

11/17/09

San Francisco Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative  
Principles, Values and Goals

The San Francisco Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) is committed to the creation of a comprehensive and sustainable collaborative process to effect long-term changes in the Juvenile Justice System. The San Francisco JDAI has two primary goals:

**GOALS**

1. To reduce the use of unnecessary secure detention in our short-term facility
2. To reduce the disproportionate representation of minority youth in the system.

To achieve these goals, the JDAI operates under the following values, principles and objectives.

**JDAI VISION**

A juvenile justice system will exist where the parts work together cohesively to provide support for our juveniles and to enhance public safety.

**VALUES**

1. The purpose of a juvenile justice system is rehabilitation, not punishment
2. Young people are an asset to our society and should be afforded every opportunity to contribute, to make amends, and to turn around their life.
3. Juveniles involved in the system need support and supervision matched to their needs
4. All stakeholders, including public agencies, non-profit service providers, & community advocates, must be held to a high degree of accountability.
5. Secure detention in the short-term detention facility should be a last resort, used only when there are no other appropriate and accountable placements.

**PRINCIPLES**

1. Detention planning must be collaborative.
2. Planning must maintain a focus on creating a continuum of detention options.
3. Planning must be guided by the objective of improving system efficiency from both operational and cost perspectives.
4. Planning must be comprehensive in scope
5. Planning must be oriented toward action and practical results.

**OBJECTIVES**

1. To create a revised Risk Assessment Instrument that will allow the Probation Department greater flexibility in determining the proper level of supervision for young people who are arrested.
2. To create a graduated level of services appropriate to meet the varying level of needs of young people who have been arrested and are awaiting their adjudication hearing.
3. To create a graduated level of services appropriate to meet the varying level of needs of young people who have been adjudicated and/or have special detention situations.
4. To insure that all youth are treated equally within the juvenile detention system, regarding of ethnicity, race, gender, religion, and sexual orientation.
5. To enhance the case processing system to improve efficiency, quality, and speediness of the process.

**OPERATING PRINCIPLES**

1. Decisions will be made by consensus
2. Decisions regarding policies and practices will be guided by local data
3. JDAI stakeholders analyzing data shall maintain strict confidentiality of all data
4. New policies and practices will be reviewed and monitored to insure accountability.