Overview of Kentucky’s Juvenile Justice System

Rachel Bingham, Executive Officer
Department of Family & Juvenile Services
Administrative Office of the Courts
Kentucky was the 4th highest (among 50 states) for youth locked up for status offenses.

DJJ spent half of its $102 million dollar budget on out of home placements. Detention beds and beds in the youth development centers cost over $100,000 per year.

In addition, DCBS spent $6 million in fiscal year 2012 for out-of-home placement of status offenders.

Significant resources were used on out-of-home residential placement for low-level status and public offenders.

Time violators/misdemeanants spent out-of-home is about the same as those adjudicated on felonies.

- Has increased 31% and 21%, respectively over the past decade.

Lack of community services/alternatives likely contributed to DJJ and DCBS commitments and more youth being placed out-of-home.
Key SB 200 Policy Changes

- Require court-designated workers (CDWs) to utilize screening and assessment and graduated responses in diversion
- Codify mandatory diversion for certain youth and restrict county attorney and judge overrides
- Establish Family, Accountability, Intervention and Response (FAIR) teams to provide oversight and support youth in diversion
Key SB 200 Policy Changes

- Prohibit DJJ commitment for most youth adjudicated for probation violation, misdemeanor or Class D felony
- Cap probation, commitment and out of home placement length for misdemeanors and Class D felonies
- Require use of risk assessment, graduated responses and changes to treatment planning process
Located within Kentucky’s Administrative Office of the Courts:

- CDWs are responsible for placing children in alternative placements prior to arraignment, conducting preliminary investigations, and formulating, entering into, and supervising diversion agreements and performing such other functions as authorized by law or court order.
  - Coordinate the statewide Family, Accountability, Intervention and Response (FAIR) Teams which provide enhanced case management support and services for diverted youth.
  - Implement the Truancy Diversion Program to address Kentucky’s truancy issues.
  - Administers the Kentucky Teen Court Program located in 22 counties.
Data drives outcomes...

• Understanding the population
• Tracking recidivism
• Ability to follow a youth throughout the juvenile justice system
• Analyze gaps or service barriers to improve outcomes; expedite service access
• Develop public accessible web-based juvenile justice data depository
Senate Bill 200 Behaved Exactly as Intended – But Only For White Youth

Percentage of Youth at Contact Points by Race January – June 2018
Data drives relationships...

- Established a joint implementation plan
- Held local community partner meetings in each judicial district (60 judicial districts/120 counties) in 2014 and 2017
- Provide training to the Judiciary, community partners on PEI, graduated response protocol, best practices in diversion
Data drives culture change…

- Workforce development
  - Restructuring front line staff based upon data
  - Established a career ladder
- Local action planning on data outcomes
- Training on Implicit Bias, Cultural Collisions
- Discussing and problem-solving service array barriers and access at the local level
Implementation Science

Improved Outcomes for Students

Effective Educational Strategies

Performance Assessment (Fidelity)

Implementation Drivers

Coaching

Systems Intervention

Facilitative Administration

Integrated & Compensatory

Decision Support Data System

Leadership

Adaptive

Technical

Selection

Training

Competency Drivers

Organization Drivers

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For more information contact:

Rachel Bingham
rachelb@kycourts.net

(800)928-2350