

City of Alexandria, Virginia

City of Alexandria Crossover Youth Practice Model Road to Legislation

Commission on Youth

May 19, 2021



CYPM Four Overarching Goals



1. Reduce the number of youth crossing over and becoming dually-involved;
2. Reduce the number of youth placed in out-of-home care;
3. Reduce the use of congregate care; and
4. Reduce the disproportionate representation of youth of color, particularly in the crossover population

Alexandria Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM)



- In response to:
 - Uptick in use of congregate care
 - Increase in complexity of needs
 - Complexity of cross system practices
 - Changing demographics – more undocumented immigrants
 - Budget reductions
- Started with CJJR Multi-System Collaboration & Technical Assistance Program in 2017
- Alexandria CYPM began in January 2019

Alexandria CYPM Partners



- Georgetown Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR)
- Leads:
 - Family Members
 - Child Welfare Services (DSS)
 - Court Service Unit
 - Child and Family Behavioral Health Services (CSB)
- Alexandria City Public Schools
- Office of the City Attorney
- Office of the Commonwealth Attorney
- Office of the Public Defender
- Alexandria Police Department
- Court Appointed Special Advocates
- Guardians ad Litem
- Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Judge

Six Beliefs & Values



1. Youth and families bring vital history, culture, perspective, and strengths to the collaboration that must be sought out and prioritized.
2. Each partner agency brings a unique and equally valued set of expertise, skills, and resources to the collaboration.
3. Direct and secondary trauma affect our families and each other, and require a trauma-informed approach to our work together.

Six Beliefs & Values



4. We work in a system and community where racism and other inequities have traumatized families, historically informed decisions that bring them into our systems, and impeded their ability to access services and achieve their goals. We must address and correct these inequities.
5. Children live in the context of family and natural supports; we work to identify family and natural supports, and ensure assessment and services meet their needs.
6. Disagreement is part of the work; communication and decision-making with families and each other must be professional, transparent, and solution focused.

Five Commitments



1. Develop and adhere to protocols to improve outcomes for multisystem involved families. These protocols will incorporate evidence-based and best practices to ensure the equitable, youth and family driven, trauma-informed, efficient, and effective practice model we envision.

Five Commitments



2. Ensure case level sharing of information is done within applicable laws and agency policies, and in an efficient manner that limits redundancy and ensures informed consent and transparency for families when at all possible.

Five Commitments



3. Recognize trauma-informed treatment teams and other multidisciplinary meetings as the best means to ensure all family and agency voices are part of shared decision-making, and that service planning is done jointly among agencies and families to prevent unnecessary repetition.

Five Commitments



4. Share and evaluate information and data to measure outcomes, identify and address service gaps, improve local practices, and advocate for systemic change.
5. Provide initial and ongoing training, and relationship-building opportunities, among all system partners in support of CYPM values and practices.

Work Groups Developed After Gap Analysis



- Prevention and Diversion
- Information Sharing
- Protocol
- Inventory
- Data
- Training

Information Sharing Work Group



- Family Reps
- Child Welfare (local DSS)
- Court Service Unit
- Behavioral Health (CSB)
- Schools
- City Attorney
- Consultation from State DJJ

Information Sharing Work Group



- Revised and confirmed utilization of cross-system universal release form
- Reviewed existing state policies and statutes related to information sharing & developed agency-specific resource documents
- Determined how to share information on an aggregate level to understand the current population of crossover youth
- Explored case level information sharing in support of early and ongoing coordination; e.g., identifying crossover youth early and access to dispositional reports

Family & Youth Challenges



- Children involved in both child welfare and juvenile justice are most vulnerable for:
 - Deeper involvement in both systems
 - Homelessness
 - Out of home placement (detention, residential treatment and foster/kinship care)
 - Chronic behavioral health challenges
- These outcomes exist because our systems are not sufficiently set up to address the layers of trauma families experience.

Family & Youth Challenges



- Negative consequences of not knowing immediately when a youth has “crossed over” and not having the ability to easily share information during case assessment, planning, and management:
 - Redundancies
 - Lack of coordinated and streamlined services
 - An experience for families and youth that is confusing, inconsistent, and overwhelming

Family & Youth Challenges



- Families and youth report that the lack of early coordination and differing information among our agencies is retraumatizing and sets them up for failure.
- Early collaboration improves the quality of assessment and care within all agencies while ensuring a coordinated, more streamlined and trauma informed system response.
- Families see us as all a part of the same system – which we really are.

Ms. Sonnja's Story



System Level Challenges



- Inability to share data in support of systemwide improvement, unable to:
 - Identify the characteristics of crossover youth
 - Understand trends in practice
 - Use data to inform the development of a coordinated case management model
 - Assess the impact the model is having on the targeted population

Why Look to Legislation?



- DJJ partners identified way forward required legislative change
- Other jurisdictions within VA have the same issues and share our commitment to this work
- The state of MD took this on and made legislative change

*Group who crafted legislation: Family Rep, CWS, CSB,
City Attorney and City Legislative Director*

Legislation Next Steps in Addition to COY Workgroup



- 6. *The Department of Social Services or any **local department of social services** that is providing services or care for, or has accepted a referral for family assessment or investigation and the provision of services in accordance with subsection A of § 16.1-277.02 regarding, a juvenile who is the subject of the record and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services or **any local community services board** that is providing treatment, services, or care for a juvenile who is the subject of the record for a purpose relevant to the provision of the treatment, services, or care **when these local agencies have entered into a formal agreement with the Department of Juvenile Justice to provide coordinated services to juveniles who are the subject of the records. [Prior to making any report or record open for inspection, the court service unit or Department of Juvenile Justice shall determine which reports or records are relevant to the treatment, services, or care of such juvenile and shall limit such inspection to such relevant reports or records.]** Any local department of social services or local community services board that inspects any social, medical, psychiatric, and psychological reports and records of juveniles in accordance with this subdivision shall not disseminate any information received from such inspection unless such dissemination is expressly required by law;*

Legislation Next Steps in Addition to COY Workgroup



- Alexandria DSS (Child Welfare) and CSB (Child & Family Behavioral Health Services) are drafting a proposal to DJJ in collaboration with CJJR based on the work of the CYPM Information Sharing Workgroup, to include:
 - Early identification of crossover youth
 - Parent, guardian and CSB/DSS access to dispositional reports of shared client
- CSU providing technical assistance

Questions?

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