



A TEMPLATE FOR PROFILING DETENTION CENTERS REGARDING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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This document was created for use as a survey tool. The information gathered provides a description of a detention center's daily operations, programs, and use of mental services including the use of screening and assessment tools. This survey was done with nine detention centers in three states that are participating in a research study. The participating sites are located in Louisiana, Indiana, and Illinois.

This outline was developed by the National Youth Screening Assistance Project (NYSAP). NYSAP is a member of the National Resource Bank of technical assistants, associated with the MacArthur Foundation's Models for Change Initiative.

Information Requested from Detention Centers Intending to Participate in the “Models for Change” Research Study

Detention Director:

We would like to meet to set up a formal agreement with you concerning your participation in our research study. Before doing that, we would like to learn about some of the details of your detention center.

We thought that the easiest way to do this would be to provide you the following questions, which you can simply answer on the form and mail to us. We assure you that this information will not be provided to any other party.

Please complete the following information at your earliest convenience and email or mail it to the following contact person.

Contact Person
Agency Name
Agency Address
City, State, Zip Code
Email Address

STAFF AND AGENCY INFORMATION

Name of Detention Center _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Name of Director _____

Detention staff in manager or supervisory positions reporting to the Director

Name/Position

Health or mental health staff (e.g., nurse, mental health counselor)

Name/Position

Number of staff employees (including the above staff) _____

Agency with primary authority for detention center operations

Name of Agency

Court officials who have any control over detention center operations

Name/Title

In order to set up an agreement between the detention center and ourselves to engage in research together, we will need to receive approval from appropriate people who have some authority over the detention center, or with whom you work closely in the community and would wish to include in such an agreement.

As best you can tell, what people do you think we should be including in arriving at such an agreement?

Agency/Person

INFORMATION ABOUT CENSUS

Approximate number of youth admitted monthly _____

Approximate number of youth in detention on an average day
(average daily census) _____

Approx. percentage of youth who are in residence for only a few days
(Less than 5) _____

Primary counties/parishes referring youth to the detention center

INFORMATION ABOUT PROGRAMS

Some detention centers have special programs that are functioning in the detention center or collaborating with the detention center. We'd like to know about them if they are part of your daily operations.

Is your detention center a site for the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)? If so, how long has JDAI been working with you?

Is your detention center a site for any other national agency involved in improvement of detention center goals and functions? If so, please identify them

Is your detention center a site for any state-based initiatives or programs for which you are receiving grant funding? If so, please identify them

Are there any special treatment programs operating within your detention center to serve youth with anger or mental health problems? If so, please identify them

INFORMATION ABOUT DAILY OPERATIONS

Please list the steps that occur when a youth arrives at the detention center. In other words what is done to and for youth during the first 2-3 hours after arrival?

Please name any health or mental health screening tools, tests, or instruments that are used during that process

What procedures are used if you find that a youth needs immediate attention for any kind of mental health need, like suicide potential or a serious mental health problem that can't wait? (e.g., obtain ASAP clinical consultation; implement suicide watch)

Are there agencies or professionals in the community who provide help for you in the above types of cases? If so, name of the agency and mental health service provided

In the daily operations of detention, many detention centers have a process for recording (e.g., in daily logs) any incidents in which youth have gotten into fights or engage in other rule-breaking in detention. Could you briefly describe any method that you use for doing this, and the types of incidents that are recorded?

Thank You!