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NEWSLETTER

June/2017

JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE — JDAI

MEXICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION!



Every year in May, people from various cultures come together to celebrate “Cinco De Mayo,” a Mexican holiday that commemorates the Mexican Army’s unlikely victory over French Forces in the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. In the United States, Cinco De Mayo has expanded into a time for people to celebrate overall Mexican-American heritage and culture. Youth involved in the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative’s (JDAI), New Chance Juvenile Advisory Council (JAC), and JAC co-facilitator, Assistant Probation Officer, Tony Hunter, wanted to celebrate Cinco De Mayo by hosting their first Mexican Heritage Month/Celebration.

JAC participants took leadership in planning the celebration, determining what they would like the first Mexican Heritage Month to consist of. After only a couple of meetings, the youth knew they wanted a celebration to be similar to that of the Black History Month celebration hosted annually. “I really want this to become a yearly part of the culture of New Chance, just like African American History Month, said one New Chance JAC member. “I really want to share and celebrate my culture.”

The Mexican Heritage Month consisted of teachers incorporating lessons around Mexican heritage and culture in their daily lesson plans; youth researching Mexican holidays and creating display boards to present to their peers, staff, and families at the end of the month; and a celebration luncheon that would take place at the end of the month.

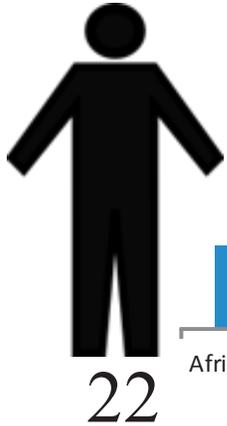
“Cinco de Mayo has come to represent a celebration of the contributions that Mexican Americans and all Hispanics have made to America.” — Former California Representative Joe Baca



(cont. on pg. 3)

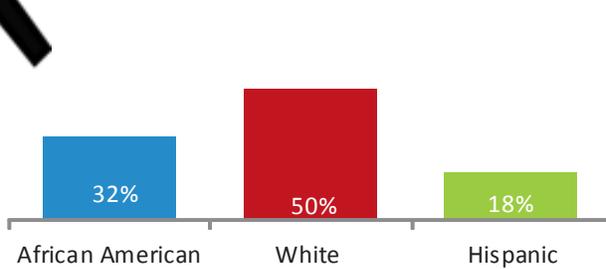
Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI): May Screening Results

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.

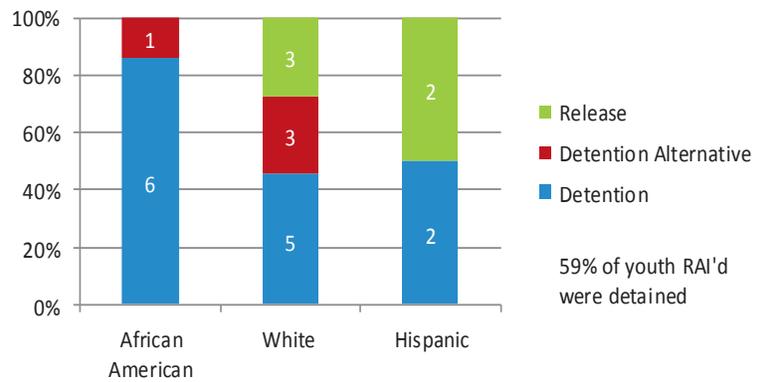


Total number of youth RAI'd in May

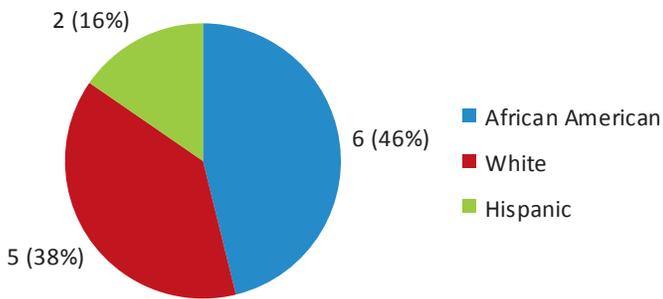
Youth RAI'd in May by Race



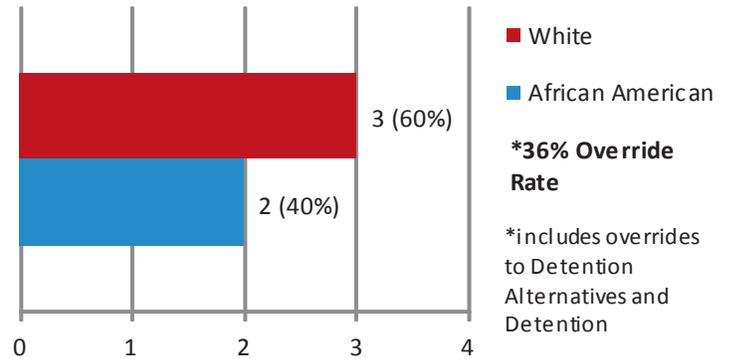
Youth RAI'd by JSC Action



Youth Detained by Race



Youth Overrides

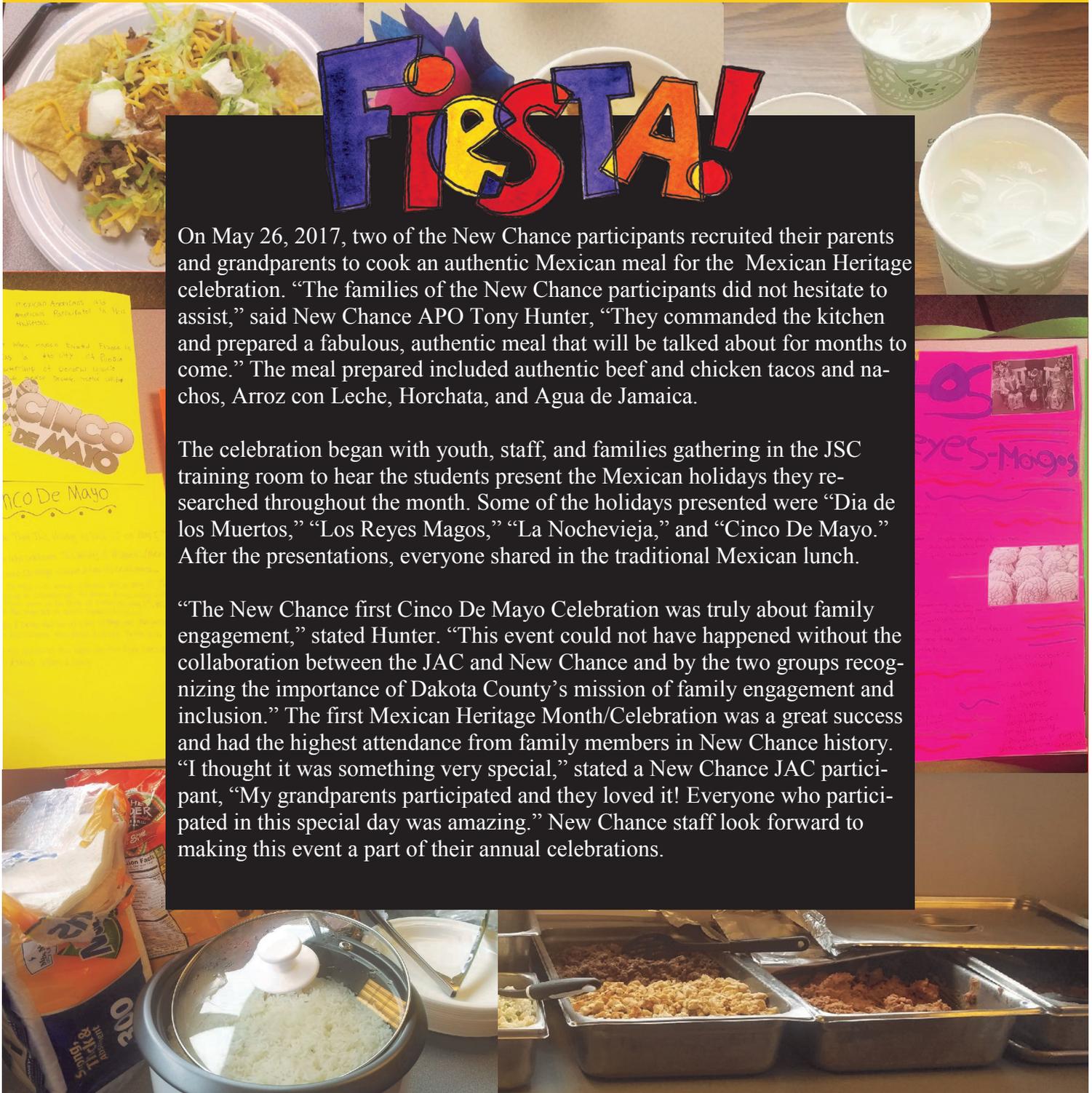


Placement Decisions by Race: 2017 Year to Date

Outcome	White	Black	Hispanic	Am. Indian	Asian	Other	Total
Released to ATD*	11	9	1	0	1	0	22
Shelter	11	8	1	0	1	0	21
GPS	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
House Arrest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Released to Parent/Guardian	5	4	2	0	0	0	11
Held in Secure Detention	24	36	14	1	1	1	77
Total	40	49	17	1	2	1	110

* Alternative to Detention

MEXICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION! (continued from pg.1)



Fiesta!

On May 26, 2017, two of the New Chance participants recruited their parents and grandparents to cook an authentic Mexican meal for the Mexican Heritage celebration. “The families of the New Chance participants did not hesitate to assist,” said New Chance APO Tony Hunter, “They commanded the kitchen and prepared a fabulous, authentic meal that will be talked about for months to come.” The meal prepared included authentic beef and chicken tacos and nachos, Arroz con Leche, Horchata, and Agua de Jamaica.

The celebration began with youth, staff, and families gathering in the JSC training room to hear the students present the Mexican holidays they researched throughout the month. Some of the holidays presented were “Dia de los Muertos,” “Los Reyes Magos,” “La Nochevieja,” and “Cinco De Mayo.” After the presentations, everyone shared in the traditional Mexican lunch.

“The New Chance first Cinco De Mayo Celebration was truly about family engagement,” stated Hunter. “This event could not have happened without the collaboration between the JAC and New Chance and by the two groups recognizing the importance of Dakota County’s mission of family engagement and inclusion.” The first Mexican Heritage Month/Celebration was a great success and had the highest attendance from family members in New Chance history. “I thought it was something very special,” stated a New Chance JAC participant, “My grandparents participated and they loved it! Everyone who participated in this special day was amazing.” New Chance staff look forward to making this event a part of their annual celebrations.

For more information on JDAI please contact:

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