

Services in Louisiana’s Juvenile Justice System

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Successful jurisdictions are slowly transforming their juvenile justice systems to more effectively, efficiently, and fairly serve their young people. Officials are developing systems aligned along a continuum of care, which can meet a range of service and public safety needs, from the most minimal to the most intensive. In a growing number of Louisiana parishes, an emphasis has been placed on establishing **evidence-based programs**-- standardized, replicable practices that are implemented with fidelity and have been researched and demonstrate positive outcomes in repeated studies. It is critical to have services in place that address the different mission and purpose of each point in the juvenile justice system. **The table below provides an overview of the key elements that should be included in the service array available for youth at various points and highlights the extent to which they currently exist in the state.**

System Point	Purpose	Type of Services that Should be Available	Overview of Current Practice in Louisiana
<i>Informal FINS</i>	Triage and Referral; Generally should be a short-term intervention of 1-3 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Triage and Referral</li> <li>• Crisis intervention</li> <li>• Temporary respite shelter</li> <li>• Brief strategic family interventions</li> <li>• Trauma informed care</li> <li>• Mental health services</li> <li>• Substance abuse services</li> <li>• <i>For very few-</i> Residential Treatment</li> </ul>	<p>A true informal FINS service system does not exist with the exception of components of the ideal service array in local pilots</p> <p><u>Examples:</u>                      Rapides - has a best practice triage and referral system                      Calcasieu - has a best practice triage, screening, and service linkage</p>
<i>Detention</i>	Crisis, Temporary Placement, Referral, Transitional Planning; Generally should be a short-term intervention from a few days to one month.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crisis intervention</li> <li>• Short-brief interventions</li> <li>• Transitional services / Linking youth to services at release</li> <li>• Urgent mental health referral / psychiatric stabilization and support</li> <li>• Educational services</li> </ul>	<p>Detention lacks consistency in operation as standards will not be fully implemented until 2013. The minimum necessary service array will need further assessment and monitoring and technical assistance to ensure the full implementation of the Louisiana Detention Standards.</p>
<i>Probation</i>	Services matched to identified needs to reduce risk and improve behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Referral &amp; Case management</li> <li>• Intensive family therapies (e.g. MST, FFT, MFFT)</li> <li>• Substance abuse Treatment</li> <li>• Mental health Treatment</li> <li>• Education intervention</li> <li>• Mentor programs</li> <li>• Skills based therapies</li> <li>• Trauma informed Treatment</li> </ul>	<p>Service matrices are available in all regions matching level of risk/need to services available in the community. The matrices emphasize research driven services where available, but actual quality of services and outcomes are rarely measured or reviewed.</p> <p><u>Example:</u>                      Jefferson Parish has a promising model for linking youth needs and services, monitoring quality of services, and demonstrating evidence of effectiveness.</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> JDC Juvenile Drug Court has a treatment model based on best substance abuse treatment practices inclusive of both the youth and family.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psychopharmacology</li> </ul>	North Shore Technical College has an educational/vocational training model for youth on probation.
<i>Residential/Secure Care</i>	Services are matched to needs and focus on build behavioral skills to transition to release; stays should be as short as possible to address youth’s behavioral and treatment goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills based interventions (e.g. CBT therapies)</li> <li>• Substance abuse Treatment</li> <li>• Trauma Treatment</li> <li>• Mental Health Treatment</li> <li>• Psychopharmacology</li> <li>• Education / GED services</li> <li>• Family therapy</li> <li>• Family transition and/or permanency options for discharge</li> <li>• Sexual offending behavioral interventions</li> <li>• Health services</li> </ul>	<p>OJJ has its “LAMOD” model being implemented. Modeled after the Missouri Model.</p> <p>OJJ utilizes “Thinking for a Change” a cognitive-behavioral model for juvenile offenders.</p> <p>The Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership and Coordinated Systems of Care work towards improved services for diverting youth from placement and continuity of care during transitions between placement and community.</p>
<i>Aftercare</i>	Transition to independent and/or family supported community living and educational, vocational work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family trained to reinforce individual skills youth learned in placement</li> <li>• Individual skills reinforce, problem solved in real world setting, and sustained</li> <li>• Transitional and independent living skills supported</li> <li>• Reintegration to family and community is guided and supported</li> <li>• Continuity of care with health, mental health, and education planned and maintained</li> <li>• Job, vocational placement</li> </ul>	<p>The state does not consistently render aftercare services adhering to any specific model.</p> <p>Aftercare remains largely dependent on locally driven court decisions regarding release versus demonstrated progress of the youth in care.</p>

For more information download the entire report, “Sustaining Juvenile Justice System Reform: A Report to the Louisiana Juvenile Justice Implementation Commission,” at <http://publichealth.lsuhsoc.edu/iphj/sustainingreform.html>