



2012 WCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
La Crosse Center & Radisson Hotel

**Effective Juvenile Justice Programs
in an Era of Declining Funds:**

CORE ACADEMY

A Community Option for Re-engagement

September 24, 2012

Presentation Overview



- I. Changing Juvenile Justice Landscape
- II. La Crosse County CORE Academy
- III. Broader Implications
- IV. Questions & Discussion

I. Changing Juvenile Justice Landscape

A. Declining Funds !

State & Local Funding Sources for Juvenile Justice Programs

- Community Aids: **Flat** for Over a Decade
- Shared Revenue: **Substantially reduced** in 2011-13 Biennial Budget
- Local Levy: **Strained** due to levy caps & public tolerance
- Youth Aids: **Reduced** 10% in 2011-13 Biennial Budget and an additional 2% by WI DOC

Wisconsin Youth Aids...

- Good investment
- Smart approach

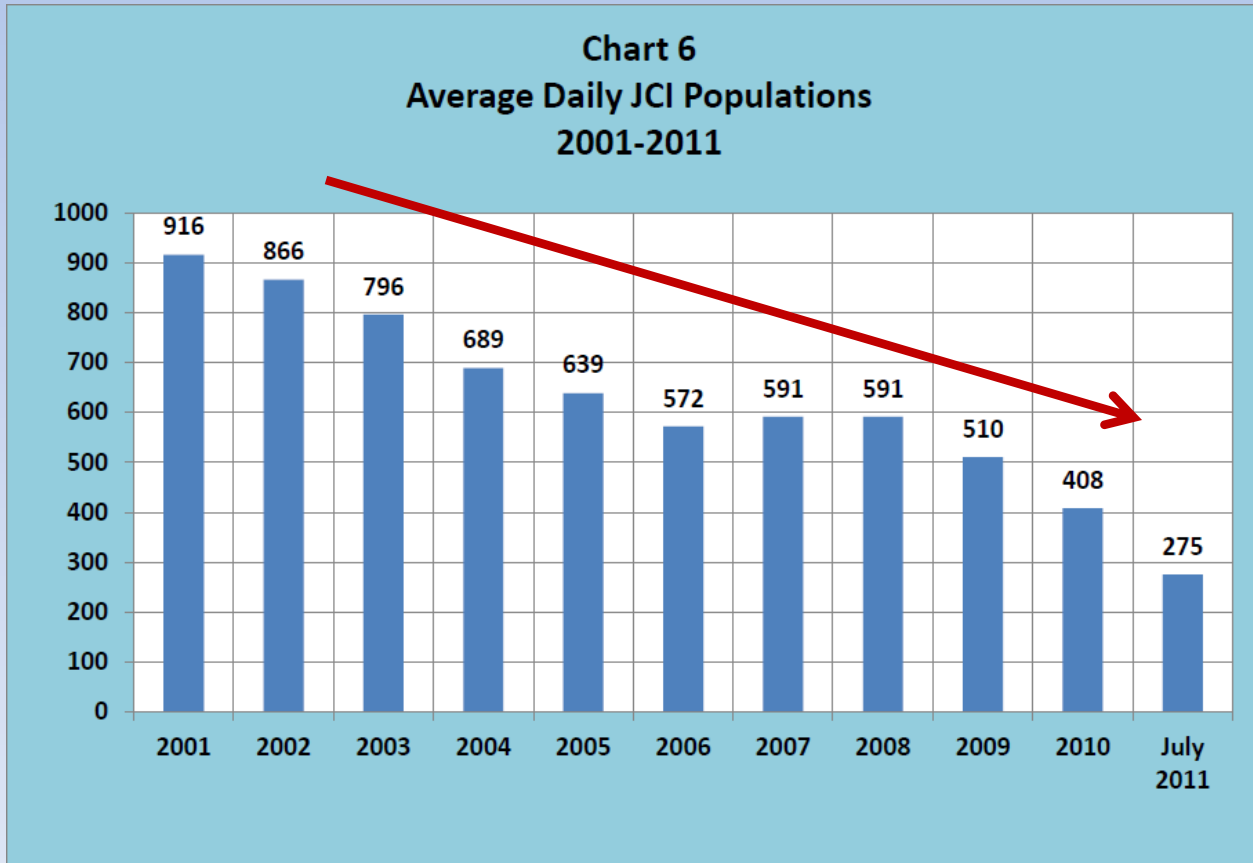
Background & Impact

- Eliminated the **financial incentive** had to place juveniles at the State juvenile correctional facilities
- Promoted development of **lower-cost** community based interventions for youthful offenders
- Consistent with **research** showing effectiveness of well-designed community-based services

Wisconsin Youth Aids...

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Closure of Ethan Allen & Southern Oaks Juvenile Correctional Institutions:



- **Saved tens of millions** annually in state juvenile institution operation costs.
- **Permanently eliminate a \$21.6 Million budget deficit** in Division of Juvenile Corrections within ten years

I. Changing Juvenile Justice Landscape

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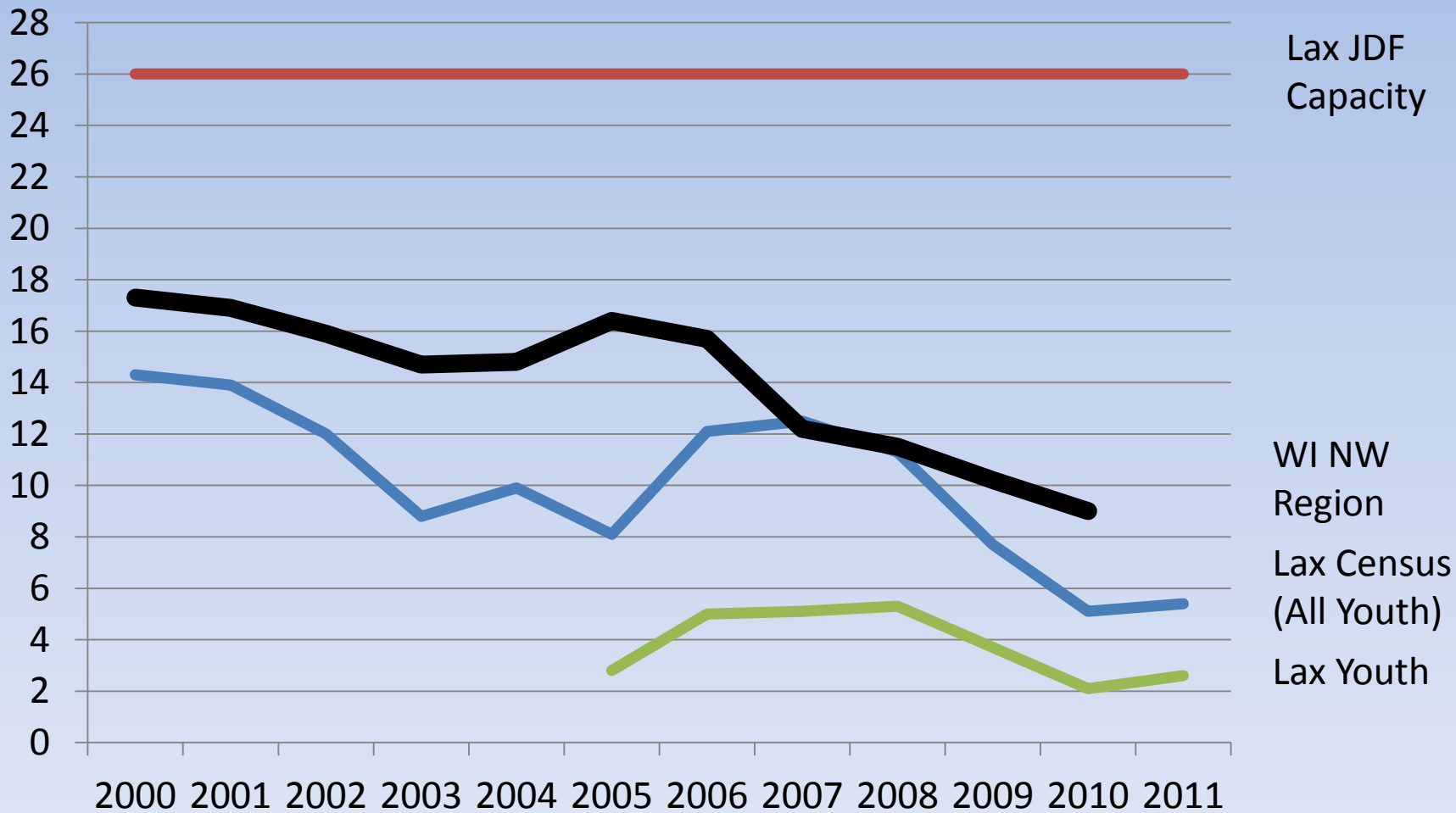
A. Declining Funds ! *Increased pressure to innovate*

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B. Decreasing Use of Local Detention Facilities

Decreasing Use of Local Detention Facilities



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C. Evolution of Juvenile Justice Practice

- More Family Focused
- More Attentive to Re-integration

I. Changing Juvenile Justice Landscape

- A. Declining Funds ! *Increased pressure to innovate*
- B. Decreasing Use of Local Detention Facilities
Created excess capacity in local juvenile detention facilities
- C. Evolution of Juvenile Justice Practice
Emphasized community-based programming and family

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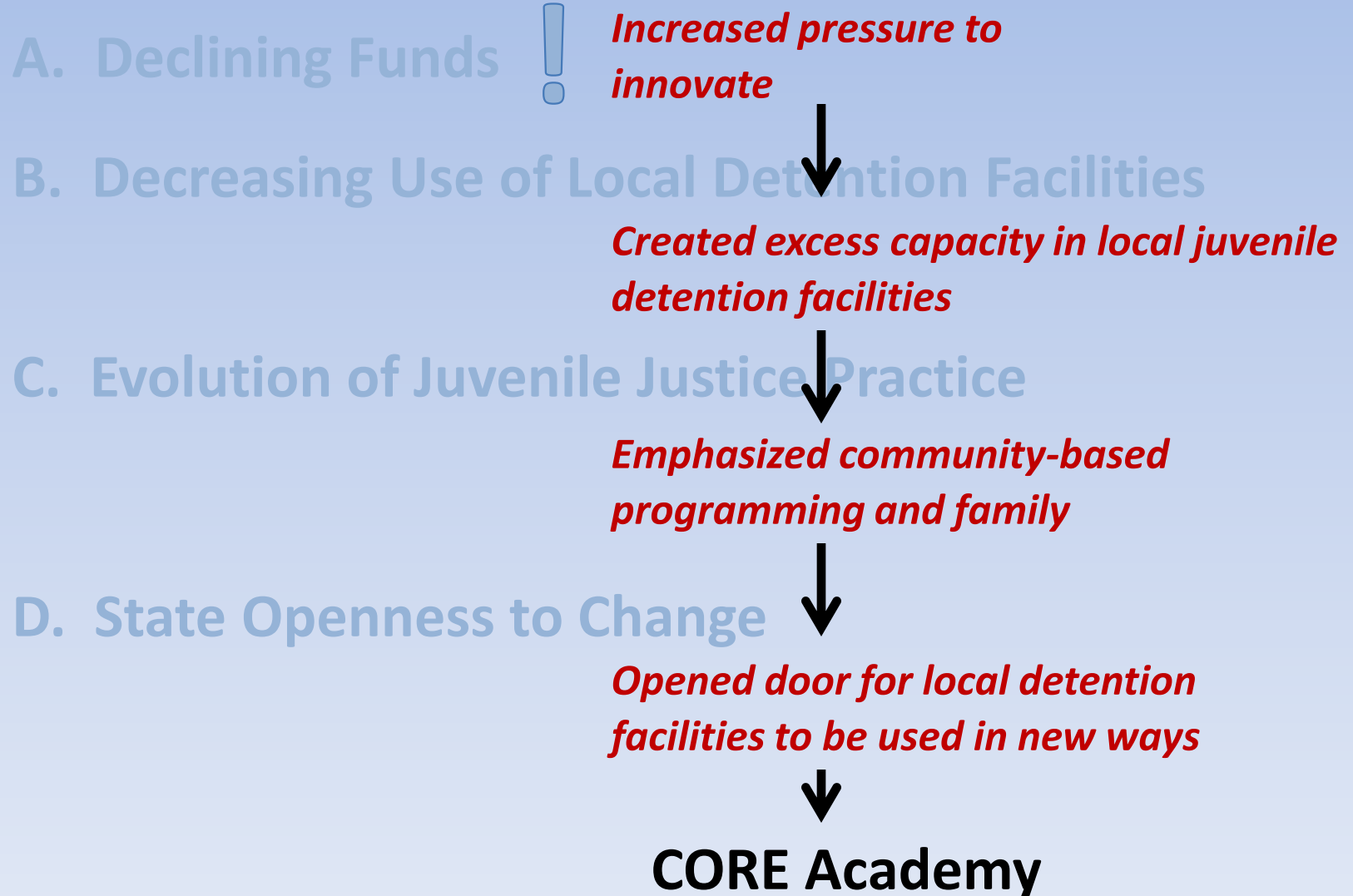
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D. State Openness to Change

- Downsizing State Correctional Facilities
- Expanded Uses for Local Detention Facilities

I. Changing Juvenile Justice Landscape



II. La Crosse County CORE ACADEMY

A Community Option for Reengagement



938.34(3)(f)

A juvenile detention facility or juvenile portion of a county jail that meets the standards promulgated by the department by rule, or in a place of non-secure custody designated by the court subject to all of the following:

1.) The placement may be for any combination of single or consecutive days totaling not more than 180, including any placement under pars. (a) to (e). The juvenile shall be given credit against the period of detention or non-secure custody imposed under this paragraph for all time spent in secure detention in connection with the course of conduct for which the detention or non-secure custody was imposed.

938.34(3)(f)

2.) The order may provide that the juvenile may be released from the juvenile detention facility, juvenile portion of the jail, or place of non-secure custody during specified hours to attend school, to work at the juvenile's place of employment or to attend or participate in any activity which the court considers beneficial to the juvenile.

938.34(3)(f)

3.) The use of placement in a juvenile detention facility or juvenile portion of a county jail as a disposition under this paragraph is subject to the adoption of a resolution by the county board of supervisors under s. 938.06(5) authorizing the use of those placements as a disposition.

938.34(3)(f)

- 4.) If a juvenile's placement under this paragraph exceeds 30 days, whether or not consecutive, the county department shall offer the juvenile alcohol or other drug abuse treatment, counseling, and education services under sub. (6r). The payment for those services shall be in accordance with s. 938.361.

Mission Statement



CORE Academy offers a demanding, carefully crafted, multi-layered treatment experience designed to challenge troubled youth and support their families to help them make lasting behavioral changes and prepare them for successful transitions back to the community.

Purpose

- ▣ Provide tools to teach youth to be productive members of their own community – WITHIN their own community
- ▣ Utilizing evidence –based programming to reduce recidivism and target most serious offenders
- ▣ Fiscally responsible operations -utilization of existing staff and facility; adding programming (psycho-education and therapy) and reducing expensive out of county placements in residential facilities
- ▣ Keep youth and their families involved and engaged in case planning and case progress

Who is a candidate for CORE Academy?

- ▣ Must be an adjudicated delinquent, and court ordered into this placement
- ▣ Past intervention options have proven unsuccessful
- ▣ Behavior is such that it warrants a secure setting
- ▣ Passes through an extensive internal screening process

Step 1 of Screening Process

- Includes juvenile's primary social worker, Juvenile Justice Supervisor, CORE Academy Social Worker, JDF Superintendent or designee, and possibly a program therapist if necessary.
- Social Worker presents the following information for screening:
 - ▣ Social History that includes previous efforts attempted
 - ▣ Current LSI with a score of 20 or above
 - ▣ Current CANS assessment with a Level of Care score of 3 or above which shows need for out-of-home placement

Step 2 of Screening Process

- Primary Social Worker presents case to the Supervisory Consultation and Review Team which consists of all Family and Children's Section supervisors and manager.
- This is a necessary step for all higher level out-of-home care requests

Step 3 Court

- Social Worker requests a Change of Placement hearing or requests this change of placement at the juvenile's Dispositional Hearing.
 - ▣ This process was put into place for very specific reasons which include:
 - Need to ensure proper fit of clients being served by the program. Evidence shows the most success when juveniles who display similar risk scores are placed in programming together.
 - Limited space within the program – CORE Academy has a maximum capacity of 8 residents at one time.
 - CORE Academy is not equipped to serve those with sex offenses.
 - CORE Academy accepts juveniles ages 10-17 and both male and female clients, the screening process allows for us to take into consideration the current status of the group and appropriateness of the referred juvenile.

CORE Academy is:

- ▣ A family-based, therapeutic treatment program that includes:
 - Individual and family counseling
 - Psycho-educational groups to address drug and alcohol issues, criminal thinking, victim impact, independent living skills, and numerous other subjects
 - Youth will be enrolled in a full day of school through the La Crosse School District

Key Components of the CORE Academy

PHASE 1 – ORIENTATION

- Completion of assessments
- Case plan developed with tangible goals and objectives
- Determination of educational curriculum
- Baseline drug test completed
- Scheduling of family visitation and therapy
- Orientation to facility routine

Key Components of the CORE Academy

PHASE 2 – SKILL BUILDING

- Weekly reviews of case plans
- Weekly group, individual, and family therapy
 - This includes AODA, Carey Guides, and a therapeutic approach based on a co-occurring disorders program.
- Full time education
- Regular judicial reviews

Key Components of the CORE Academy

PHASE 3 – COMMUNITY TRANSITION

- Employment assessment (utilize Offender Workforce Development Specialists through Chemical Health Justice Sanctions)
- Day pass coordination which can include but is not limited to:
 - School, Job Center, Community Service, Home Visits, and other appointments
- Begin planning for Phase 4 aftercare

Key Components of the CORE Academy

PHASE 4 – AFTERCARE

- Continuation of individual and family therapy as needed.
- Primary social worker resumes responsibility of case and provides wrap around services necessary to continue success

CORE Academy Staff

- JDF Line Staff will provide for the day-to-day supervision and routine needs of youth
- Social Worker (County Staff) to provide case management, group work, and coordination of services
- Therapist through Hiawatha Valley Mental Health (Contracted Staff) to provide psycho-education, individual and family therapy, and AODA services
- Nurse (Contracted Staff) to provide physicals and medication maintenance
- La Crosse School District Staff consisting of 2 or 3 full time teachers and 1 teacher's assistant to provide individualized curriculum to each CORE Academy student.

Why CORE Academy?

- Local option for high end juveniles that didn't exist before in the La Crosse Community
- Provides Evidence Based cutting-edge interventions that we believe will be a model in providing additional services
- We expect to see better results than we have been seeing with corrections or out-of-county residential placements (we will be measuring this impact)
- Using existing facility and staff to serve youth previously served out of county translates to over \$400,000 in local annual budget savings to offset other funding losses and preserve other important youth services

Program Implementation Committee

Members

Mandy Bisek – Juvenile Justice Supervisor

David Steinberg – Superintendent JDF/WRAC

Heather Werner – Juvenile Justice Social Worker

Heather Johnson – Juvenile Justice Social Worker

Jill Dunne – Facility Supervisor JDF/WRAC

Greg Mooney – Secure Detention Worker

Jane Klekamp – Manager, Justice Sanctions

Nancy Pohlman – Manager, Family & Children's Section

Mary Lin Wershofen – La Crosse School District Administrator

III. Broader Implications



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- *Continued evaluation of Most Effective Use of State Dollars for Juvenile Corrections*
 - *Re-thinking Disinvestment in Youth Aids*

IV. Questions & Discussion

