

# Vision for Youth Justice in Wisconsin

Fredi-Ellen Bove  
Administrator, Division of Safety And Permanence

August 2018



# Approach to Assuming Supervision of the YJ System

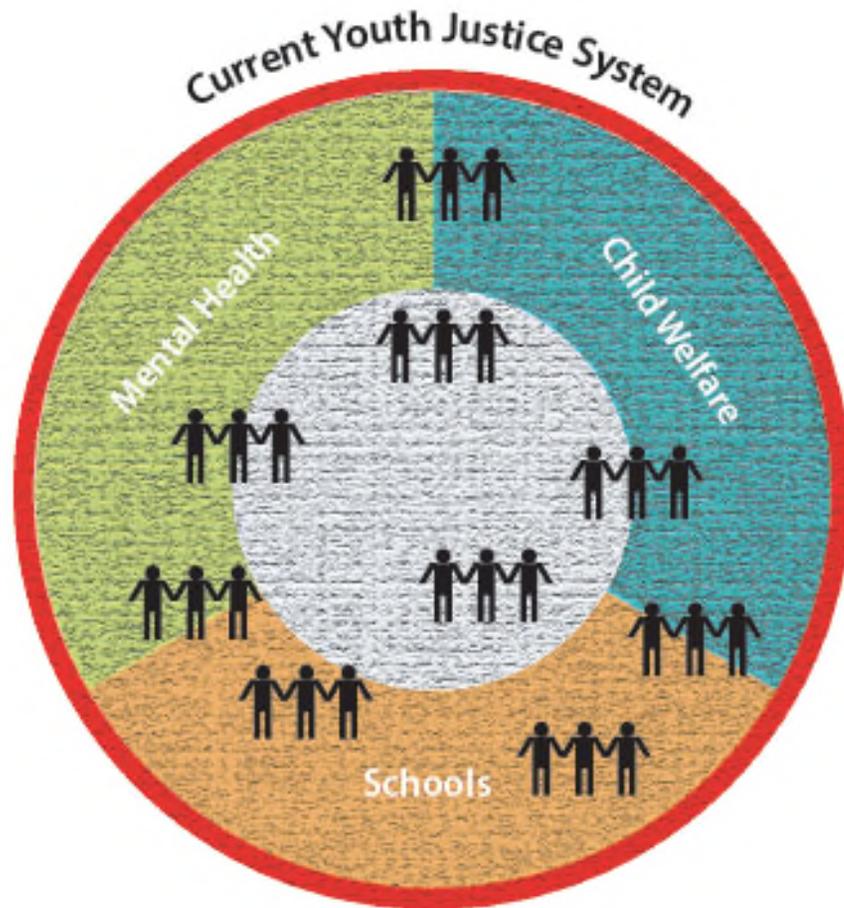
## Input Gathering

- Extensive information gathering over the course of a year (2016)
  - Hundreds of stakeholders reached through interviews, focus groups, larger input sessions and state-wide survey
- Consistent and transparent stakeholder communication
  - Regular communication with stakeholders about planned changes to gather input

## Vision

- Development of an overall vision, informed by extensive input gathering: a youth justice system that “focuses on prevention and diversion, and provides accountability and services to youth and families in the system that prepares them to thrive.”

# Strategic Plan: Reserve the Youth Justice System for those who need a Justice response



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.

# Overview of Vision for Youth Justice

## Prevention & Diversion

- Prevention
- School collaboration
- Mental health and well-being
- Diversion

## Assessment & Case Work

- Assessment
- Engagement strategies
- Case planning
- Services
- Dual status youth

## Post-Disposition

- Out of home placements
- Detention
- Accountability
- Aftercare

# Prevention & Diversion

- Adolescent behaviors are viewed through the lens of adolescent development; typical adolescent behavior is not criminalized.
- Adolescent behavior and any underlying family needs are addressed concurrently.
- Clear roles and regular collaboration are established between school resource officers, schools, and human services; an effective array of responses is in place to address misbehavior and truancy.
- A wide array of services to address the full continuum of mental health and well-being needs is easily accessible to all youth and does not require YJ system involvement.
- Youth around the state who commit low level offenses have equal access to diversionary approaches.
- Human services, law enforcement, communities, tribes, state agencies and others collaborate to develop and utilize a range of diversionary options.

# Assessment & Case Work

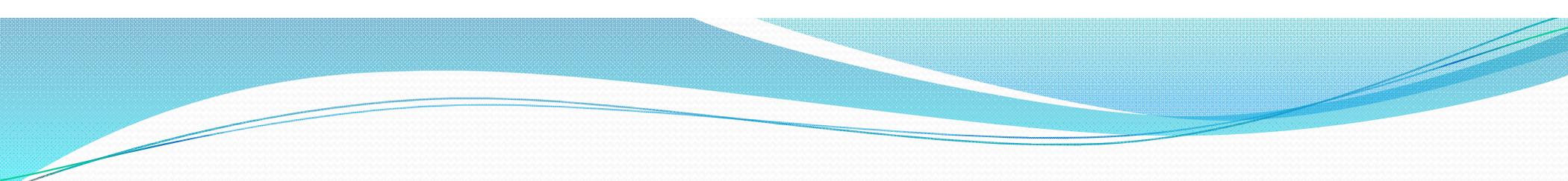
- Use a uniform statewide assessment tool that is comprehensive and addresses youth strengths and integrates with case planning.
- The assessment process ensures that only those youth with risk levels that necessitate a youth justice system response enter the system.
- Case planning engages families and/or other natural supports, and approaches to youth and families are incentive and strength-based.
- Youth and families have access to a full range of individualized services to effect true behavior and family systems change, including services that will continue beyond YJ involvement.

# Post-Disposition

- There is a sufficient range of placement options (short and long-term) for all populations of youth.
- Decisions to hold youth in detention are evidence-based; secure detention is not used for reasons other than public safety.
- All system stakeholders share a vision of accountability that responds to the needs of victims, is strength-based, and allows youth to truly account for and learn from their mistakes.
- Court orders are focused and effective.
- Youth and families can access needed services when no longer on a court order.

# Risk/Needs/Strengths Assessment

- Through input gathering, counties expressed a desire for a research-based risk/needs assessment tool to be used across the state.
- DCF, with the input of a workgroup and through an RFP process, has selected the YASI for use statewide.
- **About the YASI:**
  - Assesses risk level for re-offense.
  - Identifies the dynamic or need factors that need to be addressed to build positive outcomes.
  - 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.
- **Implementation:** The YASI will be rolled out statewide through a two year phased implementation with Phase 1 to begin in early 2019.



Questions?