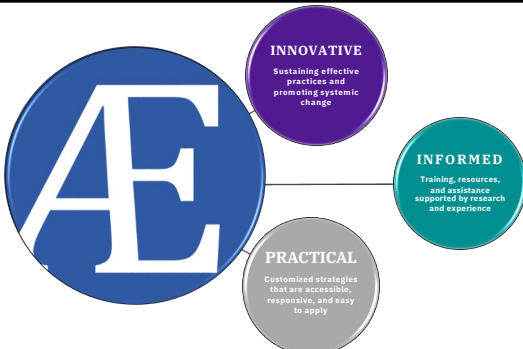


Early Action, Lasting Impact: The Role of Early Intercept Diversion in Preventing Community Violence

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

1



2

Innovative Prosecution Solutions

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3

Support

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4

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5

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.

6

Collaboration

Formal Partners:

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

7

Collaboration – Opportunity Through IPS

Execution of Group Violence Intervention (GVI) strategy with fidelity

- Continued National Network for Safe Communities (NNSC) Contract
- Guidance in collaborative work between police, prosecutors, probation, city government, and community

Established specialized leadership role within Prosecutor's Office

- Focus: Diversion and alternative sentencing options
- Caseloads: Pre-charge diversion and GVI youthful offenders

8

Collaboration – Opportunity Through IPS

(Cont.)

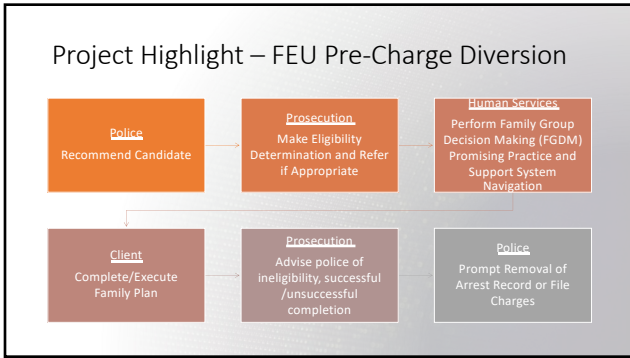
Development of pilot Pre-Charge Diversion program (police/prosecution-led)

- New partnership with Human Services (Family Engagement Unit)
- Deepened relationships with community and community-based agencies

New collaboration with Research Partner and TTA

- Increased capacity and competency for data collection, analysis, and reporting through York College of PA Research Team
- Technical Assistance from AEquitas

9



10

Pre-Charge Diversion

Police Role
(Pre-intervention)

Process

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

11

Pre-Charge Diversion

District Attorney Role
(Pre-intervention)

Process

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

12

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

13

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

14

Pre-Charge Diversion

Police Role
(Post Eligibility Determination/Intervention)

Process

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

15

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.

16

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.

17

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.

18

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.

19

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

20

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.

21

Data: Evaluation of Progress (Cont.)

Prosecution – Disposition Timelines

- No statistically significant difference in timelines during the research period (despite COVID court closures)

Prosecution – Successful Prosecution

- 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

22

Reflection

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

23

24

Evaluation of Progress:

Where are we now?

TAKEAWAY

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

25

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.

26

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27