

The Rapides Parish DA's Neighborhood Accountability Board Program

Presented by:
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MacArthur Models for Change Grant

- o Rapides Parish was chosen by the MacArthur Foundation in 2006 to be a *Models for Change* Site
- o Rapides Parish was awarded in 2007 a *Models for Change* Site grant by the John T. and Catherine D. MacArthur Foundation
- o In 2007, the Rapides Parish District Attorney's Office was asked to apply for a *Models for Change* grant
- o In 2008, the Rapides Parish District Attorney's Office was awarded a two year grant in the amount of \$200,000 for the study and creation of alternatives to formal processing

Models for Change Focus

MacArthur required that we focus on three targeted areas of improvement in order to create a model juvenile justice system in which juveniles were treated fairly and received services and treatment

1. Alternatives to Formal Processing (AFP)
2. Evidenced Based Practices (EBP)
3. Disproportionate minority contact (DMC)

Models for Change VISION

The desired response to delinquent or ungovernable behavior will be local and informal with offenders being supervised, sanctioned, and treated within the community by expanding opportunities for DIVERSION

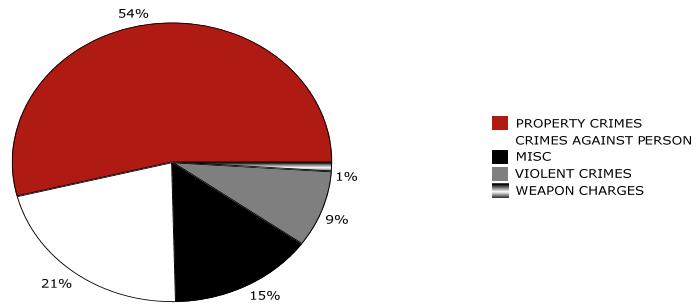
Goal of Rapides DA Grant

- o Develop a best practice model for intake and screening of delinquency cases for prosecutors
- o Create a best practice models for Diversion

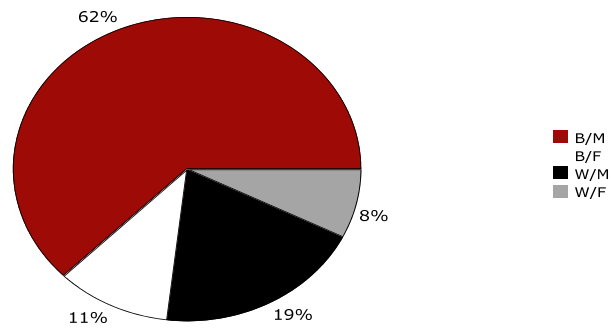
Offender Profile for Diversion (Anecdotal)

- o First offender (property crime or simple drug possession)
- o Average age 14 to 16
- o African American male
- o Mild to moderate mental health concerns
- o Substance Abuse Concerns
- o Special Education Needs

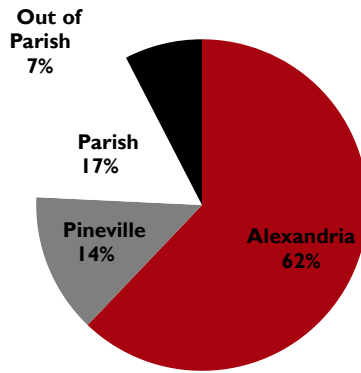
Cases Accepted in 2007



Breakdown of 2007 First Time Property Crime Offenders Accepted by DA by Race and Gender



City of Residence for First-Time Property Offenders on Probation From Rapides Parish



Average Age of Juvenile Offenders in Rapides Parish

The average age of the juvenile offenders across all age and gender groups in Rapides Parish is 15 years of age.

Neighborhood Accountability Board: One Diversion Model

- o Restorative Justice Model of Juvenile Justice
- o Board of Neighborhood Citizens
- o Board hears the facts of minor offenses committed by youthful offenders and imposes sentence
- o Based on a New Zealand concept

Brief Overview of Process

- o Offender who has committed a first offense misdemeanor or felony is eligible for participation after case file is reviewed by ADA and recommended for the program
- o Once offender is selected, family and child are interviewed by LSUA intern at DA's Office to gather demographic/offense information
- o Case file prepared for Board members
- o Child and family served to appear at the NAB hearing held on the 2d Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm
- o Victim is contacted and asked to appear or prepare an 'impact statement' to be read at the hearing

NAB Hearing

- o Parent and child appear before the board
- o Child given the opportunity to address the Board and explain the offense
- o Board interacts with family and solicits additional information about the case
- o Victim may be present or a victim impact statement is read to the Board
- o Board deliberates outside family's presence
- o Board crafts a disposition for the child that may include: restitution, community service, letters of apology, school counseling, etc.

Participant Demographics

- o Twenty (20) referrals from July to December 2009
- o Only 1 terminated unsatisfactorily
- o Average age of participant is 13 years old
- o Charges included: possession of cds 1, theft under 300, simple criminal damage, simple burglary, disturbing the peace by fighting, and trespassing
- o 8 Black males referred, 8 white males referred, and 4 black females
- o Total of 454.4 community service hours completed over six (6) month period

Dispositions Ordered

- o Community Service
- o Letters of Apology to Family and Victim
- o Letters of Apology
- o Essay
- o Smoking Cessation Program
- o Curfew
- o Artistic Expression through art or music

Case Monitoring

- o Child/Family signs a contract to complete disposition
- o Intern monitors compliance with terms of contract by contact with providers, child, and victim
- o Child/Family returns for 30 day and 60 day review to determine compliance with contract and disposition terms
- o Child released after 90 days and satisfactory completion of contract and disposition terms

Rapides Parish DA Diversion Program Cost Savings Estimation

Stage of JJS	Total Spent in 2008	Cost per child in 2008	Total Saved by Diversion Program
DA - total	\$123,375.00	\$336.70	\$51,585.01
Case Processing*			
Court	\$26,375.00	\$99.91	\$9,131.43**
Clerk of Court	\$117,900.00	\$248.21	\$67,016.84
IDB Attorney			
Judge/Law Clerk***	\$55,400.00	\$209.85	\$24,132.58
Court Ordered Assessment	\$83,200.00	\$1,053.16	\$27,382.28
Probation Department			
Total	\$721,155.00	\$6,782.77	\$277,552.00****

****Cost estimates prepared by Kristina Childs, Ph.D, LaMfC Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of New Orleans, Department of Psychology

Why Alternatives to Formal Processing?

- o Confinement – A predictor of negative life outcomes
- o Interferes with psychological and social development
- o Youth come in contact with antisocial peers
- o Negatively affects self perception
- o Cuts off process of maturation
- o Estimated Cost Savings to Rapides Parish

For More Information:

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ModelsforChange
Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice