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NEWSLETTER

April/2017

JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE — JDAI

JDAI SPOTLIGHT



Dakota County’s Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) has a number of stakeholders and community members who give tremendously toward the work. They lend their time, skills, ideas, talents, and efforts toward reducing the number of youth in out of home placement pre and post adjudication as well as eliminating racial disparities within the juvenile justice system.

Aasia Ross, 21, is a resident of Dakota County. She has participated in JDAI in various capacities since 2014. Aasia was originally recruited to participate on the Dakota County Juvenile Advisory Council three years ago while being supervised and experiencing tremendous success on juvenile probation. Aasia continued her work on the council, well past probation expiration. She has shared her story countless times and told many what interventions and approaches worked for her and why. She has provided invaluable insight and feedback to the community corrections department regarding juvenile probation practices and family engagement. Aasia was a Dakota County representative at the JDAI Deep End Convening in Columbus, Ohio last fall and was recently named to the National Advisory Council of Youth for Juvenile Justice Work through the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Juvenile Justice Strategy Group. We would like to recognize and celebrate Aasia this month for her dedication and enthusiasm toward juvenile justice reform! Check out what she had to say...

What do you like most about your work with JDAI?

I like that I have the opportunity to make change. I have the opportunity to help youth and keep them at home, keep them prospering, and help them be prepared adults in society - to be able to do their best.

(Cont. on pg. 3)

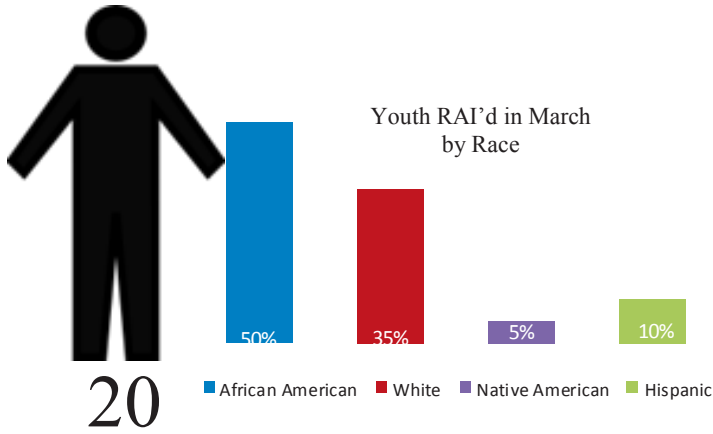
"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." - Barack Obama

*"Creating programs that will keep youth out of confinement and that will help youth understand how worthy they are, how great they are, that's really my big plan."
-Aasia Ross*

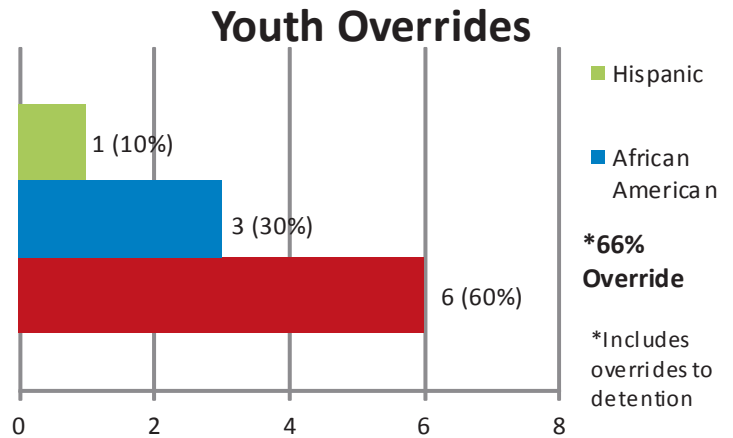
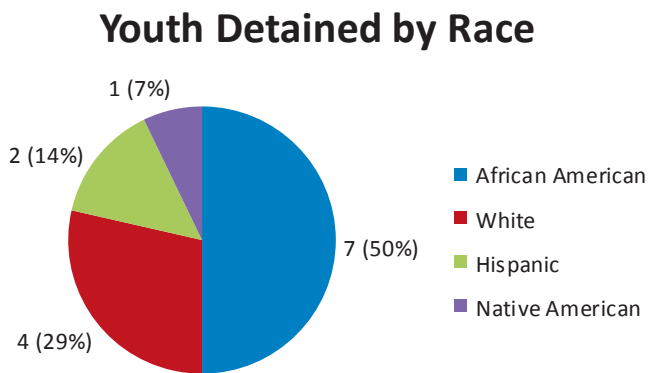
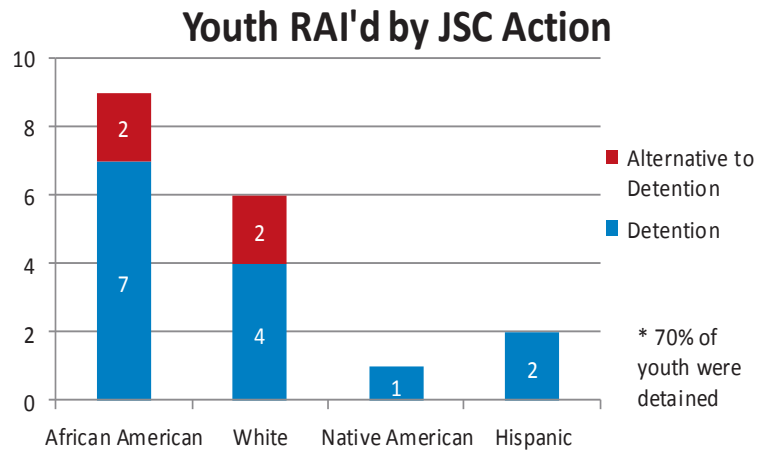
*"There is no better than adversity. Every defeat, every heartbreak, every loss, contains its own seed, its own lesson on how to improve your performance the next time."
- Malcolm X*

Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI): March Screening Results

Dakota County's Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) is the product of collaboration between Community Corrections, local law enforcement, the County Attorney's Office, and public defenders. According to Minnesota state law, secure detention can only be used between the time of arrest and first court appearance if a juvenile is a risk to public safety, and/or at risk of failing to appear for his/her first court hearing. The RAI uses objective criteria to determine a juvenile's risk level. Juveniles who pose low levels of risk are released to their families. Those who pose moderate risks may be sent to detention alternatives such as a shelter or foster care, while juveniles who pose the highest risks are held in secure detention at the JSC. RAI results may be overridden under certain circumstances by a judge or a JSC supervisor.



Total number of youth RAI'd in March



Placement Decisions by Race: 2017 Year to Date

Outcome	White	Black	Hispanic	Am. Indian	Asian	Other	Total
Released to ATD*	7	7	1	0	1	0	16
Shelter	7	6	1	0	1	0	15
GPS	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
House Arrest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Released to Parent/Guardian	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Held in Secure Detention	13	26	11	1	1	1	53
Total	21	34	12	1	2	1	71

* Alternative to Detention

JDAI SPOTLIGHT *(cont. from pg. 1)*

What surprised you the most about working with JDAI?

...(laughs)... I guess, to be honest, I was surprised by how welcomed I was, seeing that I was a little trouble maker. How much, even after probation and my success, how much they encouraged me to keep doing better and keep doing more.

What do you find has been your biggest challenge?

Probably the biggest challenge has been getting everyone together to make a solution happen. Coordinating the schedules of many different people in order to come together and meet, talk about a solution, and then do what it takes to see the solution happen and affect other people in a positive way. However, it does get done!

How has being involved with JDAI helped you in your personal growth and development?

Being involved with JDAI has helped me figure out what my purpose is, to be honest. Going through the things I went through when I was young, I didn't know why I went through those things. Now I see that I went through those things so that I can help other people that are in the position that I was once in.

Where do you hope to be in the next 5 years? What do you hope to be doing?

I hope to be working in the justice system. I hope to be that person to create alternative programs that are helpful for youth. Create programs that will keep youth out of confinement and that will help youth understand how worthy they are, how great they are. That's really my big plan.

JDAI Community Focus Groups

For almost two years, Dakota County Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) has partnered with the Annie E. Casey Foundation in the Deep End Initiative. Through this work, JDAI has been looking for ways to engage youth and families in system reform. In the past, this has been done through the Juvenile Advisory Council in the community, New Chance Day Treatment Center and the Juvenile Service Center (JSC). Efforts to reach parents and families have also been made through a Parent Advisory Council and presentations to faith based organizations.

JDAI is expanding its efforts of youth and community engagement to include youth and family focus groups. JDAI has partnered with community organizer Shedrick Garrett to host three focus groups throughout Dakota County this month. Two groups will consist of juvenile participants and one will be a parent/family group. The goal of these sessions is to capture the voices and experiences of those who have been directly impacted by the juvenile justice system and engage them with what they believe will be effective system changes. While keeping in mind change is a process that takes time, the ultimate goal is to build partnerships with youth and families that will become a part of the fabric of the juvenile justice system and create long lasting reform.

For more information on JDAI please contact:

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