HIGHLIGHTS OF JUVENILE DRUG TREATMENT COURT (JDTC) DEEP-DIVE

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Meeting
May 14th 2020
Purpose/Methodology

- Better understand the youth characteristics and outcomes of participants in JDTC
- Conducted a retrospective evaluation of the JDTC cohort who exited the program between 7/1/18 and 3/31/19 (n=22)
- Review Probation Case Management System case files for substance use, prior juvenile justice involvement, demographics and other risk factors
- Reviewed juvenile justice contact before, during and up to six-months post
JDTC Participant Characteristics

**Characteristics**

- **Gender:**
  - 73% Male
  - 27% Female

- **Average age at enrollment:** 16 years old

- **Ethnicity:**
  - 50% Hispanic
  - 22% White
  - 14% Black
  - 14% Other

**Prior School Engagement**

- 81% History of school attendance problems
- 71% History of school suspension or expulsion
- 67% History of poor school performance

**Juvenile justice involvement prior to program enrollment**

- 82% Bookings
- 95% Referrals
- 100% Sustained petitions
- 68% Commitments
Substance Use Hx and Mental Health History

Marijuana: 100%
Alcohol: 90%
Other: 52%
Meth: 24%
Cocaine: 19%

38% Reported a mental health dx
43% Reported at least one substantiated child welfare
### Program Completion

#### 41% Successful
- **432 average days in JDTC**
- **45 average # of hearings**
- **207 average consecutive days sober**
- **9 median days detained (range 5 – 117)**

#### 59% Unsuccessful
- **319 average days in JDTC**
- **16 average # of hearings**
- **49 average consecutive days sober**
- **51 median day detained (range 0 -232)**

### Factors associated with termination:
- Male
- Testing positive for cocaine or “other” drugs
- Spending more days detained prior to entering JDTC
- Having a prior felony sustained petition
What was the juvenile recidivism rate during the program and six-months following JDTC discharge?

36% (n=8) of youth turned 18 during the recidivism period

Factors associated with recidivism:
- Males more likely to have new probation referrals
- Youth who were terminated from JDTC were more likely to have a new probation referral
- Youth who reported using “other” types of drugs were more likely to have a new commitment
Lessons Learned

- Nearly 6 out of 10 youth did not successfully complete the program. This result supports a review of what types of programs work best for substance abuse and matched with type and severity of use.

- Youth who used other types of illicit drugs compared to those who used marijuana and/or alcohol, did not have positive outcome, which raises the question of the effectiveness of JDTC with this subpopulation.

- The data limitations did not allow measurement of fidelity to best practice.

- Model programs embrace a strength-based approach rather than a punitive approach.