

# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS OF JUVENILE JUSTICE INVOLVED YOUTH

Cheri Wright, LCSW

Manager of Clinical Services

Clark County

Department of Juvenile Justice Services

March 27, 2018

# OVERVIEW

---

- Up to 70% of youth meet criteria for at least one mental health disorder
- Of those, 60% experience a co-occurring substance use disorder
- About a quarter of youth have disorders severe enough to require immediate and significant treatment

# OVERVIEW

---

- At least 75% of youth in the juvenile justice system have experienced a traumatic victimization
- Youth in juvenile placement are nearly three times the risk for suicide as youth in the general population

# CLARK COUNTY

---

- Currently, DJJS Clinical Services is responding to 358 referrals
- 168 youth are currently being held in our juvenile detention facility
- 12 of those youth are on suicide precautions due to their immediate and significant behavioral health needs

# CLARK COUNTY

---

- 90 male youth currently placed at Spring Mountain Youth Camp
- 12 youth placed at the Spring Mountain Residential Center
- 27 youth placed in residential treatment centers

# THE RESEARCH

---

Research conducted by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2015 on 423 DJJS clients showed:

- 70% of DJJS total cases are non-violent misdemeanor offenses
- 30% surveyed reported familial issues
- 30% reported educational issues
- 70% scored less than 3 of a possible 8 in major institutional and personal risk factors that indicate they are less likely to harm themselves and others

# MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AT DJJS

- We have continued to expand mental health services out of necessity
- Youth with unmet behavioral health needs are often inappropriately involved in the juvenile justice system
- These services are only provided on a short term basis while youth are under the supervision of the department

# SOLUTION

---

Diversion – creating more opportunities for youth with behavioral health needs to be safely and appropriately diverted to community-based treatment at critical points of contact



# CRITICAL POINTS OF CONTACT

---

- Probation-Intake Based Diversion
- School-Based Diversion Model
- Law Enforcement Based Diversion

# THE HARBOR JUVENILE ASSESSMENT CENTER

- The Harbor opened in October 2016 to provide a safe place for guidance and to be responsive to the well-being of youth, families, victims, and the Clark County community by providing meaningful services to youth and families to address their immediate needs
- Prevention, Early Intervention, Diversion
- No wrong door

# THE HARBOR JUVENILE ASSESSMENT CENTER

- No fees
- Provide assessment and referral services to youth age 17 and under and their families
- The Harbor is unique in that it is the largest multi-agency collaboration in Nevada

# HARBOR PARTNERS

---

- Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services
- Clark County Department of Family Services
- Clark County District Attorney's Office
- Clark County School District
- Department of Child and Family Services
- Division of Welfare and Supportive Services

# HARBOR PARTNERS

---

- Division of Public and Behavioral Health
- Las Metropolitan Police Department
- North Las Vegas Police Department
- Clark County School District Police Department
- City of Las Vegas
- WestCare
- Eagle Quest

# HARBOR RESULTS

---

- Since opening in October of 2016, the Harbor has serviced over 3,000 youth and families
- Of those youth, approximately 5% have escalated to juvenile justice services involvement
- We have received positive feedback from clients regarding their overall experience at the Harbor

# DIVERSION MAKES SENSE

---

- Brain development is not complete until the mid 20's
- Adolescents are more likely to engage in risky behavior
- Kids make mistakes
- Most of them need guidance and not a Courtroom

# DIVERSION MAKES SENSE

---

- Youth connected to evidence based interventions immediately are less likely to escalate into a multitude of systems
- By diverting youth, we are reducing the reliance on Detention beds that come with a price tag of up to \$290 per day
- Formal processing increases youth's probability of further delinquencies



# THE FUTURE OF THE HARBOR

---

- We moved to our permanent location in January of 2018
- Last month we opened our doors 24/7
- Second location is projected to open in May 2018
- Long term goal is to have 4 locations across the valley to best service the community
- Funding needed to support growth

# CONTACT INFORMATION

---

The Harbor is located at 861 North Mojave, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

(702) 455-6912

TheHarborLV.com

[wrightcl@clarkcountynv.gov](mailto:wrightcl@clarkcountynv.gov)

(702) 455-5226