



Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice

Juvenile Justice Task Force

Update & Scope of Work

April 12, 2013

Vision

All Colorado children and families live in safe, healthy and vibrant communities that provide for their needs, recognize their strengths and support their success.

Mission

The mission of the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice's Juvenile Task Force is to engage and partner with stakeholders to produce *recommendations supported by research* that promote public safety and delinquency prevention, intervention and treatment. The task force will advocate for strategic alignment and sustainability of policies, resources, and funding of systems which support Colorado children and families.

Task Force Members

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- Julie Krow
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- Kim Dvorchak
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- Norene Simpson
- Michelle Brinegar
- Karen Ashby
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- Don Quick
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- Meg Williams
- Kelley Friesen
- Jeff McDonald
- Susan Colling
- Debbie Rose
- Linda Newell
- Beth McCann
- Ann Gail Meinster
- Joe Higgins
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Staff:

Ken Plotz

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Guiding Principles

Structural

1. The Colorado Children's code encompasses policies, procedures, and practices that focus on providing accountability, victim reparation, community safety and offer skill development for children, youth and families.
2. Citizens, public policy makers and funders may understand the value of investing in prevention and early intervention services to improve outcomes for children, youth and families. The front-end services (prevention and early intervention) should be designed to be evidence-based, cost effective, and equitable for all youth.
3. Services are delivered through an "outcome orientation" that incorporates shared accountability, process, evidence-based principles, practices and innovation. Collaboration exists at state and local levels.
4. Evaluation of service implementation is critical to ensuring effective use of resources.
5. Appropriate information should be accessed at the earliest time in the process and throughout the process. System responses require access to information and training in the use of that information.
6. Effective and coordinated funding is essential to optimal service delivery.
7. Workforce development is essential to ensuring that appropriate services are delivered through competent staff.
8. Well-trained prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, guardians *ad litem* and other professionals are necessary to support a constitutional and effective judicial system.
9. The Juvenile Task Force identifies other groups that are working on related issues and effectively communicate and collaborate with them to avoid duplication and encourage coordination.
10. Issues concerning DMC have been addressed. Decisions about interventions and services are based on risk and need not on culture, race or ethnicity. Collateral consequences are considered.

Guiding Principles (continued)**Services**

11. Evidence-based, evidence-informed services and best practices standards are used to address the specific needs of children, youth and families.

12. Equitable, effective and expedited services and processes ensure:

- a. Access to services at the right time, in the right amount, and in the appropriate place.
- b. Services and resources are provided and accessed as a continuum based on the assessed risks and needs of Colorado's youth and families.
- c. Systems and staff value the role of family and other significant social supports as primary to the well being of the child.
- d. Funding is available for services regardless of care system or original source.
- e. Services are comprehensive and grounded in current child and adolescent development research.
- f. Public agencies, private and non-profit providers work collaboratively to promote access to services in the least restrictive setting as appropriate to ensure community safety and to fill gaps when identified.
- g. Commitment is limited to those youth who pose a safety risk to the community or are a danger to others.

Work To Date

Comprehensive System Review

- Data and process
- Determine priorities:
 - Education - Justice interface
 - Judicial - Targeted judicial issues and processes
 - Screening and Assessments - Review of tools and Toolkit update
 - Professionalism - Juvenile system professional standards
 - Strategic System Alignment - Revisioning the system (*ongoing*)

Education

- Identified specific issues related to school discipline – information included in 2012 legislation
- Determined specific issues
 - Truancy*
 - GED access*
 - Detention Education*
 - NYC Education Status
- Current Legislation*: HB 2013-1021
- Alternatives for NYC; determining next steps

Judicial

- Reviewed Data of who is entering NYC
 - Focus on behavioral health, girls, low-risk/high needs youth
- Working groups:
 - Juvenile DUI
 - Exploring juvenile marijuana MIP
 - Escape
 - Juvenile Sex offender de-registration
- Legislation pending:
 - Escape and Juvenile Sex Offender de-registration

Screening & Assessment

- Reviewed current and promising screening and assessment tools
- Updated Screening and Assessment Tool Document
- Now working on:
 - Roll-out of the updated toolkit
 - Training

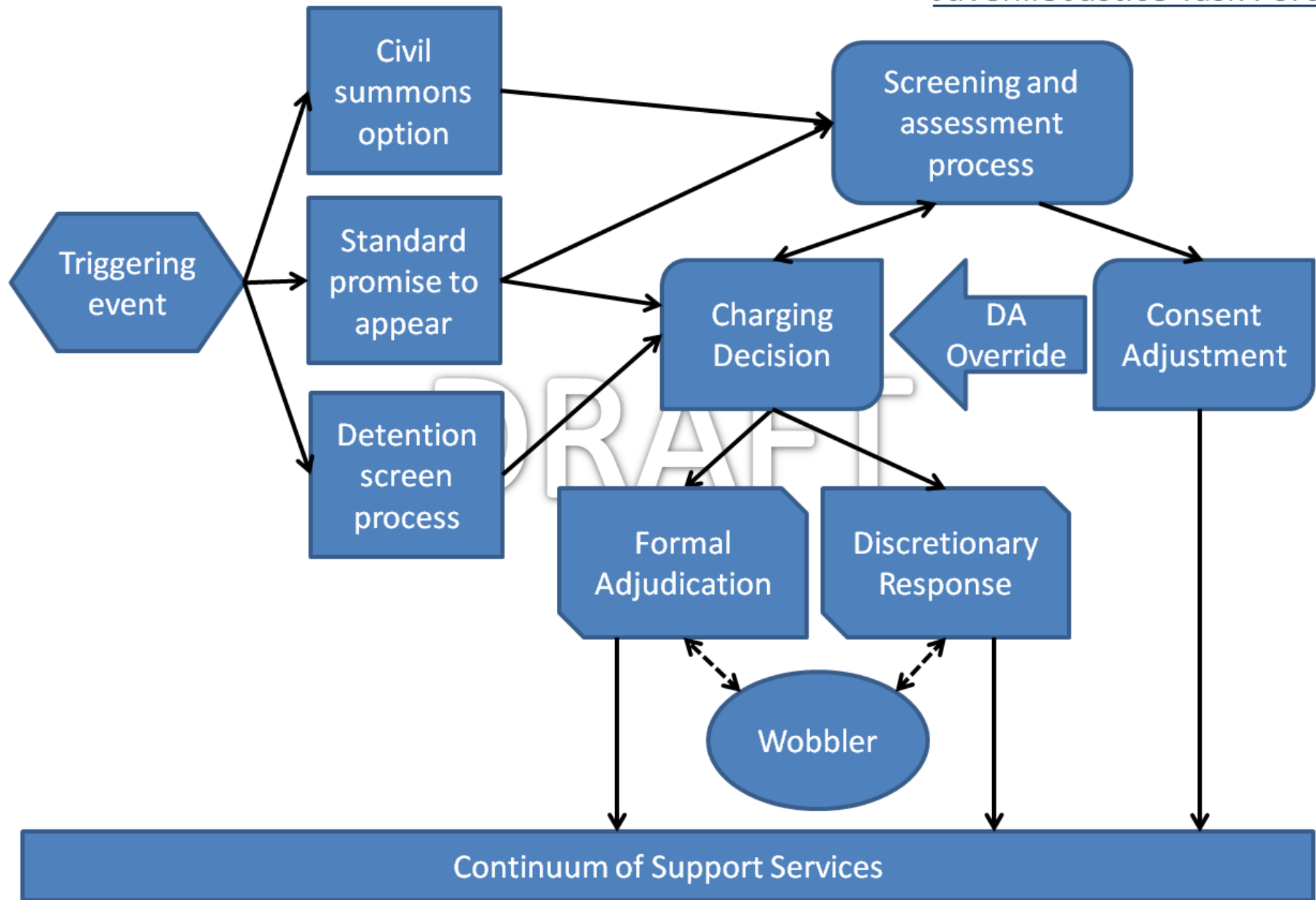
Professional

- Identified area of need and target populations
 - Line Staff
 - Court – Judges, Prosecutors, Defense, other
- Build on Denver Crime Prevention and Control Commission Youth Committee work
 - Core
 - Secondary
- Moved under Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Council
 - Hired SPARK Policy Institute to carry work forward

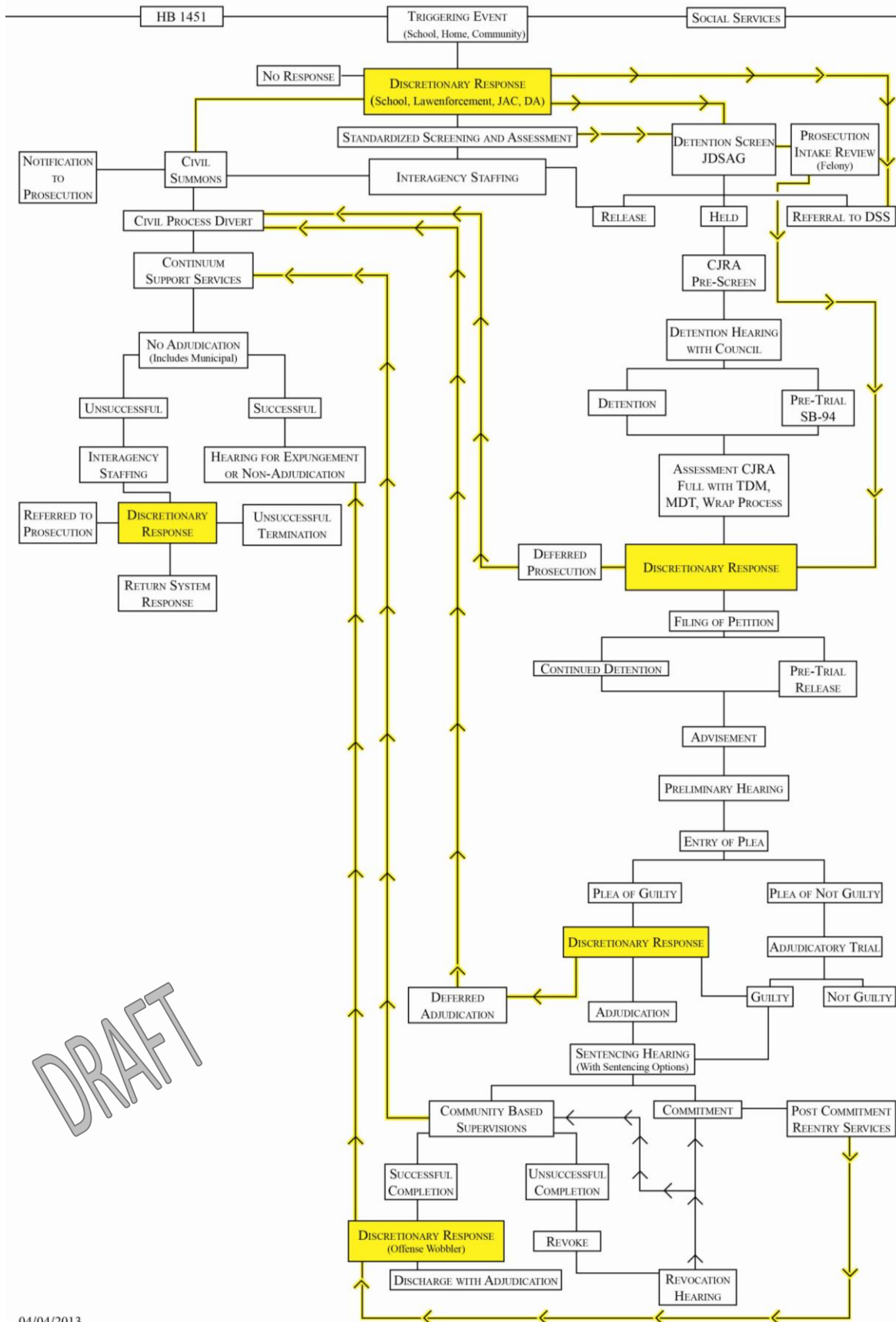
Strategic System Alignment: Revisioning the System

General Principles

- Increase consistent, least restrictive but right level of response to youth:
 - Civil Citations
 - Discretionary response
 - Adjudication
- Reduce long term, unintended consequences through a “wobbler” - drop F to M w/tx completion
- Use screening and assessments to increase appropriate response to safety, risk and needs
- Develop a continuum of services that blends and braids services based on risk and needs regardless of level of involvement in JJ system
- Ensure victims’ rights

Juvenile Justice Task Force

Juvenile Justice Discretionary Response Continuum



04/04/2013

Strategic System Alignment: Revisioning the System (continued)

Key Components (Draft)

1. Integrate validated Screening and Assessment tools and processes into case decision making.
2. Juvenile case processing uses a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel to promote public safety while protecting victims' and participants' due process rights.
3. Intervention and treatment services are delivered through comprehensive, coordinated and agreed upon plan regardless of level of system involvement or adjudication.
4. Divert low risk, low need, non violent offenders from formal system involvement at the earliest possible time.
5. Promote offender accountability through Restorative Justice Principles and Practices
6. Based upon an agreed upon collaborative structure, resources, services and care coordination is delivered through a blended and braided approach to ensure the least intrusive response including non-system involvement while ensuring access to the right services at the right time.
7. Forge partnerships among public agencies, community-based organizations (CBOs) and informal supports.
8. Family training and support is critical to successful youth development
9. Judicial systems ensure equitable access for all youth to culturally appropriate treatment and intervention services.
10. Juvenile System stakeholders provide leadership and system ensure system direction that adheres with these key differential response components.

Next Steps

- Finalize strategic alignment road map
- Determine and develop Title 19 changes and key components language
- Increase understanding and support of involved stakeholders
- Present to CCJJ...
- Move forward to next legislative session