THE PERFECT STORM:
HOW STRONG LEADERSHIP,
SCIENCE, AND LACK OF MONEY
CHANGED JUVENILE JUSTICE PRACTICE IN WISCONSIN
Objectives

1. Where we were and why
2. What we did
3. Where we are now – state and local
4. What’s next
A long, long time ago...about the mid-2000s
Where were we? Why?

- Out of compliance on DSO
- 20% penalty
- Declining federal funding
- Proposed JJDPA changes
What did we do?

- Operate as though no money
  - Expand education on *What Works, Wisconsin* (OJA regional meeting attendance)
  - Alternative budgets
  - Expand *What Works, Wisconsin* to EBP training
  - Fund system reform, not programs
- Data analysis to target problem areas (e.g. Racine County)
- Directed some funding to problem areas (DSO RFP) – target 3-year plan priorities
Where are we now?
Where are we now – state level

- Partner with UW
  - EBP training and annual updates
  - EBP supervisor training
- Partner with Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF)
  - EBP training
  - Data analysis (secure detention)
- New SAG continue funding system reform and assessment efforts
Where are we now – state level

Counties in Wisconsin that Attended EBP

- Attended 3 Day (La Crosse, Rock, Outagamie – in house training)
- Attended Sups. Training
- Attended 1 Day Update
- Hosted 1 Day Overview
Where are we now - Pierce County

Julie Krings, Youth Services Program Manager
One step at a time...

- Research on “What Works”
- Grant Assistance
- Transformation of Juvenile Justice Practice
  - “Buy-in” from line staff
  - Support of key stakeholders
  - Training
  - Collaboration with neighboring counties
  - Implementation
Toto...we are not in Wisconsin anymore.....
Put a stop to…

- Elimination of secure detention
- Major reduction in out of home placements
- Over-serving low risk youth
- Scared straight programming
- Mixing high and low risk youth in programming
Practice Transformation

A new way of thinking…..

- Target criminogenic needs
- Utilization of a risk assessment
- Programming specific to risk level
- Effective case planning
- Trauma-informed care
- Gender-specific programming
- Focus on skill building
- Cognitive behavioral groups
- Rewards and sanctions
Juvenile Justice Workers’ Tools for their Tool Belt

- JAIS
- Skill Streaming
- Role Modeling & Role Play
- Aggression Replacement Training
- BITS
- The Carey Guides
- Thinking Reports
- Heart Math
- Motivational Interviewing
- Rewards & Sanctions
Stakeholder Investment

- Training key stakeholders and service providers
  - Evidence-based practices
  - Risk Assessment Tool
  - Intervention Strategies
  - The Carrot vs. The Stick
What’s on the Horizon...Future Challenges

- Training for new hires
- Continued education for stakeholders
- Overcoming the “super predator” fear
- Holding service providers accountable for EBP
- Data collection
Where are we now - Racine County

Glenn Larson, Youth and Delinquency Supervisor
How did we get started?

- In 2009, Racine County was approached by OJA regarding the number of truants/status offenders that were being placed in secure detention.
- In 2008, Racine County led the State in the number of VCOs (Valid Court Order exception) with the vast majority being for truancy sanctions.
How did we respond?

- On 10/02/09, Racine County changed its Sanction policy for truancy.
- The following were instituted as responses to a juvenile violating the terms of their JIPS truancy order:
  1. Violation handled by case manager in conjunction with the school, juvenile, and parent.
  2. Violation handled via Court in one of the following manners:
     a. Placement for X days in non-secure custody.
     b. Suspension or limitation for X years of the juvenile’s operating privileges or DNR approval, or work permit
     c. Detention for X days in home or current residence under the rules of supervision with or without ELM.
     d. Uncompensated work program or community service for X hours
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Note</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>115</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>(But only 24 in the second half of the year)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>(Pending final data)</td>
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CHALLENGES FACED

- Concern from school
- Unease from parent
- Concern from district attorney
Overcoming Obstacles

USED RESEARCH ON BEST PRACTICE

- Had a presentation to all school social workers on best practices regarding truancy.
- Studies used:
  - Wisconsin Works Truancy Study (http://oja.wi.gov/docview.asp?docid=12864&locid=97)
  - Legislative Audit Bureau report on truancy (http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lab/reports/08-0Truancyfull.pdf)
- Discussion with district attorney – agreed to disagree
Racine County HSD

ONGOING PROGRAMMING

- Truancy Abatement Program
- School Engagement
- PEPS (Partners Educating Parenting Students)
- TEP (Transitional Educational Program)
Challenges to overcome

- Parents desire to have their children locked up
- Lack of buy-in from school and District Attorney’s office
What was the cost?

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What was the benefit?
What’s next? – Or, what happens when the money goes away?

- Data collection/juvenile records
  - OJA evaluator – JAG funds
- Legislative?
- FFY2012 funds – system reform efforts
- Statewide Criminal Justice Coordinating Council – hope for JJ funding?
- Continue developing capacity at the local level
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