

Executive Summary: Scott County Youth Planning

Overview

In the summer of 2018, Scott County community partners recognized a need to explore the needs of youth to address the increase in juvenile auto-thefts. The Center for Coordinated Assistance to States (CCAS), through a request by the Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (DCJJP), was brought in to provide technical assistance around a four-part planning process to address challenges facing youth and the community.

Components in this process included:

- Listening Sessions – Approximately 625 community members, system partners, and community providers shared their perceptions of challenges facing Scott County youth.
- Data Review – Theft in the 1st Degree, Theft in the 2nd Degree, and Operation a Motor Vehicle without the Owner’s Consent (OMVOC) were reviewed age, gender, and race, arrest data over time, court outcomes, and first-time offenders.
- Restorative Justice Resources – Restorative Justice balances accountability with addressing causes of delinquency by reconnecting youth to the impact of their behaviors and building community connection. Methods for incorporating Restorative Justice practices across the juvenile justice continuum.
- Scott County Youth Community Planning Summit – Approximately 50 representatives of the juvenile justice system, provider organizations, and community members gathered to dig into the data (data review and listening session) to identify action steps.

Findings

Review of data and listening session feedback guided the planning. Here are a few highlights.

- Youth lack prosocial alternatives, positive role models, and consistent, supportive relationships resulting in a lack of hope; often not seeing a future for themselves.
- Delayed accountability and a thrill-seeking culture amplified by social media and peer/family influence are leading youth to believe they won’t get in trouble.
- Fear, poor system-community relationships, and “street justice” reduce youth and families’ willingness to trust that justice will be provided by the system.
- Since 2013, overall juvenile crime rates in Scott County have been have decreased by 32%. However, since 2013 juvenile crime allegations of Theft 1st, Theft 2nd, and Operating Motor Vehicle Without Owner’s Consent (OMVOC) have increased by 212%.
- Allegations of Theft 1st, Theft 2nd, and (OMVOC) for first time offenders has increased at a greater rate than among all other allegations for first time offenders.
- While a larger proportion of Theft 1st, Theft 2nd, and (OMVOC) allegations are against repeat offenders (i.e. those who have previously been charged with Theft 1st, Theft 2nd, or (OMVOC)); allegations against first time offenders has increased more dramatically. There were 6 times as many target allegations against first time offenders and 3 times as many against repeat offenders, when comparing rates from 2013 to 2017.
- African American youth are represented at a higher level across target allegation offenses compared to other youth and African American youth representation across all offenses.

Action Steps

Quick Wins

The process brought diverse community providers together which allowed for new partnerships, information-sharing, and several strategies to be implemented quickly. These included:

- **Information Sharing**: Law enforcement, Juvenile Court Services, and the Juvenile Court have begun examining practices and instituting new systems to ease the flow of information and

paperwork to speed up the court process, provide quicker accountability and ease workload on officers, court professionals and juvenile services officers.

- **Priority Policies:** Determine procedure and policies needing changed, eliminated, or created to ease partnership, connect to resources, and ease access to services, and improve flow through systems.
- **Map Existing Efforts and Collaborations:** Identify who is already focused on the action steps outlined in the plan to avoid duplication and use resources efficiently.
- **Enhance use of 180 application:** The 180 app provides an immediate search of available resources and services to connect families, law enforcement, and providers to help. More services need added and all community members need trained on the app.
- **Expand Parent Partner Program:** Families involved in child welfare services have access to a parent partner who assists in navigating the system and enhance family engagement. This program could be expanded to include families in juvenile justice services.
- **Promote Volunteer Opportunities:** Community members what to get involved. Providers need committed volunteers. Establishing a list of volunteer opportunities, requirements, and investment needed to ease the process of connecting volunteers to well-matched opportunities.
- **Case Review Team:** Establish a “case review” team, where challenging cases can be reviewed to identify resources and interventions. Data about needs, service gaps, outcomes, and system challenges could provide system quality improvement.
- **Navigator Network:** Educate formal and informal supports on trauma, services, and techniques for connecting to establish a network of navigators to connect youth and family needs to resources before system involvement is required.
- **Auto Theft Accountability Program:** The program would use Restorative Justice practices to offer quick accountability to first-time offenders through practices such as restitution, treatment, and community service connected to the impact of their crime.

Long-Term Strategies

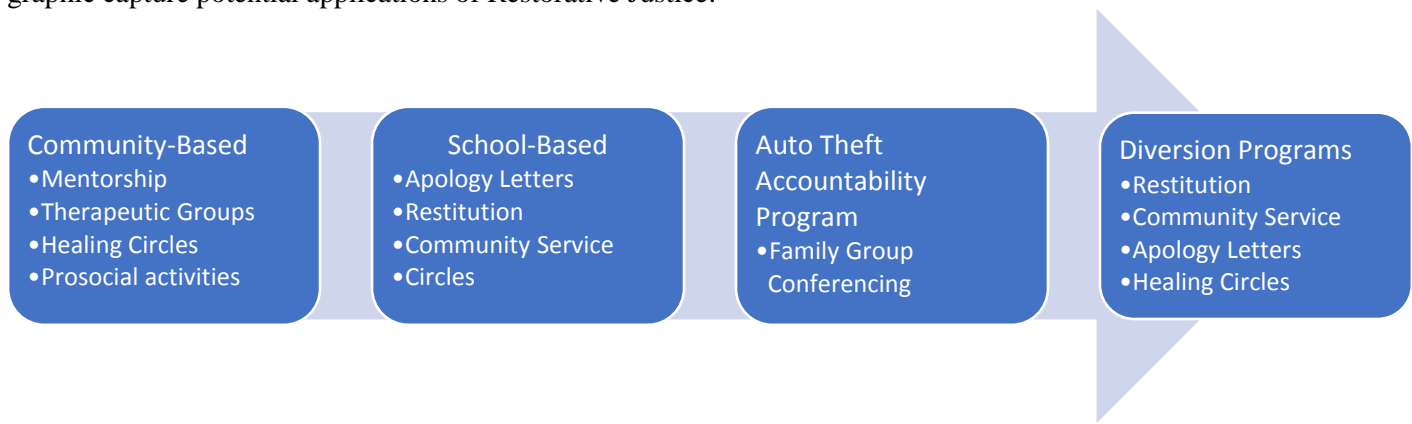
Community Collaboration: Enhancing a sense of community by building partnership was established as a mechanism for building partnership across services, government systems, businesses, faith communities, neighborhoods, and community organizations.

The graphic captures the four components of building a collaborative. A collaborative would hire a coordinator drive implementation of proactive strategies by developing resources, building partnership, encouraging measurement of outcomes, using data to identify effective and efficient solutions.



Messaging Campaign: Develop community messaging to spur support for volunteerism and donation to the development of services; education of challenges faced by families and actions underway; and, enhance support for restorative practices. Information would promote return on investment, speed of accountability, and public safety by highlighting reduced court costs, utilization of restitution/community service/community engagement, and reduction in recidivism.

Restorative Justice Across the Continuum: Restorative Justice balances accountability with responses that address root causes. Further it uses positive, pro-social connection to community and school to help youth understand the cost of their behavior as prevention of juvenile justice involvement and recidivism. The below graphic capture potential applications of Restorative Justice.



Service Awareness and Access: The Youth Planning Summit generated an extensive list of services to be included in the 180 app and highlighted a need for greater awareness of the app to make all community members service navigators. City housing efforts could include meeting spaces in new developments for services to meet clients where they are. Additionally, service network gaps need to be addressed. Identified gaps include early prevention (ex: access to quality childcare outside of standard office hours), early behavioral and basic needs services to system-involved supports, and transition/aftercare supports for youth returning home after residential placement.

Juvenile Assessment Center Planning/Preparation: A Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) is being explored. The JAC model looked to is based on a model from Colorado that consists of a two-tiered approach, that includes:

- Assessment – Provides quick, holistic assessment of youth following arrest to speed up the court process and reduce the burden on law enforcement.
- Services – Facilitates easy access resources and services without the requirement of system-involvement to youth and families, as a prevention/early intervention strategy.

Culturally Competency and Community Trust - Summit participants described an outreach worker who could build trust to serve as a system navigator for all youth and an “underground Robin Hood Network”, where providers contact one another when help is needed. A network of navigators provides a method of ensuring those with the ability to connect to services are located within the communities needing the connections. Intentional connections of community leaders and neighborhood-based services could enhance trust.

Enhance Prosocial Activities: Youth need positive alternatives to counteract the loss of hope for their future that contributes to involved in the juvenile justice system. Opportunities must be low or no cost, located within the neighborhoods served, or provide access to transportation, and expose youth to people who invest in their future as engaged Scott County residents. Areas to build include mentorship, extracurriculars, career exploration and community-based partnerships.

Increase Access to Preventative Services: A need for increased mental health, crisis intervention, housing, and quality child-care access were highlighted as tactics to avoid expensive system involvement. These services would increase opportunities for all families to connect and thrive in Scott County.