Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)

OVERVIEW OF JDAI

History
The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) was developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation in December of 1992. It was developed in response to the growing number of youth being held in secure detention across the country for non-violent acts. It currently operates in 40 states, including Georgia.

Purpose
To help jurisdictions reduce their reliance on secure detention while ensuring public safety through the establishment of more effective and efficient systems that accomplish the purposes of juvenile detention.

Objectives
- To eliminate the inappropriate or unnecessary use of secure detention
- To minimize failures to appear and incidence of delinquent behavior
- To improve conditions in secure detention facilities
- To redirect public finances from building new facility capacity to responsible alternative strategies
- To reduce racial, ethnic, and gender disparities
- Collaboration between major juvenile justice agencies, governmental entities, and community organizations
- Use of accurate data to diagnose the system’s problems and identify real solutions
- Objective admissions criteria and instruments to replace subjective decisions that inappropriately place children in custody
- Alternatives to detention to increase the options available for arrested youth
- Case processing reforms to speed up the flow of cases so that youth don’t languish in detention
- Reducing the use of secure confinement for “special” cases like technical probation violations
- Deliberate commitment to reducing racial disparities by eliminating biases and ensuring a level playing field
- Improving conditions of confinement through routine inspections

HISTORY OF JDAI IN GEORGIA

In 2015, a state-level committee was established by Governor Nathan Deal and the Georgia Criminal Justice Reform Council to improve the delivery of juvenile justice services and expand JDAI efforts throughout Georgia. The committee, called the State Steering Committee for JDAI, consists of juvenile court judges and representatives from stakeholder organizations. While some communities instituted JDAI as far back as 2003, state rollout of JDAI began in 2016 after an initial phase of assessment.

For sources please visit http://bit.ly/2kh1G8F
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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JDAI IN GEORGIA

Currently, five counties in Georgia are JDAI sites and all of these have completed JDAI Readiness and System Assessments. As of 2017, two additional counties have completed JDAI Readiness and System Assessments.

Current JDAI Site and completed JDAI Readiness and System Assessments

Completed JDAI Readiness and System Assessments

JDAI NATIONWIDE OUTCOMES

As of 2016, there were 197 JDAI sites in the United States, representing 300 local jurisdictions and 10 million youth ages 10 to 17. The youth living in areas working on JDAI represents approximately 30 percent of the total youth population. Recent data gathered from these sites suggests the following trends for JDAI involved areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trend</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Pre-JDAI Baseline</th>
<th>2016 Data</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduced reliance on juvenile detention</td>
<td>Average Daily Population (ADP)</td>
<td>8,780</td>
<td>4,964</td>
<td>-43%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual Admissions</td>
<td>188,948</td>
<td>95,939</td>
<td>-49%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reduced commitments to state custody</td>
<td>State Commitments</td>
<td>17,457</td>
<td>7,432</td>
<td>-57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced juvenile crime</td>
<td>Felony Petitions</td>
<td>79,391</td>
<td>48,770</td>
<td>-39%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Delinquency Petitions</td>
<td>42,562</td>
<td>29,770</td>
<td>-31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remaining challenges with racial equity</td>
<td>Percent of ADP that are youth of color</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>and overrepresentation of youth of color</td>
<td>Percent of annual admissions that are</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>76%</td>
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<td>youth of color</td>
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