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JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE — JDAI COUNTY

Deep End Kick Off Sets Stage for Next Phase

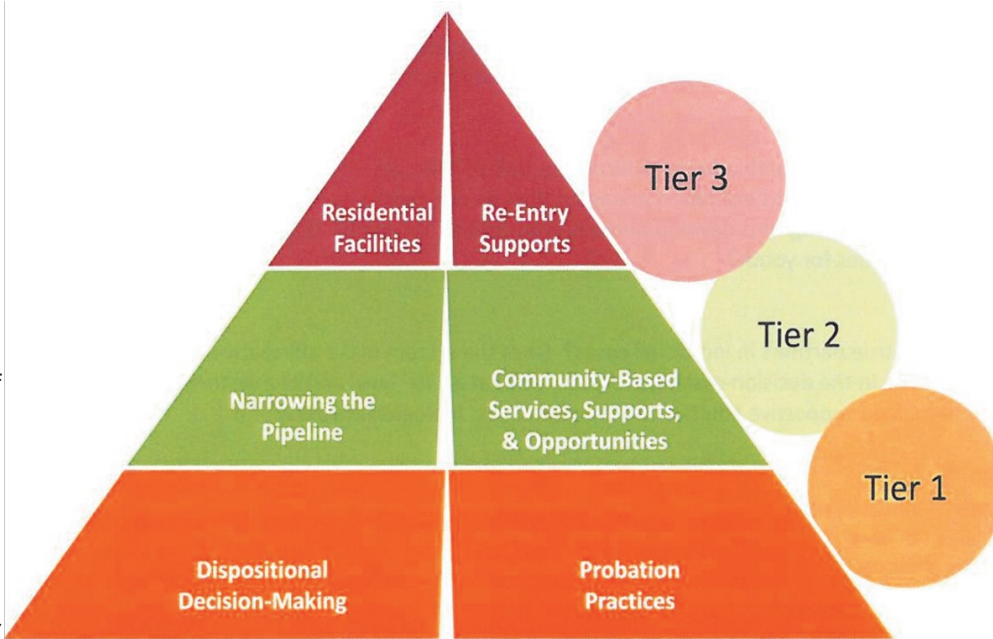
Dakota County joined Hennepin and Ramsey counties from Minnesota, Franklin County (OH), and Pierce County (WA) at the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) *Deep End Reform Initiative* Kick Off in Minneapolis on August 11-12, 2015. The *Deep End* is an expansion of JDAI sponsored by long-time supporter, the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Sites at the kick off event were represented by members of local criminal justice systems—judiciary, public defenders and prosecutors, courts, social services, and probation units. The meeting was intended to help the new *Deep End* sites prepare for intensive data collection and analyses, and systems assessments that will be the focus of JDAI work over the next two to three years.

and probation officers were involved for each case.

Once the data set is completed, Dakota County will also go through what the Foundation calls a “systems assessment” or a review of written operating policies and procedures, as well as interviews with justice system stakeholders, juveniles, and their families. The data set and written materials will be sent to the Foundation in preparation for a site visit in early 2016 during which the Foundation will conduct key informant interviews and focus groups. All of this information—the data analysis, review of written materials, and results from interviews and focus groups— comprise the foundation of *Deep End* work (Tier 1 in the illustration). Once all information is gathered and analyzed, Dakota County will move on to work described in Tiers 2 and 3.

At the meeting, the Foundation pointed out that sites already

in the *Deep End* have found that by viewing data in new ways, previously unseen but important patterns emerge. Once revealed, sites can take targeted, decisive actions to correct problems. One of the original sites found, for example, that while its juvenile crime rate and the raw numbers of juveniles placed out of their homes dropped over the years it had JDAI in place, its *rate* of placing arrested juveniles out of their homes was showing a different pattern. In other words, trend lines that should have been in sync were not. Looking at the data through that lens motivated the site to consider changes to placement policies and procedures.



Corrections applied to join the *Deep End* Initiative more than a year ago because the Initiative’s framework aligned with work Dakota County JDAI was already undertaking. Participation in the Initiative will afford the county access to a network of likeminded local governments, cutting edge researchers, and pioneers of evidence based practices for juvenile justice system reform.

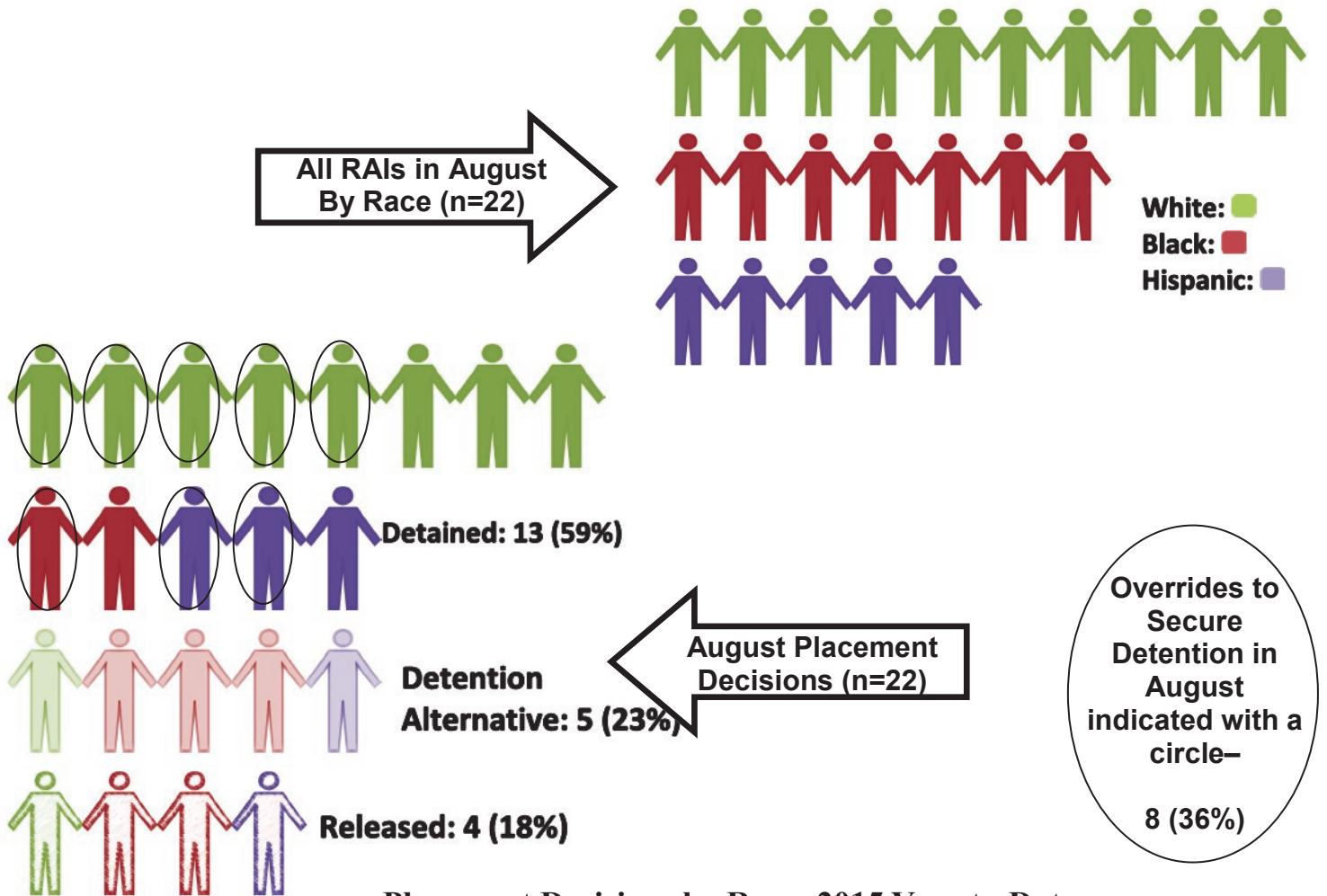
While awaiting the kick off, Dakota County’s recent noteworthy efforts include expansion of family engagement opportunities both in the Juvenile Service Center and community based probation, as well as its work to increase youth influence on the justice system through the Juvenile Advisory Council.

The *Deep End Initiative* begins with a rigorous analysis of information about a set of juvenile offenders who were open to probation during 2014. Dakota County has already begun building the data set, including demographics, offense histories, dispositions and conditions, out of home placement and service intervention histories, and risk levels. The data set will include indication of which judges, prosecutors, defenders

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): August 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: 2015 Year-to-Date

Outcome	White	Black	Hispanic	Am. Indian	Asian	Total
Released to ATD*	27 (33%)	17 (30%)	8 (44%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	52 (32%)
Shelter	22	17	4	0	0	43
GPS	1	0	0	0	0	1
House Arrest	4	0	4	0	0	8
Released to Parent/Guardian	8 (10%)	10 (18%)	2 (11%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	20 (12%)
Held in Secure Detention	46 (58%)	30 (53%)	8 (44%)	4 (100%)	1 (100%)	89 (55%)
Total	81 (50%)	57 (35%)	18 (11%)	4 (2%)	1 (1%)	161

* Alternative to Detention

2015 JDAI Workplan Update

ELIMINATING RACIAL DISPARITIES (ERD) COMMITTEE

The ERD Committee received updates regarding the efforts of community partners to reduce the number of youth of color who indicate they do not feel welcomed at local community centers. The group plans to use the Intentional Social Interaction (ISI) model to facilitate discussion between community centers and community members. Committee members were invited to partner in the planning of this event. The committee also received an update about the Deep End Reform Initiative Kick Off meeting. It was emphasized that stakeholder feedback will be key to the successful completion of the system assessment.

The committee discussed the community engagement pilot effort that began in the summer of 2014. The group agreed that having evening meetings has negatively impacted the productivity of the group. Monthly afternoon meetings will be resumed in September. Evening meetings will be turned over to community members who have been attending them. The county will continue to support the efforts of the community group and will attend the meetings which will be held at a time, date and location that is determined by the community.

For the remainder of this year, the ERD Committee will focus its efforts on hosting a training for School Resource Officers and providing charging data to schools. Planning for these efforts is underway.

The next ERD Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2015, in the Training Room at the Juvenile Service Center, 12:00-1:30 pm.

JUVENILE ADVISORY COUNCIL (JAC)

The community JAC continued its work on collateral consequences and expungement. The group reviewed a mock up of the brochure they are creating for juveniles currently on probation. Corrections will secure speakers to support the group in drafting information to be included in the brochure.

The Juvenile Service Center JAC completed its work on the simplified resident handbook and began to brainstorm ideas for family engagement. Ideas centered around visiting and included expanding who is allowed to visit, providing games for families to use during visiting and allowing pictures to be taken during visit. The group will continue this discussion at their next meeting on September 21, 2015.

JUVENILE JUSTICE IN THE NEWS

What Deters Criminal Behavior?

Humans make rational choices. They weigh costs and benefits, then decide what to do. But what is the research basis for these statements? When it comes to juvenile offenders, does fear of harsh sanctions deter crime?

Using the longitudinal study *Pathways to Desistance* on juvenile felony offenders' transition into adulthood, researchers studied whether juvenile offenders behaved as though the risks (such as long stretches of confinement in secure settings) associated with anti-social behavior outweigh possible rewards. The study confirmed that juveniles and adults have about the same ability to judge risks and consequences of actions. Differences are apparent between the two groups when it comes to developmental processes: juveniles' comparative lack of impulse control, inability to regulate emotions, inability to delay gratification and orient to the future, and susceptibility to peer influence interferes with logic. In other words, they knew what might happen but they still committed the crimes. The researchers concluded that the intuitively appealing idea that *harsher penalties* actually did not deter crime. What did matter, they found, was certainty. Deterrence for this population was more a function of the *certainty of punishment* than of the harshness of the penalties.

One implication of this research, say the authors, is to rethink use of progressively more severe punishments (i.e. longer lengths of stay in confinement) if the goal with offenders is to deter crime. To read the full study, click on this link: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/pubs/248617>.

For more information on JDAI please contact:

Carmeann Foster, JDAI Program Coordinator | 651-438-8267 | carmeann.foster@co.dakota.mn.us

Meg Grove, Supervisor | 651-438-8276 | meg.grove@co.dakota.mn.us

Sarah, Reetz, Deputy Director | 651-438-4953 | sarah.reetz@co.dakota.mn.us