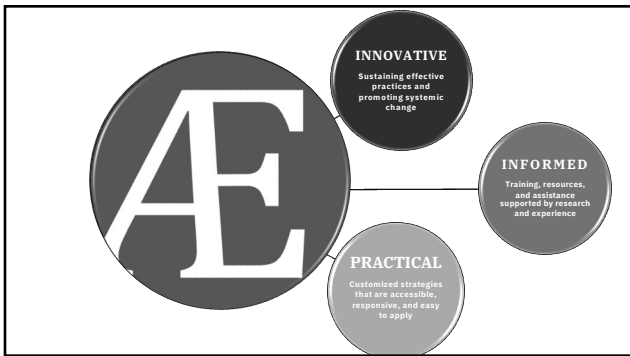


Early Action, Lasting Impact:
The Role of Early Intercept
Diversion in Preventing
Community Violence

York County, PA: FY 19 Innovative Prosecution
Solutions for Combatting Violent Crime

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Innovative Prosecution Solutions

www.innovativeprosecutionsolutions.org

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Support


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Presenters



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Objectives

As a result of this presentation, participants will be better able to:

- Incorporate Family Group Decision Making and Family Team Meetings as part of a broader violence prevention strategy.
- Identify risk factors for violent behavior and leverage protective factors to mitigate the risk of future violence.
- Evaluate and close gaps in the community's response to violence prevention.

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Collaboration

Formal Partners:

- York City Police Department
- York County District Attorney's Office
- York County Human Services – Family Engagement Unit
- York College of Pennsylvania

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Collaboration – Opportunity Through IPS

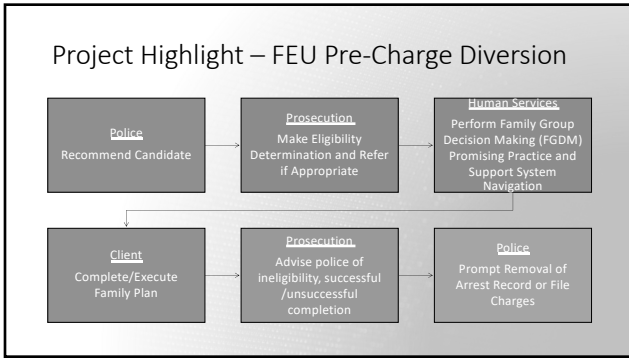
| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Execution of Group Violence Intervention (GVI) strategy with fidelity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued National Network for Safe Communities (NNSC) Contract • Guidance in collaborative work between police, prosecutors, probation, city government, and community | <p>Established specialized leadership role within Prosecutor's Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus: Diversion and alternative sentencing options • Caseloads: Pre-charge diversion and GVI youthful offenders |
|---|---|

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Collaboration – Opportunity Through IPS
(Cont.)

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Development of pilot Pre-Charge Diversion program (police/prosecution-led)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New partnership with Human Services (Family Engagement Unit) • Deepened relationships with community and community-based agencies | <p>New collaboration with Research Partner and TTA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased capacity and competency for data collection, analysis, and reporting through York College of PA Research Team • Technical Assistance from AEquitas |
|--|--|

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Pre-Charge
Diversion

Police Role
(Pre-intervention)

Process

- Incident Occurs
- Candidate appears eligible
- Recommendation submitted to DA's Office

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Pre-Charge
Diversion

District Attorney
Role
(Pre-intervention)

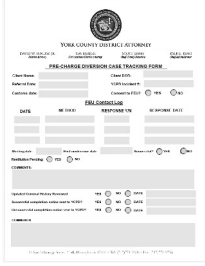
Process

- Confirm Eligibility
- Obtain Victim Feedback
- Determine Restitution
- Reject or Refer to FEU

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Pre-Charge Diversion



Human Services Partner Role
(Applying Intervention)

| Process | |
|---|---|
| Make initial contact with offender/family for agreement to participate |  |
| Schedule first FGDM/FT Meeting | |
| Hold FGDM/FTM and create family plan | |
| Schedule/hold post-conference | |
| Communicate refusal, unsuccessful completion, or successful completion to District Attorney | |

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Pre-Charge Diversion

District Attorney Role
(Post Eligibility Determination/Intervention)

| Process | |
|---|---|
| Confirm Restitution Paid in Full |   |
| Confirm completion status | |
| Notify Victim | |
| Notify arresting agency of determination /outcome | |

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Pre-Charge Diversion

Police Role
(Post Eligibility Determination/Intervention)

| Process | |
|---|--|
| <u>Ineligible or Unsuccessful Completions:</u> File Charges | |
| <u>Successful Completions:</u> Decline filing of charges, withdraw summary citations, and send administrative letter to state police to remove arrest record. | |

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Success Story

Youthful Offender:

- 13-year-old female had 3 unrelated police contacts in a short period of time for a physical altercation at school, possessing a weapon on school property (knife), and possessing marijuana.
- No previous history of police contact.
- Family reported this behavior was unusual for client.

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Success Story (Cont.)

Family Plan:

- FEU – connected youth/family with mental health case management and identified positive activities to provide healthy social experiences.
- Family (Mother, Aunt, Grandmother) sought additional supports from the school district and followed through with behavioral health appointments.
- Family arranged for client to walk younger cousins to/from school to instill responsibility and avoid negative peer group involvement.
- Client self-identified a plan to take her prescribed medications, focus on academics, disconnect from negative peer groups/circumstances.

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Success Story (Cont.)

Outcomes:

- Client appropriately diagnosed with anxiety and depression with subsequent medication management and counseling.
- Client's grades markedly improved, as reported on school progress reports, and she began independently advocating for her educational needs directly with her ELA and classroom teachers.
- Family support system remains actively involved and reports that client is openly communicating her needs.

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Success Story (Cont.)

Outcomes:

- Youth continues to walk her younger cousins to school.
- Mother is enrolling Client in a local Arts/Dance program to allow her to express herself through dance as a reward for improved academics, behavior, and new role as a role model for her younger cousins.
- Client has had no further school incidents or police contact since successful completion.

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Collaboration

Partnering with Researchers for First Time

| Learning Best Practices | Establishing Data Dictionary | Developing High-Quality Data Sets |
|---|---|--|
| Sometimes best practice differs between Research and Criminal Justice sectors (e.g., random controlled trial vs. time series designs). Working together to determine the best approach. | Ensuring all project staff responsible for data collection, analysis, and reporting understand variables, variable names, measurements, values and definitions in the data set(s) | Willingness to alter/supplement existing data sets to improve collection and provision, thereby leverage new research competencies |

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Data: Evaluation of Progress

| FEU Pre-Charge Diversion – Lower Recidivism Rates | GVI Call-Ins – Recidivism Rates |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7% Recidivism rate for pre-charge diversion group vs. 67% rate for comparison group | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recidivism higher than comparison city (Columbia, SC); however, only 22% of attendees committed a violent crime post call-in • Overall Violent Crime (Data Management) — Well-positioned for future evaluation projects and data-driven policy shifts due to meaningful improvement in data recording procedures and data quality via the initial research project. |

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Data: Evaluation of Progress (Cont.)

| Prosecution – Disposition Timelines |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No statistically significant difference in timelines during the research period (despite COVID court closures) |

| Prosecution – Successful Prosecution |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45.89% project success rate vs. 71.77% success rate in pre-project disposition data Plea negotiations increased (COVID court closures/limited trial time) 10.57% recidivism for prosecution strategy group vs. 57% rate for comparison group This data provided the opportunity to examine approaches, strengthen approach of GVI Unit/SAUSA Prosecutor, and appropriately redefine success |

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Reflection

| Obstacles | Successes |
|--|--|
| COVID: Engagement, Delivery of Service, Resource Capacity Changes in Leadership Roles Initial Diversion Engagement | GVI MOU / Codification of Policy Consistency in Disposition Timelines Promising Initial Pre-Charge Diversion Outcomes Replication of Pre-Charge Diversion Program Well-Positioned for Future Evaluation Projects and Data-Driven Policy Shifts |

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Evaluation of Progress:

Where are we now?

Reduction in gun-related violence can be attributed to the combination of effective law enforcement strategies, community engagement, support for high-risk individuals, and the seamless collaboration between partnering agencies.

Overall Gun Violence/Firearms Incidents: 36% Decrease from 2022-2023

GMI Shootings: 80% decrease from 2022 – 2023

Persons Struck Incidents: 59% decrease from 2016-2022 annual average

Shots Fired Calls: 49% decrease from 2022-2023

2023 Areas of Focus: Ongoing evaluation of needs, Prison Customs, Scholarship Opportunities, STOP That! Tour

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Going Forward

- Incorporate Family Group Decision Making and Family Team Meetings as part of a broader violence prevention strategy.
- Identify risk factors for violent behavior and leverage protective factors to mitigate the risk of future violence.
- Evaluate and close gaps in the community's response to violence prevention.

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