BEYOND BARS
Keeping Young People Safe at Home and Out of Youth Prisons
Report can be downloaded at www.collab4youth.org
How we define “continuum of care”

**Definition:** A continuum of care is an array of meaningful non-residential community-based programs, supports, resources and services specifically designed to meet the individual needs of young people and their families in their homes. Continua of care cultivate the strengths of youth and families and provide them with what they might need at different stages of intensity in order to keep young people out of the juvenile justice system and confinement.

**Impact:** In a continuum of care, youth will be able to develop AUTONOMY, COMPETENCE and a SENSE OF RELATEDNESS or belonging to their families and communities in a way that helps to ESTABLISH OR IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY IN THEIR HOME COMMUNITIES.
1. Promote positive youth justice/development and an increased sense of relatedness for young people.

2. Define public safety as more than law enforcement.

3. Shift from a slot-based system to a needs-based system.

4. Services must be culturally competent and neighborhood-based.

5. Ensure that services, programs, and resources are family-centered.

6. Include young people's ideas when creating the continua.

7. Identify community strengths and assets.
A Better Model for Serving Youth With Complex Needs

Traditional Continuum for Youth with Complex Needs:
- Youth not admitted to program because of behavior
- Accepted to existing program slot/bed/cell
- Expelled from program due to behavior
- Youth absconds from program

Individualized Service Planning Process:
- Begins with identifying needs and strengths of youth/family
- Youth/Family have voice and choice throughout the planning process
- Services and supports are created to meet the needs and nurture the strengths of the youth and family in the community
- Existing programs adapt their services to meet unique needs according to ISP
- Credible messengers have key role in providing support and services
- Flexible Fund purchases services and supports that do not exist currently

Needs change as time goes on... and so do services and supports.
Core Components of a Continuum of Care

- Behavioral Health & Holistic Victim Services
- Pathways for Future Economic Opportunity
- Safe Places and Opportunities to Recreate
- Substance Use
- Access to Education
- Gang Intervention
- Youth Who Failed Out of Traditional Programs
- Restorative Justice
- Mobile Crisis Intervention Outreach
- Volunteer & Paid Mentoring

CORE COMPONENTS
Key Strategies

• WRAPAROUND PLANNING PROCESS
• CREDIBLE MESSENGERS
• FAMILY ADVOCACY
• FLEXIBLE FUND FOR EXTRAORDINARY NEEDS
• CRISIS AND SAFETY PLANNING
So......

What about high risk youth?
Does it work?

Yes.

Both data and practice tell us that it does.
DATA: COMMUNITIES CAN SAFELY SERVE « HIGH RISK » YOUTH IN THE COMMUNITY

From John Jay April 2014 Issue brief “Most High Risk Youth Referred to Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. Remain Arrest Free and in their Communities During YAP Participation”

3,523 YAP youth

- 90% had some prior legal disposition
  - Of these, 30% had prior felonies
  - 21% had at least one prior out-of-home placement

- 86% were arrest-free while in the program

- 93% were living in the community at the time of discharge from YAP (so even if they had been arrested, they were not committed or recommitted)
DATA: HIGH RISK YOUTH CAN SUCCEED AFTER DISCHARGE FROM COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM

From John Jay June 2014 Issue brief “YAP Helps To Keep Youth Out Of Secure Facilities And Living In Their Communities”

1,851 YAP youth post-discharge

Between six and 12 months after their discharge from YAP:
- More than 87% living in the community
- Less than 5% in secure placement
NEW STUDY from the OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

UTSA

- Improved connectedness of YAP youth to their teachers;
- Improved connectedness of YAP youth to their schools, including increased attendance;
- Greater efforts to secure employment; and
- A statistically significant and large decrease in the youth's most serious disposition.
Examples of Reinvestment

- Orange County NY & Million Dollar Kids
- NJ Bring our Children Home Act
- Marion County Indiana and Alternative to Youth Prison
- Lucas County, OH
- Kentucky Youth Prison Closings
Lucas County Juvenile Court

Denise Navarre Cubbon: Administrative Judge
Connie Zemmelman: Judge
Deborah Hodges: Court Administrator
Lucas County Juvenile Court
Delinquency Continuum of Care
2000 to 2016

Department of Youth Services
Re-Entry Treatment Center
Youth Treatment Center
Residential Placement

Community Treatment Center
Youth Advocate Program (Mentoring)
Family Functional Therapy
Multi-Systemic Therapy
Sex Offender Treatment
Wrap-Around
CITE
Juvenile Treatment Court
Probation Services
Secure Detention
Respite Care
Domestic Violence Interventions
Sentance
Electronic Monitoring
Community Detention
Mediation
Unofficial
Assessment Center (Non Secure)

Lucas County is committed to keeping the community safe through evidenced based screenings, assessments & meaningful interventions for each child & family.

Initiatives:

- Community Engagement
- JDAI
- Positive Youth Justice
- Crossover
- Reclaiming Futures
- Improving Educational Outcomes for Youth in Foster Care
Lucas County Juvenile Court Total Commitments (includes Total Revocations) to Ohio Department of Youth Services 1985 - 2016

97.79% Reduction Of Commitments From 1989 - 2014
DRAMATIC REDUCTIONS in MINORITY SSO ARRESTS

SSO arrests booked in the Lucas County Juvenile Detention Center of black youth dropped by 95% since 2009.
Since conducting our system assessment, Lucas County has continued to collaborate with a variety of stakeholders to begin to address each area of opportunity.

**MAJOR THEMES IN LUCAS COUNTY**

- **Dispositional Decision Making**
  - Develop a Structured Decision Making process that assists in structuring dispositional recommendation

- **Racial & Ethnic Equity**
  - Collaborate with The W. Haywood Burns Institute to develop equitable interventions
  - Conduct in depth case analysis to identify potential drivers

- **Probation**
  - Develop an alternate track for low level offenses to be served through community partners
  - Frontline practice reform with Positive Youth Justice

- **Community-Based Services**
  - Seek out new opportunities to safely serve youth in their community

- **Family Engagement**
  - Develop peer to peer supports for families
  - Implement a steering committee for families to participate in reform efforts

- **Collaboration**
  - Reach out to grassroots organizations for partnerships
How have we managed these dramatic changes in philosophy and practice over time?

Managing Change is important!!

Strong Judicial and Administrative Leadership

Why are we doing this? How are we doing this?
What am I supposed to do now?

Staff training based on emerging research

Have Fun and Celebrate Success!

Staff input and participation

Role of middle managers is critical
YAP Wrap

Wraparound Planning + Positive Youth Development + Advocate Model = YAP Wrap
• Engages Youth and Families as Equal Partners
• Learns about Needs, Strengths, Preferences through Holistic Assessment Process
• Builds a Family Team of Community Supports
• Develops an Individualized Service Plan
• Cultural and Linguistic Competence
• Trauma Informed
Positive Youth Development

• Connecting youth with caring adults
• Promoting positive relationships with peers
• Emphasizing youths' strengths
• Providing opportunities to learn healthy behaviors
• Empowering youth to assume leadership roles in programs
• Challenging youth in ways that build their competence
The Advocate Model

Paid “natural helpers” recruited from the same communities as the youth and families

• Caring, Positive Adult Role Models
• GEDs to PhDs
• Implement the family’s plan
• Work in the home, school, community
• Range of hours
• Group and Individual*
• Coach, Mentor, Counsel, and Model through real-time experiential learning
• Broker Supports and (Re-)Connect Families to Community
• Available 24/7
YAP'S SERVICE DELIVERY PRINCIPLES AND COMPONENTS

- Accept all kids and adopt “no reject” policies
- Be available, accessible and flexible
- Voice, choice & ownership
- Individualize services for each youth
- Ensure family-focused services
- Take a strength-based approach
- Cultural competency
- Engage youth in work and future economic opportunities
- Prioritize safety and crisis planning
- Unconditional caring (no-eject policies)
- Create opportunities for civic engagement and giving back
- Cultivate long-term connection to community
What does investment in community-based programs look like?

A case study: John

• The Issues:
  • Numerous arrests
  • Multiple placements
  • Kicked out of school
  • Drug/Alcohol use
  • Parent/Child fighting

• The Supports:
  • Advocate for John
  • Advocate for mother
  • Family therapist specializing in art
  • Photographer as mentor
  • American legion w/dad
  • Supported employment
  • Uncle as secondary advocate