The YLS & Juv. Justice Service Matrices
What do you need to know?

MST Provider Meeting
April 7, 2014
3 Key Points

1. The Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) initiative is designed to improve the way the juvenile justice system works & reduce recidivism.

2. It is a statewide initiative with the investment of key players in Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system.

3. “Speaking the language” will help programs work effectively with JPOs (and the juvenile justice system in general).
JJSES Statement of Purpose

We dedicate ourselves to working in partnership to enhance the capacity of Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system to achieve its balanced and restorative justice mission by:

• Employing **evidence-based practices**, with **fidelity**, at every stage of the juvenile justice process;

• Collecting and analyzing the data necessary to **measure the results** of these efforts; and, with this knowledge;

• Striving to continuously **improve the quality** of our decisions, services and programs.
JJSES is a major initiative

- Concept began in June 2010, to extend “lessons learned” from MacArthur Models for Change

- Leadership team includes representation from JCJC, PCCD, Chief JPOs

- Statement of Purpose has been endorsed by:
  - Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission (JCJC)
  - Juvenile Court Section of the Pa. Conference of State Trial Judges
  - Pa. Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers
  - PCCD Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee
  - County Juvenile Court/Probation Departments
  - Service Provider Organizations and agencies
JJSES Framework

Achieving our Balanced and Restorative Justice Mission

**STAGE ONE**
Readiness
- Intro to EBP Training
- Organizational Readiness
- Cost–Benefit Analysis
- Stakeholder Engagement

**STAGE TWO**
Initiation
- Motivational Interviewing
- Structured Decision Making
- Detention Assessment
- MAYS1 Screen
- YLS Risk/Needs Assessment
- Inter-Rater Reliability
- Case Plan Development

**STAGE THREE**
Behavioral Change
- Skill Building and Tools
- Cognitive Behavioral Interventions
- Responsivity
- Evidence-Based Programming and Interventions
- Service Provider Alignment
  - Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP)
  - Graduated Responses

**STAGE FOUR**
Refinement
- Policy Alignment
- Performance Measures
- EBP Service Contracts

**Process Flow**
- Delinquency Prevention
- Diversion
- Family Involvement
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Training/Technical Assistance
- Continuous Quality Improvement
JJSES is a major initiative

- There is funding distributed to county Juvenile Probation Services to support JJSES roll-out

- Numerous training efforts underway to educate the Juvenile Justice system on the importance of evidence-based practices and various elements of the JJSES
  - Ex., Motivational Interviewing Training, YLS Training, SPEP webinars

- SPEP is one piece of the JJSES; currently 5 counties involved in SPEP
Youth Level of Service (YLS)

- An actuarial risk assessment tool with high inter-rater reliability that predicts recidivism

- Move toward being more professional, objective, and accurate assessment of youth

- Selected by the Chiefs Council Research Committee

- At this point, all but one county are using the YLS. There is on-going TA and monitoring of YLS implementation.
YLS

- Structured interview with youth, independent of the parent; entered into the JCMS

- Tells probation officers:
  1. What is the youth’s **RISK** level? (low, moderate, high)
  2. What **CRIMINOGENIC NEEDS** should be addressed? (8 needs that predict reoffending)
  3. What individual factors should be considered, to best match treatment to the youth? (**RESPONSIVITY**)

**YLS should be used to guide case planning by probation & help inform disposition**
RISK level tells JPO who to target

YLS score indicates overall risk level

- Low – 30-40%
  - Unlikely to reoffend if left alone - likely to be referred to leisure activities and social supports (e.g., sports, Boy Scouts, JobCorp)

- Moderate – 30-40%
- High – 10-20%
  - The focus for these two groups is risk reduction
  - Want targeted treatment focused on the youth’s criminogenic needs

- Extremely High – only a few youth in the past 3 years
  - Risk control is appropriate for these cases (i.e., incarceration)
Criminogenic NEEDS tell JPO what to target

YLS assesses youth in 8 areas:
1. Past/Current Offenses - can’t be changed
2. Peer Relationships – association with peers who have a negative influence
3. Family Circumstances – lack of support, low accountability
4. Thinking/Beliefs – cognitions that support irresponsible behavior
5. Personality/Behavior – impulsive, poor problem-solving
6. Substance Abuse
7. Education / Employment – lack of success or interest
8. Leisure/Recreation – lack of appropriate recreational outlets
RESPONSIVITY factors shape how to respond

Last section of the YLS looks at RESPONSIVITY Factors

- These don’t predict recidivism, but do influence response to treatment
- Used to individualize case planning
- Examples: Self-esteem, personal distress (e.g., anxiety, depression), learning disability, physical or mental health issues
YLS

- Matching service to risk level, criminogenic needs & responsivity factors will improve outcomes

- YLS should be shared with providers, but some counties are still ramping up and getting comfortable

- Education for providers is in the works
  - You don’t need to know how to score the YLS
  - You do need to be familiar with what it means
Juvenile Justice Service Matrix

- Looks at what services are available in the county and maps them onto risk level & criminogenic need areas → helps guide referrals and case planning

- Services are rated as meeting Low/Moderate/High need based on the intensity and level of restriction
  - Example: MST might fit under the Family Circumstances/Parenting domain for Moderate or High Risk youth

- Not all counties have a matrix yet. Providers may or may not be invited by their county JPO to help develop the matrix.
THANK YOU!

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