

ENGAGING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY IN JUVENILE DRUG COURT AND IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY

Alison R. Greene, MA, Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SIROW), University of Arizona

Raanan Kagan, Carnevale Associates, LLC.

Randolph D. Muck, MEd, Advocates for Youth and Family Behavioral Health Treatment, LLC

National Association of Drug Court Professionals Conference, Washington, DC

July 27-30, 2015

Presentation Overview

- Introductions
- Why Involve Family and Community in JDCs?
- Why is it Challenging?
- JDC/RF National Cross-Site Evaluation:
Measuring Family and Community Engagement
- JDC/RF Family and Community Engagement
Findings and Policy Implications
- Applications to the Field
- Questions and Discussion



Why Involve Family and Community?

Value of Family and Community in JDC

□ Various studies evidence:

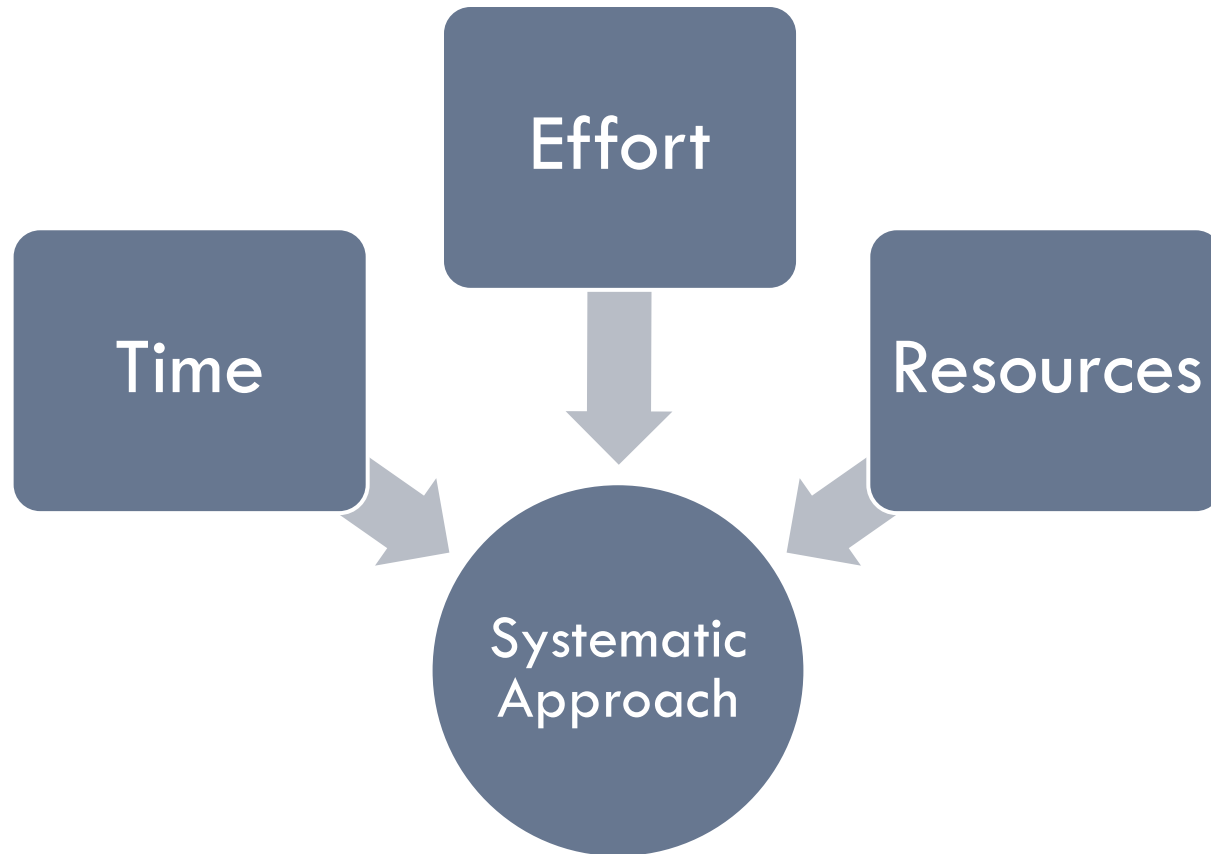
- ▣ Involving family in JDCs
- ▣ Involving the community in JDCs
- ▣ Involving JDC youth in the community

maximizes
potential
for success



Why is Involving Family and Community Challenging?

It Takes A Lot...





JDC/RF: Measuring Family and Community Engagement

JDC/RF National Evaluation Methods

- Assessing Family and Community Involvement
 - ▣ Interviews
 - ▣ Observational Data
 - ▣ Process Data Collection Instrument
 - ▣ Community Resource Mapping



JDC/RF Family and Community Engagement Findings and Policy Implications

What is Family Engagement?

- Involving family (parent, caregiver, supportive adult) in the JDC process to maximize potential for youth's success
 - ▣ Court proceedings
 - ▣ Treatment
 - ▣ Relationship-building throughout JDC process
 - ▣ Transition out of JDC

Family Engagement: Challenges

□ External

- ▣ Scheduled times of JDC activities
- ▣ Transportation
- ▣ Frequency of participation
- ▣ Behavioral health conditions

□ Internal

- ▣ Attitudes, beliefs and values

Family Engagement: Recommendations

- Require parent/caregiver participation
 - ▣ Utilize a written agreement to set expectations and define family role
 - ▣ Discuss and determine use of coercive power
- Streamline access to JDC services
 - ▣ Partner with families to assess individual and community barriers
 - ▣ Offer JDC activities at family-friendly times and locations
 - ▣ Implement EBP models that include family components
 - ▣ Incorporate feedback loop to assess effectiveness of strategies

Family Engagement: Recommendations

- Provide resources specific to family members
 - ▣ Employ a “parent partner” to assist with service linkages and support
 - ▣ Provide a parent/caregiver support group
 - ▣ Sponsor family nights to offer supportive interaction and model positive prosocial activities
 - ▣ Link parents/caregivers to behavioral health treatment and other services, as appropriate
- Engage families from the bench
 - ▣ Foster unified front between familial and legal authority
 - ▣ Leverage input from the JDC team
 - ▣ Provide family member incentives

What is Community Engagement?

- Two major components
 - ▣ Collaborating with community partners
 - ▣ Youth engaging with the community
- Community partners playing an active and collaborative role in JDC/RF
- Establishing community-based services
- Linking youth to community providers
- Youth actively engaging in community services

Community Engagement: Challenges

- Identifying resources/partners
 - ▣ Filling service needs
- Approaching and engaging identified partners
 - ▣ Who/How to ask
 - ▣ What to ask for
- Shortages in resources/funding/capacity at identified partners
 - ▣ Securing “slots” for JDC youth without JDC funding
- Linking youth to active partners
 - ▣ Cumbersome, slow, and confusing

Community Engagement

Recommendations: Engaging Partners

- Conduct and regularly update a community resource map
 - ▣ Incorporate a feedback loop to improve the engagement process
- Educate and leverage all members of the team for community outreach
 - ▣ Individual level and PR campaigns
- Ensure that community outreach is managed by specific staff
 - ▣ Well-connected and respected in the community
- Make “specific asks”
 - ▣ E.g., specific referral systems or JDC advocacy
- Define the terms of collaboration at the outset
 - ▣ Mutually beneficial relationships
 - ▣ Sustaining collaboration

Community Engagement

Recommendations: Youth Engagement

- Lower logistical barriers for youth
 - ▣ Specific protocols
 - ▣ Dedicated points of contact
 - ▣ Feedback loop: is it working for your partners?
- Establish active linkage protocols
 - ▣ Identify resources: paid staff vs. volunteers (e.g., case managers and mentors)
 - ▣ Schedule at the time of referral
 - ▣ Follow-up on both ends (court and provider)



Applications to the Field



Questions and Discussion

Questions?



Questions: Contact Alison Greene, 520-295-9339 x206, greene@email.arizona.edu

Disclaimer: The development of this presentation is funded in part by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) through an interagency agreement with the Library of Congress-contract number LCFRD11C0007 and is supported by Grant Number 2013-DC-BX-0081 awarded by OJJDP, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed here are the authors and do not necessarily represent the official policies of the Department of Justice or the Library of Congress; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Acknowledgements: SIROW wishes to acknowledge the contributions of the evaluation sites and the evaluation partners, Chestnut Health Systems (CHS) and Carnevale Associates, LLC (CALLC) to this National Cross-Site Evaluation. In addition, SIROW is appreciative of support from the Library of Congress - Federal Research Division, OJJDP, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the Reclaiming Futures National Program Office.

Suggested Citation: Greene, A., Kagan, R., Muck, R., Thompson-Dyck, K., Ostlie, E., Stevens, S. J. & Carnevale, J. (July 2015). Engaging Family and Community in Juvenile Drug Court and Implications for Policy. Paper presented at the *National Association of Drug Court Professionals Annual Conference*, Washington, DC.