

The Massachusetts Detention Reform Statewide Steering Committee
Visions and Values Statement (March 14, 2007)
Prepared by the Consensus Building Institute

I. VALUES STATEMENT

The Massachusetts Detention Reform Statewide Steering Committee is dedicated to creating a juvenile public safety system that:

- Protects public safety and the safety of youth
- Actively promotes healthy youth development
- Is supported by relevant data and known best practices
- Provides appropriate and immediate alternatives to detention, when detention is not needed to protect public safety or to ensure court appearance
- Is respectful of due process requirements
- Promotes youth's appearance in court
- Contributes to reduction in recidivism
- Reduces disproportionate detention of minorities
- Affords respect and fairness for all
- Is community-based and family centered
- Promotes collaboration and shared accountability for risk management among state and local agencies, the judiciary, communities, and youth services organizations

II. VISION STATEMENT

The Massachusetts Detention Reform Statewide Steering Committee envisions a juvenile justice system that promotes healthy youth development and ensures the safety of youth and the community, by providing due process and collaborative, evidence-based interventions for youth and families.

This system will include:

- A statewide set of policies and programs, based on evidence and best practice in juvenile public safety, designed to reduce reliance on detention
- Consistent availability of appropriate assessments, supports, and interventions through a single point of access for youth, their families and their communities, as well as for law enforcement, judicial and corrections agencies
- Consistent best practice for juvenile public safety in jurisdictions across the state
- A collaborative approach to juvenile justice that includes formalized partnerships and shared accountability.