#### JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE — JDAI



### Dakota County Community Coaches Program A New Take on Mentoring

"Nobody succeeds on their own: each young person's strength and resilience is fostered by those who have taught them they can do anything they put their mind to." - President Barak Obama

At the beginning of each year, the nation takes time during National Mentoring Month to recognize parents, families, teachers, coaches, and mentors who give of their time to invest in the lives of youth. Studies have found that children with mentors are 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs; 27% less likely to begin using alcohol; 53% less likely to skip school; and 33% less likely to engage in violence. (Herrera, C., et al. 2013. The Role of Risk: Mentoring Experiences and Outcomes for Youth with Varying Risk Profiles. New York, NY: A Public Private Ventures project distributed by MDRC). <a href="https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/chc/harvard-mentoring-project/">https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/chc/harvard-mentoring-project/</a>

The University of Chicago Crime Lab found that violent crime arrests among youth participating in mentoring programs fell by 44%. Research attributes this drop in violent crime arrests to the development of pro-social skills (*In Chicago, Proof Positive That Mentoring Decreases Youth Violence*). <a href="http://www.usnews.com/news/blogs/at-the-edge/2012/10/04/in-chicago-proof-positive-that-mentoring-decreases-youth-violence">http://www.usnews.com/news/blogs/at-the-edge/2012/10/04/in-chicago-proof-positive-that-mentoring-decreases-youth-violence</a>

Dakota County's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) recognizes the importance of mentoring and the value that those relationships have in decreasing the likelihood of youth entering the criminal justice system.

(cont. on pg. 3)

Youth served by Dakota County
Community Coaches Program since
2014

Youth who have MENTORS

are 33% less likely to engage in violence

Harvard Mentoring Project

Youth with mentors are...

53% less likely

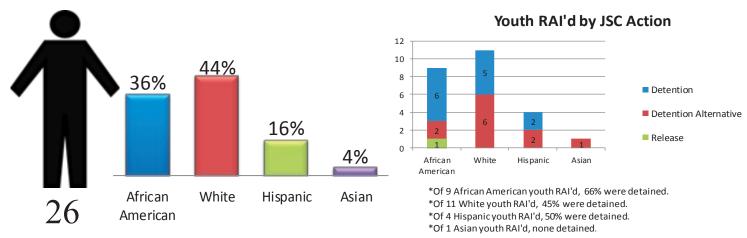
To skip school

Harvard Mentoring Project

59%
OF MENTORED TEENS
GET BETTER
GRADES
New York State Mentoring Program

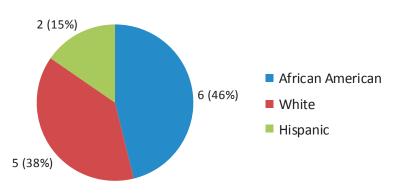
# Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI): December Screening Results

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.

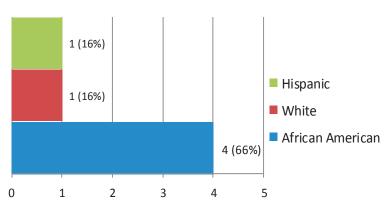


Total Number of Youth RAI'd in December

#### **Number of Youth Detained**



#### **Overrides to Detention**



#### Placement Decisions by Race: January—December 2016

Outcome	White	Black	Hispanic	Am. Indian	Asian	Other	Total
Released to ATD*	36	29	9	0	1	0	75
Shelter	27	24	7	0	1	0	59
GPS	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
House Arrest	7	5	2	0	0	0	14
Released to Parent/Guardian	7	9	2	0	0	0	18
Held in Secure Detention	81	88	30	4	3	3	209
Total	124	126	41	4	4	3	302

<sup>\*</sup>Alternative to Detention

January 2017

## DAKOTA COUNTY COMMUNITY COACHES PROGRAM A NEW TWIST ON MENTORING (continued from pg. 1)

In 2014, Dakota County JDAI launched the Community Coaches Program. Although not a mentor program in the typical sense, the Community Coaches Program pairs youth with caring adults who can help them build pro-social skills and connect with pro-social activities.

Although mentoring relationships have the probability of lowering youth criminal activity, the Community Coaches Program is unique in that coaches work intentionally with youth on moderate to high risk probation and truancy youth, whose lives tend to mirror youth on probation, with the objectives of reducing probation violations and new offenses by structuring free time with pro-social activities during evening and weekend hours. Coaches work hand -in-hand with probation officers, who recommend youth to the program, to best meet the needs of the youth. Coaches work one-on-one with youth, in their communities, to identify their interests and connect them with prosocial activities related to those interests.

Dakota County has contracted with Model Cities, a nonprofit organization based in St. Paul, to facilitate the Community Coaches Program since the program began in 2014. Model Cities recruits, trains, and pairs coaches with youth. Model Cities' Program Coordinator Reginald Glass believes community coaches are essential in changing the life trajectory of youth. "The objective of the program is to assist youth with expanding their networks, building necessary skills, and making positive decisions, which will ultimately help them stay out of the justice system and venture down a path of success."

Although there are similarities between the Community Coaches Program and mentoring, there are many things that set the Coaches Program apart:

- Coaches are paired with youth for a maximum of 44 hours over the course of three months
- Coaches meet with youth once a week for two or more hours
- Coaches are trained on what constitutes pro-social activities, how to connect with youth on probation, and maintaining healthy boundaries
- Coaches are under contract and compensated for their time with the youth
- Coaches are chosen from residents of the metro area
- Coaches consist of men and women from diverse professionals and cultural backgrounds

The Community Coaches Program has reached over 100 youth since its inception in 2014. Many of the youth who participate in the Community Coaches Program have completed the program successfully with no probation violations or new offenses. In 2017, JDAI plans to continue reaching youth through the Community Coaches Program in an attempt to keep youth out of the juvenile justice system.

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Youth with Community Coaches Program in 2016 14

Female Youth with Community Coaches in 2016 17

Male Youth with Community Coaches in 2016 13 - 18

Ages of Youth with Community Coaches in 2016

For more information on JDAI please contact: