Implementation of the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) in Wisconsin

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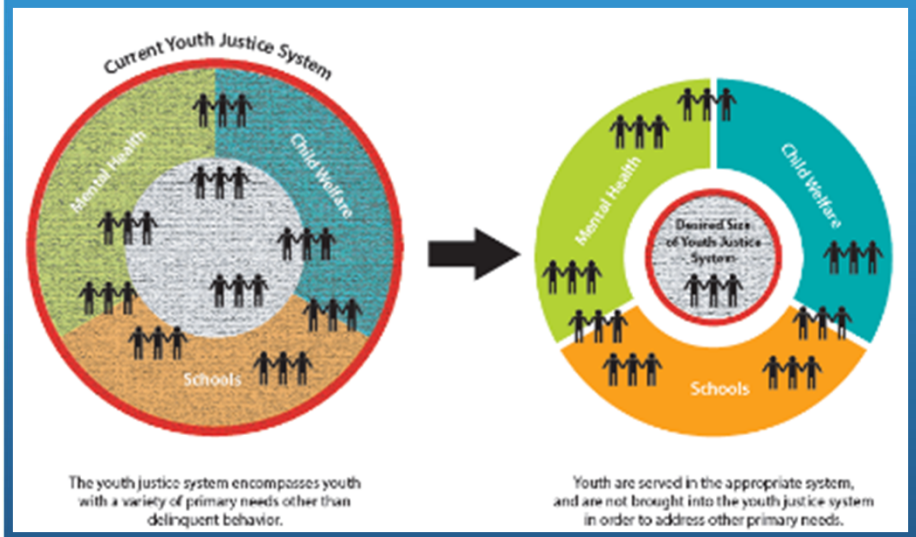
WI SPD Annual Conference
November 8, 2019

Presentation Overview

1. Research Evidence and Reasons for adopting a Risk and Needs Assessment in Youth Justice
2. Overview of the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI)
3. YASI Statewide Implementation Process and YASI Policy

Why is DCF Implementing a Statewide Risk/Needs Assessment?

Youth Justice Strategic Plan Stakeholder Input Gathered



Adopt uniform statewide tool that is:

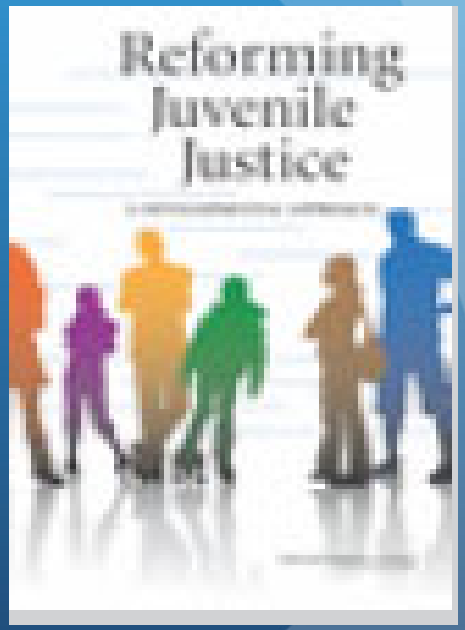
- Comprehensive and family inclusive
- Addresses youth resilience and strengths

- Ensures that only those youth with risk levels that necessitate involvement in the youth justice system enter the system

- DCF provides free or low cost access to tool

Research-based Recommendations For Reform & Preventing Youth Reoffending

National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences (2013). *Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Approach*



- Use structured risk and need assessment instruments
  - to identify youth at low-risk to reoffend who can be handled less formally in community-based settings,
  - to match youths with specialized treatment, and
  - to target more intensive and expensive interventions toward youth at high-risk to reoffend.

Nationwide Use of Risk Assessment

JJGPS JUVENILE JUSTICE GEOGRAPHY, POLICY, PRACTICE & STATISTICS STATESCAN

Andrew Wachter, MS
Research Associate, NCJJ

Updated May 2015

Juvenile Justice GPS (Geography, Policy, Practice & Statistics) is an online repository providing state policy makers and system stakeholders with a clear understanding of the juvenile justice landscape in the states. The site layers the most relevant national and state-level statistics with information on state laws and practice and charts juvenile justice system change. In a landscape that is highly decentralized and ever-shifting, JJGPS provides an invaluable resource for those wanting to improve the juvenile justice system.

Statewide Risk Assessment in Juvenile Probation

Research on the use of validated risk/needs assessments in juvenile justice, herein referred to as risk assessments, has grown significantly in the last decade, improving the ability of the U.S. to determine the extent to which these tools have been adopted across the country.

as Massachusetts and West Virginia that have adopted the practice at the state level but are still in the process of implementation.

Reasons Why We Use Risk/Need Assessment: Research Evidence

There is emerging consensus on characteristics of effective programming for youth who commit delinquent acts:

1. Punitive sanctions alone do not have a significant effect on re-offending (Gatti et al., 2009).
2. Severity of a youth's offense is not a strong indicator of the future pattern of offending (Mulvey et al., 2010). Tested static and dynamic risk factors for offending are (e.g., Lipsey & Derzon, 1998).

Reasons Why We Use Risk/Need Assessment: Research Evidence

3. Confinement is Expensive

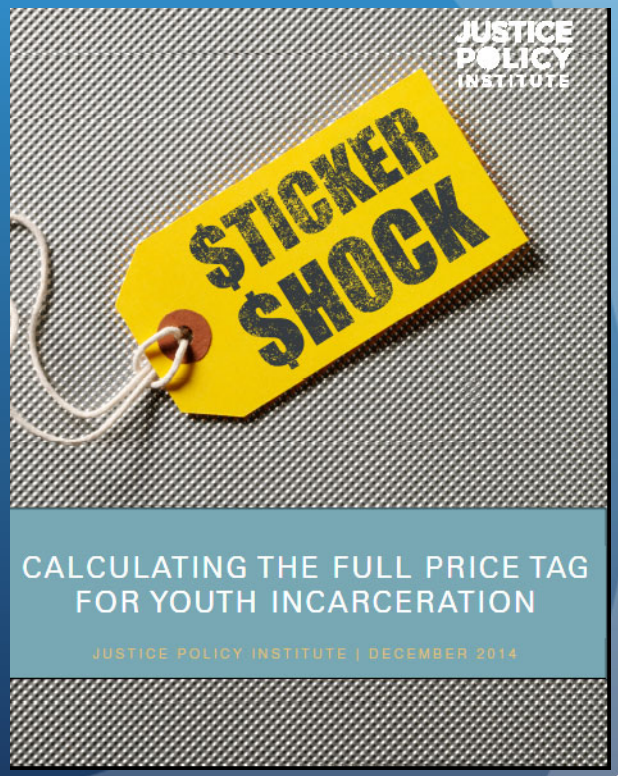
- Direct costs of confinement in the US per youth per year

  = up to $148,767

- Total costs of youth confinement in US per year

  = $8 to $21 billion

- Confinement has diminishing returns after 6 months



Reasons Why We Use Risk/Need Assessment: Research Evidence

4. To be more consistent with adolescent development

- Delinquency and aggression are near normative behaviors during adolescence (Elliot)
- Risk changes over time and desists in early adulthood for most (Moffitt, 1993)

Reasons Why We Use Risk/Need Assessment: Research Evidence

5. Dispositions based on risk level and needs are more likely to be effective

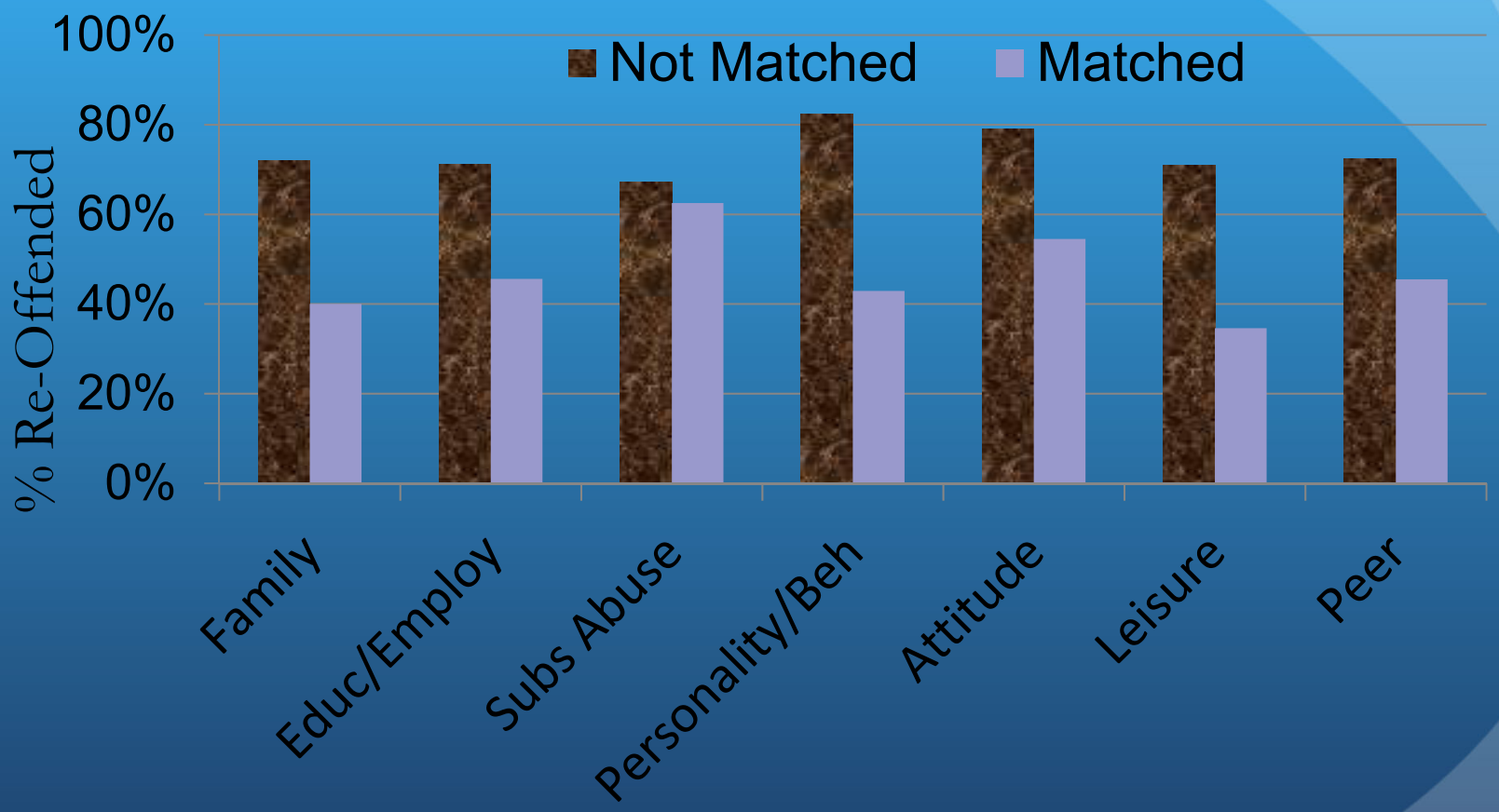
- Most youth at lower-risk to reoffend are unlikely to reoffend even if there is no intervention (Lipsey, 2009). But mixing them with youth at high risk to reoffend may make them worse.

- When services are **matched** to youth's level of risk, strengths, and what might be driving their delinquency (*criminogenic needs*), the lower the chance of offending.

Research Evidence: Criminogenic Needs and Strengths

- **Central Criminogenic Needs**
  - Family/Poor Parental Monitoring
  - Pro-criminal attitudes
  - Behavioral problems/personality
  - Negative or Deviant Peers
  - Substance Abuse
  - Education/Employment
  - Lack of Prosocial Recreational Activities
- **Protective Factors or Strengths**
  - Commitment to school, social support, pro-social activities

Service to Need Matching: Recidivism Rates for Matched vs. Not Matched



Peterson-Badali, Skilling, Haqanee (2014)

Goal: Individualized Case Planning Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR)

Effective and individualized case management requires valid assessment & RNR principles:

- **Risk** – Match the intensity of the intervention with one's level of risk for re-offending
- **Need** – Target dynamic or changeable risk factors (aka *criminogenic needs*)
- **Responsivity** – Match the mode & strategies of services with the individual

About the

Research-Based

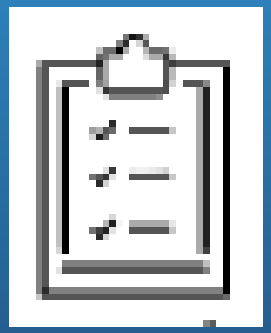
Focus on the Principles of Risk, Need, Responsivity (RNR)

- Adapted from the Washington juvenile assessment model
- **Assesses risk** level for re-offense
- Identifies **dynamic need factors**
- Documents a variety of **responsivity factors** (trauma, mental health concerns, motivations) to guide individualized intervention approaches
- Uses **Motivational Interviewing** (MI) to inform both the assessment process and case planning

Domains

Assess Static and Dynamic Factors

1. Legal History
2. Family
3. School
4. Community/Peers
5. Alcohol/Drugs



6. Mental Health
7. Violence/Aggression
8. Attitudes
9. Adaptive Skills
10. Use of Free Time/ Employment

About the YASI™ Youth Assessment & Screening Instrument

Strengths and Protective Factors

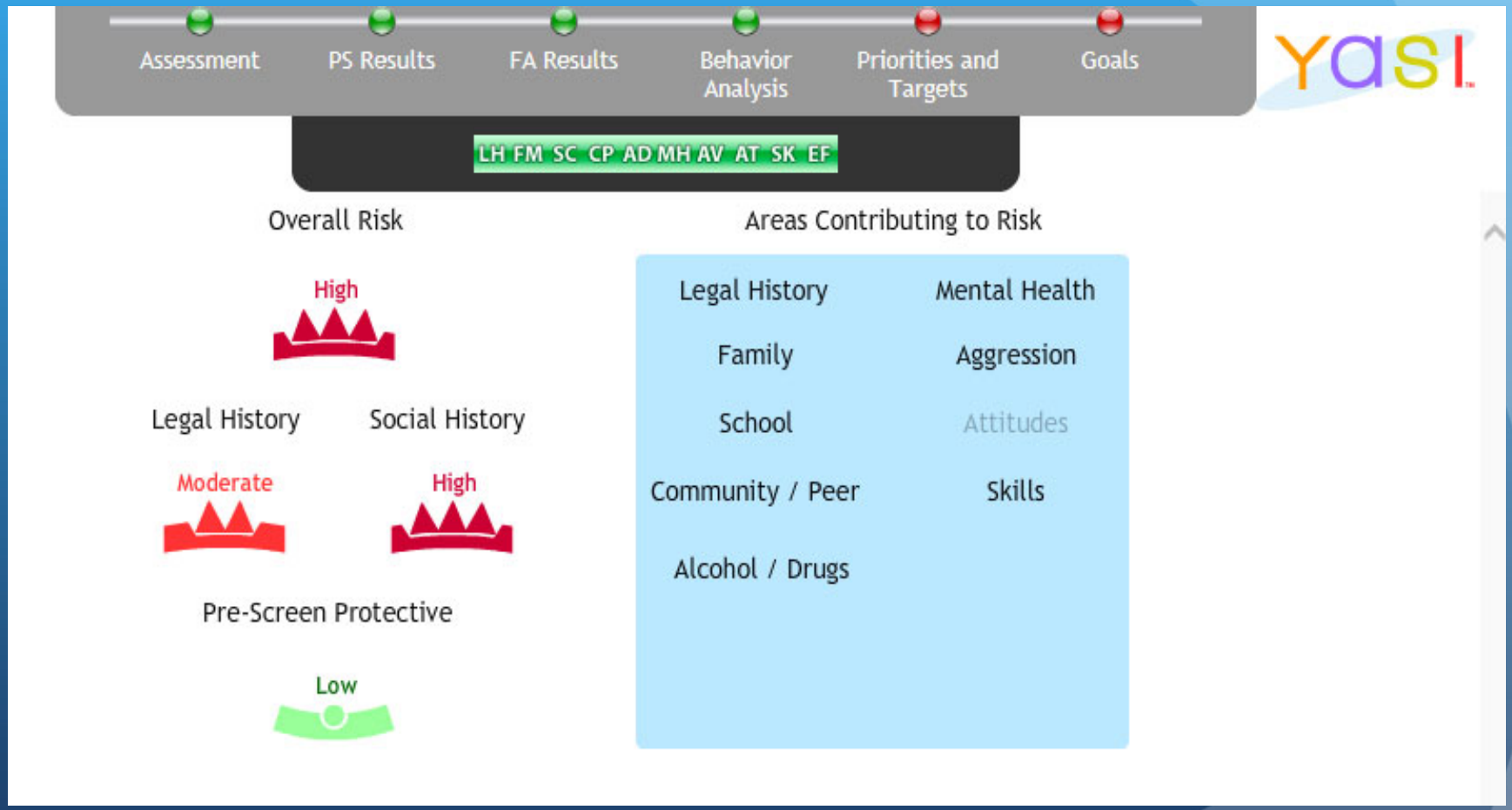
- Research on strengths and developmental assets has taught us how protective factors can buffer risk and promote resiliency.
  - Youth at high-risk to reoffend who possess protective factors have appreciably better outcomes.

Additional Key Features

- Gender Specific
- Trauma Informed
- Mental Health
- Youth Focused

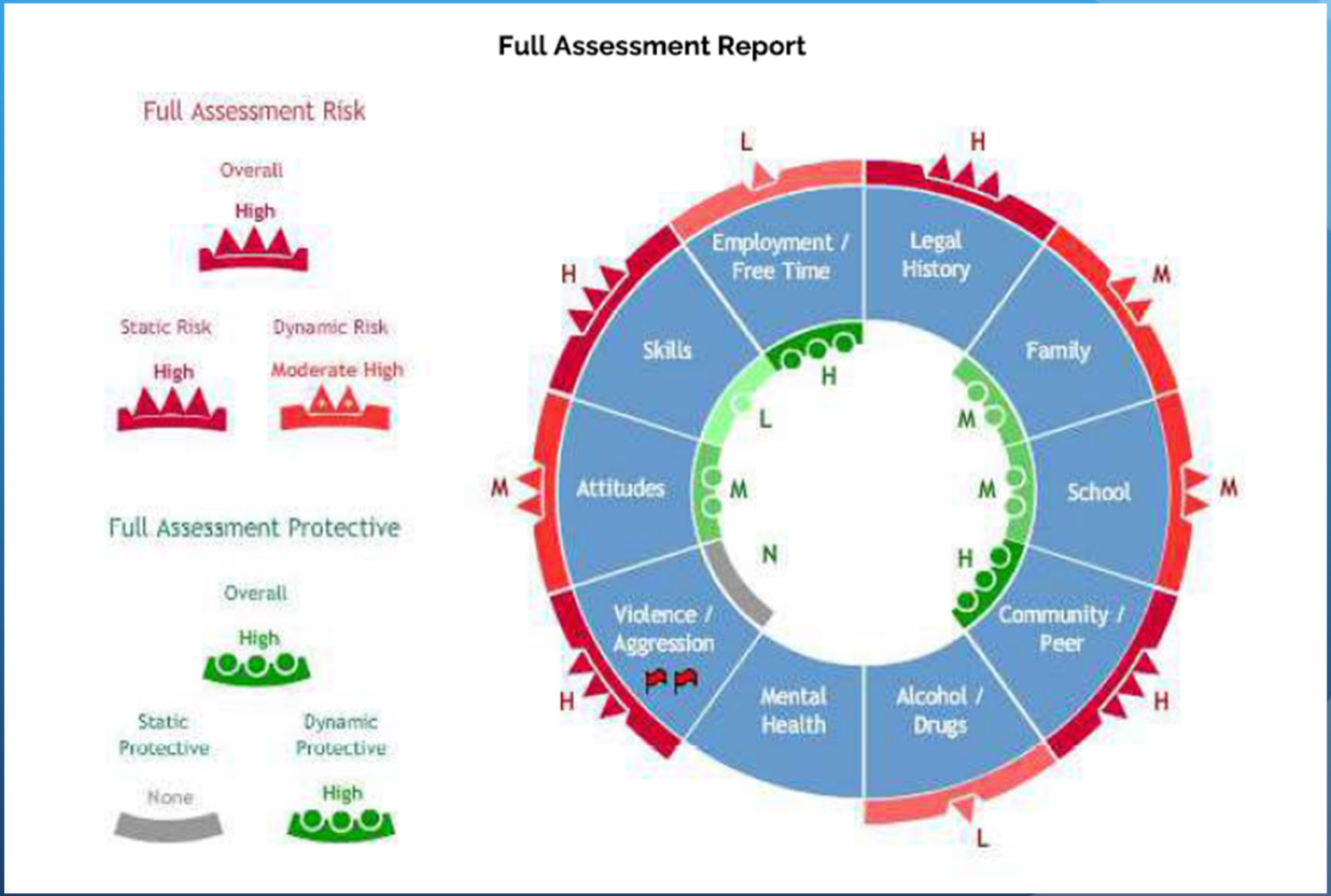
Pre-screen Results

33 Items



Full Assessment Results

Additional 55 items for 88 total



Case Planning

Components:

- **Mapping**

  Assessment, interpretation of the results, feedback to youth

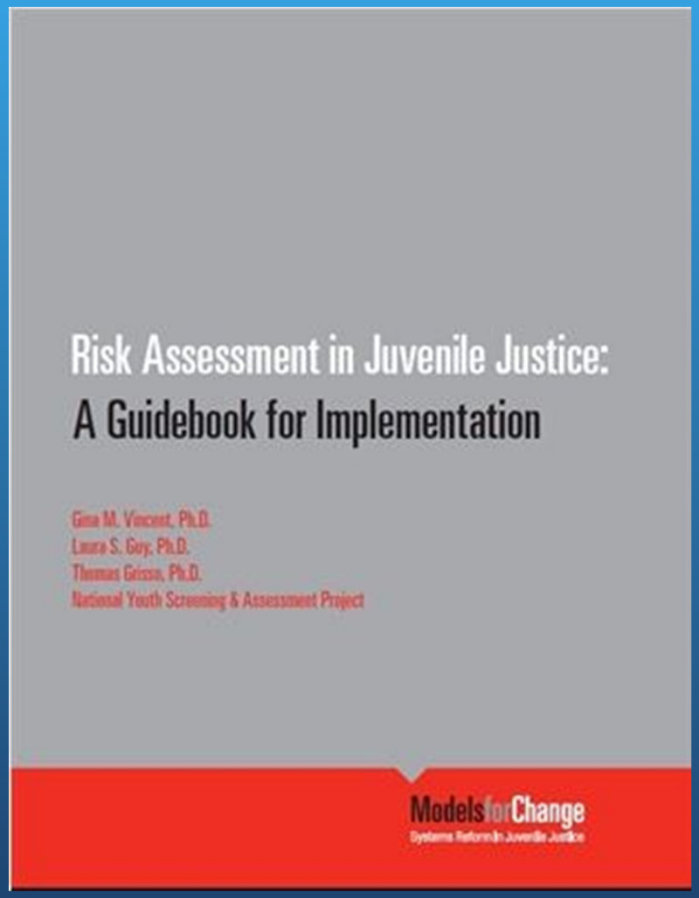
- **Planning**

  Mobilizing motivation, setting goals, selecting action steps

- **Reviewing and Supporting**

  Managing the plan as it progresses, reinforcing the positive gains

Nothing Changes Without Effective Implementation

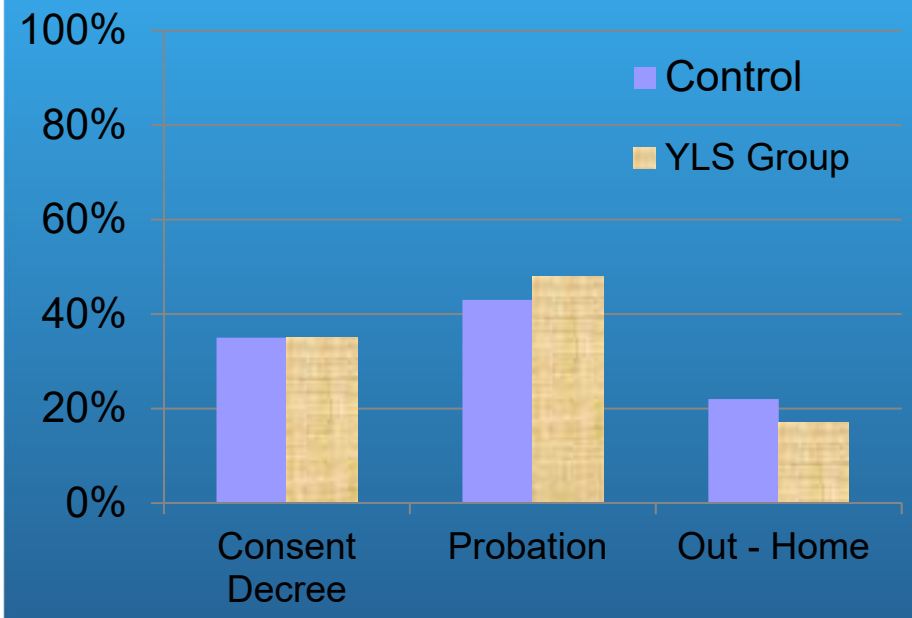


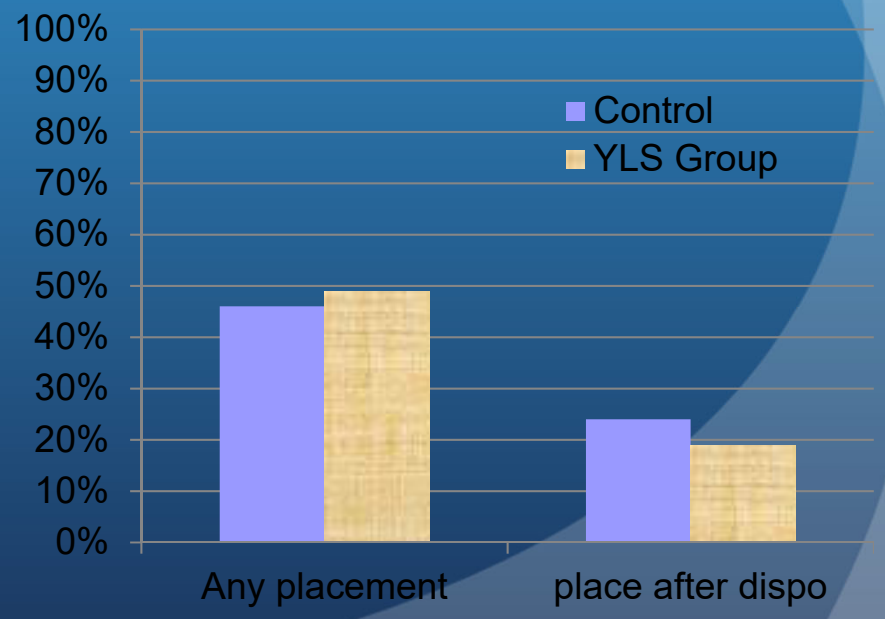
8 Steps to Implementation

1. Getting ready
2. Establish buy-in
3. Select tool
4. Develop policies
5. Training
6. Pilot test
7. Full implementation
8. Sustainability/Data

Vincent, Guy, & Grisso (2012) Funded by MacArthur Foundation

What Can Happen When There Is Not Quality Implementation





No change in anything after implementing risk assessment

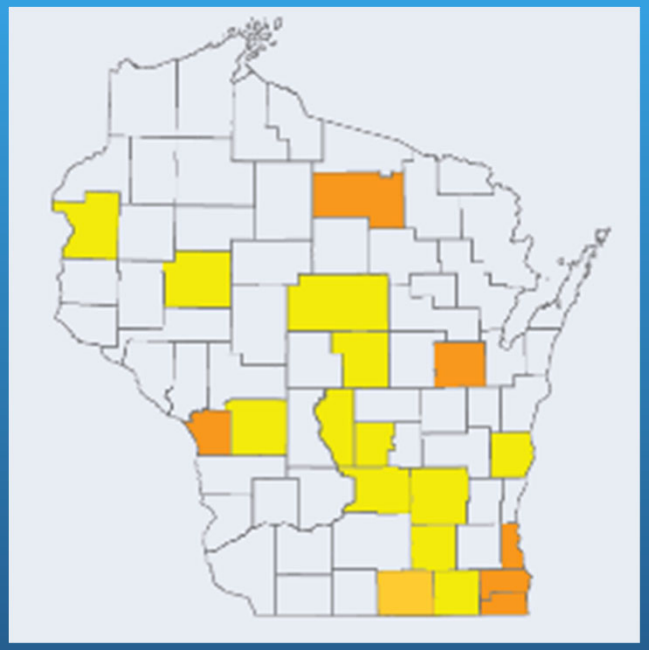
(Vincent, Guy, et al., 2016)

Implementation in Wisconsin: Phases and Selection Process

- 2-year phased implementation
  - 13 counties selected for Phase 1
  - Kick-off in May 2019
- County Selection Criteria
  - Robust Data Collection
  - Leadership Strength
  - Urban/Rural mix
  - Mentorship
  - Local Implementation Committee
  - Judicial letter of support

Phase 1 Counties

- Adams
- Chippewa
- Columbia
- Dodge
- Jefferson
- Marathon
- Marquette
- Monroe
- Polk



- Portage
- Rock*
- Sheboygan
- Walworth

*Current YASI user

Yellow - Phase 1 counties

Orange - Counties that currently use YASI

Phase 2 Counties

- Brown
- Clark
- Dane
- Douglas
- Dunn
- Eau Claire
- Green
- Green Lake
- Juneau
- *La Crosse (current user)*
- Lafayette
- Lincoln
- Ozaukee
- Pierce
- *Racine (current user)*
- Sauk
- Vilas
- Waukesha
- Waupaca
- Winnebago

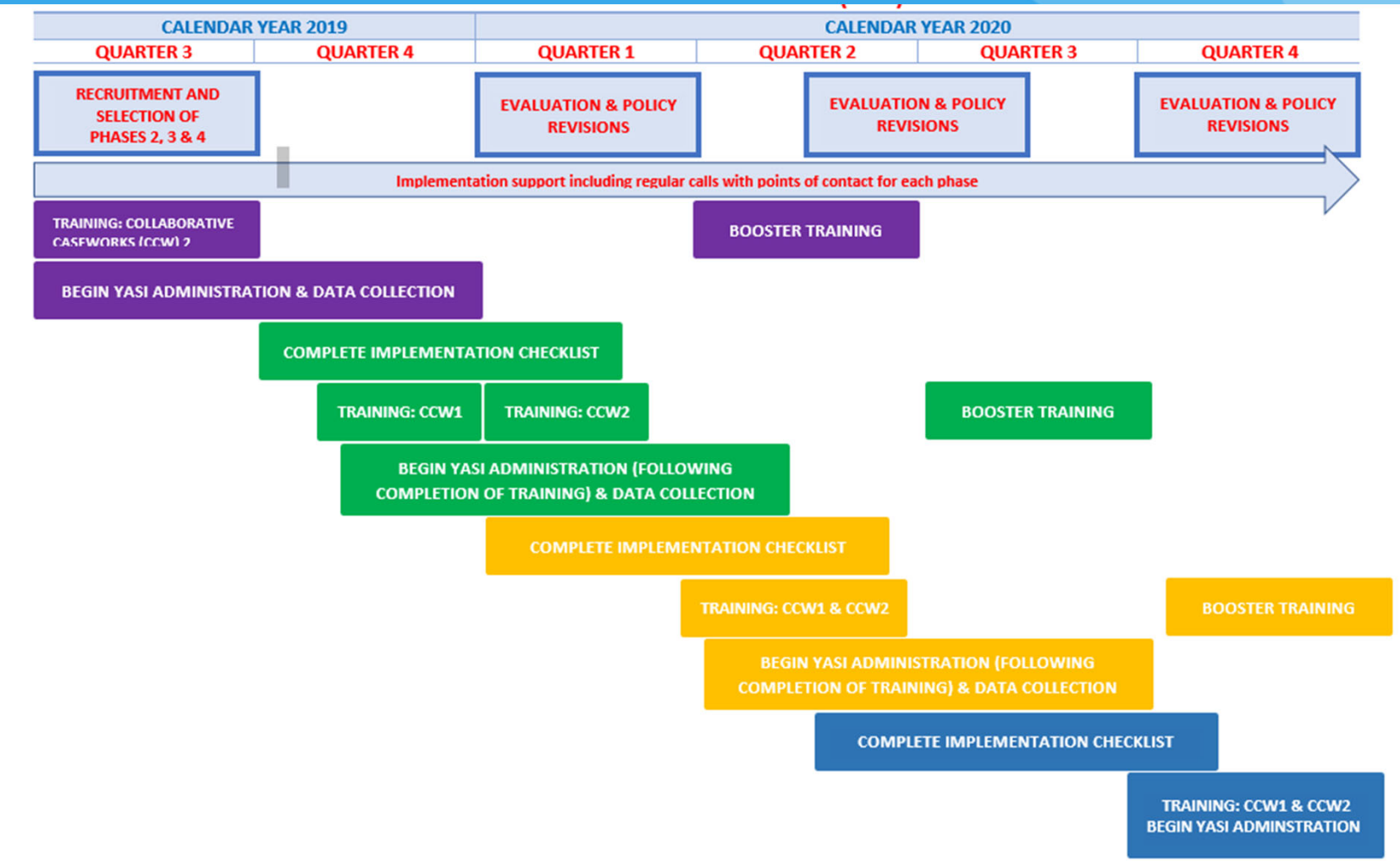
Implementation Structure

5 Implementation Subcommittees + Steering Committee

1. Policy and Document Development
2. Data System Integration
3. Training
4. Communication and Stakeholder Buy-In
5. Evaluation and Project Sustainability

- 2-year contract with National Youth Screening & Assessment Partners (NYSAP) to assist with implementation

Implementation in Wisconsin: Roll-out Calendar



NOTE: Booster training and data collection for Phase 4 counties will continue in 2021. Final evaluation and revisions to the policy will occur in quarter 2 & 3 of 2021.

Implementation Pre-Work

1. Implementation Checklist
2. Stakeholder Buy-In ‘Care Package’
3. YASI Policy
4. Service Matrix

YASI Administration Policy

Youth Justice Standard 3.0 – Utilizing the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI)

3.01 Administration of the Pre-screen

3.02 Serving Youth Identified as Low-Risk to Reoffend

3.03 Administration of the Full Assessment

3.04 Case Planning

3.05 Reassessment

3.06 Training Requirements

3.07 Duties of the Supervisor

Service Matrix

Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI)
Implementation
SERVICE INVENTORY AND MATCHING **DRAFT**

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The "What Works" research indicates that services built on the Principles of Effective Interventions[1] are more likely to have the greatest impact. The principles are:

The Risk Principle	The Need Principle	The Responsivity & Program Integrity Principles
· Delinquent or acting out behavior can be predicted.	· It is critical to identify the needs that can be linked to delinquent behavior.	· The delivery of effective treatment programs that are responsive to the youth's motivation, values, abilities, learning styles and strengths.
· Intensity of treatment services should be matched to the risk level of the youth. Youth at high risk of reoffending require more extensive services; youth at low risk of reoffending require minimal or no intervention.	· The identified risk/needs factors that are dynamic or changeable (e.g. attitudes, values and behaviors) should serve as the targets for intervention.	· Staff who deliver interventions to youth require supports, including: policies and procedures that include ethical guidelines and standards of professional conduct; ongoing supervision and technical support; training and awareness; and adequate resources for sustaining integrity.

Utilize the tabs within this document to develop a list of targeted interventions available in your community that respond to youth priority need areas. Some examples of effective services have been provided. It is not uncommon for communities to not have all or most of the services identified. The purpose of this template is to allow counties to inventory their current resources (utilizing information from 2-1-1, conversations with community providers, etc.),

Instructions | FAMILY | SCHOOL | COMMUNITY - PEER | ALCOHOL - DRUGS | MENTAL HEALTH | VIOLENCE -

Training

WCWPDS and Orbis Partners:

- 2019/2020 Training Calendar
- Booster Training
- Coaching

Communication and Stakeholder Buy-In

- Change Readiness Survey
- Conference Presentations
- YASI Information 'Care Package'
- Agency Kick-Offs with System Partners

Evaluation and Project Sustainability

- Implementation Checklist
- Evaluate Phase 1 Roll-Out
- Evaluate YASI Policy

Next Steps

- Evaluate Phase 1 implementation process, YASI policy and supporting documents
- Phase 2 counties working on Implementation Checklist
- Phase 2 counties begin CCW1 training
- DCF continues to promote county innovation and evidence-based practices in the field
- DCF continues to provide technical assistance to fill service matching gaps

Questions?

Contact me via email:

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