

- ▶ ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION VISITS THE JSC..... 1
- ▶ RISK ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT—
REVIEW OF JUNE DATA 2
- ▶ COMMITTEE UPDATES..... 3

July/2016



JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE — JDAI

ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION TO VISIT DAKOTA COUNTY



THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

and with two other locations - Pierce County, Washington and Franklin County, Ohio) as part of the next cohort of sites to join the Deep End Reform Initiative. The Foundation’s Minnesota JDAI/Deep End Team Lead, Michael Belton, said the overall goal of the Deep End Initiative is to safely reduce over-reliance on youth incarceration. As with JDAI, the key values of the Initiative are: collaboration, community partnership, data-driven decision-making, eliminating racial/ethnic disparities, healthy youth development, community partnership and effective defense advocacy.

In January, and then again in April of this year, the Foundation requested comprehensive information on dispositions and services provided to a selected cohort of juveniles open to probation. Dakota County chose as its study group all juveniles open during calendar year 2014. The Foundation also asked for detailed information about the operations of Dakota County’s justice system including how service decisions are made.

This month, expanding on those efforts, the Foundation will visit Dakota County for a 3-day system assessment. They will host one-on-one interviews with key stakeholders using “...a series of open-ended questions with the goal of gaining a deeper understanding of attitudes, behaviors and experiences,” according to the Foundation. Foundation representatives will conduct what it calls a system mapping session, as well as a focus group with probation officers.

In 2014, Dakota County Community Corrections applied for and received a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation to be one of three Minnesota counties (along with Hennepin and Ramsey,

Foundation Program Assistant Jemea Goso said she believes the site visit, paired with the data, will provide both Dakota County and the Foundation with profitable ideas on how to accomplish mutual objectives. “The goal of the system assessment is to gain a comprehensive understanding of Dakota County as a jurisdiction that will lead to a series of recommendations for the Deep End work,” she explained. “We will base interview questions on what we learned from reviewing all the information submitted by Dakota County: the fact-finding questions, fact-finding documents, and dispositional data set.”

Materials given to the county by the Foundation in preparation for the site visit explain that “...the system assessment is one of the key processes in Deep End reform as it lays the groundwork for reform planning and implementation. While the quantitative component is critical, the qualitative portion of the system assessment is equally valuable in painting a complete and accurate picture of how the system currently operates.

In order to gather a wide range of information, it is essential that a diverse group of stakeholders are engaged in the process, including front line practice workers, youth who are affected by the system, court administrators, community members and other participants. By interviewing a diverse set of stakeholders about juvenile justice practice, policy, and programming, sites are able to gain valuable insights and perspectives that help illuminate both strengths to build on and opportunities for improvement.”

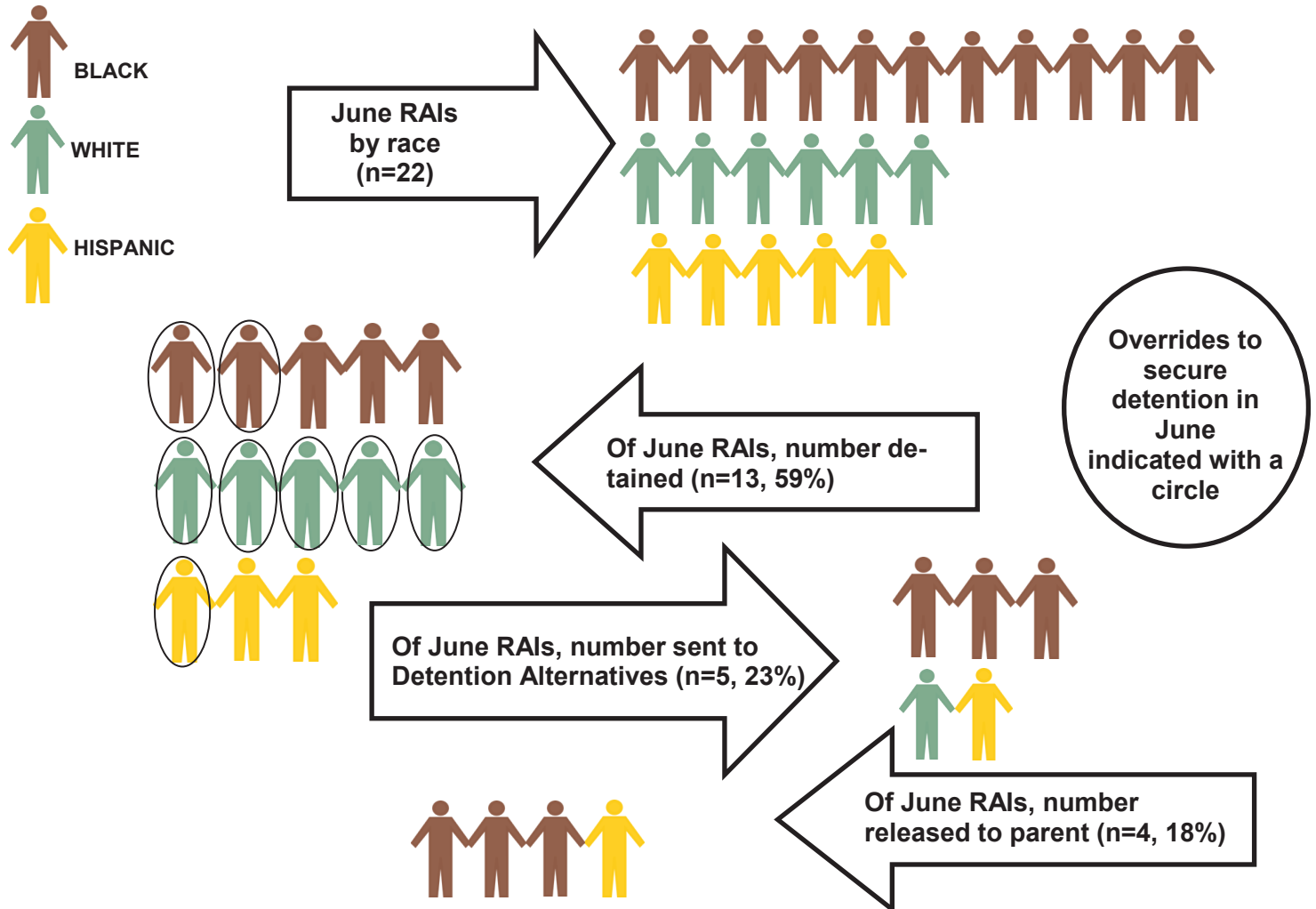
Juvenile Supervisor Meg Grove said she is excited about the site visit, and believes Dakota County is paving the way for other counties as the first of the three Minnesota JDAI/Deep End counties to host a site visit.

For more information about the Casey Foundation’s *Deep End Reform Initiative*, check out: www.jdaihelpdesk.org/SitePages/deep-end-reform.



Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI): June Screening Results

Dakota County's Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) is the product of collaboration of 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.



Placement Decisions by Race: 2016 Year to Date

Outcome	White	Black	Hispanic	Am. Indian	Asian	Other	Total
Released to ATD*	18	15	3	0	0	0	36
Shelter	13	13	2	0	0	0	28
GPS	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
House Arrest	3	2	1	0	0	0	6
Released to Parent/Guardian	3	4	2	0	0	0	9
Held in Secure Detention	44	46	11	3	3	2	109
Total	65	65	16	3	3	2	154

* Alternative to Detention

2016 JDAI Workplan Update

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The JDAI Executive Committee met on June 22, 2016. The members heard updates on several JDAI and Deep End efforts, including:

- ◆ **Key Indicators** - The key indicators that are being watched are race and ethnicity of juveniles screened for detention/detention alternatives (using the Risk Assessment Instrument or RAI), staff overrides of RAI scores, probation violations, and the overall numbers of detentions.
- ◆ **Community Coach Program** - Reginald Glass and Kizzy Downie of Model Cities Inc., the Community Coach vendor, described the Community Coach Program, as well as how they recruit and train coaches. During 2015, and so far in 2016, 87 juveniles have used the program.
- ◆ **School Skills and Leadership Program** - Five schools were included in the 2015-16 school year Skills and Leadership Groups Program: Inver Grove Middle School, Burnsville High School, Apple Valley High School, Simley High School and Eastview High School. Among the five schools, 57 students participated. Students who attended the groups in 2015-16 will be eligible to be part of refresher groups in September, 2016. The groups were funded by a grant from the Minnesota Office of Justice Programs.
- ◆ **DOC Diversion Program** - Results of the program for 2014-15 indicate that 65% of those referred completed the program. The completion rate for juveniles of color is, however, lower than for white juveniles – 57% vs. 81%. Committee members discussed the importance of close partnerships with schools, and the impact of school-to-school differences in responding to DOC-type behaviors.
- ◆ **Deep End Site Visit** - The Annie E. Casey Foundation is scheduled to host a site visit July 20-22, 2016. Foundation representatives will interview key stakeholders in order to assess the current Deep End work and how they can assist with future work. The visit will consist of one-on-one interviews, a group system mapping session, and a probation officer focus group.
- ◆ **Deep End Community Engagement** - The Annie E. Casey Foundation has asked that community focus groups be implemented as a part of the Deep End work. Efforts are underway find a community based organization to lead the groups.

ELIMINATING RACIAL DISPARITIES (ERD) COMMITTEE

The Eliminating Racial Disparities (ERD) Committee received updates on the Deep End including the upcoming Casey Foundation site visit and community focus groups. Juvenile Services Center (JSC) supervisor Martin Miser demonstrated how JSC staff scores and interprets the Risk Assessment Instrument Tool (RAI). He described the weekly RAI review process to assure quality, and how the process is used to train/coach staff members.

Minnesota JDAI Coordinator Curtis Shanklin and Assistant Coordinator Katrina Dexter provided JDAI updates from state level efforts. Shanklin told members the state will host a training on *Implicit Bias* for all JDAI sites. He also stated he hopes to see approximately 9 to 13 new JDAI sites in Minnesota.

In an effort to help the ERD Committee regain momentum, members were encouraged to identify workgroups they would like to form, and topics/presenters for committee meetings.

The next ERD Committee Meeting is scheduled for August 26, 2016 in the JSC Training Room, noon –1:30 p.m.

For more information on JDAI please contact:

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