Nevada Juvenile Justice Process

Nevada Association of Juvenile Justice Administrators
Purpose of the Juvenile Justice System

- Hold juveniles accountable for delinquent behavior
- Provide effective deterrents, interventions and diversions
- Protect the public from delinquent activity
- Balance attention to offenders, victims, and the community
- Maintain a continuum of care that seeks to rehabilitate, deter further escalation, yet meets the needs of the juvenile consistent with their delinquent behavior
- Juvenile Justice is rehabilitative in nature and utilizes a least restrictive approach, continually assessing for risk and needs
Components of Juvenile Justice

– Juvenile Court
– Law enforcement
– Prosecution
– Defense
– Community corrections (Bifurcated System)
  • Probation (County)
  • Parole (State of Nevada)
Differences

Adult System
- Criminal Act
- Probable Cause Review
- Arraignment
- Complaint
- Guilty/Not Guilty
- Trial
- Sentence/Conviction
- Term of Imprisonment

Juvenile System
- Delinquent Act
- Detention Hearing
- Plea Hearing
- Petition
- Admit/Deny
- Contested Hearing
- Adjudicate/Disposition
- Commitment
Juvenile Court Jurisdiction

– Prosecutorial age for juveniles in the State of Nevada is eight years of age (NRS194.010)

– Person who is LESS than 18 years (the age of majority); some exceptions apply
OVERVIEW OF PROCESS LEADING TO COURT

Arrest or Citation of Juvenile

Misdemeanor

Juvenile Probation Intake Assessment Informal Handling Possible

Probation Officer Informal supervision NRS 62C.200(1)(a)

District Attorney No-issue Petition Filed

Gross Misdemeanor or Felony

Probation Officer

District Attorney No-issue

Informal supervision

Petition Filed
Detention Criteria - NRS 62C.030

• Likely to commit an offense dangerous to himself or to the community, or likely to commit danger to property

• Threat of flight

• Fugitive from another jurisdiction

• Warrant

• Violation of Court Order
Youth Facilities

– **County Youth Camps**
  - China Spring Youth Camp (Douglas County)
  - Spring Mountain Youth Camp (Clark County)

– **Youth Correctional Facilities** (State Commitments)
  - Nevada Youth Training Center (Elko)
  - Caliente Youth Center (Caliente)
  - Red Rock Academy (Clark County)

– **Juveniles must be 12 years of age or older to be committed to correctional care**
Trends & Best Practices

• Detention reform
• Evidence Based Program Strategies
• Continued statewide collaboration
• The expansion of diversion and front end services to reduce the dependence on detention and correctional beds
Mental Health

**Challenge:** Implement a continuum of care that includes early access to mental health services

- Nevada law requires that every child who is detained must be screened for a possible mental health or substance abuse condition
  - Based on the assessment score, services are determined, implemented, and supervised

- Over 55% of the youth within the Juvenile Justice system have at least one mental health diagnosis
  - Couple mental illness with substance abuse (often times to self medicate) and poor familial resources and the issues compound exponentially

- The Juvenile Justice system has become adept at assessing and placement of youth with serious emotional disturbance
Funding

• Local jurisdictions are funded through their county general fund budgets plus:
  – Formula Grant funding from DCFS (Federal funding)
  – Specialized Medicaid Room and Board funding through a block grant from DCFS (General fund)
    • Grant formulas are based on the number of youth enrolled in K-12 in the jurisdiction
    • Community Corrections Block Grant
Nevada Moving Forward

• Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

• Conditions of confinement
  • Reducing frequency and length of room confinement

• Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) initiatives

• Continued collaboration with State and local educational systems relative to:
  • Truancy and School Disturbance
  • To support student success

• Continued collaboration between the NAJJA, the Supreme Court Commission on Statewide Juvenile Justice Reform, the Nevada Juvenile Justice Commission, and the Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice

• Continue to ensure that a viable and effective continuum of care exists that meets juveniles where they are and provides exceptional service to deter escalation to the adult system

• Continue to seek and expand mental services available to delinquent youth