

Assessing Alternative To Detention Programs

The Community Justice Network for Youth (CJNY)



System Must...

- Posses clear standards for purpose of detention.
- Posses objective detention screening criteria for assessing the level of risk (e.g. Risk Assessment Instrument).
- Collect data on the race, gender and geography as well as collect data on the various decision making points throughout the system.

The Grey Area...

- Who bridges the gap between the system and community?
- Has the system/agency decided it wants to partner with a community based alternative program? Are they ready to share power with new potential partners?
- How will trust be established in the partnership?
- Who is going to pay for all of this?

The CJNY ATD Tool Kit

The Goal of creating the ATD tool kit is to provide support to community based organizations that aim to work specifically with youth involved in the juvenile justice system with the focus on establishing an Alternative to Detention program.

ATD Tool Kit Outline

- Introduction
- Program Assessment and Value
- Entry Point
- Implementation
- Measurement
- Resource Directory
- Glossary of Terms

Program Assessment and Value

- The strongest ATD programs are the ones that have undertaken a comprehensive assessment of their values, target population, and services.
- There must be a demonstrated value that the ATD program adds to the juvenile justice system.

Entry Point

- From the perspective of a community based organization aiming to become an ATD provider an entry point strategy must first be developed.
- This strategy must identify the agency and layout the path for building the contractual relationship.

Implementation

- Getting a foot in the door is not enough; an implementation strategy must be developed that clearly outlines the plan for service delivery.

Measurement

- Providing ATD services means working with the government and that requires that each ATD measure the success of the program in order to maintain the relationship.

Resource Directory and Glossary of Terms

- CJNY is fortunate to have many great ATD programs, the resource directory is a list of these organizations by program type.
- While terminology may vary across the country it is important that the community based organizations are familiar with the terms that system stakeholders are using.