

# EVIDENCE-BASED & PROMISING PRACTICES

## Provider-Accountability Programs

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# It's A Different World

- We used to believe our programs were effective.
- We can now measure whether they are effective or not.

# BLUEPRINTS & OTHER STUDIES

Used...

- Social Science tools
- Program and control groups
- Longitudinal studies

...to determine if real and lasting change was created by specific interventions.

# BLUEPRINTS & OTHER STUDIES

Show...

***...Just because programs feel good and are popular doesn't mean they make positive changes on an at-risk's youth's behavior.***

# BLUEPRINTS & OTHER STUDIES

Created what became known as **Evidence-Based** (EB) programs

Example of EB programs for youth in the JJ system include:

- FFT – Functional Family Therapy
- MST – Multisystemic Therapy
- MTFC – Multi-Dimension Treatment Foster Care

# EB PROGRAMS

- When done with fidelity for the group they were developed for:
  - PRODUCE STRONG POST-INTERVENTION OUTCOMES.
  - ARE BETTER FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES SERVED AND TAXPAYERS THAN UNPROVEN PROGRAMS AND PROVEN-INEFFECTIVE PROGRAMS

# AT THEIR CORE

EB Programs are...

***...Provider Accountability Programs***

# Providers are Accountable

- To Produce ***outcomes that matter***
  - Prevent – **post-intervention** - out-of-home placement, prevent arrest, stay in & finish school
  - Not just do better while the intervention is in place, complete a program, or improve from pre- to post-test
- To Engage – even when engagement is difficult
- To Partner with those served

# WHY ARE EB PROGRAMS NOT USED MORE OFTEN?

- They're pricey – both start-up and operationally. Who pays?
- They demand fidelity. It takes discipline.
- Many are difficult to start.
- Many providers want to continue what they're currently doing.

# ARE EB PROGRAMS THE SILVER BULLET?

➤ **SHORT ANSWER: NO**

➤ **LONG ANSWER: THEY ARE INCREDIBLY EFFECTIVE FOR THE AUDIENCE THEY ARE VALIDATED FOR. BUT THERE IS NOT AN EB PROGRAM FOR EVERY ISSUE.**

# WE NEED TO...

- USE EB PROGRAMS WHEN THEY EXIST
- USE PROMISING PROGRAMS WHEN EB PROGRAMS DO NOT EXIST
- WHEN NEITHER EXIST, DEVELOP AN EVIDENCE-BASE FOR EMERGING PROGRAMS.

# It's a Different World

- We are moving past the fear of the juvenile “super-predator”
- We are moving past the belief that there is “nothing good” in the high-need, high-poverty communities that send the most youth into the juvenile justice system

# Recent Initiatives

- Esperanza
  - EB Programs (MST)
  - Serves up to 300 youth facing placement
- Juvenile Justice Initiative (ACS)
  - EB Programs (MST, FFT)
  - Supported through 65-35 reimbursement from OCFS
  - 275 placement-bound youth served since Feb. 2007
  - Less than 35% of youth re-arrested or violated probation since program began

**Source:** Kaufman, Leslie “A Home Remedy for Juvenile Offenders.” New York Times. 20 February 2008. NYTimes.com. 27 February 2008.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/20/nyregion/20juvenile.html>

# From the Ground Up

- Community-based organizations initiating partnerships with the juvenile justice system to meet a dire need in the community
- Leveraging private funding when public dollars were not readily available

# Program Examples

- CASES

- Youth Employment Program works with 400 court-involved youth annually as an ATI
- Longitudinal Study found:
  - 80% of graduates had no new criminal convictions within 2 years of graduation
  - Only 12% felony convictions
  - Only 4% violent crime convictions

**Source:** Copperman, Bryer, and Gray. “Community-Based Sentencing Demonstrates Low Recidivism Among Felony Level Offenders.” Offender Programs, Social and Behavioral Rehabilitation in Prisons, Jails and the Community, Vol. 8, No. 2. July/August (2004): 29.

- The Center for Community Alternatives

- Works with more than 500 youth annually as an ATI & ATD
- Reports a 12% re-arrest rate
- A 70% program completion rate
- Longitudinal Study showed only 3 out of 33 (9%) of graduates exiting program re-arrested one year after graduation

**Source:** email correspondence with CCA Deputy Director Josefina Bastidas on Thursday, February 21st, 2008

# Program Examples

- BronxConnect
  - Works with 300 youth annually as an ATI & ATD
  - An evaluation of 73 youth mandated as a 12 month ATI between 2001 & 2003 showed:
    - 10 participants (14%) re-arrested
    - Another 9 (12%) had VOPs filed
    - Only 16% were incarcerated while mandated while 84% remained in the community
  - 3 Year Longitudinal Recidivism study currently underway with DCJS

**Source:** data collected during P/PV research demonstration between 1998 and 2003, presented by Ruben Austria.

# Program Examples

- Youth & Congregations in Partnership
  - Brooklyn DA's Office
  - Matches court-involved youth with mentors from congregations
  - Reports an 18.5% re-arrest rate for program graduates at least one year after completion

**Source:** telephone interview with YCP Executive Director & Senior Deputy District Attorney Joan Gabbidon on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008

- The Dome Project

- Works with 120 court-involved youth annually as an ATI
- Reports a 25% re-arrest rate during mandated program period (typically 12 months)

**Source:** email correspondence with the DOME Project Juvenile Justice Director Elizabeth O'Conner on Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008

# Program Examples

- **The Andrew Glover Youth Program**

- Worked with 196 youthful offenders on the Lower East Side & East Harlem as an ATI in 2006
- Only 8% of youth incarcerated after intake
- Longitudinal Study found only 17% of participants re-arrested 3 years after involvement, and only 7% of graduates re-arrested 3 years after involvement

**Source:** Andrew Glover Youth Program, Inc. 2006 Annual Report. 27 February 2008.  
<[http://www.agyp.org/reports/AGYP\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2006.pdf](http://www.agyp.org/reports/AGYP_Annual_Report_2006.pdf)>

- **Uth Turn**

- Places *highly trained* ex-offenders at neighborhood churches as youth coordinators
- Worked with 581 court-involved youth in 2005
- Only 8% of youth re-arrested in 2005

**Source:** telephone interview with Uth Turn Executive Director Rev. C.Vernon Mason on Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008

# Program Examples

- Girls Education & Mentoring Services
- Exodus Transitional Community
- Friends of Island Academy
- Brooklyn Adolescent Link

# Imagine...

Many of these programs could become evidence-based blueprint models with the right support and resources

# Best Practices

- Explicit commitment to system-involved youth
- Credibility with the courts due to excellent reporting
- Risk & Need Assessments highly individualized and comprehensive
- Intensive case management / counseling
- Ability to broker services via referral network
- Culturally competent staff (& volunteers)
- Asset-based youth development approach

# The Next Wave...

- There are already numerous indigenous community-based organizations, including many faith-based organizations, doing amazing work with youth in the most affected neighborhoods!
  - *but many are under the juvenile justice radar*
  - *have yet to receive public funding*
  - *are viewed with skepticism/suspicion by traditional stakeholders*
  - *may have capacity issues*

# Why Indigenous CBOs?

- Why should the justice system partner with indigenous neighborhood organizations?
  - Social capital & added value
  - Long-term supportive relationships
  - Neighborhood-level accountability (public safety)
  - Racial & economic justice

# The Future

- To build community capacity to provide effective interventions for court-involved youth
  - To **direct** funding to organizations working with court-involved youth *including those that are under the radar*
  - To **equip** these organization for more formal partnerships with the juvenile justice system through:

# Imagine...

- Small, intensive, and effective programs in every neighborhood that supplies a disproportionate number of youth to the justice system.....

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Use programs that are:
  - EB
  - Promising
- If none are available, invest in programs that are working to be accountable for their outcomes.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- NYS needs to:
  - Make EB programs more affordable
  - Assist Promising programs to become EB
  - With money and expertise, help providers track **outcomes that matter**
  - Foster links between providers and researchers

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- NYS needs to:
  - Redirect funding into the neighborhoods most affected
  - Build on existing community capacity by investing in proven models *and* promising new initiatives
  - Invite more community stakeholders into the planning and implementation process
  - Get evidence-based models into CBOs

# For More info

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