



Justice Center
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS



Center For
POLICING EQUITY

Alternative First Responder Models Can Support Youth in Crisis

September 7, 2023

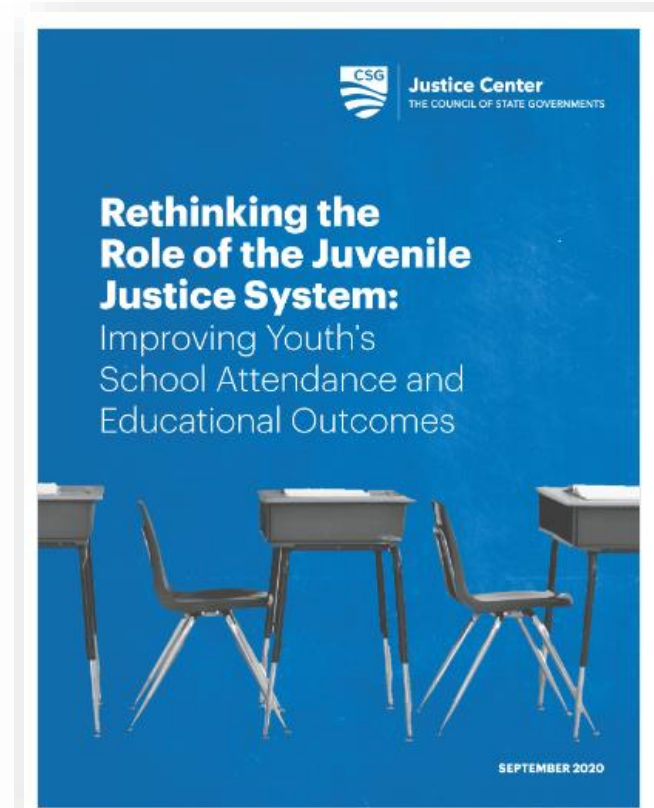
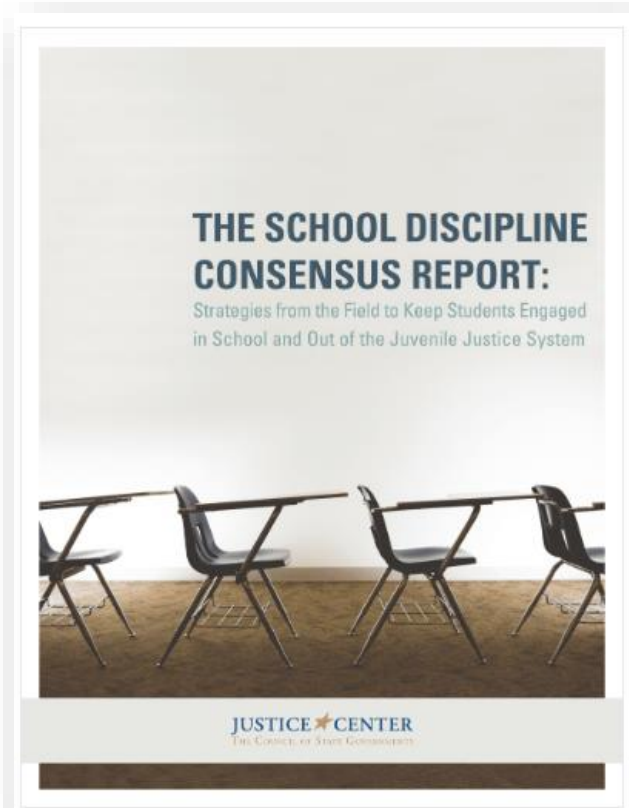
Session Outline

- I. Defining the Problem
- II. Policy and Practice Responses
- III. Technical Assistance Opportunity
- IV. Panel Discussion
- V. Questions and Answers

The Council of State Governments Justice Center

We are a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that combines the power of a membership association, serving state officials in all three branches of government, with policy and research expertise to develop strategies that increase public safety and strengthen communities.

Our team focuses on improving community safety and outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system.





Center For
POLICING EQUITY



The Center for Policing Equity

The Center for Policing Equity (CPE) is a racial justice non-profit that protects, supports, and empowers communities—particularly Black and Brown communities—to redesign their public safety systems. CPE provides leaders with data, stories, and relationships to facilitate change that's bold, innovative, and lasting. **We do science to promote justice.**

CPE gathers and analyzes data on behaviors within public safety systems and uses those data to help communities achieve safer policing outcomes. Our goal is to make policing **less racist, less deadly, and less omnipresent.** We believe we can forge the path to justice by redesigning public safety systems to better keep communities safe.



Our Impact

Since our founding, CPE has served:



30
STATES

60
LAW ENFORCEMENT
AGENCIES

85.2m+
PEOPLE IN THE U.S.

Our Impact

PROPELLING POLICY

Our country's urgent call for reimagined public safety has challenged law enforcement agencies to make systemic change. Police departments that partnered with CPE have adopted one or more of our policy recommendations:



Unlocking Democracy: Developing and Sustaining Alternative Responses

Learning Communities

- College Campuses, Community Violence Interventions, Crisis Systems, Youth Diversion

Data Connection

Elected Leaders Council



[Learn More!](#)

“ The Elected Leaders Council is an innovative way to connect and share ideas for true public safety with elected officials from across the country. The program uses a community-centered approach and will help plant the seeds for tangible reform. ”

Crystal Hudson
Council Member
New York City



Image used by permission of Center for Policing Equity

Defining the Problem: Who Responds to Youth Experiencing a Crisis



Youth are experiencing an urgent mental health crisis.



There is an increased number of youth hospitalized for behavioral health reasons.

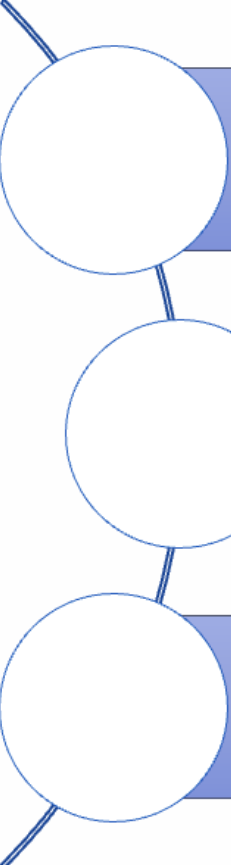


Juvenile justice systems report that youth have significant behavioral health needs.



How we respond to youth's health needs impacts outcomes.

Policy and Practice Responses: New Approaches to Meet Youth's Health Needs in the Community

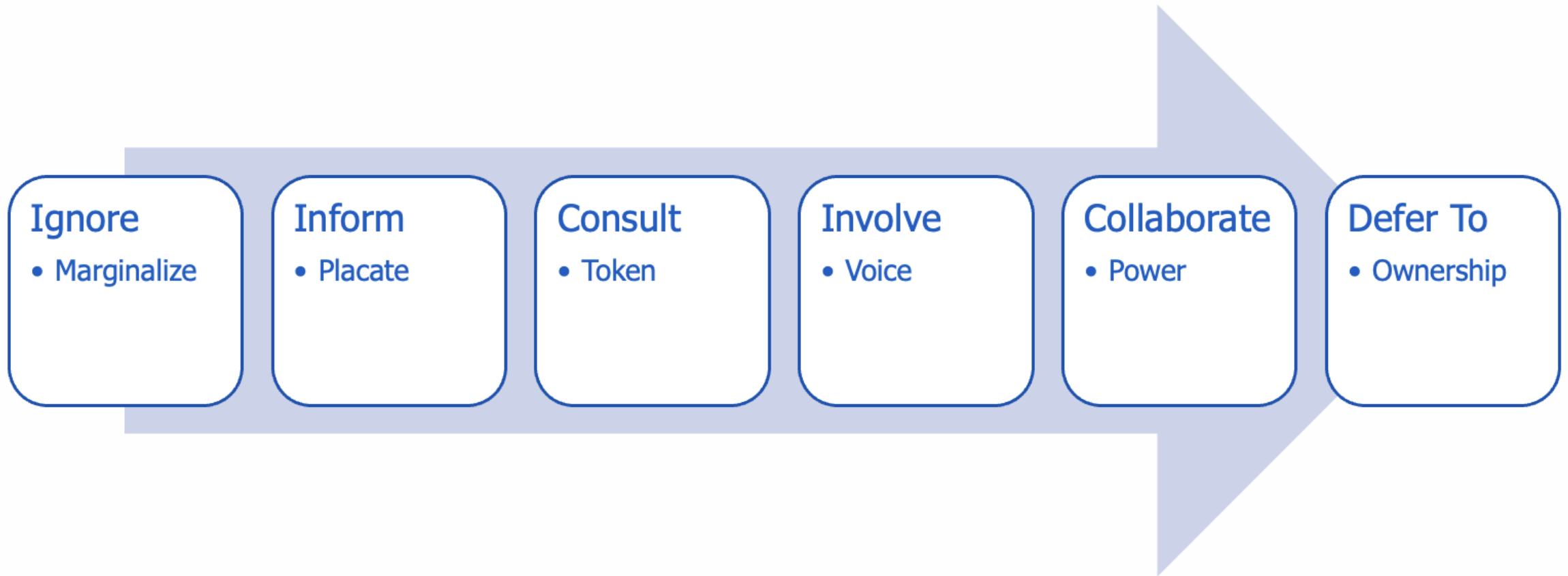


Establishing alternative first response options can create meaningful and long-term positive outcomes for safety and stability for youth and the community.

Diversion policies can help keep youth in school and the community and out of the justice system for low-level offenses that are rooted in family conflict and behavioral health needs.

These new approaches also directly respond to youth's issues as health concerns rather than as public safety issues.

Policy and Practice Responses: Advancing Equity and Power Sharing



States in Action: Alternative Response Models

Massachusetts: Mobile Crisis Intervention maintains a 24/7 hotline for children and families, conducts assessments, and coordinates care among a range of providers and community organizations. The [School Mental Health Consortium](#) provides comprehensive mental health services, supports, and responses to students.

Nevada: Children's Rural Mobile Crisis Response Team partners with detention centers, schools, and hospitals to provide telehealth crisis supports and aftercare.

New Jersey: Mobile Response and Stabilization Services are for youth under 21 years old experiencing a crisis. Family members and professionals can request immediate stabilization services 24/7 from a clinician; up to eight weeks of follow-up are included.

Oklahoma: Youth Crisis Mobile Response supports community stabilization with youth up to 25 years old by providing crisis services and follow-up after the event via teams made up of peers and paraprofessionals with deep community ties.

Wisconsin: The state's School Mental Health Framework includes a range of components to build and sustain school mental health systems and support youth in schools with trained professionals.

Free Technical Assistance Opportunity!

Goal

- Partner with two jurisdictions to provide cost-free, intensive technical assistance for nine months to **develop a diversion initiative focused on alternative responses to law enforcement** contact for youth who are experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

Expected Outcomes

- Outlined model components, partnerships, and funding for the diversion initiative
- Identified policies and procedures to support implementation, drafted new policies, and gained buy-in for changing these policies
- Developed a detailed action plan that outlines the diversion initiative components and policies, timelines, roles and responsibilities, and tools to gain additional buy-in and fundraise

Free Technical Assistance Opportunity!

Site Requirements

- Form an internal agency working group chaired by an agency leader.
- Readily share data, policies, and practices concerning law enforcement contact, behavioral health needs, juvenile court referrals, school discipline, diversion initiatives, and more.
- Demonstrate a clear commitment to meaningful policy and practice change by developing a detailed action plan for reform and an ongoing forum for overseeing this work.

How to Apply

- To apply, please **submit a letter of interest** by **September 27, 2023**, signed by agency or judicial leadership.

Thank You!

Join our distribution list to receive updates and announcements:

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/resources/newsletters/>

For more information, please contact Stephanie Ueberall at sueberall@csg.org

The presentation was developed by members of The Council of State Governments Justice Center staff. The statements made reflect the views of the authors, and should not be considered the official position of The Council of State Governments Justice Center, the members of The Council of State Governments, or the funding agency supporting the work.

© 2023 The Council of State Governments Justice Center