- To ensure decision to detain a foster youth is based on legal factors and NOT on:
 - 1) The youth's foster care status, or
 - 2) A placement facility or caretakers reluctance to house the youth, or
 - 3) The unavailability of an immediate placement.

Purpose of PCW, continued...

- Inform the youth's dependency attorney at the earliest possible time of the youth's arrest, detention and release so that the attorney can provide assistance/input at each critical point
- Delineate the roles and responsibilities of Probation and DCFS at each critical event.

The ultimate goal of PCW

- To promote the protection and safety of each dependant youth
- To ensure dependant youth are not detained unnecessarily or any longer than necessary (DCFS must pickup released youth within **2 hours**).
- To establish procedures for the sharing of pertinent information among probation, DCFS and the youth's dependency attorney

Benefits of PCW

- **Early notice** to youth's attorney to prepare advocacy on youth's behalf
- Develops strong communication and collaboration between youth's attorney and probation
 - Youth's attorney can interface with placement and/or DCFS to help facilitate release.
- Facilitates communication between youth's attorney and youth arrested to help determine placement options, ensure youth is physically and mentally stable and to provide reassurance to youth that attorney is aware of the arrest.

Attending foster youth's delinquency arrangement

Los Angeles CLCCAL model

- When youth in foster care are arrested, they are more likely than other children with similar charges to be sent to juvenile detention facilities to await trial. (Conger & Ross, 2001)
- Dependency attorney often the only person who appears with the youth at their arrangement.
 - Attorney can provide the delinquency court with current foster care status, placement information and services available to the youth
 - Provides support to youth
 - CSW's role

When Foster Youth is Detained

Los Angeles County Juvenile Probation

The Elite Family Unit

Goal: Prevent youth from crossing further into the delinquency system by housing them separately from general delinquency population in juvenile hall.

- Dedicated probation staff trained to address foster youths' special needs
- Open dorm, group setting with many supportive services and activities.
- Improved communication and collaboration between probation and dependency attorney.

Why the Disparity in Detention for Dual Status Youth

- Lack of Placements
- Lack of trauma informed care
- Misuse of detention
- Lack of understanding of current research (i.e. brain development, trauma, congregate care outcomes)
- Levels of bureaucracy
- Lack of collaboration

DSY Framework to Problem Solve

- Collaboration- All stakeholders need to be involved
- Mapping
- Collaboration, Collaboration, Collaboration
- Memorialize

Examples of Problem Solving

- Development of staffing models
- Temporary Shelter Care
- Step-down programs
- Intensive community based programming
- Intensive mentoring
- Intensive family models
- Congregate Care (How can it be effective?)

Regenerations

- Intensive community based wrap-around
- CIPP (Youth, Family, DCFS, Detention, Probation, GAL, Attorney)
- Can we keep this youth in the community?
- Reduction in detention bed days. (69 to 31)
- Reduction in numbers- especially those awaiting residential (17 to 5)

JDAI Alternatives

- Originally many excluded dually involved youth
- Had to re-work policies of both probation and DCFS to allow for it.

Group Activity

- Groups of 4-5
- Each group must pick a reporter
- Each group given a separate example to report to entire group on.
- 15-20 minutes to work on

Group Report



Building a team is like building a community. To be successful, people have to believe in what they are a part of.

Wrap-up and Q&A

Questions/Contact Info

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