

“DEALING WITH DELINQUENCY”



66th Annual V.G. Young School for County Commissioners 2024
BCJS Deputy Director of Community Services - Joel M. Hein



“IT’S NOT A CAREER, IT’S A CALLING”

- You don't do a job like this for the money – you have to love helping people = children & families



“I go to work everyday trying to work myself out of a job!”

BURNOUT CYCLE = EVERY 4 YEARS




AVOIDING BURNOUT – “THE ANTIDOTE”

- “Divide them into 1/3's”
 - 1/3 – Get in trouble & learn their lesson the 1st time.
 - 1/3 – Going to prison no matter what you do.
 - 1/3 – In the middle, straddling the fence & aren't sure which way they will go.
- “Be professional and provide quality services to all but focus on the 1/3 that are in the middle. These are the one's that you have the best chance of helping.”

PREVENTING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY





Texas Family Code Title 3 – Juvenile Justice Code

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF JUVENILE COURT
SYSTEM?

Section 51.01 – Purpose & Interpretation

1. Provide protection of the public and public safety
2. To act in the best interest of the child –
“Remove the taint of criminality.”

1995 The word “punishment” was added (Gov. G.W. Bush)...“To promote the concept of punishment for criminal acts.”*



COMMON QUESTIONS?

1. What motivated you to do this job?
2. What's the #1 reason youth get into trouble?
3. What types of offenses do they commit?
4. What causes them to do what they do?
5. How many of them learn their lesson after the first time?
6. Do you feel like you're making a difference?

DELINQUENT OFFENSE & BEHAVIORAL CHANGES

1980's – Runaway, truancy, school behavior problems, theft, shoplifting, simple assault, occasional marijuana use.

Present 2024:

- Felony offenses
- Gangs
- Aggressive/assaultive behaviors
- Firearms/weapons use
- Mental health issues & frequent prescription of psychotropic medication
- Substance use (marijuana, THC vaping, methamphetamines)

**Southeast Region (24 Counties) = 10% increase violent felonies (February 2023)
92% increase in felony drug offenses.*

P.A.C.T. RISK ASSESSMENT

Positive Achievement Change Tool - (126 questions – updated every 5 mos. / disposition of new offense).

Helps identify: Criminogenic Needs, Risk Factors & Protective Factors = Risk Level (Low, Medium, High).

Domains: Criminal & Social Histories, Mental Health, Attitudes/Behaviors.

A.C.E. Score - Adverse Childhood Experiences:

1. Abuse (sexual, physical, emotional)
2. Neglect (emotional, physical)
3. Family Violence
4. Substance abuse
5. Mental illness
6. Divorce/Separation
7. Incarceration

ACE SCORE & RESILIENCY

Research shows that the more ACE's you have the more difficult it is to develop resiliency & recover from traumatic events

CHALLENGES & CHANGES:

1. Secure detention beds – increased need for counties.
2. Staff recruitment & retention.
3. TJJD Commitments = *50-60 day wait.*
4. Mental Health Services – *need for improved & expanded services.*
5. Lack of facilities equipped to handle juveniles in need of intensive treatment services: *Mental health issues, low IQ, aggressive behavior.*
6. Social Media:
 - *Overwhelmingly negative influence*
 - *Increased ability to organize / network / recruit for criminal & gang activity*
 - *Escalation in violence, drug sales, threats, fights, firearms access & use*



Brazos County

Total # referrals – 614
Avg. age 1st referral – 16 = 22.7%
1 or more out-of-home placements – 3.2%
Males – 71.9%
Single Parent Family – 71.4%
Substance Abuse – 4.4 %
Mental Health Needs – 21.7%
Suspected History of Abuse – 12.6%
Special Ed. Eligible – 19.2%
TJJD Commitments – 8 youth

Statewide (254counties)

42,831
Avg. age – 15 = 22.5%
3%
70.4%
71.5%
14.1%
35.6%
11.9%
14.9%
525 youth

*2022 TJJD STATISTICS

**WENT TO CHECK IN WITH
PROBATION OFFICER**

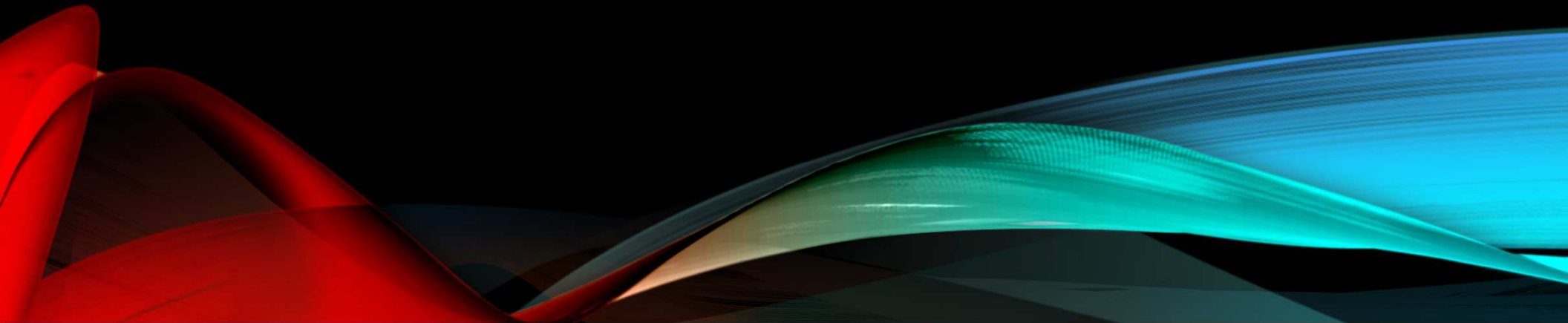


**DIDN'T HAVE TO TAKE A
DRUG TEST**

quickmeme.com

STRUCTURED PROGRAMMING

Youth want structure – because structure provides a sense of safety & security



“Rules without relationship breeds rebellion”



COMMUNITY BASED SPECIAL PROGRAMS

A.R.T. for Life – Art Reaching Teens

Mic-Check Poetry

Music Program

RED Program – Reality Education for Drivers

Volunteer/Mentor Program

STEM Program (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)

Fitness Program

Vape Program

Counseling (Managing Emotions, Substance Use, DBT Skills Group, Parent Support Group)

BENEFITS OF PROGRAMS

Fosters teamwork among juveniles – improved relationships, social skills & peer accountability.

Improved family dynamics / communication.

Creates improved communication & relationships between staff & juveniles.

Provides opportunities for positive interaction between law enforcement & juveniles.

Provides an outlet for positive expression & creativity.

Allows juveniles to address trauma issues & embrace healing.



SPECIAL PROGRAMS PHOTO COLLAGE

