

BEYOND BARS

KEEPING YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE AT
HOME AND OUT OF YOUTH PRISONS

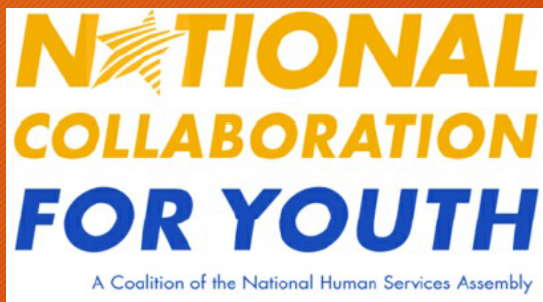
The National Collaboration for Youth



Youth Advocate
PROGRAMS, INC.

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”

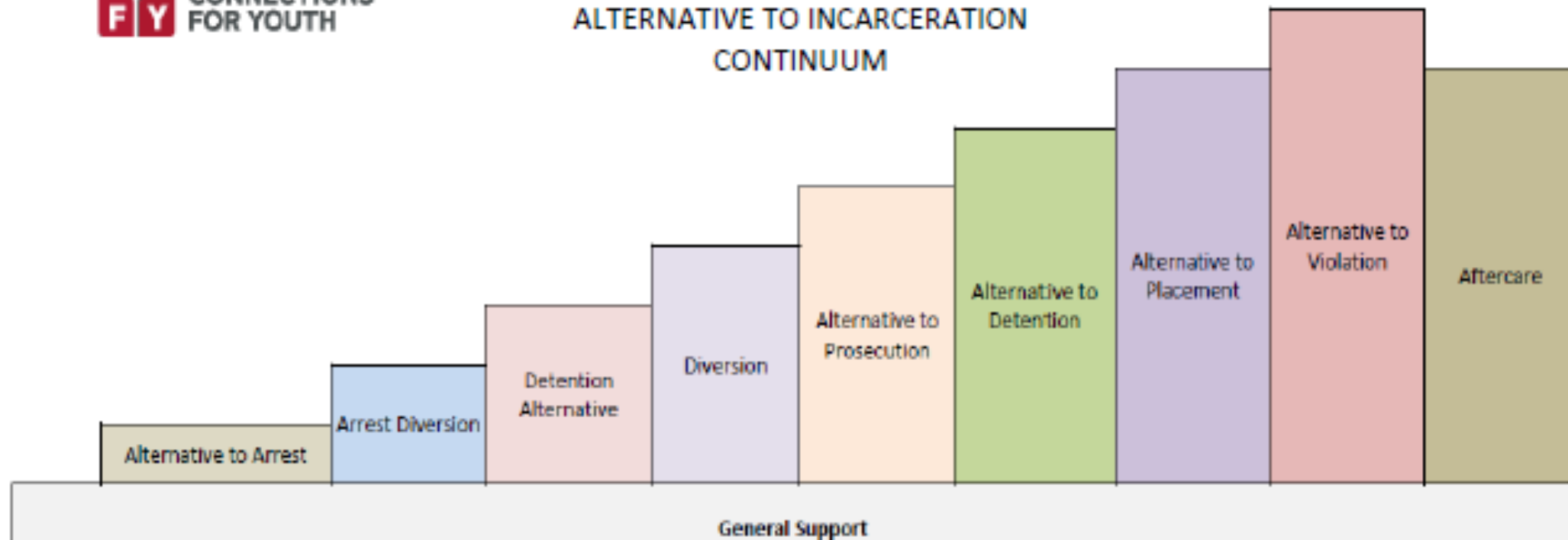
Definition: A continuum of care is an array of meaningful non-residential community-based programs, supports, resources and services specifically designed to meet the individual needs of young people and their families in their homes. Continua of care cultivate the strengths of youth and families and 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.

Setting the Context



ALTERNATIVE TO INCARCERATION CONTINUUM



Promote positive youth justice/development and an increased sense of relatedness for young people.

1
GUIDING PRINCIPLE



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Define public safety as more than law enforcement.

2
GUIDING PRINCIPLE



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

3
GUIDING PRINCIPLE



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Services must be culturally competent and neighborhood-based.

4
GUIDING PRINCIPLE



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

5
GUIDING PRINCIPLE



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Include young people's ideas when creating the continua.

6
GUIDING PRINCIPLE



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Identify community strengths and assets.

7
GUIDING PRINCIPLE



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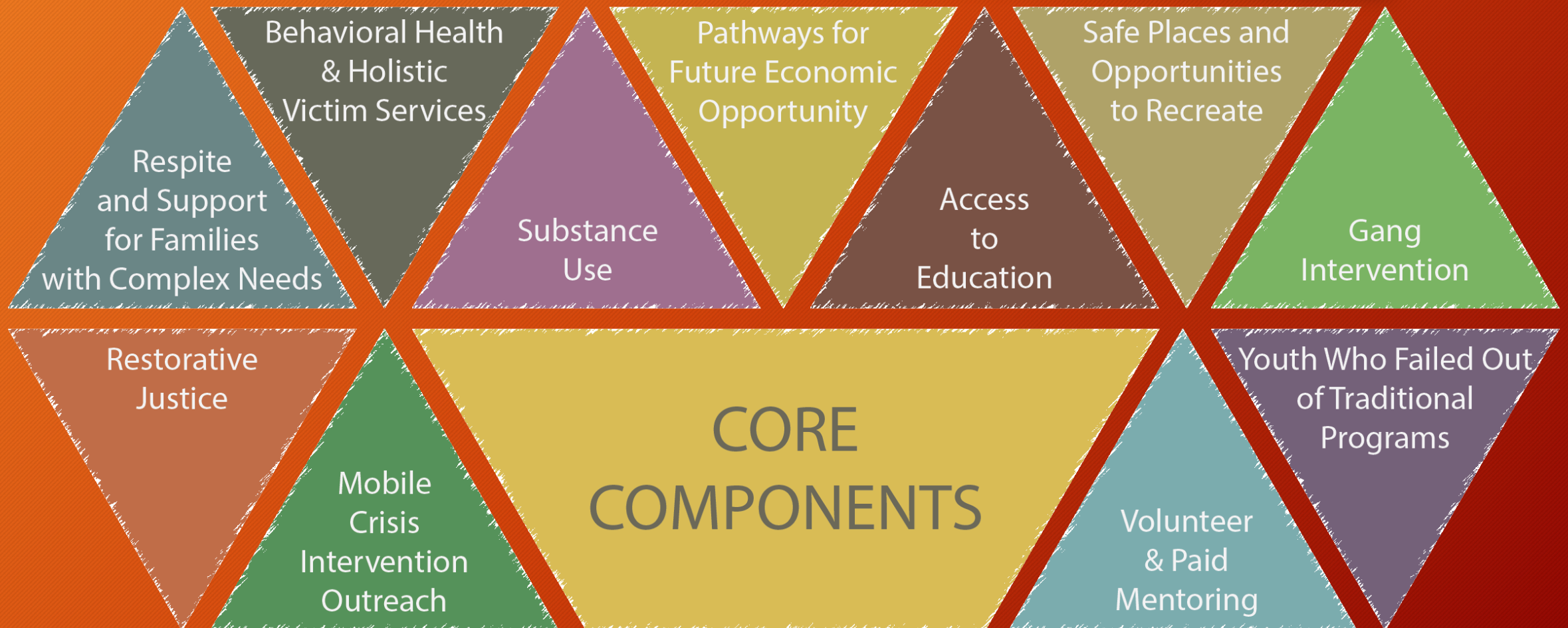
A Better Model for Serving Youth With Complex Needs



INDIVIDUALIZED SERVICE PLANNING PROCESS



Core Components of a Continuum of Care



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 Zimmelman: Judge

Deborah Hodges: Court Administrator

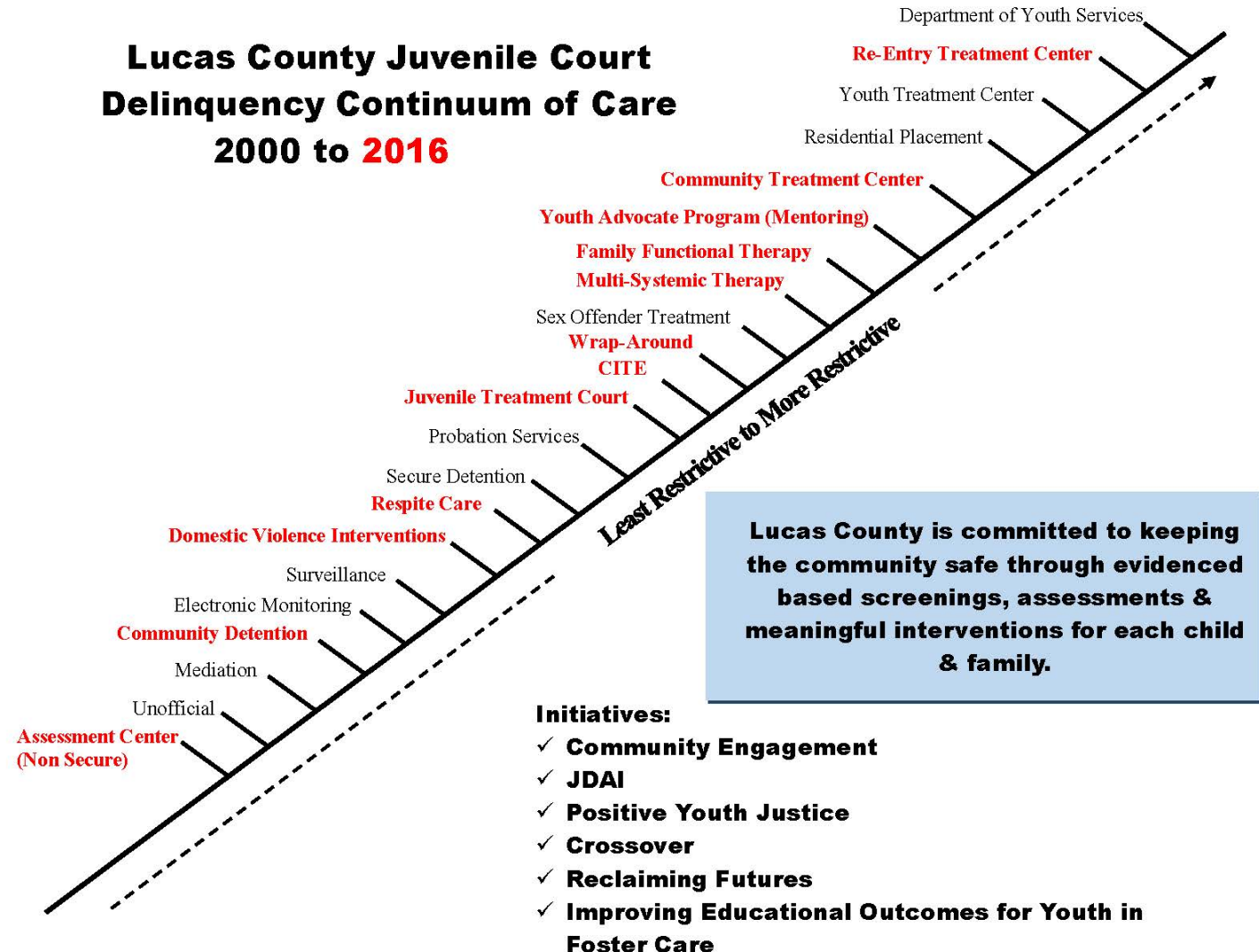


Lucas County Juvenile Court

Care | Guidance | Treatment | Protection

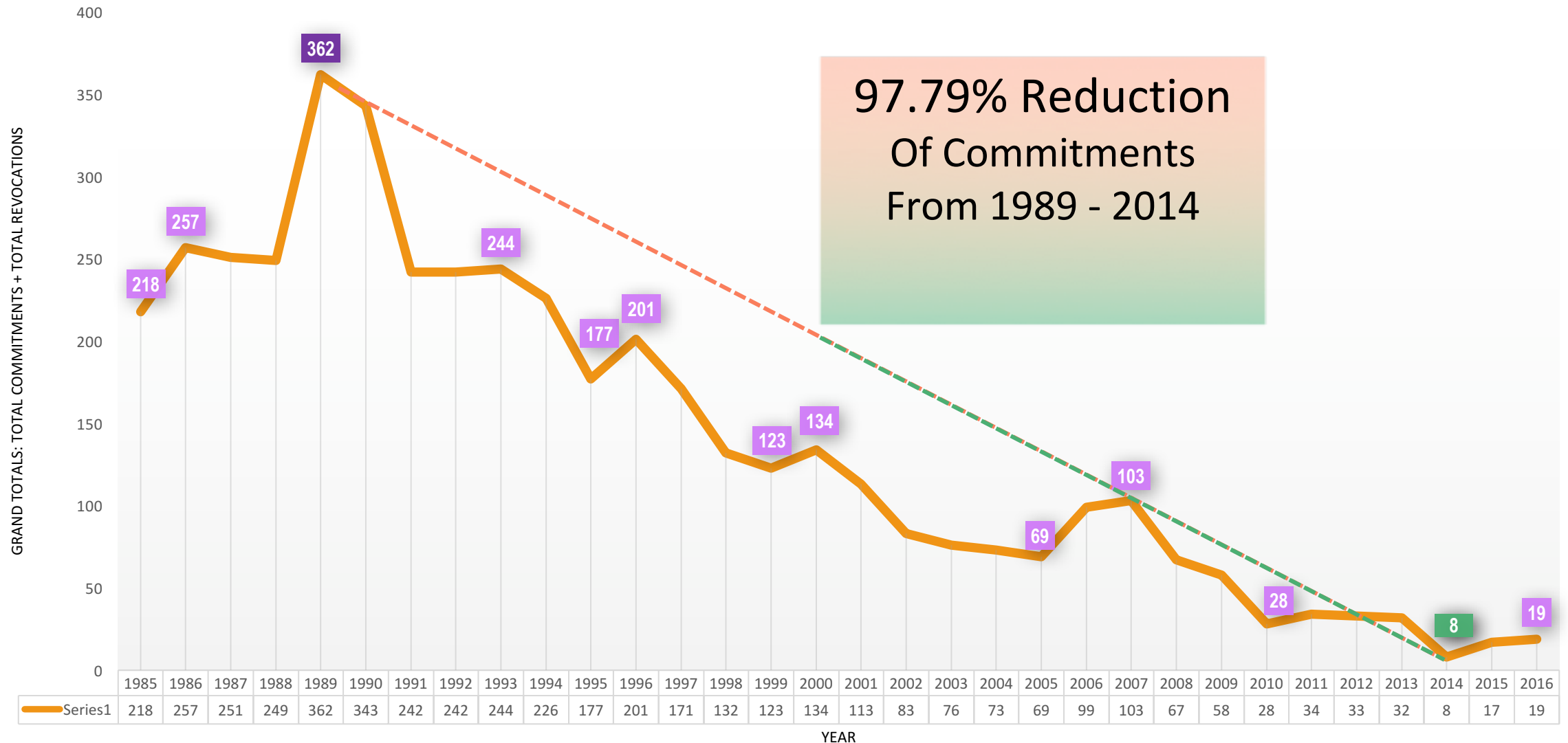
Continuum of Care

Lucas County Juvenile Court Delinquency Continuum of Care 2000 to 2016



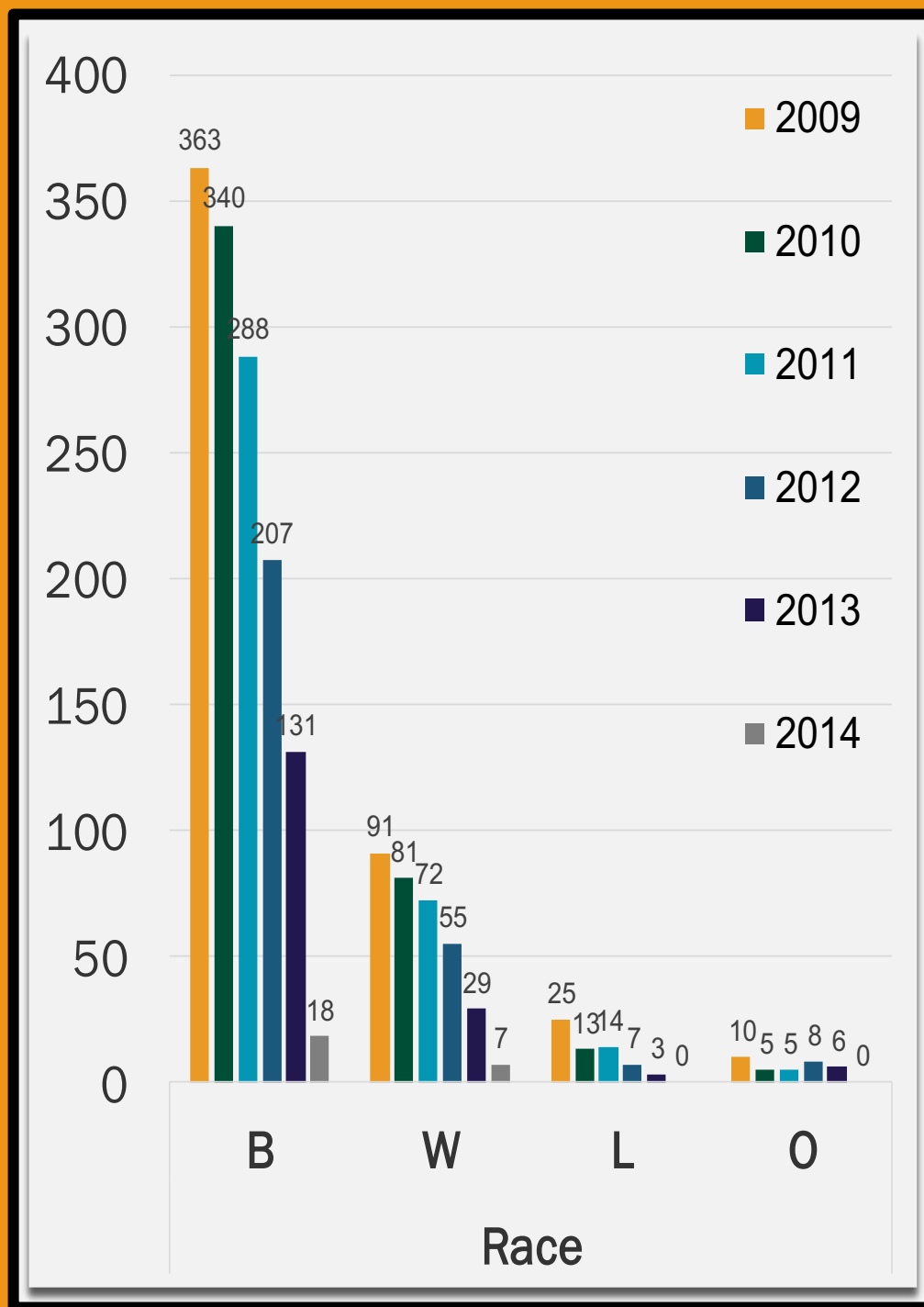
Lucas County Juvenile Court Total Commitments (includes Total Revocations) to Ohio Department of Youth Services 1985 - 2016

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

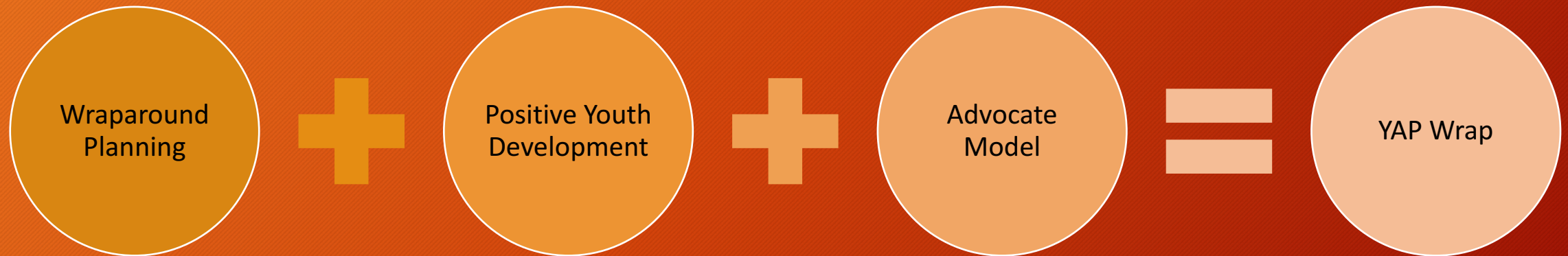
Staff input and participation

Role of middle managers is critical



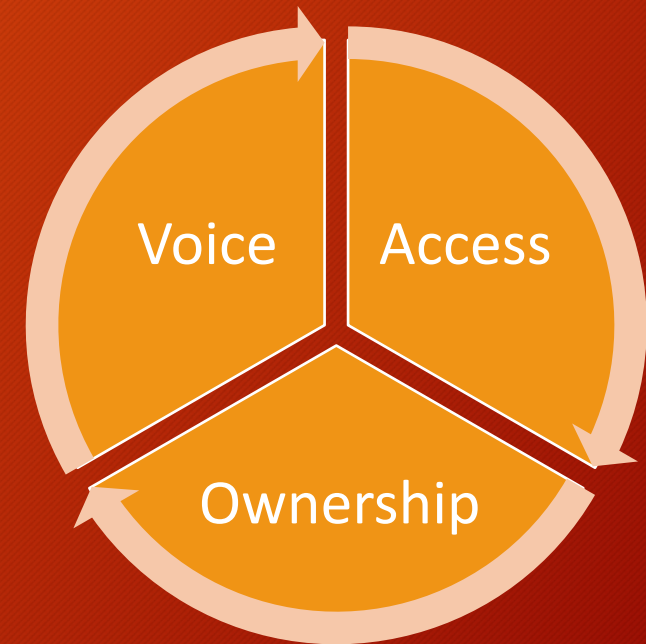
Have Fun and
Celebrate
Success!

YAP Wrap



Wraparound Planning Process

- 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

Confidence

Character

Connection

Caring

Competence

Contribution

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