

# Breaking Down Barriers:

## Supervision of Youth Who Sexually Offend

### TARGET GROUP

Transformation of  
Youth Justice Symposium



PRESENTED BY

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# ABSTRACT

Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services will be conducting a workshop geared to the supervision of youth who sexually offend. Clark County utilizes a multidisciplinary approach that collaborates with community providers to conduct risk assessments, provide treatment, provide supervision oversight of youth, and encourage family engagement for each case that enters their system. This workshop will discuss the successes and challenges surrounding probation reform efforts to provide the best practice standards for the supervision and treatment within this specialized population.

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Overview of the Department of Juvenile Justice Services and JSO Unit
- Supervision of Youth of Sexually Offend
- Collaboration with Community Providers
- RFK Probation System Review
- Clark County DJJS Probation Review Implementation
- Probation Reform Challenges
- Probation Reform Successes

# DJJS UNIT OVERVIEW

- The Juvenile Sex Offense (JSO) Unit in Clark County was created in 1997.
- The JSO Unit consists of 1 Supervisor, 3 Intake Officers, 2 Placement Officers, and 6 Field Officers.
- The JSO Unit monitors approximately 290 JSO Cases.
- The JSO Unit handles all cases that deal with sexual issues. The offenses range from exposure, possession of child pornographic material, inappropriate touching to sexual assault.
- **The JSO Unit does not supervise sexually exploited youth.**

# JSO UNIT MISSION AND GOALS

## Mission:

To provide comprehensive, specialized services and restorative justice to youth involved in sexually inappropriate behavior, to protect known and potential victims, and to provide a better understanding of the sexual offending behavior to the youth, families and the community.

# JSO UNIT MISSION AND GOALS

## Goals:

- Increase collaborative strategies between DJJS and community providers to provide best practice standards and sharing among each other at the JSO Coalition and NVATSA Meetings.
- Reduce the amount of sexual re-offending by providing individualized sex offense treatment to youth to develop their skills to identify their triggers and offense cycle.
- Reduce the amount of sexual re-offending by educating families on appropriate supervision and how to identify concerning behaviors that may indicate further sexual abuse.
- Increase family involvement in the youth's treatment plan, attendance in therapy and non-offending parent group. Increase communication with Probation and treatment providers.
- Increase the amount of family reunification through therapeutic intervention to bring more families back together.

# JSO UNIT CONTINUED...

- DJJS monitors offenders between the ages of 8 and 21 years old.
- Offenders can be placed on a hold open agreement, formal probation, committed for correctional placement, or certified to the adult system.
- Youth can remain under supervision until the age of 21 to complete sex offense specific therapy.
- Youth adjudication for a Felony offense are placed on a **mandatory** three-year term of Probation, unless otherwise stipulated by the Court.

# SUPERVISION OF YOUTH

- Youth supervised on Detention Release Conditions during the Court Process,
- Specialized Assessments: Sex Offense Specific Evaluation (SOSE) and YLS.
- Referral for Services: Boundaries/Condensed/Comprehensive Treatment.
- Case plans are developed and tailored to the youth's risks and needs.
- Supervision standards are based on progress in treatment and YLS risk level.
- Supervision and safety planning within the family.
- Support for the family during the reunification process.
- Ensure compliance with School Notification/Registration.



# ASSESSMENT

- Sex Offense Specific Evaluation (SOSE)
  - Completed by a licensed therapist
  - ERASOR and PROFESOR
- YLS Assessment
  - Completed by the Probation Officer

# REUNIFICATION

- Reunification is the process of the victim's therapist and the offender's therapist working together and agreeing on a point in time when the victim is ready to see and interact with the offender
- If the victim resides in the home, reunification must be completed prior to the offender returning home,
- Reunification may NOT always happen!

# REGISTRATION/SCHOOL NOTIFICATION

- Felony Sex Offense
  - School Notification
  - Registration
  - Community Notification
  
- The Court will determine if the juvenile must register

# COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITY PROVIDERS

- Quarterly JSO Coalition with Stakeholders and Community Providers.
  - Judicial Officers, District Attorneys, Public Defenders, Probation and Parole Officers, Therapy Providers, Placement Providers, Etc.
- Monthly Treatment Reports by Outpatient Therapy Providers
- Quarterly Treatment Reports for youth in group home placements or residential treatment centers.
- Monthly Staffing on all youth in group homes and residential treatment centers.
- Child and Family Treatment Team Meetings.
- Ongoing communication with stakeholders and community providers.

# SEXUAL OFFENDING STATISTICS

- According to the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA), approximately 5% of teenage males and slightly more than 1% of teenage females have committed acts of sexual abuse.
- Current data shows that the recidivism rate for juvenile offenders to sexually reoffend is low (3-10%) They are more likely to reoffend in a delinquent manner.
- Sexually abusive behavior in adolescents rarely persists into adulthood.
- Juveniles who are adjudicated for sexual offenses recidivate at a rate much lower than the delinquent population for non-sexual offenses.
- Most victims know their offenders.

# RFK - PROBATION SYSTEM REVIEW

- In 2017, DJJS partnered with the Robert F. Kennedy Resource Center to complete a comprehensive review of our department.
- This review included an in-depth review of policies and procedures, case management, and the structure of the department.
- The objective of this review was to create and implement policies/procedures that maintained compliance with the Nevada Revised Statutes and that align with the best practice standards or working with youth in the juvenile justice system.
- DJJS met with RFK on a regular basis, which included meetings with Juvenile Probation Officers and DJJS Management. It also included Stakeholders from the Clark County Judiciary, Public Defender's Office and District Attorney's Office.
- In April 2018, RFK completed the final report for DJJS that included a background of the department and recommendations for next steps.

# RFK RECOMMENDATIONS

## Probation Recommendation:

- Policy/Manual Updates
- Identify goals and outcome measures
- Monthly meetings with Stakeholders
- More structured training for staff
- Assessment Tool
- Family engagement
- Quality Assurance

## JSO Unit Specific Recommendations:

- Re-Exam training protocols
- Revise Mission & Goals
- Create measurable outcomes

# DJJS IMPLEMENTATION

- Revision of DJJS Standard Operating Procedures begins.
- In 2017, the State of Nevada enacted a law requiring the use of a Risk Needs Responsivity assessment tool and case planning on all youth adjudicated in the Juvenile Justice System.
- In 2018, DJJS adopted the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) tool.
- In 2019, staff went through training on how to utilize the tool and policies/procedures were developed on how to utilize this within the department.
- In 2020, YLS assessments begin to be completed for all youth formally adjudicated by the Court. The Assessment and Court Report Unit (ACRU) was created. The courts adopted a bifurcated court process.



# DJJS IMPLEMENTATION - JSO UNIT

- JSO Policies and Procedures were updated based on current best practice standards and included the use of the YLS Assessment Tool. They outline the JSO Mission and Goals, along with outcome measures. The JSO Standard Operating Procedures were approved and distributed to DJJS Staff in June 2020.
- As of January 2021, data has been entered into our database to begin to track the information outlined as outcome measures to determine if the program is successful.
- The forms used in the JSO Unit were all updated and uploaded into the case management system utilized by the department.

# DJJS IMPLEMENTATION - JSO UNIT

- The JSO Supervisor attends the Annual ATSA Conference each year to remain current on the best practice standards for youth who sexually offend.
- The JSO Unit attends ongoing unit meetings for information sharing on standard operating procedures and to discuss current practice standards.
- JSO Supervisor meets with each staff on a monthly basis for I-I meetings to review workloads and coach probation officers.
- JSO Supervisor has developed Mini JSO Trainings to focus on specific topics in depth. Examples: Reunification/Supervision Standards/Non-Offending Parent Program.
- JSO Supervisor has developed a standard training protocol for new officers entering the JSO Unit. This is currently in the process of being implemented.

# PROBATION REFORM CHALLENGES

- Stakeholder Buy-In
- Inconsistent Judiciary
- New Case Management Database
- Data Tracking
- COVID!
- Increased Work/Existing Workload
- Staff resistant to change

# PROBATION REFORM SUCCESSES

- Implementation of a validated assessment tool: YLS
- Case plans are tailored to youth's needs
- Updated Standard Operating Procedures for JSO Unit
- Ongoing Training/Support for Probation Officers within the JSO Unit
- Development of Quality Assurance Team to assist with tracking data to analyze outcome measures
- Increased family engagement

# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

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# Contact Information

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