Detention Alternatives: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Juvenile Rehabilitation
Presented by the Sussex County Division of Community and Youth Services

Workshop Agenda

Focus: This workshop will give you the tools to create an effective multidisciplinary team in your community, with emphasis on detention alternatives to reduce secure detention confinement and give juveniles the tools to successful transition to adulthood

1. Introductions:
   Melissa Latronica, MA, Sussex County DHS, Division of Community and Youth Services
   Barbara Miller, BSW, Sussex County DHS, Division of Community and Youth Services
   Kristen Thompson, BA, Sussex County DHS, Division of Community and Youth Services
   Officer Mark Turtur, BS, Sussex County DHS, Division of Community and Youth Services

2. Detention Alternatives in Sussex County: Background, Implementation and Results

3. Table Exercise – Case Plan Development

4. Case Plan Presentations

5. Q&A

6. Closing Remarks
Workshop Goals

- Increase your understanding of how a dynamic multidisciplinary team (MDT) functions and how you can assist as a team member to create positive outcomes for at-risk youth.

- Learn how a Detention Alternative program that includes community case management can be rehabilitative for at-risk youth.
History of Sussex County Juvenile Services

The 2006 Youth Services Plan, Detention Analysis data:

- 50% of the youth in detention on 4/15/05 had a history of DYFS [DCP&P] involvement.
- The committee and the Youth Review Team (Sussex County’s MDT) have reported a gap in services for early substance abuse intervention, job readiness training, life skills training and a lack of continuity of outside services upon exit from Detention.
- Overall admissions were down by half, but length of stay was up slightly. Therefore it appears that fewer juveniles are admitted but those who are admitted are staying longer.

What did this tell us?

- Detention numbers were decreasing.
- Length of stays were increasing.
- Juveniles in Detention were in need of services that could not be obtained while in detention.
- Juveniles that had a history of DCP&P [DYFS] placements were at risk of detention placement.
- Juveniles were lacking services after they were discharged from detention.

Changing Environment for Youth Services in Sussex County

- 2008 Youth Shelter closes and is regionalized.
- 2009 Juvenile Detention Center closes and is regionalized.
Why Detention Alternatives?

- Closing of Youth Shelter
- Detention Alternatives and Graduated Sanctions and revised MDT
- Child Welfare Reform
- Movement towards community-based services
- Closing of Juvenile Detention Center

Where we are now?

WE HAVE REDUCED THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS IN DETENTION AWAITING PLACEMENT; WE MAINTAIN THEM IN THE COMMUNITY WITH SUPPORTS.

Youth Service Commission:

Mission:
- To advocate for an accessible, responsive, integrated and coordinated system of care for the specific needs of youth and families residing in Sussex County
- To implement the duties and responsibilities set forth in Bring Our Children Home Act and Juvenile Justice Commission - Youth Services Commission
- To serve the priority population of youth with special social and emotional needs and/or juveniles involved or at risk of involvement in the Family Court
Youth Service Commission

Partners:

Juvenile Justice
- Family Court Judge
- Probation Department
- Public Defender
- Prosecutor
- Family Division/Family Court representatives
- JJC Court Liaison
- Juvenile Detention Center/Youth Shelter reps.

Children and Families
- Child Protection & Permanency
- Mobile Response
- Care Management Organization
- Family Support Organization

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Youth Services Commission

Partners:

County Representatives
- Substance Abuse Coordinator
- Mental Health Coordinator
- Detention Alternatives Coordinator

Community Partners
- JJC Subcontractors
- School Based Youth Services
- Child Advocate Organization
- School Superintendent
- Workforce Investment Board

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Detention Alternatives Programs

Mission:
The detention alternatives programs provide intensive supervision, electronic monitoring (where applicable), community service and case management to court involved youth while maintaining the youth with his/her family within the community where s/he can maintain school involvement/enrollment, seek or maintain employment, and have access to local social services.

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# Background

## Detention Alternatives

- Minimizes costs to the county and maximize the county’s ability to maintain youth in own community
- Provides continuum of care for youth involved with family court as an alternative option to detainment
- Provides electronic monitoring units (Tracker) for Home Detention and secure beds when needed contracted with Morris County

> “You should encourage other agencies to follow your lead.” Parent of 17 year old male

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# Detention Alternatives Programs

## Goals and Objectives:

- Minimize the number of youth needing secure detention
- Provide secure custody transports for Sussex County youth (staff are Certified Juvenile Detention Officers)
- Ensure court order compliance
- Ensure mandated court appearances
- Minimize the number of violations of probation that previously resulted in secure care detainment
- Connect youth with community resources that meet the youth and his/her family’s individual needs
- Assist the youth in developing skills which empower and encourage constructive decision making
- Meet the JDAI core strategies

> “...The healthy bond that developed between the female officers and my daughter. They became a positive role model even in what began as unpleasant situation. I think it was a very valuable tool to help children who struggle.” Parent of 16 year old female

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# Levels of Detention

## Commitment to the Juvenile Justice Commission

- Most severe
- Juvenile Detention Center
  - Secure Care
  - Pre/Post Disposition
- Home Detention Program
  - Electronic Monitoring 24/7
- Home Supervision Program
  - Community based supervision
- House Arrest
  - Parental Supervision

> “I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for everything you did to help my son...I honestly believe that participation in this program was a benefit to my son. I hope that this experience has opened his eyes, and that he will think before he acts in the future.” Parent of 14 year old male
Home Detention Program
- Youth who would otherwise be detained in a secure facility
- Electronic Monitoring, GPS Tracking 24/7
  - Home visits 7 days a week, random/unannounced throughout the day
- Random Urine Screens
- Assistance with seeking employment
- Court order compliance
  - Probation report
  - Connect youth to mandated services
- Supervised community service
- Case Plan implementation and compliance
- Assistance with constructive decision making skills
- Assistance with transportation to/from appointments if needed

“’He was home for 60 days and we formed a bond which we haven’t had in a long time.’
Parent of 16 year old male

Home Supervision Program
- Intensive in-home supervision
  - House Arrest
- Face to Face or phone contact supervisions
  - (Supervisions lesson as case plan compliance is met)
- Supervised community service
- Court order compliance
- Treatment services compliance
- Case Plan implementation and compliance
- Assistance with constructive decision making skills

“They were positive role models, demonstrated a good attitude, spoke with respect, but authority & interest in my child as a person.”
Parent of 16 year old male

Admission Process
Referral made to Family Court Judge by:
1. Assistant Prosecutor/Defense Attorney
2. Juvenile Probation
3. Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)
4. Detention Alternatives Program staff
Judge orders youth on to a specific Detention Alternatives Program
1. Home Detention Program (HDP)
  - Youth remanded to the Juvenile Detention Center; if qualified, put into the HDP**
  - Youth and parent are interviewed; if the terms of release are accepted, paperwork is completed and tracker installed before leaving courthouse
  - Detention Alternatives staff transport youth home, complete a room inspection, and begin development of case plan
2. Home Supervision Program (HSP)
  - Paperwork is completed before leaving courthouse
  - Detention Alternatives staff transport youth home, complete a room inspection, and begin development of case plan

“I just wanted to let you know things are going well. His attitude has changed a lot. We can actually have a conversation now.”
Parent of 17 year old male
Collaboration and Case Management

- Connect youth to local support systems
- Assist with constructive decision making skills
- Assist with removing barriers to services (transportation)
- Review weekly goals with youth and family
- Communicate weekly with school officials and providers
- Review each youth in all areas of the continuum bimonthly at MDT
  - Discuss compliance or lack of and make recommendations for additional services
  - Recommend youth return to court for review if needed
  - Recommend a youth move up or down the continuum based off of his/her compliance

Any Questions?

THANK YOU!