### New Mexico's Juvenile Justice Continuum Model

Developing a Diversity Framework
through
Community Collaboration and Innovation

### Formalizing Statewide Juvenile Justice Systems in Statute

- The State of New Mexico, Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) envisioned a statute which called for:
  - Local boards
  - Assessment of Community Capacity
  - Culturally Responsive Programs
  - Continuum of Programs and Services
  - Prevention or Diversion from the Formal Juvenile Justice System

### Adopting the Continuum Concept

Local Staff & SAG Members Conduct Research & Site Visits Re:

OJJDP Comprehensive Strategy Model

OJJDP Title V Delinquency Prevention Model

Annie E. Casey Foundation's JDAI Model

Alternative to Detention Programs

### The Juvenile Continuum Act was enacted in 2007 Section 9-2A-14.1 NMSA 1978.

- Creating a fund for Juvenile Justice Grant Awards
- Available to units of local and tribal government.

#### Structure

- 21 of the state's 33 counties participate.
- Budget: \$2 million dollars, State of NM General Fund.

- Programs are Eligible for Funding:
  - Alternatives to Detention: arrested youth
  - Prevention and Early Intervention: at-risk youth

### Judicial Involvement

The Judge is charged with placing a youth in services which rehabilitate the offender while ensuring public safety.

Lack of appropriate services made it difficult to address the needs of the child/family.

The Judge, like others working in the system, recognized these gaps and acknowledged the need for system improvement.

### Bringing Together Stakeholders:

- Judge contacts important community stakeholders from City, County, Probation, Law Enforcement, Non-Profits, Service Providers, Schools and Health and Human Services.
- Leverages authority to bring people together.
- The Judge works with Continuum Coordinator to demonstrate the gaps in the services.
  - Coordinator-Judge relationship is instrumental in gathering data to quantify the problem.

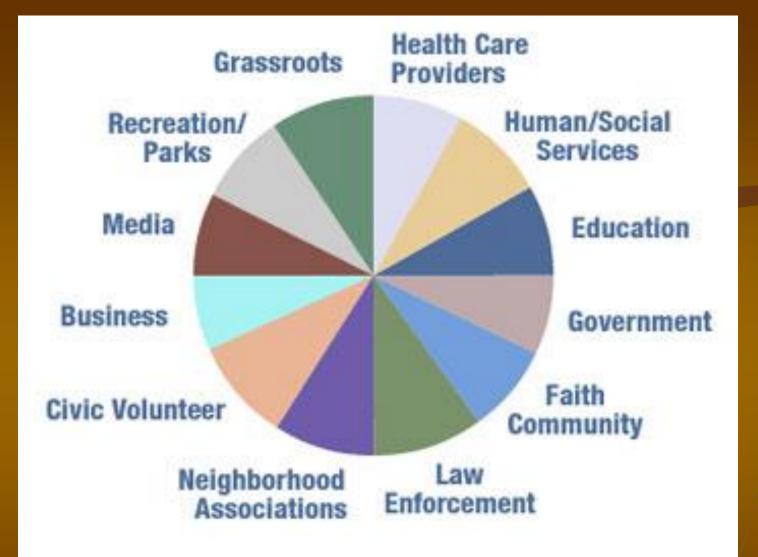
- Stakeholders Collaborate to Identify Underutilized Existing Services/Programs.
- Gaps are Identified, Resources are Leveraged, Awareness Increases.
- A Partnership with CYFD is Formed.
- The Court Strengthens Community Connections.
- Communication between these Natural Partners Improves.

### Continuum Board Development

- Local partners recognize need for a Continuum of Services and Graduated Sanctions
- Priority: Systemic Improvements to Local Juvenile Justice Case Processing
- Focus:
  - Prevention, Diversion and Early Intervention
  - Protecting Public Safety
  - Holding Youth Accountable

# Local Government Contracts with State Agency (CYFD)

- Start-up funds pay for Coordinator and Community Assessment.
- Local Government Organizes Key Stakeholders
- Formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Local Boards consist of Juvenile Justice Professionals, Schools, Business and Faith Communities, Private and Non-Profit Service Providers, Youth and Adult Community Members.
- A Continuum Coordinator serves as Staff to the Board and Liaison to the CYFD Program Manager.
- Board is Committed to JDAI/System Improvement Core Strategies.



### **The Community Wheel**

# Community Assessment & Strategic Planning

A Community Assessment is Conducted.

Board Develops and Adopts a Strategic Plan.

Implementation Steps and Outcome Indicators are Outlined.

Plan Submitted in Response to a Request for Proposal.

When Approved by JJAC, CYFD Contracts with the Local Unit of Government.

### Board Responsibility and Authority

- Board and the Local Government issue RFP
- Board enters into Formal Subcontracts with Selected Agencies for Programs/Services.
- Meets regularly, Monitors Programs Outcomes.
- Considers Disparities in Local System
- Program Outcomes Drive Funding Decisions.
- Sponsors Local and Regional Trainings.
- Markets Initiatives to Community, Media, Local Government and Local Legislators.
- Develops a Plan for Sustainability.



### Continuum of Programs & Services

#### **GOALS:**

- Reduce Duplication of Services
- Target Funding toward Identified Needs;
- Consolidate and Leverage Resources;
- Reduce Gaps in Services;
- Increase Access;
- Advance Case Management and Service Delivery;
- Uphold Agency Accountability;
- Enhance Public Safety;
- Reduce Disparities;
- Develop a Systemic Approach;
- Provide a Continuum of Predictable, Graduated Sanctions;
- Divert At-Risk Youth from Formal System;
- Formal System Monitors the Most Serious, Chronic & Violent Youth.

#### Benefits

- Information Sharing through Collaboration
- Experts Educate Community Stakeholders on the Impact of System Involvement;
- Proactive approach; move from "policing away" problems;
- Requires Community to develop or enhance services to meet the needs of the youth.
- A Cost Effective, Immediate Consequence to Non-Violent Juvenile Offending.
- The Assessment and Referral Process Ensures the Right Services are In Place on the Front End.
- Targets the Root of Negative Behavior;
- Leaves the Formal System to the Most Chronic and Violent Offenders.

### **Impact**

- Boards Replicate Evidence Based and Best Practice Programs supported by the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention (OJJDP);
- Programs are Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate, Gender Responsive and Geographically Accessible.
- Programs Support the Statewide Application of the Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI), Reducing the Detention of Youth while Maintaining Accountability.
- Statewide, Juvenile Crime has Declined each year for the past Ten Years.
- Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders Reduces Youth Referred to Courts.

### **Exemplary Programs**

- The Juvenile Citation Program, a Diversion program in Las Cruces, was Designated as an OJJDP's Best Practices Model Program in 2009;
- The Reception And Assessment Center in Valencia County was the First Rural Assessment Center;
- Reception/Assessment Centers in Bernalillo, Sandoval and Valencia Counties partner with Agencies like Boy Scouts of America, Local School Districts and Tribes.



### Presenter Information

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### Helpful Links

http://cyfd.org/

http://www.ojjdp.gov/

http://www.sandovalsaveskidsatrisk.com

http://www.losalamosjjab.com/

http://www2.dsgonline.com/dso/dso\_program\_detail.aspx?

ID=778&title=Juvenile Citation Program