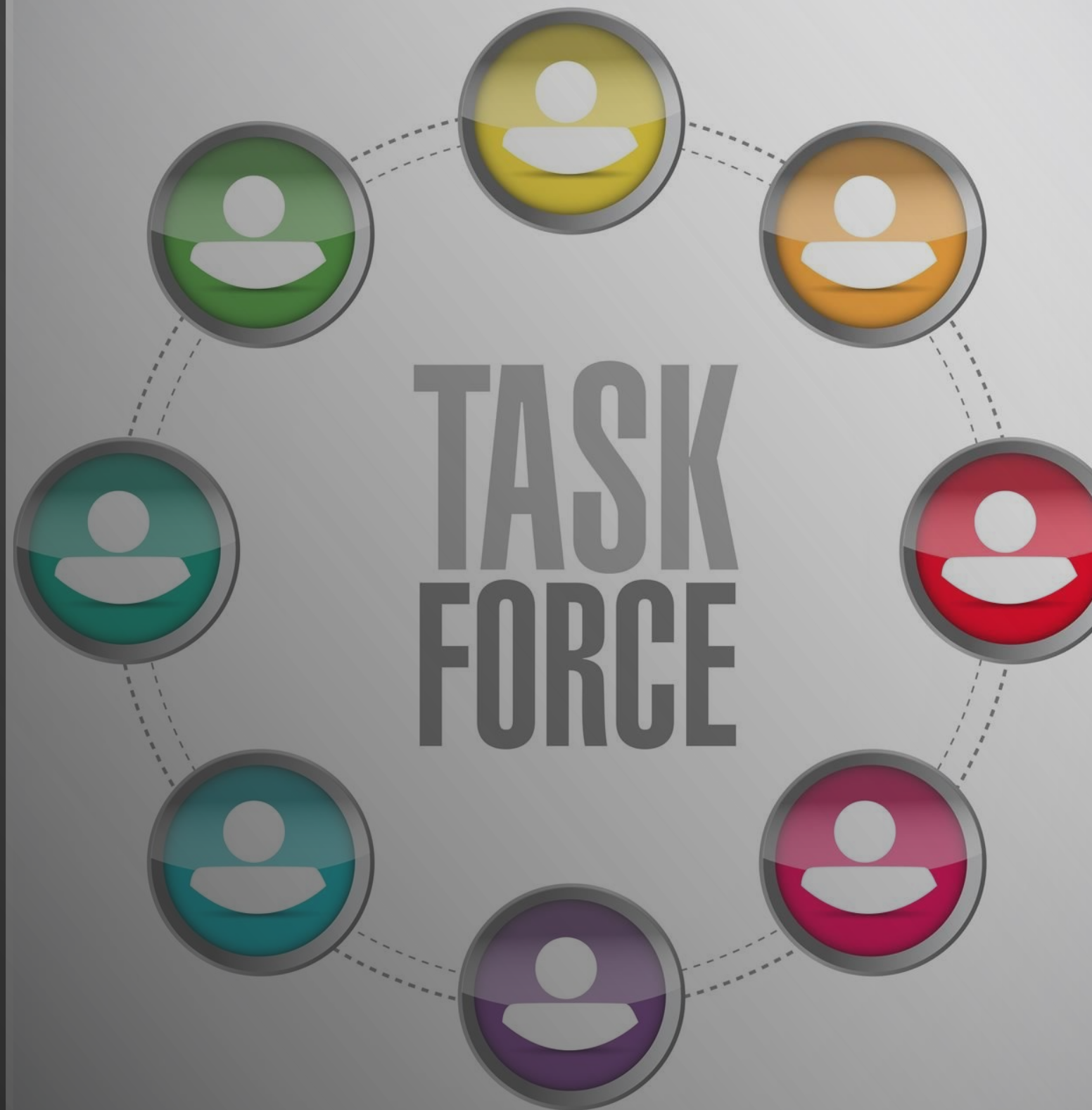


JUVENILE JUSTICE TASK

OVERVIEW

FORCE



JJTF Purpose

Address the exigent challenges that exist in the current system by identifying realistic and timely solutions that ensure youth and families are served in the manner they deserve. Iowa's Juvenile Justice System is in urgent need of realignment. The system is decentralized and its governance, services, funding, and data collection are divided among three state entities. Because of this the system often falls short of effectively meeting the needs of the youth and families they serve. Attempts to improve one aspect invariably effects another and are often undertaken in a disjointed manner. Gender and racial disparities are present throughout the system and the need for enhanced communication and ongoing review is evident.

JJTF TIMELINE

Task Force created

DECEMBER 2021



Task Force 1st meeting

JANUARY 2022



Work groups co-chair meeting

JUNE 2022



Final Summit

SEPTEMBER 2022



Final work group reports due

NOVEMBER 2022



Draft recommendations developed

DECEMBER 2022



Final draft submitted for approval

FEBRUARY 2023



JJTF Goals



**Improve
outcomes for
youth and
families**



**Increase public
safety**



**Decrease
recidivism**

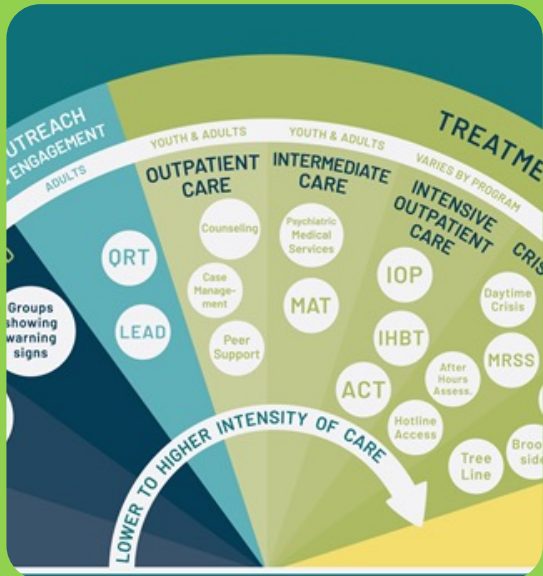


**Be fiscally
responsible**



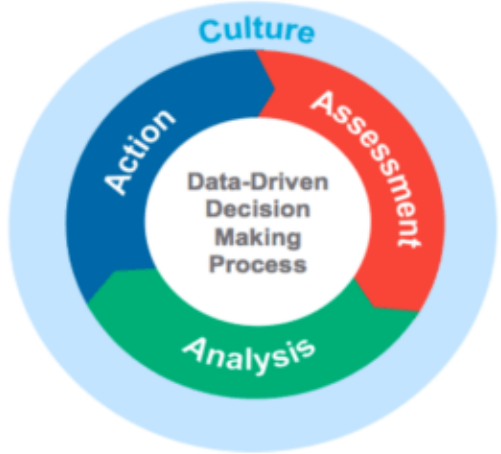
**Reduce
disproportionality
&
overrepresentation
of youth of color in
our system.**

JJTF Task Force Charge



Review the continuum of care in Iowa's juvenile justice system

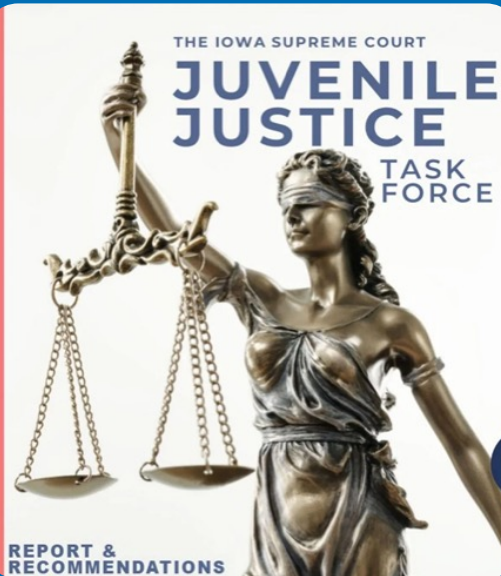
The Framework



Work together collectively to conduct a thorough assessment of identified areas that is data driven and informed by stakeholder input.



Collaboratively, identify what the system's current strengths are and what is working well.



Draft a set of viable recommendations that is based on best practices in legislative, fiscal, programmatic, and administrative areas.

JJTF Composition

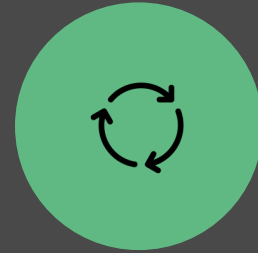


JJTF Work Groups & Goals



Community Based Services and Reentry

Develop a set of recommendations to expand and enhance community-based services at the front end of Iowa's juvenile justice system.



Transition to Reentry

Building on the efforts of the existing JReS Task Force, develop recommendations that will support the creation of a stronger reentry/transition system, one that maximizes recidivism reduction and improved outcomes for youth and families.



Dual System Youth

Develop a set of recommendations for the creation of a statewide set of policies and practices that will ensure an assessment driven, cross-system and integrated case practice model that serves dual system youth in an effective manner. Develop recommendations on how to best create a comprehensive collaborative approach to case practice for dual system youth and their families.



Congregate Care

Develop a set of recommendations that will address the challenges that youth in congregate care with high criminogenic needs, high-risk delinquent females, and special needs/vulnerable populations experience in receiving the needed treatment services in the most appropriate milieu.



State Training School

Develop a set of recommendations to provide placement and post-placement treatment and services that are based on youth's assessed needs and evidence based.



Governance, Funding, and Data

Develop a set of recommendations that will support the creation of a centralized governance and funding structure for Iowa's juvenile justice system that aligns budgetary planning with fiscal appropriation (including dispositional control over the continuum of services and levels of supervision provided). Develop a set of recommendations to create a system of data collection and analysis that promotes data-driven decision making by all agencies.



RECOMMENDATIONS

JJTF RECOMMENDATIONS

4

JCS should continuously revalidate the Iowa Delinquency Assessment (IDA) and the Detention Screening Tool (DST) for gender and bias to better assess and serve the needs of youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system.

5

JCS and treatment providers should develop a definition and framework for family engagement that allows for more adults and role models in the youth's life to provide support both during and after juvenile justice system involvement, e.g., through actions such as phone calls and visits while in out-of-home placements.

Iowa Delinquency Assessment (IDA) -A risk assessment tool that allows the JCO to determine the level of risk that a juvenile presents to re-offend, as well as identifying potential risk and protective factors that can be used to help juveniles improve behavior.

Detention Screening Tool (DST) - A concise detention screening instrument that provides structure to ensure that all youth are treated objectively and equitably when making juvenile detention decisions. The tool identifies a youth's risk to reoffend by using three main scoring constructs including: (a) current referral offense, (b) offense history, and (c) supervision status.

JJTF RECOMMENDATIONS

12

JCS and STS should consider reopening the STS 30-day assessment program, as it could be helpful in assessing youth who are eligible for STS placement and providing recommendations about alternatives to placement.

14

There needs to be smaller, targeted, and more focused programming, such as the specialized delinquency beds, for low risk/high need youth that is focused on separating populations such as delinquent/child welfare youth and PSB-youth, as well as single gender placements when appropriate.

JJTF RECOMMENDATIONS



31

The Judicial Branch should use Zirous, the state-contracted IT provider, to rebuild the JCS portion of the case management system in a manner that would improve JCS's ability to make data driven decisions.

39

JCS should research and implement services specific to the cultural, socio-economic, and gender needs of youth of color and their families.

47

The Supreme Court should ensure the availability of statewide evidence-based diversion programs, implemented using equitable eligibility and programming criteria. In doing so, the Supreme Court should direct the Chief JCOs to make post-charge diversion equitably available to all youth in every judicial district and appoint a Diversion Task Force to assist in this implementation effort.

JCS DIVERSION

Diversion is a research-based approach, which provides first, second, or third-time low-level offenders the opportunity to avoid formal court processing within the Iowa juvenile justice system. The intent of diversion is to promote opportunities for low level juvenile offenders and their parents/custodians to remediate negative behaviors and become productive members of society, in a self-sufficient manner, without the barriers the juvenile justice system may create.

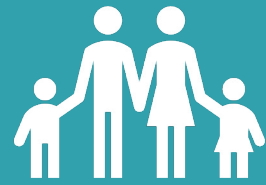


JCS DIVERSION

INTENDED OUTCOMES



Provide proportionate accountability and an alternative resolution to reduce the number of low-level juvenile offenders entering Iowa's formal juvenile justice system.



Provide an opportunity for Iowa children and families to avoid negative stigma and adverse peer influence. Overserving increases risk.



Reduce disparities and the overrepresentation of minority youth in the Iowa juvenile justice system. JCS continues to address racial and ethnic disparities and makes a deliberate effort to provide opportunities for low-risk minority juvenile offenders.



Focus more of the resources and time of JCS staff to support youth with the greatest need



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