Improving Outcomes for Multi-System Involved Youth Who Cross Over Between Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Webinar Series

Webinar One: Causes, Correlates, and Pathways of Multi-System Youth: Research, Data, and What We Know

Hosted by
The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
in coordination with the Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform
Shay Bilchik, Moderator
Director
Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform
Webinar Objectives

• **Objective 1:** Participants will be able to define different categories and pathways of crossover youth.

• **Objective 2:** Participants will be able to identify key risk factors for delinquency among youth who are in the child welfare system and cross into delinquency.

• **Objective 3:** Participants will recognize the characteristics of youth who are in the child welfare system and cross into delinquency.

• **Objective 4:** Participants will understand the impact of crossing over on long-term outcomes.
Who Are Crossover Youth?

Denise C. Herz, Ph.D.
California State University—Los Angeles
dherz@calstatela.edu
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crossover Youth:</td>
<td>Any youth who experiences maltreatment and engages in delinquency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dually-Involved:</td>
<td>A crossover youth who has had some level of system contact in the child welfare &amp; juvenile justice systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dually-Adjudicated:</td>
<td>A dually-involved youth who has court involvement in both systems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dual Involvement Pathways

Pathways with Known CW History

• **Pathway 1**: Open CW case with subsequent delinquency charge

• **Pathway 2**: Previous but not current CW case at time of delinquency → new referral

Pathways without Known CW History

• **Pathway 3**: Upon JJ investigation after delinquency occurs, maltreatment discovered → referral to CW

• **Pathway 4**: Term of correctional placement ends, but no home or no safe home to return to → referral to CW
Prevalence of Dually-Involved Youth: Pathway 1

Child Welfare Population
- 8+ youth in Child Welfare cross into delinquency system via arrest

Juvenile Justice Referrals
- Overall Cases: 67% have some type of CW history (King County)
- Diversion Cases
  - 1% Arizona-4 Counties
  - 34% King Co.

Juvenile Justice Adjudicated Cases
- Overall: 35% (New Mexico)
- Probation Supervision: 7% Arizona-4 Counties
- Probation Placement: 42% Arizona-4 Counties
What Contributes to Crossing Over into Delinquency?
Poll Question #1
Question 1

An important predictor for crossing into delinquency from maltreatment is which of the following:

A. A parent’s level of substance use
B. A parent’s prior criminal justice background
C. Experiencing abuse only in early childhood
D. Experiencing abuse persistently from early childhood into adolescence
The Persistence of Maltreatment

Maltreatment Occurs

Reported to Child Welfare System

No Action—Unsubstantiated

Preventative Services

Intervention—Placement, Services, Etc.

Maltreatment Reoccurs

Not Reported to Child Welfare System

Maltreatment Continues

KEY PREDICTORS FOR DELINQUENCY:
• # of referrals to child welfare system
• Adolescent-limited or persistent maltreatment
Question 2

Living in a group home has been found to increase the likelihood of delinquency compared to other types of placements.

A. True
B. False
System Experiences

Risk Factors for Delinquency
- Placement instability
- Group homes (limited)
- Relative care (limited)
- Absence of pro-social bonds

Key Characteristics
- Over two-thirds have a MH problem, SA problem, or both
- A majority experience problems at school
- Many have special education issues

Delinquency
Between 7-29% of child welfare populations (ages 10-17) will be arrested

Placements
Services
Child Welfare System Involvement
What are the System Experiences of Dually-Involved Youth?
Poll Question #3
Question 3

Which of the following does not characterize a dually-involved youth?

A. 33-50% are likely to be detained after arrest

B. 25-33% of the offenses occur where the youth is living or at school

C. At the time these youth are arrested and adjudicated, their prior contact with law enforcement is minimal.

D. Limited research indicates that dually-involved youth may be considered higher risk because of their child welfare status and receive more serious juvenile justice dispositions than youth without a child welfare background.

E. None of the above
The Juvenile Justice Experience

Key Characteristics

• Around 40% of charges are for a violent offense, particularly for assault
• Between 25% and 33% of these charges occur at placement, which is often a group home
• Approximately 10-15% of these offenses occur at school
• Between 33% and 50% are detained at the time of offense

Limited Information but to date, some research shows that youth with child welfare case are viewed as higher risk and more likely to get more severe dispositions
Long-Term Outcomes

• Higher rates of substance abuse
• Higher rates of mental illness
• Higher rates of criminal involvement as adults
• Higher rates of child welfare involvement as parents/perpetrators of maltreatment
What Does Current Research Tell Us?

- Prevention and early intervention for maltreatment is critically important

- System responses must be carefully considered
  - Use of placements is particularly concerning
  - Assessing risk for delinquency and providing appropriate intervention is important

- Results imply (although do not directly show yet) that the trauma of maltreatment itself and additionally through system involvement may be critically important to understanding the delinquency trajectory.
Implications for a Multisystems Approach

• Interagency collaboration is not optional—it is necessary and should include
  – Child welfare system
  – Juvenile justice system
  – Educational, health, and behavioral health systems
  – Public defenders and prosecutors

• Efforts should be built from both a “bottom up” approach and a “top down” approach

• Prioritize early identification (whenever possible) and early intervention after delinquency occurs
The Crossover Youth Practice Model
The CYPM Research Component

• All CYPM sites are required to collect basic information and characteristics on every youth identified as part of their target population for one year.

• Sites must then track their progress at 6 months and 1 year.

• Early results are positive
# CYPM Interim Data Findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CYPM Treatment Youth</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open child welfare case with subsequent delinquency</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delinquency with previous but not current child welfare case</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delinquency with no current or previous child welfare case</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total CYPM Youth</strong></td>
<td>957</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Increase in Early Identification

50% increase in the early identification of dually-involved youth over 1 year of CYPM implementation
Increased Use of Joint Assessment

The use of joint assessment increased by 127% over 1 year of CYPM implementation.
Questions submitted during the presentation will now be addressed!
Preparing Your System to Address This Population of Youth

John Tuell
Co-Director
MacArthur Foundation Models for Change: Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice Initiative
What Does the Research Tell Us About the Issues We Will Need to Confront?

• Who will we need as partners to succeed? How will we engage them as partners?

• How do we learn of the prevalence of this population? What about youth and family characteristics?

• How will we determine our mutual goals, objectives, and outcomes?

• In view of perceived and/or real information sharing obstacles, how will we exchange or share information?

• How will we assess needs? How will we share resources?

• How will we work together to manage cases?

• How do we get families involved?
Identification of the Imperative Issues Impacting Success

1. Develop Leadership and Establish Governance & Management Structure

2. Study & Analysis
   a. Data
   b. Mapping
   c. Legal & Policy Analysis
   d. Resource & Assessment Inventories

3. Culture Change

4. Prevention

5. Family & Community Engagement

6. Policies, Procedures, & Practices
   a. Information & Resource Sharing
   b. Court
   c. Joint Assessment & Case Planning
   d. Case Management & Supervision
   e. Permanency & PYD

2001 – Systems Integration Initiative
Maltreatment & Delinquency Trajectory
MacArthur Foundation - Models for Change


2009 – Crossover Youth Practice Model
Crossover and/or Dually Involved Youth
GU- Center for Juvenile Justice Reform

Imperative #1: Develop Leadership & Establish Governance & Management Structure

Formalized Structure Supports:

- Dynamic nature of change process
- Leadership buy-in and capacity to direct action
- Creation of unified vision, strategies, & outcomes
- Access to workforce & full array of resources
- Expertise to inform the analysis of relevant issues

- Juvenile Justice
- Child Welfare/Child Protection
- Judiciary
- Education
- Behavioral Health
- Community Service Providers
- Legislature/Policy Makers
- Health
- Housing
**Imperative #2: Study & Analysis**

**Data Collection**

1. More precisely identify the actual target population(s)

2. Informed initial decisions about capacity for practice reforms

3. Serve as “the trigger” for a series of routine actions and practices

4. Identify and agree to a set of system and youth outcomes that the work aspires to achieve.
Imperative #2: Study & Analysis (Cont’d.)

Mapping – Process or Case Flow

Opportunity to depict a snapshot in time that shows the specific combination of the functions, steps, responsibilities, decisions, derived products, & documentation used to complete each key decision/action on behalf of the target population.
Imperative #2: Study & Analysis (Cont’d.)
Legal & Policy Analysis

http://www.modelsforchange.net/publications/282
Child Welfare League of America &
the Juvenile Law Center
by Janet K. Wiig, John A. Tuell,
Lourdes M. Rosado, and Riya S. Shah, 2008

http://www.modelsforchange.net/publications/335
Child Welfare League of America
by Jessica Heldman, 2005
Imperative #2: Study & Analysis (Cont’d.)

Inventory – Resources & Screening/Assessment Tools

- Mentoring
- Mental Health
- Educational Re-engagement
- Family Support Services
- Cognitive Behavioral Interventions
- Substance Abuse
- Pro-Social Activities
- Housing Programs/Services......
Imperative #3: Create Culture Change Across Systems

- Opportunities to work in close proximity (co-location of staff)

- Comprehensive training

- Creation of revised staff evaluation processes

- Embedding of effective Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process – utilize all involved stakeholders, transparent, process and outcome targeted
Imperative #4: Prevent Youth from Crossing Over

- Thoughtful, comprehensive examination of policies and current practices related to arrest, detention, petition, and adjudication
- Engagement of law enforcement, school officials, foster and group home personnel
- Exchange of information to enhance decision making
Imperative #5: Engage the Family & Community

• Meaningful Inclusion of Family
• Meaningful Inclusion of the Community
• Strengths Based Approach
• Inclusion in the CQI
Imperative #6: Develop Procedures, Policies, Practices & Protocols

- Information and Resource Sharing
- Develop Dedicated Court Practices
- Coordinate and Conduct Joint Assessment and Case Planning
- Coordinate Case Supervision
- Plan for Permanency and Positive Youth Development
The Next Frontier

“taking advantage of what we have learned to further enhance our opportunities for success...”
Questions submitted during the presentation will now be addressed!
Please take 5 minutes to fill out the online evaluation, which will be available immediately upon exiting WebEx.
Webinar Archives

Approximately 10 business days after the webinar, you can access the slide presentation, audio recording, and transcript at www.nttac.org.
For more information, please contact:

OJJDP’s National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC)

http://www.nttac.org

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)

http://www.ojjdp.gov
Please take 5 minutes to fill out the online evaluation, which will be available immediately upon exiting WebEx.