

**APPENDIX D  
SMALL GROUP  
IDEA NOTES**

**JUVENILE  
JUSTICE  
21**



**A ROADMAP FOR JUVENILE  
JUSTICE IN THE 21ST  
CENTURY**

## Contents

Introduction .....	1
Coon Rapids .....	2
Duluth .....	3
Mankato .....	3
Ottertail County .....	4
Redwing .....	5
Rochester .....	6
Shakopee.....	7
St. Paul .....	7
Willmar.....	8
Togo .....	9

## Introduction

The Minnesota Corrections Association held eleven “local stakeholder forums” throughout Minnesota between June 6<sup>th</sup> and October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014. The forums were held in Mankato, Shakopee, St. Paul, Rochester, Mankato, Duluth, Ottertail County, Wilmar, Coon Rapids, at the juvenile correctional facilities in Red Wing and Togo, and in Nisswa at the MCA Fall Training Institute. Invitations to the forums went to MCA members and were sent to 28 statewide organizations identified as juvenile justice stakeholders.<sup>1</sup> A total of 406 individuals attended the forums, an average of 37 per forum.

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<sup>1</sup> National Alliance on Mental Illness, Minnesota Department of Corrections, Minnesota Community Action Partnership, Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties, Children’s Defense Fund Minnesota, Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association, Minnesota Sheriff’s Association, Legal Rights Center, Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, American Friends Service Committee, Lakes Area Restorative Justice Project, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota County Attorneys Association, Juvenile Justice Coalition of Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Human Services, Minnesota Youth Intervention Programs Association,

At each forum the Project Manager began the event by presenting information on the project and background information on trends and policy changes in the juvenile justice system. (See Appendices A and B). Following that presentation, a panel of local juvenile justice professionals provided their perspective on the information presented by the Project Manager, as well as their own experiences and ideas for reform. Participants then met in randomly selected small groups to brainstorm ideas for juvenile justice reform. The following are notes of the ideas generated by those small groups, grouped by location of the forum.

## Coon Rapids

Better laws sealing juvenile records.

Juvenile predatory offender registration determined by a group of professionals and a judge at end of treatment.

Enhance diversion programs and efforts.

Single youth diversion – uniformity and continuity, more system accountability

Improve family/caregiver support - funding/resources – early recognition and intervention

Incorporate technology for low-level diversion program with self-reporting to prosecutor

Online (video) parenting education options

Human services background study statutes should not apply to juveniles.

Standardized mental health assessment tool including trauma.

Funding for trauma based programming and training to assist with trauma and sexual abuse.

Standards for trauma screening.

Diversion programs unified at state level.

Family rehabilitation to build a support system for transition.

EJJ over-used?

Funding for transition services.

Mandatory initial and secondary mental health screening for juveniles.

Viable diversion options.

Financial assistance for family participation.

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Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Children’s Law Center, Youthprise, Minnesota Association of Child Caring Agencies, Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers, Minnesota Police Chiefs, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, State Public Defender, Minnesota Coalition of Battered Women, Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Minnesota Office of Justice Programs

## Duluth

Better collaboration with social services.

Parent accountability and court jurisdiction over conditions involving parents and family.

More confidentiality regarding juvenile offenses.

Funding for community mentoring and coordination.

More resources for youth programming.

More mental health programming.

Funding for restorative justice programming project that includes judicial support, probation and social services, mental health services, school based support, community based support. (Cited Carlton County example.)

Change the age of delinquency from 10 to 12.

Incentive based specialty court for chronic juvenile offenders with multidisciplinary approach usinf stay of adjudication and/or expungement.

Better resources for families to address mental health and chemical dependency and other issues – bring services to where they are at (homes and schools)and use trauma-informed care.

Reform DHS background study law.

Require mental health professionals to be licensed.

Reform juvenile sex offender registration law.

More funding for mental health treatment.

Reform DHS background study law.

Lengthen new stay of adjudication period.

Paren ordered involvement.

Incorporate restorative justice into all diversion programs.

Emphasize prevention work.

Increase funding for support programs.

Need more funding for programs in tribal areas.

## Mankato

Peer mentorship needed.

Provide consistent funding for programs that are shown to work.

Emphasize community engagement.

Transition program from placement needed.  
Certain diagnoses must be treated and funded before corrections.  
More funding for mentoring and preventative programs.  
Mandatory family engagement needed.  
Redefine criteria for social services to be involved sooner.

Rethink family reunification – sometimes should not be reunited.  
Need easier venue transfer between counties for transient populations.  
Hold parents accountable.  
Need more consistency between counties with diversion programs.  
Increased confidentiality needed for 16+ yr old felony cases.  
Youth night campus to report after school – look at Rochester model.

Raise age of elinquency to 12.  
Expand EJJ to 23.  
Raise adult certification age to 16.  
Need diversion consistency statewide.  
Need to reform human services background study access to juvenile records.

Revise registration laws.  
Need more collaborative services.

Focus on what works.  
More parent accountability.  
Use crossover youth model.  
Allow automatic juvenile records expungement at a certain age.

## Ottertail County

Juvenile transitional housing- independent living skills, 16-18 year old gap, addressing mental health, foster home gaps.

Sex offender registration/stays – extending stays of adjudication, completing treatment, barriers of registration.

Holds parents a countable.

Consider extending length of stay of adjudication.  
Corrections and human services case coordination.  
Holding parents more accountable.

Make under 14 predatory offender registrations discretionary.  
Continue funding for older juveniles and mentoring programs.  
Expand court jurisdiction treatment for parents and family and increase parental responsibility.  
Give court statutory authority to order social services to open CHIPS as deemed appropriate.

Funding for transitional homes – to non-home placements with emancipation training, to return home with family treatment.

Provide adequate resources for mental health services.

Options for sex offender registration.

Stay of adjudication should be as long as the period of probation.

Allow kids in secure settings to continue receiving medical assistance after 30 days.

Expanding juvenile courts to a White Earth healing to wellness court model funded by legislature with county collaboration.

## Redwing

Re-allocate funds to family facilitators in counties and/or schools for diversion services.

Pre-placement mental health diversion services (required).

No public records for 16-17 year old felony charges.

Automatic expungement of juvenile arrests.

Transitional services mandated and funded for youth leaving long-term placements.

Reconsider age of delinquency, 10-12 years old.

Invest in root causes of issues – family, school, mental health, chemical dependency.

Funding for studies to see what is working.

Mental health rather than correctional placements.

Cultural competency training for professionals.

Judicial discretion for EJJ length of placement.

Create collaborative partnerships.

Better transition programs.

Coordination between delivery systems.

Funding for early intervention.

Access to community based alternatives.

Broader access to transitional services.

Data privacy – requirement to register vs. public perception.

Family engagement, education, and accountability.

Re-allocation of funding for qualified trainings for professionals

Need to attract qualified professionals to work with youth in various areas.

Need more transition planning and services and diversion services.

Need more quality professionals in the area/field.

Family engagement and accountability and education.

Community based interventions.

## Rochester

Make more resources available for mental health.

Continue increased collaboration across systems.

Allow expungement and limit long-term consequences.

Allow court system to engage youth and families.

Increase availability of foster homes.

Increase diversion options.

More general training and cultural competency training for practitioners.

Evidence-based valid screenings.

Improve family foster care – accountability, work more with family system, parental probation.

Limit public access to records.

Develop and enhance community resources.

Educate families of system/expectations – advocates/mentors collaborate, early intervention.

More money for mental health services, early and multiple mental health screenings.

Improve techniques on data collection and standardize standards and definitions between agencies.

Increase collaboration with other agencies and professionals.

Human services more engaged when parents have gross misdemeanor and felony charges and review for CHIPS.

If records are to remain open for 16-17 year olds only open if adjudicated not just charged.

More involvement with truancy.

Create a database that is universal and serves for not only improving brokerage and delivery of services and also clearing house for data to be accessed by the powers that be.

More resources for families.

Public “boarding school”

Mandate child protection case after a certain number of child welfare reports.

Placement transition planning before placement made.

Continued collaboration – schools, law enforcement, families, corrections, social services.

Correct assessment to determine high risks and high needs

Responsivity to culturally specific families and youth.

Create a sense of belonging through pre services/community.

Expand mental health services to elementary schools.

Statutory changes requiring parents to follow conditions, improve home environment, follow case plans, and related resources and funding.

Integrate data systems to better track and share outcomes.

## Shakopee

Utilize the school system to identify kids who are in trouble at an early age. Coordination of funding is key.

Court jurisdiction over parents in delinquency cases.

Sex offender diversion statewide policy and funding.

Community of practice sharing opportunities.

Early intervention to keep kids out of the system.

Family participation in juvenile cases

Role definition for social services and probation.

Early intervention.

Expanded diversion (beyond traditional cases) and uniform standards.

Transition and reentry for higher risk offenders.

Decrease collateral consequences of juvenile records.

Raise delinquency age to 13.

Standard statewide dispositions for juvenile sex offenders.

Non-mandatory registration for juvenile sex offenders.

Create diversion and education for domestic cases.

## St. Paul

Victim restitution – funds through fines and revenue recapture.

Mental health screening – predisposition and tracking outcomes.

Community based resources.

Data coordination – consistency within the state, protect data to limit collateral consequences.

Recommend study/evaluation of how EJJ is working.

Increase focus on crossover youth.

Systemic collaboration.

Funding barrier.

Keep kids in juvenile system longer? Redefine age range – is 18 relevant anymore? Increase age can be charged

Lack of transition services from juvenile to adult.

Cognitive interventions.

Parental engagement.

Domestic abuse laws relevant for youth?



Funding for youth programs – adolescent age group not just under 10.  
Tools for parent engagement.  
Crossover models that support collaboration among schools, child welfare, juvenile delinquency.

Change statute of juvenile life without parole.  
Networking, prevention.  
Juvenile registry.

Path to expungement/record sealing – prevent collateral consequences related to housing and employment access.  
Lack of resources/services for ages 18-24, cliff they fall off when other jurisdictions end.  
More detention alternatives and diversion opportunities – change statute to allow more offenses and prior offenses/diversions.  
Shared databases especially juvenile justice and social services and law enforcement.  
Trauma informed care/assessment/services and professional training.  
Statewide standards on how education hours in residential correctional facilities translate into public school credits.  
Truancy and curfew violations should be viewed as opportunities for positive intervention – not punishment.  
Parent engagement as a key component in changing/enhancing a child's success.

## **Willmar**

Eliminate disqualifications, enhancements and all other collateral consequences of juvenile records.  
Create a third category of justice system for young adults.

Increase parent/family involvement and parenting education.  
Schools should deal with delinquent behavior as much as possible within the school environment/with school discipline.  
More prevention in elementary school.  
Support long-term relationship building with school resource officers and other adults (teaching DARE at the elementary greatly enhanced relationship building over time that helped when students arrived at the secondary level).  
Provide better training in schools about accessing the kind of support services/programs corrections uses.  
Reduce collateral consequences of juvenile records.

Improve understanding of trauma, use and provide time for ACES.  
Improve transition from placements to home to make treatments longer lasting.  
More use of restorative justice programs, support it at the state level.  
Increase community policing.

Increase use of restorative justice programs.

Increase ability to make interventions the first time youth come in contact with the justice system rather than waiting until multiple or more serious contacts.

Increase length of time available for programming (restorative justice circles can last a year or two).

Hold parents accountable but make sure programming can happen without them if needed.

Provide programs such as restorative justice (circles) before youth enter the justice system, for example through family services (Yellow Medicine County example).

Allow school resources officers (police) to refer youth directly to programming without making an arrest.

Provide better and more training for school resource officers.

Replace “zero tolerance” programs with restorative justice.

Provide more consistency between schools for referral policies.

Provide for more collaboration between child protection and juvenile justice and others.

Create a crossover youth court.

Allow for easier sharing of data between agencies.

Juvenile payables may make it too easy for some youth to avoid consequences/programming by just paying their way out of it.

Must also address the youth with chronic problems and most serious behavior when considering reforms.

Child protection gets penalized when youth go out of placement for juvenile justice interventions.

Transition circles can help with transition out of juvenile justice interventions.

## Togo

Avoid cookie cutter approach - Allow more options for each juvenile case based on the particular situation and community.

Avoid indefinite probation.

More immediate consequences.

More tools for intervention/prevention – community not just corrections.

Increase limit for stays of adjudication up to age 19.

Increase juvenile information access among agencies and decrease public access.

Increase minimum age of delinquency from 10 to 12 or 13.

Trauma informed care – identify, training, treatment.

Diversion – consistency, evidence-based and/or reformative/restorative justice process.

Record sealing – keep records private to start with, not used for disqualifications, communicate expungement to all record holding agencies.

Early intervention – modify data practices to improve inter-agency communication, community based interventions and school resource officers – build relationships.

Data privacy changes to allow for information sharing with corrections, human services, law enforcement, public health.

Checks and balances for juvenile records, arrests vs. adjudications.

Reduce collateral consequences – public record, booking, DHS.

Permissive expansion of diversion – restorative justice programs.

More juveniles through system – consider brain/emotional development.

Limit use of restraints for kids.