

**KING  
COUNTY  
JUVENILE  
COURT  
SERVICES**

**WASHINGTON STATE**

WE ENVISION KING COUNTY  
JUVENILE COURT SERVICES  
AS A SYSTEM THAT  
COLLABORATES WITH  
OUR COMMUNITIES AND  
PARTNERS TO PROVIDE  
UP-FRONT, THERAPEUTIC,  
AND CULTURALLY  
RESPONSIVE SERVICES TO  
ALL YOUTH AND FAMILIES.

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# A MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY

King County Juvenile Court Services is committed to responding to the needs of youth and families in a manner that is trauma informed, research based, and culturally relevant.

**Our organization strives to respond to the unique needs of every youth and family, while providing opportunities to engage in pro-social activities that foster hope and remove barriers to long-term success.**

A constant driver of our work is the commitment to reduce racial and ethnic disparities. Policy changes and new programs are approached from the lens of how to equitably serve all members of our community, and remove institutional barriers that contribute to disproportionate system involvement for youth of color. There is no one answer to solving disproportionality, but we believe that collaboration across systems, and with community partners, is necessary to improve outcomes for our youth.

Involvement with the juvenile court is an event that is not wished upon any youth or family, but in the event of a referral to the court, this is an opportunity to provide interventions and supportive programming, with the goal of eliminating any future system involvement. Juvenile Court Services staff, volunteers, and community and system partners work together to provide an appropriate response for youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system. We are committed to approaching our work through a restorative lens, uplifting young people, their families, and community through positive programs and services.

JUDGE J. WESLEY SAINT CLAIR  
Chief Juvenile Court Judge



LEA ENNIS  
Director of Juvenile Court Services





# RACE, EQUITY + ADDRESSING DISPROPORTIONALITY

King County Juvenile Court Services considers eliminating disproportionality and improving equitable access to services as the foundation to juvenile justice reform efforts.

The court and its partners have engaged in collaborative, multi-faceted strategies including: policy changes, staff trainings on implicit bias and privilege, review of culturally responsive services, and the development of sustainable court and community partnerships. Juvenile Court Services envisions a process where youth and families who are referred to the court are immediately connected to community-based programs and networks of support.

In an effort to reduce disproportionality within the juvenile justice system, the following policies and practices were adopted or expanded in 2016:

- + Continually reviewing and reducing the number of warrants that result in secure detention. The Juvenile Court has enhanced law enforcement's ability to provide a new court date and release the youth in the field.
- + Adhering to a strict list of criteria for a youth to be presented to secure detention. Eligible offenses are limited to those that pose a significant risk to community safety.
- + Instituting a new policy, Juvenile Court allows a youth brought to secure detention to be immediately released. Juvenile Court judges are on call and can remotely review cases and release eligible youth outside of traditional court hours.

# INITIATIVES

King County Juvenile Court Services engages in partnership with local, state, and national level experts in the field of juvenile justice in an effort to adopt best practices and innovative programming.

## Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)

The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) is a national reform movement spearheaded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.\* King County Juvenile Court has been a formal JDAI site since 2004, yet began to adopt the JDAI reform framework in the late 1990s. JDAI's vision is for all youth involved in the juvenile justice system to have opportunities to develop into healthy productive adults. As a result of JDAI and other programs and initiatives, King County has experienced a consistent decline in the use of secure detention for juveniles. *GRAPHIC 1*

\*[www.aecf.org/work/juvenile-justice/jdai/](http://www.aecf.org/work/juvenile-justice/jdai/)

JDAI is rooted in the following 8 Core Strategies:

- + Prioritize Reducing Racial + Ethnic Disparities
- + Improve Conditions of Confinement
- + Community-Based Alternative Programs
- + Objective Detention Admission Criteria
- + Data-Driven Policies
- + Increasing Collaboration
- + Expediting Case Processing
- + Probation Violation + Warrant Options.

## eQuality

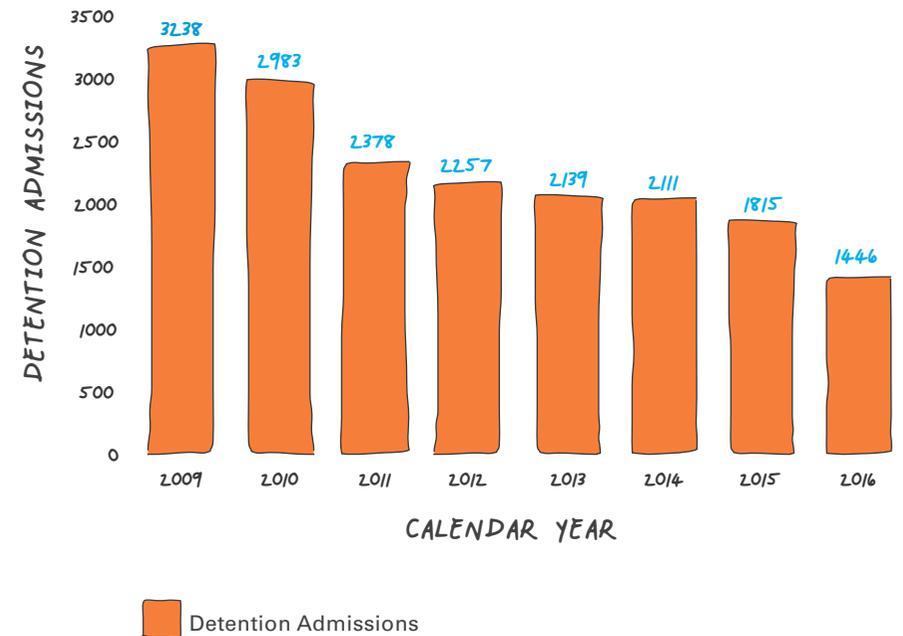
In partnership with Center for Children and Youth Justice, King County Juvenile Court Services has implemented the protocol for safe and affirming care (eQuality). The eQuality project seeks to improve the lives of LGBTQ+ youth in Washington State's child welfare and juvenile justice systems. LGBTQ+ youth are overrepresented in these systems, experience unique forms of trauma, and have specific needs related to their sexual orientation and gender identity. It builds the framework for providing safe and more affirming care to LGBTQ+ youth who are system involved.

## Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEC)

King County no longer charges youth with prostitution. As a result of extensive outreach, education, and training, youth who were previously charged with prostitution are seen as survivors/victims of commercial sexual exploitation. The court supports a coordinated effort to align stakeholders in support of youth who are at risk for sexual exploitation, or are victims of trafficking. *GRAPHIC 2*

GRAPHIC 1

## REDUCTION IN THE USE OF SECURE DETENTION



GRAPHIC 2

## MINORS CHARGED WITH PROSTITUTION VERSUS MEN TRYING TO BUY SEX FROM MINORS



\*Data provided by Val Richey, King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

# RESTORATIVE PROGRAMS

Restorative principles are a set of values that guide practices for how we respond to behavior. Restorative principles embrace the need to repair harm and rebuild relationships in the community. Restorative justice calls upon the support and engagement of the community and involves crime victims with the goal of strengthening bonds among community members and preventing future juvenile justice system involvement. Restorative justice embraces a healing process, rather than punishment.



*"TO ME, RESTORATIVE PROGRAMS ARE BASED ON A PHILOSOPHY THAT SEES 'WRONGS' COMMITTED IN THE COMMUNITY AS OPPORTUNITIES THAT COULD BE TRANSFORMATIVE FOR ITS PARTICIPANTS. IT CHALLENGES US TO THINK DIFFERENTLY ABOUT PROBLEMS, PEOPLE, AND CRIMES."*

Restorative Program Social Worker

## Family Intervention + Restorative Services (FIRS)

The Family Intervention and Restorative Services (FIRS) program is an intervention offered to youth and families experiencing youth enacted family violence. The FIRS program offers two components; the FIRS Respite Center and FIRS Agreements.

FIRS is the result of a successful partnership between the King County Prosecuting Attorney's office, Superior Court, the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention, the Department of Judicial Administration, the Department of Public Defense, and the City of Seattle.

- + The FIRS Respite Center, staffed by Pioneer Human Services, opened its doors on July 1st, 2016. Within the first 6 months of operation, 87 youth were successfully diverted from secure detention and offered placement in the respite center.
- + FIRS Agreements are a pre-diversion practice, offered as an alternative to the traditional court process and will not result in a court case or criminal record for the youth. The FIRS team provides immediate intervention through assessing family safety and service needs, facilitates safety planning and restorative process, and engages youth in the development of an agreement to participate in needed services. In 2016, 150 FIRS Agreements were signed.

## Step-Up

Step-Up is a nationally recognized adolescent family violence intervention program designed to address youth violence toward family members. Step-Up believes respect is at the heart of all healthy family relationships. Step-Up offers a skills based and restorative practice group intervention for youth and their parents/caretakers. This 20-week intervention includes a youth group, parent group, and multi-family group with youth and parents together. The court employs a team of four social workers who provide this service in the community. In 2016, more than 72 families engaged in services through the Step-Up program.

## Peacemaking

King County is pioneering peacemaking as a restorative justice response to youth referred to the court for serious offenses. Peacemaking is a method of bringing people together to strengthen relationships, build community, and facilitate innovative problem-solving.



"I WOULD LIKE ALL OF YOU TO KNOW THAT I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU GUYS OR THE CHANCE YOU ALL HAVE GIVEN ME TO CHANGE MY LIFE AROUND AND KEEP MY RECORD SOMEWHAT CLEAN. THE EXPERIENCE I HAVE HAD HERE HAS HELPED ME REALIZE THAT WHAT I HAVE BEEN DOING MY WHOLE LIFE IS TRULY NOT RIGHT, AND THAT THE FEW SHORT DAYS I WAS HERE WERE BEARABLE DUE TO THE NICE WORKERS. I JUST HOPE ALL OF YOU KNOW THAT YOU HAVE HELPED CHANGE MY LIFE FOR THE BETTER."

Letter from youth following  
a stay in the FIRS Respite Center

# DIVERSION

Diversion directs youth away from the traditional case-processing model and instead refers youth to a restorative justice program or services. Diversion is a non-court processing model for low-level offenses. Successfully completing a diversion program keeps youth from having a criminal record.

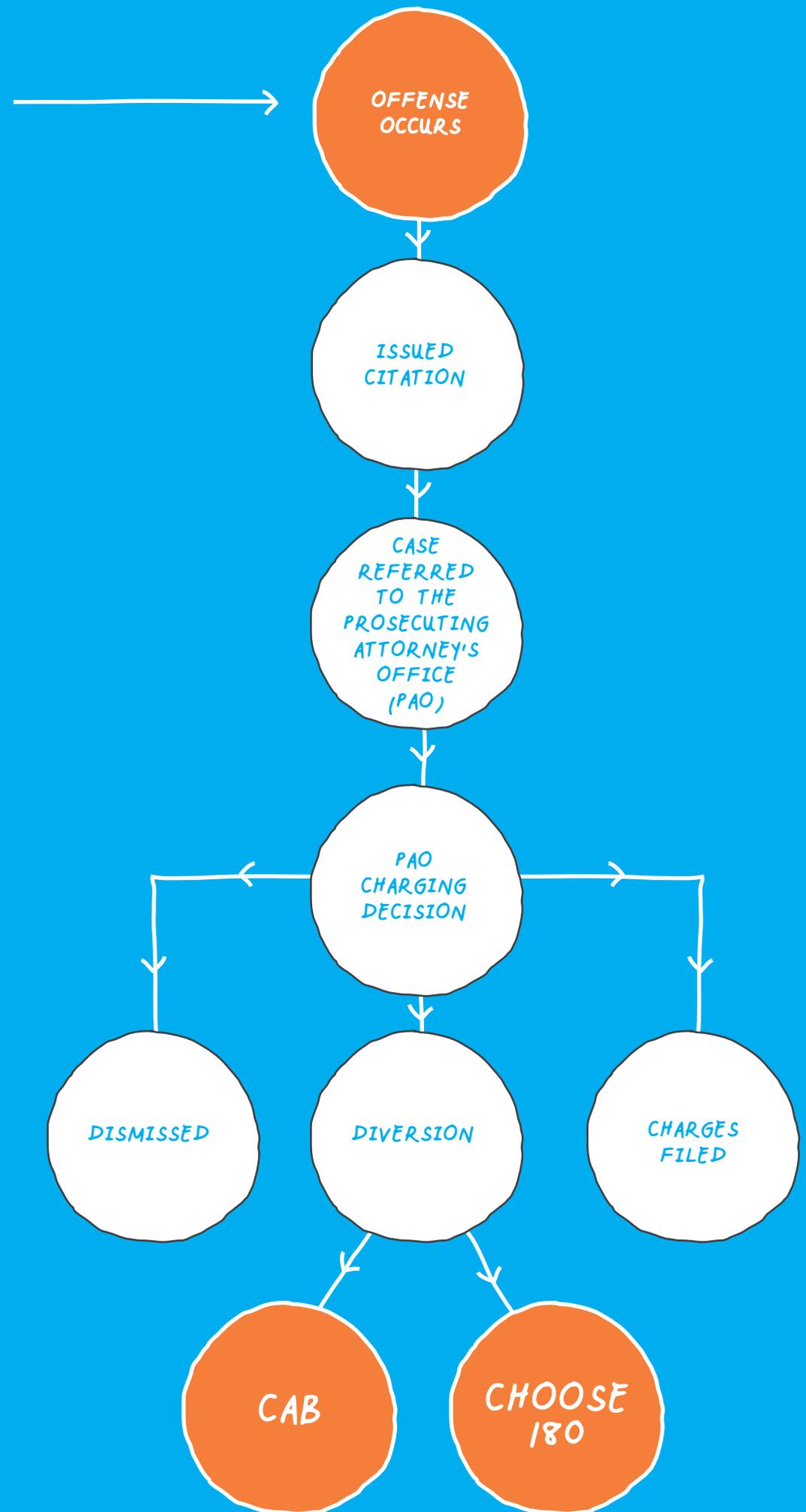
## Community Accountability Boards (CAB)

King County operates 13 volunteer-led Community Accountability Boards (CAB). CABs interview youth and their caretakers in order to create an individualized diversion agreement. The objectives of the CAB and diversion agreement are to: provide accountability for the youth's behavior through effectively communicating the correlation between the crimes committed and individuals harmed by those actions; identify and help resolve issues that may be inhibiting the young person from achieving their potential; and connect youth to their community through local resources.

## Choose 180

Choose 180 is a partnership between the prosecutor and a community-based agency. Youth who attend Choose 180 hear from volunteer speakers who have faced some of the same issues and struggles youth are experiencing, and who had made their own "180" change in direction. In 2016, Choose 180 was attended by more than 300 youth.

FROM OFFENSE TO DIVERSION PROGRAMS: CAB + CHOOSE 180



# DRUG COURT + JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSESSMENT TEAM (JJAT)

Juvenile Court Services focuses on providing supports and programs informed by the therapeutic needs of our clients.

## Juvenile Drug Court (JDC)

The Juvenile Drug Court (JDC) allows youth charged with an offense who have an alcohol or drug problem to participate in a 7 to 18 month program that includes early, continuous and intensive court-monitored treatment. The JDC program works closely with the JJAT team in an effort to ensure a therapeutic response is provided for all cases through comprehensive assessment tools and weekly case staffing. If a juvenile successfully completes the Drug Court program, their charges are dismissed.

## Juvenile Justice Assessment Team (JJAT)

The Juvenile Justice Assessment Team (JJAT) is comprised of therapeutic staff including a psychologist, mental health, and chemical dependency staff who are responsible for providing assessments, consultation, and therapeutic interventions. The JJAT is instrumental in developing and guiding a therapeutic treatment plan for justice involved youth.

*"THEY HAD SO MUCH HOPE IN ME, MORE THAN I HAD IN MYSELF, AND KEPT PUSHING ME IN THAT DIRECTION. I'M SIXTEEN MONTHS CLEAN AND LIFE IS GREAT. HONESTLY, I FEEL LIKE A PRODUCTIVE PART OF SOCIETY. I'M INDEPENDENTLY LIVING ON MY OWN. IT FEELS GOOD TO LIVE LIFE THE WAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE LIVED."*

Drug Court Graduate

# JUVENILE PROBATION

King County offers the following Evidence-Based Programs through Juvenile Court Services at no cost to the youth or family. In 2016, more than 250 youth were served through these programs

When a youth is placed on supervised probation by the juvenile court, a Juvenile Probation Counselor (JPC) is assigned to the youth based on their geographic living area. The JPC completes a full risk needs assessment and refers the youth and family to appropriate services which may include family, individual, mental health, or substance abuse counseling. The JPC coordinates with school staff, counseling staff, and other agencies and community resources in guiding the youth and family in meeting their needs.

## Education + Employment Training (EET)

A comprehensive work training experience for justice involved youth. Participants receive case management, job readiness training, and job placement in community-based subsidized positions.

## Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)

Therapy designed to give parents the support and empowerment they need to provide a positive environment and access the community services necessary to achieve long term success for their youth.

## Functional Family Therapy (FFT)

A family intervention therapy with sessions offered in the home, focused upon teaching communication and problem-solving skills.

## Parent Youth Connections Seminar (PYCS)

An interactive seminar for youth and their parents or guardians that focuses upon skill building and making connections within the family and community. The program is designed to: increase positive relationships between caregivers and children, and increase a family's knowledge of, and connection to, community resources.

## Aggression Replacement Training (ART)

A class that teaches participants to replace negative behavior with positive skills, anger control, and moral reasoning.

## Family Integrated Transitions (FIT)

Intensive family and community-based treatment intervention addressing mental health and substance abuse disorders.

# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

King County Juvenile Court Services works in partnership with non-profit organizations and community members to connect youth and families to a network of supportive events, interventions, and mentors.

## Mentoring through the Credible Messenger Initiative

The King County Credible Messenger Initiative was developed through training and technical assistance from Community Connections for Youth in New York City and the Dept. of Youth Rehabilitative Services in Washington, D.C. It represents one component of King County's new approach to mentorship for our youth. Credible Messengers serve young people whose needs go far beyond the traditional mentoring approach of companionship, confidence-building and typical academic, social or career guidance. The King County Credible Messenger Initiative stems from a core belief that individuals from the same communities, with the same lived experience as those that they serve, are uniquely positioned to engage young people and family members often considered hardest to reach.

Believing that the answer is in our communities, the Credible Messenger Initiative seeks to practice true restorative justice by investing directly in

growing the human resources in our communities where the majority of our young people reside.

Credible Messenger mentors are not volunteers. They are paid professionals who receive training to enhance their professional development. Through mentoring, Credible Messengers experience a deepening of their own commitment to transformation and growth, personally and professionally. The Credible Messengers receive training on multiple relevant topics, including Facilitation, Positive Youth Development, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and Restorative Practices.

## Youth Leadership, Intervention, and Change (Youth LINC)

King County Juvenile Court supports the efforts of Youth Leadership, Intervention and Change (Youth LINC), a program that strengthens agency coordination to reduce gang involvement, and connects gang or group involved youth to a network of support. A multidisciplinary team, facilitated by the Center for Children + Youth Justice (CCYJ) helps ensure that all agencies working with a shared client have common goals and strategies to support the youth. The multi-disciplinary team includes: school/education staff, outreach workers, social service providers, probation counselors, law enforcement, and job training/education service providers.

## Federal Way Youth Action Team (FWYAT)

The FWYAT is a collaboration of community members and organizations that provide youth and families with pro-social programming, development opportunities, and connection to services. Currently, the FWYAT supports three programs that serve youth who are at risk of involvement with the justice system.

- + Helping Youth Achieve Excellence (HYPE) is a weekend program that reconnects youth to opportunity through developing relationships with positive adults from their community and pro-social skill building workshops.
- + Game of Life (GOL) is a program that operates two nights per week and is designed to engage young men through basketball. Through a "Health and Wellness" framework, GOL aims to develop deeper relationships with young men while assessing their needs and connecting them to services and supports. GOL is facilitated by community leaders and professionals who have valuable, relative life experience to the young men attending GOL.
- + The Positive Outcomes Program (POP) provides advocacy and mentorship to youth who are often underserved and at risk for interaction with the juvenile justice system.



# DETENTION SERVICES

Detention services has embraced a trauma informed approach to care. Recent efforts have been focused on the redeployment of staffing resources, revamping of hiring practices, investing in staff training, and creating robust programs and services that adhere to a long term vision of being trauma informed.

## Volunteer + Community Organizations

- Yoga Behind Bars
- Pongo Poetry
- Creative Writing
- Powerful Voices
- Jet City Improv
- Spoken Word/Slam Poetry
- Movie nights
- IF Project
- KUOW RadioActive Audio Storytelling
- Northwest Black Pioneers Exhibit
- AA Meetings
- Visual art classes
- Basketball clinics and camps
- U-Power
- Planter Box Gardening Program
- Young Men’s Peacemaking Circle Program
- Sweat, Pain, and Gain—Physical Education Program

## On-Site Services

- Interagency School, Seattle Public Schools
- King County Library
- Mental Health Services provided by University of Washington Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
- Health Services provided by University of Washington School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics
- Chaplaincy Programming and Mentoring

*“PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFERED TO YOUTH SEEK TO EMBRACE RESTORATIVE PRINCIPLES, AND INCORPORATE BEST PRACTICES THAT ARE IN ALIGNMENT WITH SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENTS IN ADOLESCENT BRAIN DEVELOPMENT”*

*Pam Jones, Juvenile Division Director, Adult + Juvenile Detention*



# FINAL THANKS

We would like to acknowledge the dedication of our community partners who continually strive to improve the lives of youth and families.

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)	Glover Empowerment Mentoring (GEM)
Annie E. Casey Foundation	Helping Youth Perform Excellence (HYPE)
Atlantic Street Center	Institute for Family Development
Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Division	Juvenile Justice Equity Steering Committee (JJESC)
Center for Children and Youth Justice (CCYJ)	Kent Youth and Family Services
Certified Sex Offender Treatment Providers (CSOTP)	King County ADR (Mediation)
Children's Administration	King County Department of Adult + Juvenile Detention (KC DAJD)
Choose 180	King County Department of Public Defense (KC DPD)
Church Council of Greater Seattle, the Archdiocese of Greater Seattle	King County EER (Education, Employment, Resources)
City of Seattle	King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (KC PAO)
Community Passageways	King County Sexual Resource Center
Community Psychiatric Clinic	Multi-Service Center
Creative Justice	Pioneer Human Services
DSHS Division of Behavioral Health + Recovery (DBHR)	Pointe One North Consulting
DSHS Rehabilitation Administration	Positive Outcome Program (POP)
Federal Way Youth Action Team (FWYAT)	Ryther
Game of Life (GOL)	School Districts across King County

Seneca Family of Agencies  
Team Child  
Therapeutic Health Services  
Uniting for Youth (UfY)  
University of Washington (UW)  
Urban Art Works

Washington Department of Social + Health Services (DSHS)  
Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice  
YMCA of King County  
YouthCare



**KING COUNTY JUVENILE COURT SERVICES**  
**1211 East Alder St. Seattle, WA 98122**  
**[kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court/juvenile](http://kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court/juvenile)**  
**(206) 205-9426**

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