

Wisconsin's Community-Based Youth Justice System

**Wisconsin Counties Association
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Child Welfare Strategic Transformation

Vision:

- All Wisconsin children are safe and loved members of thriving families and communities.

The Wisconsin Child Welfare system will:

- Strengthen all Wisconsin families to support their children.

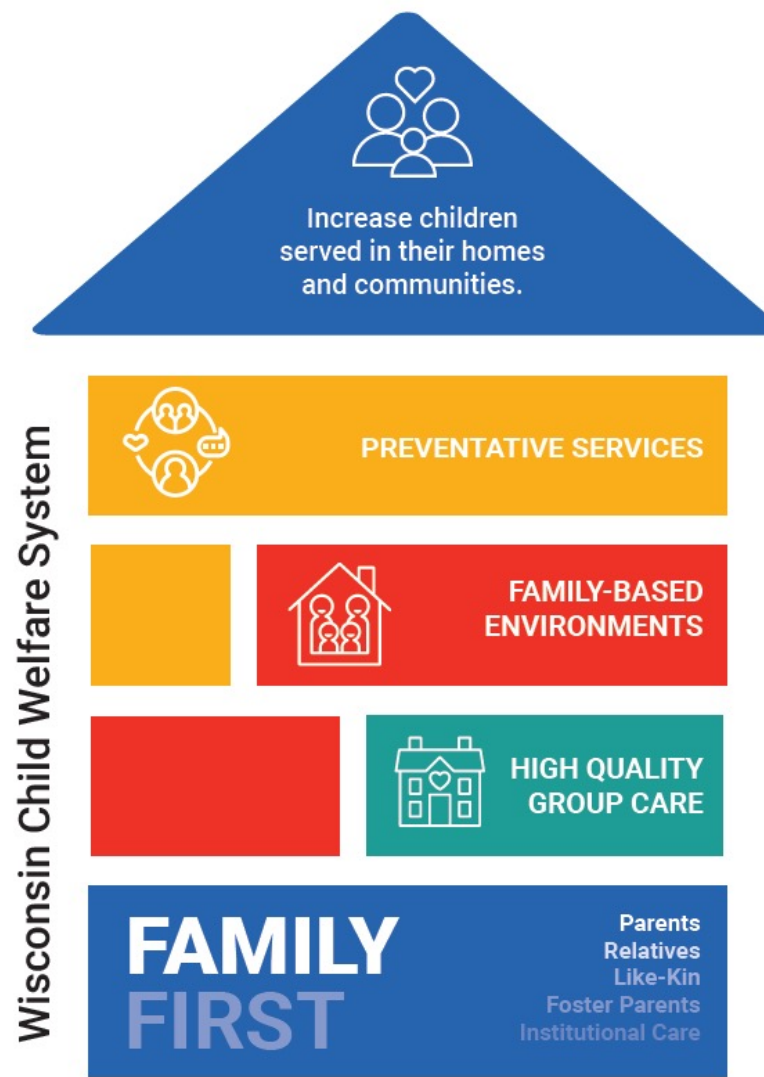
Because:

- Children belong with their families.





All Wisconsin children are safe and loved members
of thriving families and communities

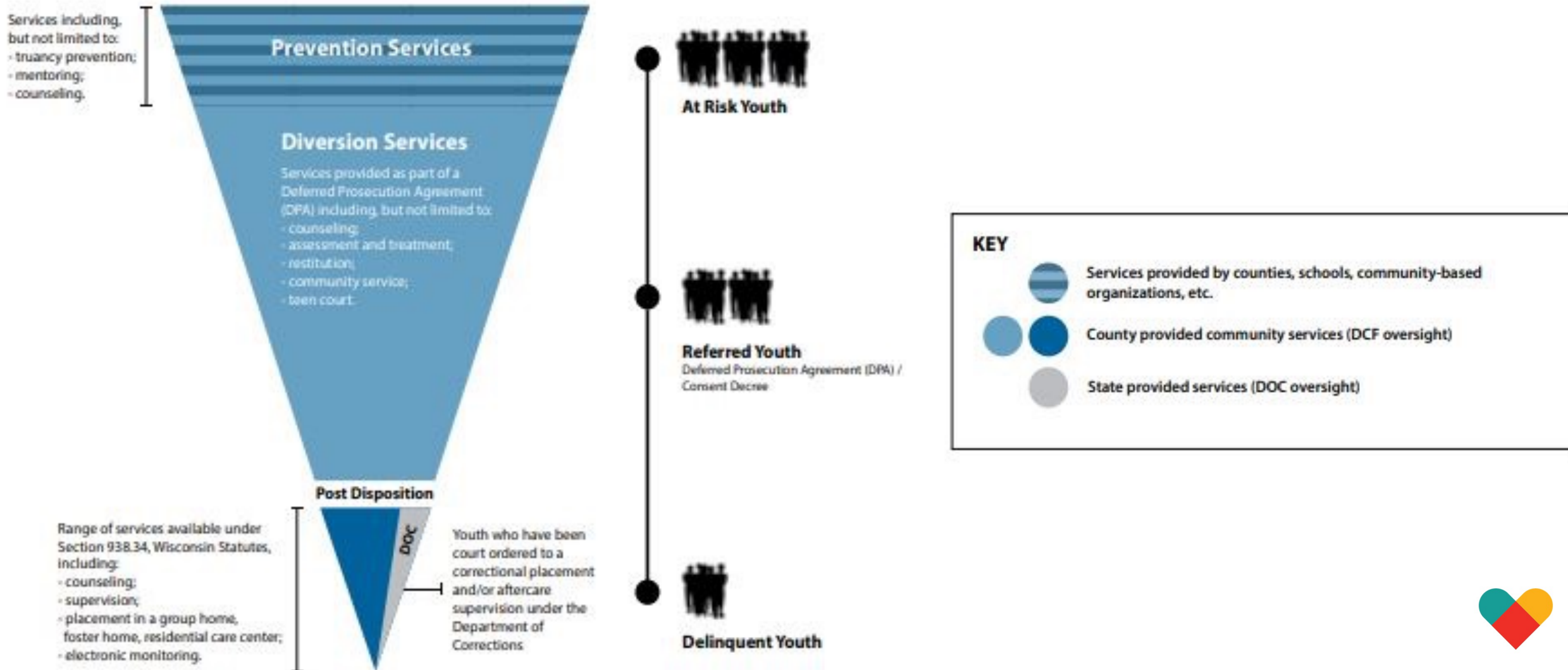


It is the intent of the legislature to promote a juvenile justice system capable of dealing with the problem of juvenile delinquency, a system which will **protect the community, impose accountability** for violations of law and **equip juvenile offenders with competencies to live responsibly and productively.**

*s. 938.01(2), Wis. Stats
(emphasis added)*



Community Based Youth Justice System



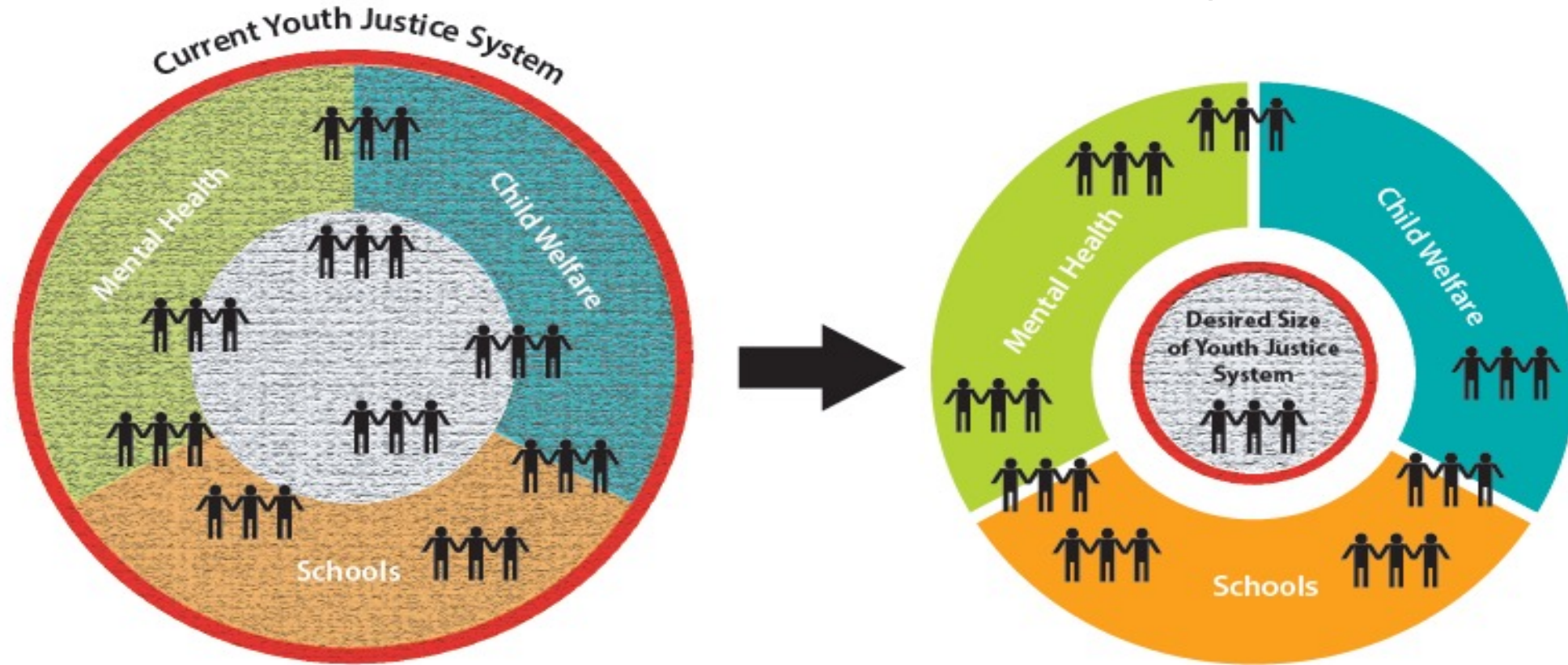
How Many Youth are Involved with the Youth Justice System?

In 2019:

- 10,357 youth were referred to Wisconsin's YJ system
- 66% of referrals were for males while 32% were for females
- 4 out of 5 referred youth had any level of contact with Child Protective Services (CPS) prior to their first YJ referral



DCF Youth Justice Strategic Plan



The youth justice system encompasses youth with a variety of primary needs other than delinquent behavior.

Youth are served in the appropriate system, and are not brought into the youth justice system in order to address other primary needs.



Youth Justice Best Practices Research Summary

A more holistic understanding of youth paves the way for targeted, developmentally informed service delivery.

Severity of offense is not a strong indicator of the future pattern of offending; tested static and dynamic risk factors for offending are (Mulvey et al., 2010; Lipsey & Derzon, 1998).

Dispositions based on risk level and needs are more likely to be effective. When services are matched to youth's level of risk, strengths and criminogenic needs, chance of re-offense decreases (Peterson-Badali, Skilling, & Haqanee, 2014).

Overly broad and unclear orders that are not tailored to the strengths, interests, and challenges of an individual youth **can result in significant numbers failing on probation**, ultimately leading to costly and unnecessary out-of-home placement (NJDC, 2016).

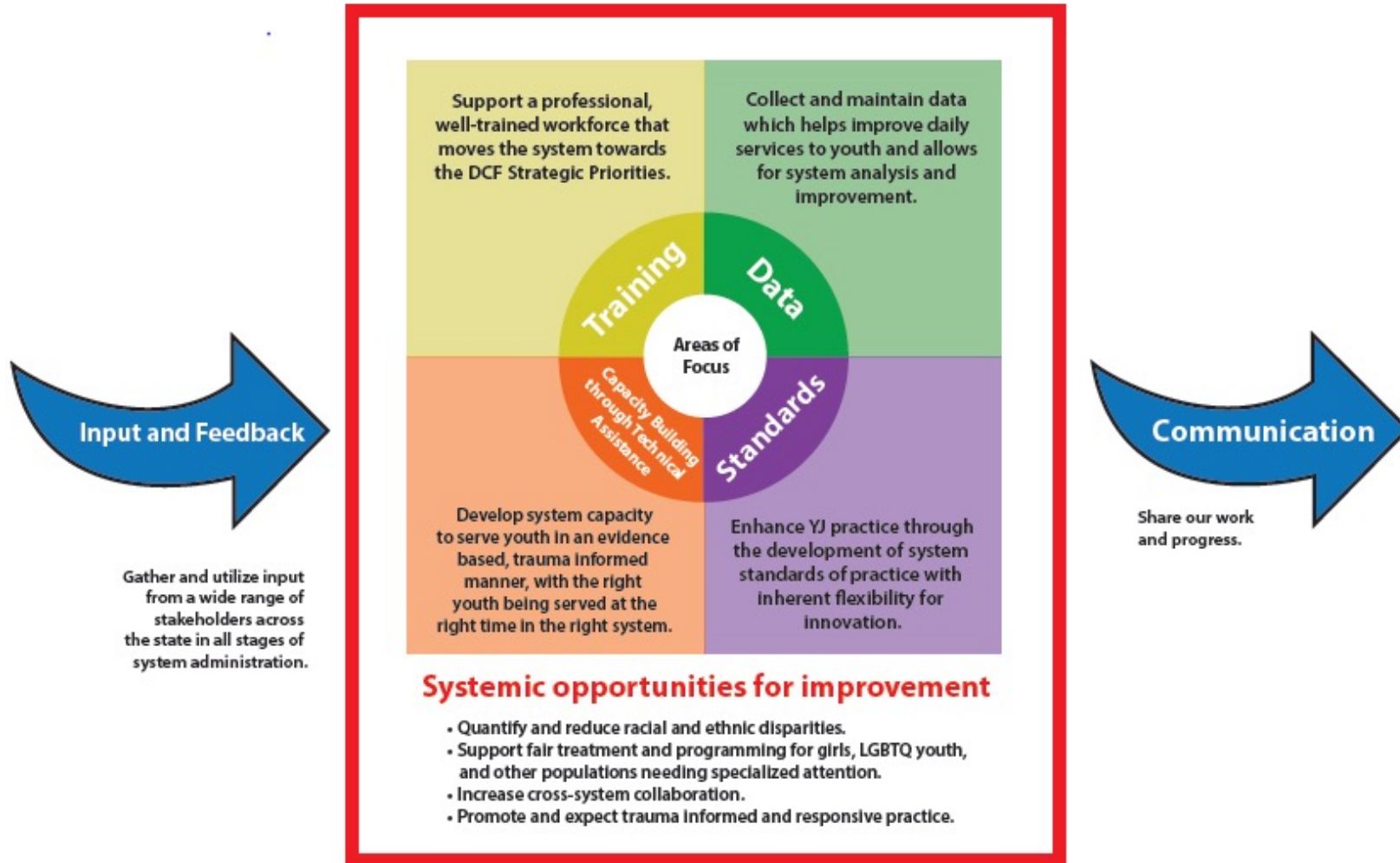


Impact of Childhood Trauma

- Attachment and Separation
 - Separation from primary caregiver can have long-term, negative impacts.
 - 80% of removals are for neglect.
- Strong links between trauma and delinquency
- Evolving Research
 - We have more research now than ever before.
 - We have the power to positively change the way in which we help.



DCF Youth Justice Focus Areas



DCF Youth Justice Focus Areas

- Training
 - Basic Intake Training for youth taken into custody
 - YASI assessment and case planning
- Data
 - Statewide Youth Justice data system development
- Standards
 - YASI assessment and case planning
- Capacity Building through Technical Assistance
 - Innovation grants
 - Issue Briefs
 - Ongoing technical Assistance



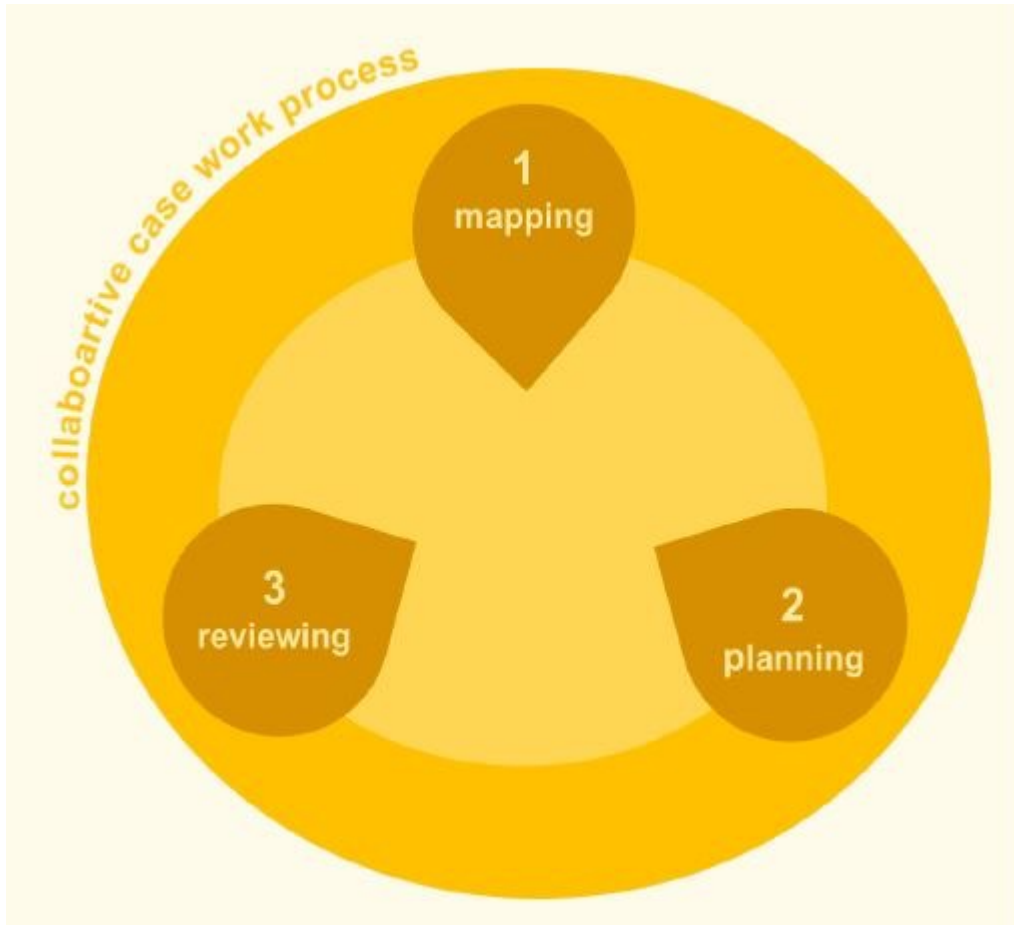
The Youth Assessment & Screening Instrument (YASI)

Focuses 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
- Incorporates **validated strength scores** in case planning



Case Planning Using YASI Results



Collaborative Case Work Process

1. **Mapping:** Assessment, interpretation of the results, feedback to youth
2. **Planning:** Mobilizing motivation, goal setting, selecting action steps
3. **Reviewing and Supporting:** Managing the plan as it progresses, reinforcing the positive gains



YASI Phased Implementation Map

Phase 1

Adams, Chippewa, Columbia, Dodge, Jefferson, Marathon, Marquette, Monroe, Polk, Portage, Rock, Sheboygan, Walworth

Phase 2

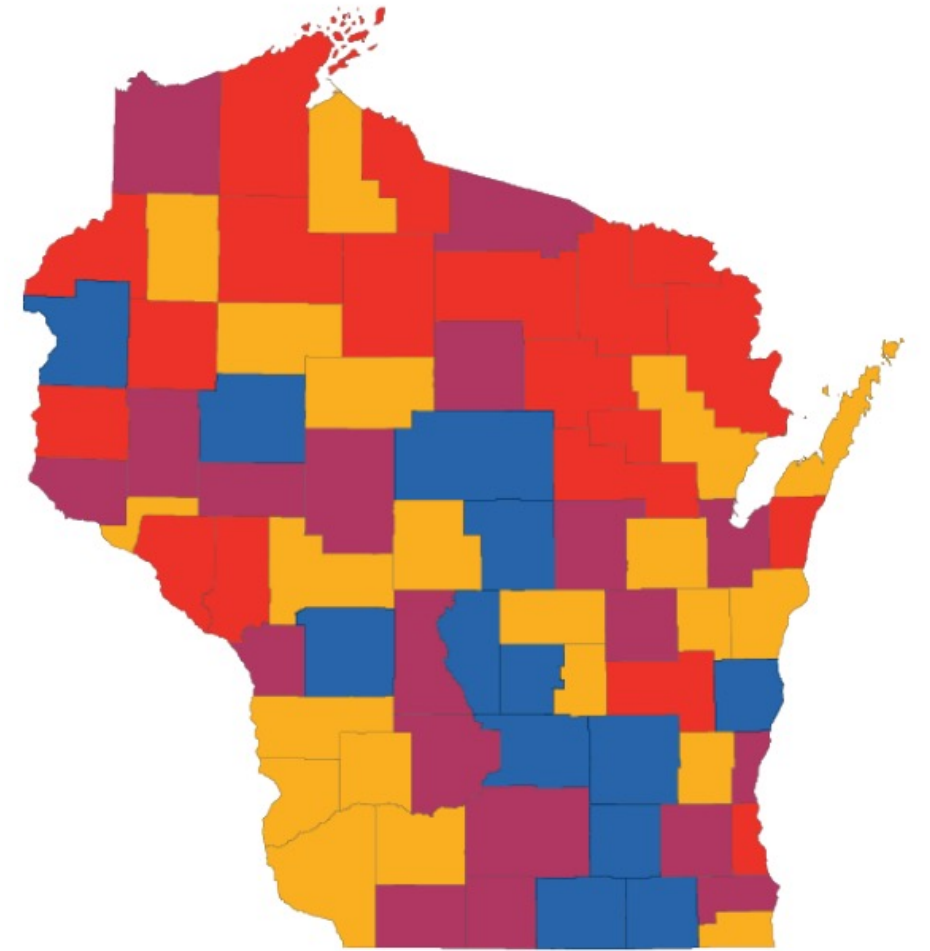
Brown, Clark, Dane, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Green, Juneau, La Crosse, Lafayette, Lincoln, Ozaukee, Pierce, Racine, Sauk, Vilas, Waukesha, Waupaca, Winnebago

Phase 3

Ashland, Calumet, Crawford, Door, Grant, Green Lake, Iowa, Jackson, Kenosha, Manitowoc, Oconto, Outagamie, Pepin, Richland, Rusk, Taylor, Vernon, Washburn, Washington, Waushara, Wood

Phase 4

Barron, Bayfield, Buffalo, Burnett, Florence, Fond du Lac, Forest, Iron, Kewaunee, Langlade, Marinette, Menominee, Milwaukee, Oneida, Price, Sawyer, Shawano, St. Croix, Trempealeau



Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) Implementation

■ DCF BYS ■ Phase 1 ■ Phase 2 ■ Phase 3 ■ Phase 4

Policy & Service Matrix Development, Quality Assurance, Implementation Support

CaseWorks
Trainings

Booster
Trainings

Supervisor
Session

Development of County Procedural Documents

YASI Administration & Data Collection

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Summer 2021

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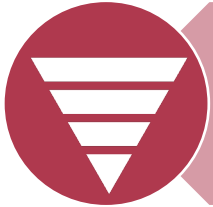
Supervisor
Session

Development of County Procedural Documents

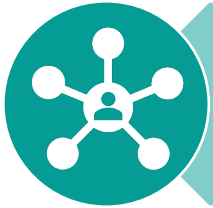
YASI Administration & Data Collection



Key Takeaways



DCF vision for community-based youth justice **focuses on prevention and diversion, and provides accountability and services** to youth and families



YASI identifies and incorporates **risk, needs, responsivity, and strength factors in collaborative case planning**



Fidelity to YASI and matching services to youths' dynamic needs will help us make strides towards long-term system impacts



Stakeholder buy-in is critical to successful implementation and achieving better outcomes



Youth Voice

"Giving someone a punishment without asking why doesn't help. Understanding why something happened will help more than punishing."

"We need more focus on making sure the kid has someone. I'm in a different city at a foster home and my brother is home which is half an hour away."

"When people seem like they don't want to get help, sometimes they do want help, they just don't see hope."

"When you have a good worker who listens to you, who you can confide in, who you connect with, who sees you as a normal person, it makes being on supervision a lot more positive."

"The charge is the tip of the iceberg. If there are other underlying factors they should look at those."

"I am proud of the fact that I make better decisions than I was."

"It just made me feel good when someone finally listened to me."



Additional Resources and Contacts

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More info available here:

- Wisconsin's Child Welfare Strategic Transformation:
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/family-first>
- YASI, Innovation Grants, Issue Briefs, and Data:
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/yj>

