



LONE STAR

JUSTICE ALLIANCE

ELIZABETH HENNEKE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The mission of Lone Star Justice Alliance is to redirect youth and young adults out of the Texas justice system and into community-based treatment programs, thus increasing public safety and saving taxpayer dollars.

The Problem

3





The Punitive Model

5

141,000

More than 141,000 people are currently incarcerated in Texas correctional institutions (TDCJ, 2018).

240,000

Over 240,000 young adults (17 to 24) are arrested in Texas each year (TX DPS UCR, 2015).

29%

Young adults make up only 11% of Texans, yet they account for over 29% of arrests (U.S. DOJ UCR, 2012).

A Punitive Model Of Justice Is Unsuitable For Emerging Adults

6

Research has shown that youth and young adults are developmentally different from adults in four important ways:

- ❖ Limited self-regulation;
- ❖ Susceptible to peer pressure;
- ❖ Failure to appreciate consequences in pursuit of immediate gratification; and
- ❖ Increased capacity for rehabilitation

Young adults develop an accelerator long before they can steer and brake.

Ronald Dahl, MD pediatrician and developmental psychologist

Unique Needs

7

Education

- Most justice-involved youth have completed only 9th through 11th grade

Trauma

- **33%** of youth committed to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department in 2016 had been part of a child welfare investigation that ended with confirmation or a finding of “reason to believe” abuse or neglect
- Close to **75%** of these youth have been exposed to violence, crime, and abuse and have also experienced traumatic victimization themselves

Behavioral Health

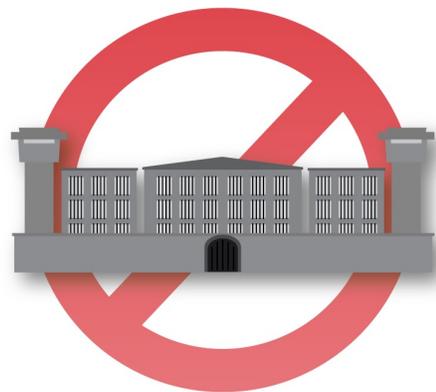
- Researchers estimate that ~ **70%** of justice-involved youth have mental illness, while 60% of justice-involved youth have a co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorder; 30% have disorders severe enough to require immediate and significant treatment

LSJA's Solution

8



75% Recidivism



10% Recidivism



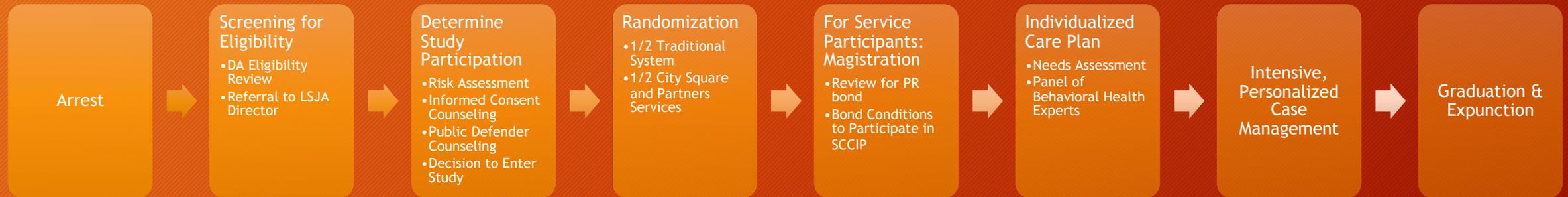
Transformative Justice

10

- (1) Assignment to the program within 24 hours of arrest.*
- (2) Individualized treatment decision-making by behavioral health and social service experts and guided by the results of a validated risk-needs-responsivity tool.*
- (3) Intensive, relationship-driven case management in the community and supported by justice-involved returning citizens.*
- (4) Stage and incentive-based programming to assure accountability.*
- (5) Community engagement and race equity programming that supports both community and individual healing.*

Transformative Justice: Alternative to Incarceration

11





Pilot Sites: Williamson and Dallas Counties

2 year pilot

13

- **Objective One:** Address the needs of 100 emerging adults per year, while holding them accountable for their actions in a developmentally-appropriate way.
- **Objective Two:** Integrate a multitude of services within the indigent defense team that is client-centered, affords more dignity to the client by recognize complexity of challenges facing them and provides an opportunity to avoid the collateral consequences of a conviction.
- **Objective Three:** Evaluate the results of the pilot, which if successful would provide for support for a scalable model to fundamentally shift the way Texas addresses emerging adults in the juvenile justice system.

STATE AND COUNTY SUPPORTED: TEXAS INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION

14

- This program relies upon a **multidisciplinary indigent defense team** composed of attorneys and social workers who will integrate community-based services to support positive life outcomes, improving clients' health outcomes while simultaneously reducing their criminogenic risk and the likelihood of their continued justice system involvement.
 - ❖ Program manager
 - ❖ 2 Part-time defense counsel
 - ❖ Clinical lead social worker, supported by social work students

National and Local Philanthropy

15

This program expands upon local health and human services, providing developmentally appropriate interventions to participants.

- ❖ Peer supports
- ❖ Expanded access to mental and medical health care
- ❖ Civil legal services
- ❖ Expanded access to social services
- ❖ Supervision by Juvenile Services



Rigorous Evaluation

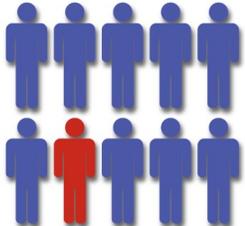
17

Texas A&M University's Public Policy Research Institute, UT Health Science Center School of Public Health, and Harvard Law School's Access to Justice Lab will launch a randomized control trial (RCT) during pilot phase.

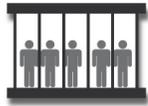
Program framework is designed to accommodate an RCT.

RCT is a condition of grants supporting the program.

**Current
Diversion
Programs**

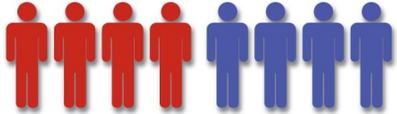


Treatment



Jail

**LSJA's
Transformative
Justice Model**



Treatment



Jail

DISCUSSION

19



ELIZABETH HENNEKE
EHENNEKE@LSJA.ORG

1411 WEST AVE SUITE 200
AUSTIN, TX 78701
512.394.5791