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NEWSLETTER

May/2017

JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE — JDAI

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS!

Four Delegates from Dakota County joined participants from across the country at the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s 25th Anniversary National JDAI Conference in Orlando, Florida, on April 18-20, 2017.

The conference consisted of guest speakers, workshops, round table discussions, and networking opportunities. Delegates were able to share their work and progress with one another. Sarah Reetz, Community Corrections Deputy Director, was among the Minnesota delegates. She stated, *“Attending the National JDAI Conference provided us the ability to learn about what is working and being implemented in other counties and states around the nation. There is so much value in working together to share programs with successful outcomes as we strive to improve and enhance our work.”*

Participants were provided the opportunity to reflect on the past work of JDAI and appreciate how far the work has come. When JDAI first launched in 1992, it included just five jurisdictions. There are now 300 local jurisdictions from 39 states involved in the initiative! According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, of the 164 JDAI sites that reported in 2016, there was a 43% overall reduction of youth in detention this past year. Juvenile Crime was also significantly reduced by 40% in participating locations. Cory Grewing, Juvenile Services Center Supervisor, commented, *“It was great to see how large JDAI has grown over the last 25 years and learn of the tremendous success the model has had on juvenile justice reform.”*

Along with reflection, The Foundation encouraged everyone to look to the future to where the initiative is headed. While there has been significant reductions in both juvenile incarceration and juvenile crime, results from participating jurisdictions indicate racial and ethnic disparities have persisted and in some jurisdictions have increased. There is also data that shows a loss of “detention reform momentum” in some sites, demonstrated by increased lengths of stay in post disposition out of home placements.

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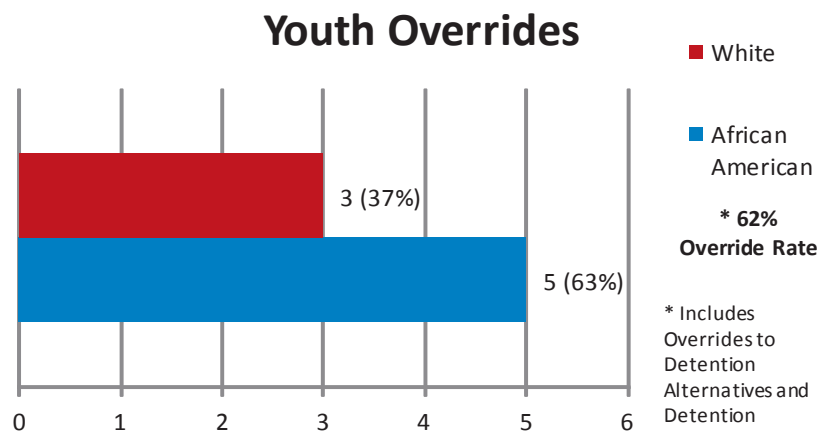
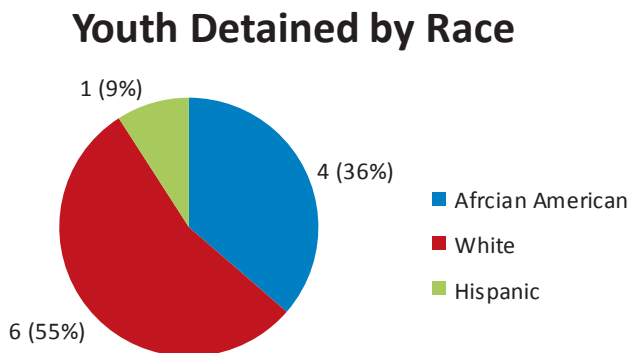
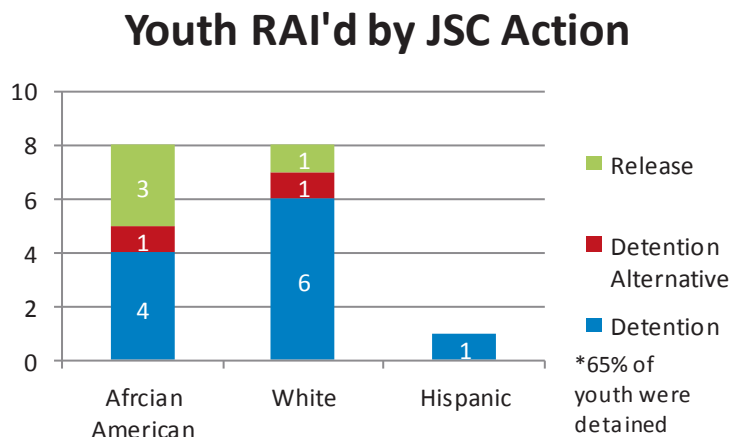
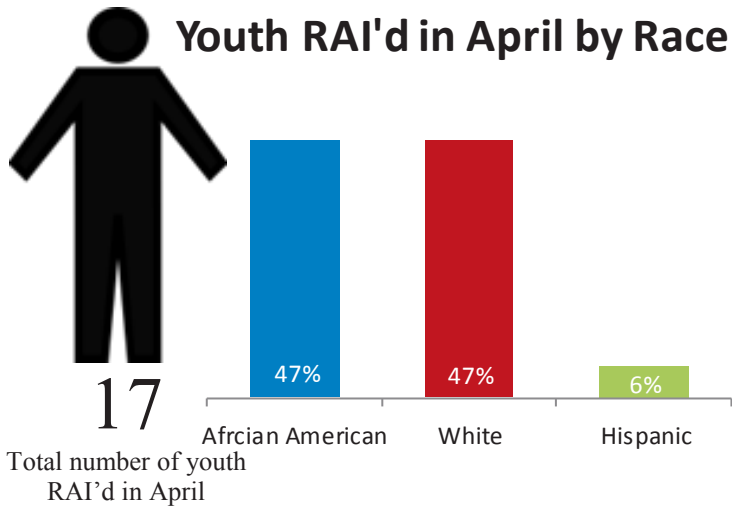
“When times get tough and fear sets in, think of those people who paved the way for you and those who are counting on you to pave the way for them.”
- Michelle Obama

“Someone pulled us out of that situation. They were willing to fight harder than the gang member. You have to show them a greater love than they are used to receiving and a love that’s not shaming but gives them hope.”
-Xavier McElrath , No Child is Born Bad

“Nobody succeeds by themselves. There are those who paved the way and those who will show you the way. Remember to reach back and reach out to say thank you.”
-Mary Frances Winters

Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI): April 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.



Placement Decisions by Race: 2017 Year to Date

Outcome	White	Black	Hispanic	Am. Indian	Asian	Other	Total
Released to ATD*	8	8	1	0	1	0	18
Shelter	8	7	1	0	1	0	17
GPS	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
House Arrest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Released to Parent/Guardian	2	4	0	0	0	0	6
Held in Secure Detention	19	30	12	1	1	1	64
Total	29	42	13	1	2	1	88

* Alternative to Detention

Celebrating 25 Years! *(continued from pg. 1)*

Finally, the Annie E. Casey Foundation honored those who have worked diligently over the past 25 years in the fight against the push for unnecessary incarceration of youth, the ideology of the “Super Predator” and the overrepresentation of youth of color in the juvenile justice system. Minnesota’s own Ramsey County Commissioner Toni Carter was presented with the JDAI Distinguished System Leadership Award. The award is the highest honor received and is bestowed upon individuals who use data to drive decisions and engage community partners and stakeholders in juvenile justice reform.

Over the past 12 years, the Dakota County JDAI has worked diligently and achieved many great accomplishments. A few of those accomplishments are:

- 65% reduction in out of home placements
- Disorderly Conduct and TAP Diversion Programs
- Elimination of discretionary placements used by probation officers
- Change in practices surrounding technical violations and warrants
- Parent Engagement to include participation in child placement screenings
- Implementation and Quarterly Review of the RAI at the Juvenile Services Center
- Juvenile Advisory Councils in the Community, New Chance, and Juvenile Service Center
- Community Coach Program
- Community Focus Groups

Along with celebrating the accomplishments of the near and distant past, Dakota County JDAI continues to work eagerly toward the future, finding and creating alternatives to locked detention for youth. There remains great need for youth in Dakota County, such as transportation to and from court, foster care homes, community recreational spaces, mentorship and more. JDAI and its stakeholders plan to continue efforts to reach out to the community in order to build partnerships to address these needs.

ELIMINATING RACIAL DISPARITIES (ERD) COMMITTEE

The ERD Committee met on April 27, 2017. The group received updates regarding the JDAI National Inter-Site Conference in Orlando, Florida, the Model Site Visit in Portland, Oregon, as well as updates from the ERD sub-committee workgroups. The Group discussed projects that the sub-committees have undertaken in order to make a tangible impact on racial disparities within the Dakota County Juvenile Justice System. Members gave suggestions centered around the creation of detention alternatives, presentations to the community, and the expansion of juvenile court.

The next ERD Committee Meeting is Scheduled for Thursday, May 25, 2017, in the Training Room at the Juvenile Service Center, 12:00-1:30pm

For more information on JDAI please contact:

Charlene Forbes, JDAI Program Coordinator | 651-438-8267 | charlene.forbes@co.dakota.mn.us
 Meg Grove, Juvenile Supervisor | 651-438-8276 | meg.grove@co.dakota.mn.us
 Sarah, Reetz, Deputy Director | 651-438-4953 | sarah.reetz@co.dakota.mn.us