

Front End Juvenile Justice System Reform

04/20/12

Program Overview

The City of Albany will utilize funding to hire a Juvenile Justice Mobile Response Team (JJMRT) to be available to assess and evaluate all individuals charged with juvenile delinquency at the point of arrest. The JJMPT will consist of professionals from community based organizations who are trained and certified in providing assessments to help determine; pre-arraignment placement in detention, appropriateness for diversion, and referral to interventions and services to reduce recidivism.

Goals of the Project

Through JJMRT services and cross-system collaboration, the project will aim to (1) decrease use of pre-arraignment detention, decrease formal petition requests, increase informal diversion, and increase pre-arrest diversion, (2) increase the efficiency of transferring juvenile delinquency paperwork between Albany County law enforcement agencies and Albany County Probation, and (3) increase the formal information sharing among law enforcement, social service agencies, school districts, and other collaborative partners.

Population of Focus

Offenders ages 7 through 15 who come into contact with the juvenile justice system through the Albany Police Department who would be under the jurisdiction of Albany County Family Court if arrested and formally processed.

Why?

There is currently an identified gap in transferring hard copies of juvenile delinquency paperwork between police departments and probation.

An identified gap is the lack of formal information sharing between law enforcement agencies, social service agencies, school districts, and other collaborative partners regarding juvenile delinquents.

Strategies

- **Juvenile Justice Mobile Response Team (JJMRT)**
 - Specially trained and certified professionals from community-based organizations will provide assessments to help determine; pre-arraignment placement in detention, appropriateness for diversion, and referral to interventions and services to reduce recidivism.
- **Evidence Based Assessment Tools**
 - YASI Short Form Prescreen
 - RAI
- **Electronic File Transfer**
 - purchase hardware and software to enable paperwork to be sent electronically between agencies.
- **Cross-Agency Data Sharing Agreements**
 - Formal MOU's will allow for sharing of information that is considered confidential for the purposes of assessing whether a juvenile will be charged as a juvenile delinquent, assessing placement of a person charged with juvenile delinquency, assessing the utilization of informal diversion, assessing the use of pre-arrest diversion, or assessing the needs of services for the youth including, but not limited to, mental health, substance abuse, or counseling.

Expected Outcomes

1. Using the RAI, the RRT will reduce the use of pre-arraignment detention by 20%.
2. Using the YASI, the RRT will increase referrals to informal diversion at Albany County Probation by 20%, thus decreasing agency requests for formal presentation to Family Court by 20%.
3. The Albany Police Department will conference 100% of juvenile delinquency cases with the RRT to identify cases best suited for pre-arrest diversion services
4. APD will refer 10% of juvenile delinquency cases to pre-arrest diversion programs without attaching sanctions for failure to comply with social services programs.
5. APD will transfer all juvenile delinquency paperwork to Albany County Probation electronically by January 1, 2012.
6. The Albany County Juvenile Justice Steering Committee will have in place a memorandum of agreement between all partners allowing for information sharing by January 1, 2012.
7. Reduce juvenile contacts and rearrests with APD.