

# 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District



## Juvenile Assessment Centers

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# Juvenile Assessment Centers

## » What is a Juvenile Assessment Center?

- A single point of entry for youth and families to access assessments and resources
- A resource for Law Enforcement
- Hub of juvenile information
- Coordination of next steps



# Juvenile Assessment Centers

## » Why a Juvenile Assessment Center?

- Single point of entry
- Fragmented juvenile/youth services
- Juvenile information exchange
- Lengthy time between arrest and court
- Difficulty connecting to services/interventions
- Lack of information for decision making
- Poor utilization of prevention and early intervention
- Difficulty to identify the right youth, right program, and right time at the front door of the justice system
- Families in need, need a place to go



# Essential Elements of a JAC

- » **Planning and Administration**
- » **Target Population**
- » **Assessments**
- » **Referrals**
- » **Single Point of Entry**
- » **Terms of Participation**
- » **Confidentiality**
- » **Juvenile Information Systems**
- » **Sustainability**
- » **State-wide Initiative**

# Planning and Administration

## » Planning

- Local Community Champion
  - District Attorneys, Law Enforcement, and local committees/taskforces
- Engaged key stakeholders and decision makers
  - Diverse representation from your community
- Establish a board or oversight committee
- Gather data to identify need
- Begin developing funding strategies (short-term and long-term)



# Planning and Administration

## » Administration

- Establish governing documents
  - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
  - Inter-Governmental Agreements
  - By-laws
- Establish funding commitments and long term strategies
  - Common for JAC's to start with Federal Grants
  - Most are sustained through community agencies
- Create an identity for the organization
  - Mission, Vision, Values
- Operationalize the mission and vision
  - Policies & Procedures, Manuals, Training
- Identify and support management and leadership



# Target Population

## » Clearly establish who you serve and how you will serve them.

- Youth ages 10 – 17 years of age
- Focused on youth and families
- Delinquent Youth
- Truant, suspended or expelled youth
- Fire setters
- Beyond Control of Parent
- Parent/Child Conflict
- Mental Health issues
- Municipal offenses

## » Variations of focus

- Based on needs of the community



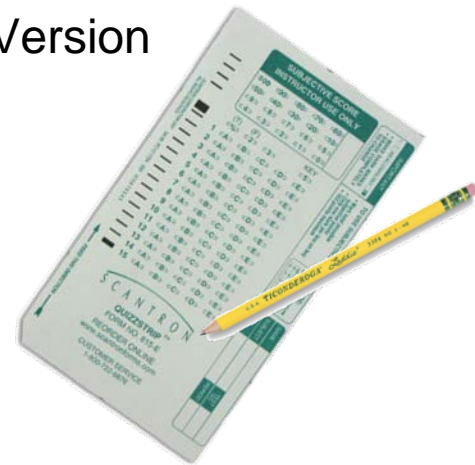
# Assessments

## » Immediate and Comprehensive Assessments

- Strength based needs assessment
- Validated/Evidence based screening and assessment tools
- Best practices
- All community based focused

## » Type of Assessments

- Colorado Juvenile Risk Assessment
- Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument Second Version
- Substance Use Survey Second Version
- School Refusal Assessment Scale
- FEMA Fire Risk Interview forms
- Global Appraisal of Individual Needs (GAIN)
  - Short Screen
- Trauma assessments





# Detention Screens

- » **To reduce inappropriate detention, all youth eligible for detention receive the following assessments:**
  - Juvenile Detention Screening and Assessment Guide (JDSAG)
  - CJRA Pre-Screen
  - Review the following:
    - Mandatory holds
    - Juvenile warrants
    - Risk of serious/repeated delinquency
    - Risk of self harm
    - Public safety risk
    - Protective factors
    - Family or community resources

# Referrals

## » Linkage

- Youth and Families are referred to community based services based on screens and assessments
  - Counseling services
  - Anger management
  - Drug/alcohol interventions
  - Mentoring
  - School based interventions
  - Mediation
  - Crisis services
  - Basic needs
  - Justice interventions



# Point of Entry

## » Who can access a Juvenile Assessment Center

- Law Enforcement
- Family referrals
- Self referrals
- School referrals
- Community referrals
- Anyone

## » “YES” Facility for ages 10 – 17



# Terms of Participation

## » Informed consent

- Rights He/She may be waiving
- Voluntarily participating
- Capacity to make this decision
- Has enough information to make an informed choice

## » Voluntary Participation

- Youth and Families do not have to participate

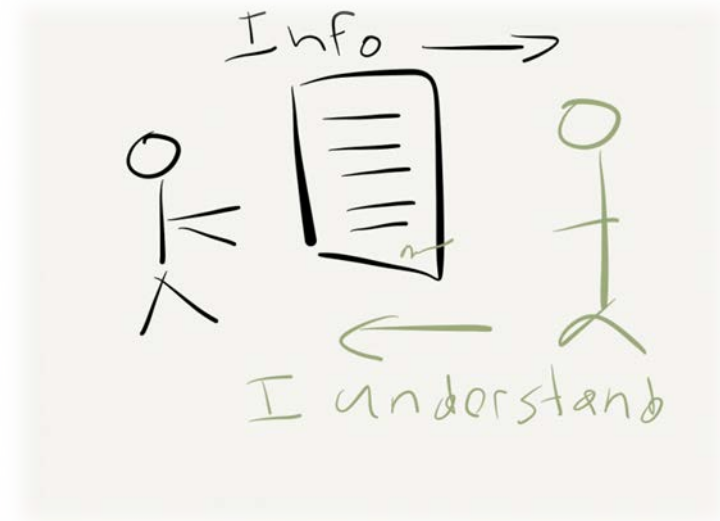
## » Limited length of stay

- JACs are intended to bridge youth/families
- Extensions available with supervisor approval

## » Controlled entrance

## » Confidentiality

## » Rules and Guidelines



# Confidentiality

## » Follow federal and state guidelines

- Youth and Family information is considered confidential and not to be shared with other entities without expressed written consent (ROI)
  - Exceptions: Courts (Detention/Transports)

## » Inter-Governmental Agreement

- Agreement among agencies that outlines the partnership and financial contributions.
- Often contributors are considered participating agency
  - 19-1-303(2.5)(a), annually updated agreement
  - Informed consent is essential prior to assessments

## » Mandatory reporters

- We are required to report and abuse and neglect

## » Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.)

- 19-1-303 and 19-1-304

# Information Systems

## » Access to multiple databases

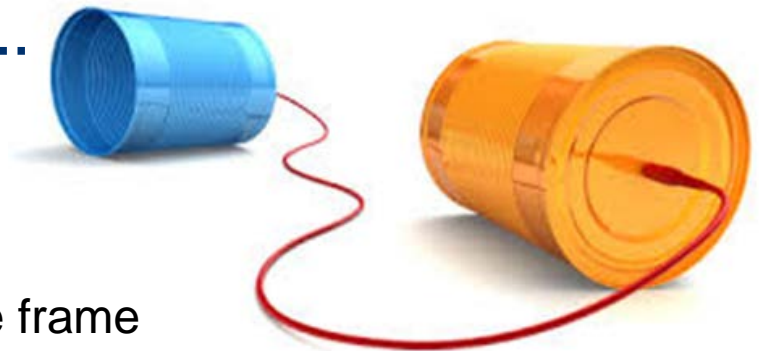
- Colorado State Data Access
- Case Management Systems (Local)
- Juvenile Information System (JIS)
- TRAILS
- Tiburon and Safron

## » C.R.S.

- 19-1-303, 19-1-304

## » When communicating with others...

- Complete (all relevant information)
- Clear (plainly understood)
- Brief (concise manner)
- Timely (offered in an appropriate time frame to allow for effective action)





# Sustainability



- Maintain data from the onset of the program
- Developing relationships with key stakeholders
- Develop relationships with other JACs and agencies
- Identify community resources and potential gaps.
  - Should be done from the onset of the program
- Speaking Engagements
  - Talk about your program and let people know what you do!
- Ongoing assessment of community needs
  - Stay relevant
- Multiple funding streams

# Sustainable Staff & Board

- » **Establish retreats and/or staff meetings**
  - Can be used to address interpersonal conflicts
  - Can be used to address emerging challenges and opportunities
  - Can be used to change policies as needed
- » **Develop new team member and board member orientation**
- » **Written Policies and Procedures**
- » **Use data and feedback for ongoing program improvement**
- » **Have multiple agencies co-located**
- » **Diverse board**



# Statewide Initiative

- » **Assessment Centers memorialized in C.R.S.**
  - 19-1-303
  - 19-1-304
- » **JAC information sharing**
  - Collaborating with JAC's from other jurisdictions
  - Collaborating with other local agencies, within scope of ability
- » **JAC Directors meeting**
  - Meeting once a month
  - Sharing resources
- » **JACs sharing in training**
  - Motivational Interviewing
  - Report Writing
  - Notary

# Statewide Initiative

## » Colorado JAC's

- Jefferson County Juvenile Assessment Center (JCJAC)
  - **2,253** youth/cases served in 2015
- Juvenile Services Center (Denver)
  - **2,613** youth/cases served in 2015
- Arapahoe, Douglas, Lincoln, and Elbert Counties Juvenile Assessment Center
  - **1,935** youth/cases served in 2015
- Youth & Family Connections (Weld)
  - **1,962** youth/cases served in 2015
- The Link (Adams)
  - **1,820** youth/cases served in 2015
- The Hub (Larimer)
- Community Justice Services (Boulder)

# Questions

