



# Youth Justice Transformation

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# Youth Justice Transformation

- An initiative convened by the Children's Cabinet staff, supported by the CORE TEAM
  - DPS, DOC, DHS, MDE, MDH, MMB, DEED, GOV
- This initiative was the product of advocates and state leaders sharing a need for coordination
- Sought technical assistance from the Annie E. Casey foundation to help us jump start this work
  - Cross agency governance
  - Engagement
    - Community
    - County
    - Justice Involved Youth
    - Tribal (Consultation)

# Youth Justice with AECF

- The Children's Cabinet received technical assistance from two sets of leaders thanks to support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation
- All of our TA's have over 20 years of experience in youth development, family services, and youth justice
- Our TA's worked collaboratively with the Children's Cabinet to convene a series of meetings that evaluate data, policies, values, and governance to re-imagine our system

# Youth Justice- Long Term Vision

**If this statewide realignment initiative is wildly successful, what are 1-3 clear shifts that will have happened and who will be better off?**

- Shift 1- Fewer families remain in contact with the justice system
- Shift 2- Better outcomes for justice involved youth and families
- Shift 3- Stronger prevention, diversion, and pipeline dismantling

# CORE Team Meeting Summary

- Exploring agency leaders hopes of youth justice transformation
- Who are the youth we're serving and what are they experiencing?
- Assessing data and disproportionate impacts on diverse communities
- What does the juvenile justice system look like in 15 years in an ideal setting?
- What are the shifts needed within each agency to get to this ideal vision?



# CORE Team Meeting Summary Cont'd

- Reflecting on feedback from anonymous survey to agency leaders
- Focusing on personal values, agency values, and establishing group values
- Establishing the need for shared definitions of commonly used words:
  - Justice
  - Juvenile vs Youth
  - Punishment vs Accountability
  - Support
  - And more
- Naming anticipated challenges that this group may face



# Community Engagement Summary

- System work is critical, and community needs to provide input
- Growing concerns around gun violence and substance use
- Needs to be greater investment in upstream, preventative measures
- Data is questionable
- Black men continue to be disproportionately impacted and underinvested in
- Mental health is an underlying issue that isn't being addressed



# Youth Justice Recommendations

- Created by the Technical Assistants from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- Categorized by
  - Data Collection and Transparency
  - Community Engagement
  - Policy and Practice
  - Funding
  - Leadership Alignment

# Recommendations

Data Collection	Community Engagement	Policy and Practice
<p>Establish a centralized data system that tracks all aspects of the juvenile justice system, from arrest to re-entry, including demographic information, offense types, and outcomes.</p>	<p>Formalize the engagement and inclusion of community voice to develop strategies that prevent and/or decrease system involvement at the State and local levels. Specifically, formalize a feedback loop on how communication, updates, and opportunities for future partnership will be shared with the community at large.</p>	<p>Develop state policy and procedures that form a structure and require the engagement and inclusion of community voices to develop strategies that prevent and/or decrease system involvement at the State and local levels.</p>
<p>Analyze data regularly to identify racial, ethnic, and gender disparities at all stages of the youth and family serving systems.</p>	<p>Ensure community organizations and youth/families engage in community mapping to identify service continuums, gaps, and needs.</p>	<p>Develop Policies and Procedures to implement statewide data sharing inclusive of community supervision and detention facility data.</p>
<p>Make data publicly accessible in an easy-to-understand format to promote transparency and accountability.</p>	<p>Partner with community organizations and youth/families to identify culturally responsive services and pro-social opportunities.</p>	<p>Scale JDAI statewide and provide state and local level management and coordination.</p>
<p><b>Implement rigorous data collection protocols to ensure accuracy and consistency.</b></p>	<p>Establish a core team of community representatives from across the state to continue to inform Youth Justice Transformation and share progress.</p>	
<p>Establish clear performance metrics and hold agencies accountable for achieving equity goals and positive outcomes for youth. Specifically, moving from just 'how much' is being done but focusing on impact on well-being.</p>		

# Recommendations Continued

Funding	Leadership Alignment
Develop new policies and change current procurement processes to maximize funding for community-led programs and services.	Provide joint leadership development at the state, local, and community levels. (Using results-based meeting facilitation, results-count framework immersion).
Provide additional guidance to counties to assist in distributing funding to those areas most impacted by the system.	Formalize a cross-departmental leadership team to align, develop, and lead internal strategies to contribute to Youth Justice Transformation.
Review and update current requirements in the RFP process to support small organizations.	Engage Law Enforcement Agency leaders immediately in the Youth Justice Transformation work in order to partner with State and local agencies to develop and implement strategies to increase youth diversion rates. Law enforcement leaders should study successful diversion programming run by law enforcement agencies and explore models to be adopted at the local level.
Update Payment structure to better support small organizations including provisions for advanced pay mechanisms to begin services or programs.	Create alignment between cross-department leaders and partner with community organizations to use the best available data to design diversion strategies that meet the needs of the youth and families in their communities. This includes appropriating funding to implement initial programming within the next six months and scaling over time.
Assess the efficiency of existing services, reallocate funding to those with measurable positive outcomes, and develop new opportunities based on community identification, data, and needs.	
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# Next Steps

- Summary of engagement session at Red Wing Correctional Facility
- Ongoing engagement with:
  - County Corrections and Law Enforcement
  - MACCAC (Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties) and AMC (Association of Minnesota Counties)
  - Tribes and additional Tribal Consultations
  - CORE team of state leaders
- Internal and external dissemination of recommendations draft for feedback and alignment
  - Alignment with JJAC Strategic Plan
  - Alignment with Working Group on Youth Interventions Task Force
- Identifying key leaders, agencies, entities, and timelines to implement recommendations



Thank You

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