

RAISING THE BAR

FOR TREATMENT OF YOUTH IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

BEFORE TRANSFORMATION

- ✘ Youth often waited months in a county-run detention center to be assessed, get a treatment plan, and be placed in a state treatment center.
- ✘ Once youth arrived at the Division of Youth Services (DYS) intake unit, assessment lasted almost a month. Assessments and treatment plans were cookie cutter and not individualized for each youth. Treatment plans were not created by a clinician and were not discussed with parents.
- ✘ After assessment, some youth continued to wait in county-run detention centers for open DYS residential facility beds. Most detention centers offered no treatment while youth waited.
- ✘ No formal monitoring of a youth's treatment plan progress.
- ✘ Established lengths of stays could be arbitrarily extended by the residential facility if a youth acted out.
- ✘ The private company overseeing the youth's treatment had little contract oversight as it related to a youth's treatment.

BEFORE

- 73** Youth were in a county-run juvenile detention center
- 352** Youth were in a DYS residential program

TODAY TREATMENT

- ✔ Judges are using an assessment to better identify youth who need to be in DYS custody and those best served in their communities.
- ✔ Adjudicated youth are placed immediately into the state's assessment center in Saline County with assessed within 20 days.
- ✔ Each youth gets a robust series of assessments and meetings with specialists. Parents, youth, and a team of specialists and clinicians (education, behavioral health, nursing, substance abuse, and independent living) create a treatment plan tailored to meet the needs of youth.
- ✔ The treatment team reviews the treatment plan and the youth's progress every 90 days or more often if needed.
- ✔ Each youth is given an end date to their stay in residential treatment. The treatment team can change the length of stay only with the DYS Director's approval. Typically, length of stay for non-violent or non-sex offenders is three to six months.

TODAY

- 6** Youth are in a county-run juvenile detention center
- 235** Youth are in a DYS residential program